**Megève**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

107

**Intermediate Runs**

82

**Advanced Runs**

34

**Total Runs**

223

**Lifts**

105

**Chairs**

36

**Drags**

56

**Gondola Cable Cars**

13

**Parks**

7

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2m (6.5ft).

**Overview**

Megève is one of the great success stories of French skiing but it is often overlooked by the big tour operators, which some would argue contributes to its standing as one of the region's most stylish resorts.

As well as its almost century-old status as a high-class ski destination, the resort also has a world-renowned reputation for its dining and shopping, and guests here can also enjoy some of the best views in the Alps.

The resort was created in the early 1920s as a French response to the success of ski developments in other Alpine nations, particularly St Moritz in Switzerland. It was hugely successful in the following decades, attracting the ‘great and the good’ from the era. However, in the post-war period, the new breed of high-altitude, purpose-built resorts swept across the French Alps and Megève was no longer the sole high-end offering.

But Megève’s success quietly continues to this day. The village maintains its wonderful ambience and charm – centred on its narrow cobbled streets – and it has grown to offer a wide range of accommodation, restaurants and shops. The surrounding ski area has merged with neighbouring villages to become a giant domain with hundreds of kilometres of pistes.

**Location**

Megève is located in the Haute Savoie region of the French Alps, close to Western Europe’s highest peak, Mont Blanc; within the Pays du Mont Blanc area.

**Website**

http://www.megeve.com

**Piste Map**

http://medias.megeve.com/images/info\_pages/plan-des-piste-2014-177.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Megève has an enormous ski area – albeit broken into three major and eight minor sectors – encompassing 445km (277 miles), more than 220 pistes and over 100 lifts. The classic resort is at a lower altitude than many other major French alternatives, with its highest point at 2,525m (8,284ft) on Mont-Joly, but snow cover is rarely a problem.

The largest single area links the village to the old spa town of St Gervais, just over the Mont d'Arbois summit. On the other side of Megève, the Rochebrune sector is uniquely accessed from the town itself, while the third sector, Jaillet, is shared with two neighbouring villages: Combloux and La Giettaz.

The lifts connecting these areas are included on the affordable Evasion Mont Blanc lift pass, which costs less than most ski areas of comparable or smaller size. Alternatively the larger Ski Pass Mont Blanc pass gives access to eight or so additional villages, such as Chamonix, Les Contamines, Verbier and Courmayeur.

Megève’s terrain offers numerous green, blue and red trails winding through scenic woodland. Beginners have convenient nursery slopes near the village, while the more advanced are likely to find the greatest challenges on Mont d'Arbois. In addition, there are plenty of off-piste routes on Mont Joly and Mont Joux, and there's even the chance to go heli-skiing over the border in Italy.

Boarders and freestyle skiers have two terrain parks, a boardercross and a halfpipe to enjoy, while cross-country skiers can explore 43km (27 miles) of groomed tracks through forests to sunny plateaus.

**Megève**

**Resort**

1113

**Base**

1113

**Top**

2353

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Megève has developed into a year-round, multi-activity resort of which skiing and boarding are only a part.

For those in need of a bit of pampering after a vigorous ski session, numerous spas and beauty salons are located in the village. The Spa Pure Altitude in the Mont Blanc hotel (tel: +33 450 212 002; [www.hotelmontblanc.com](http://www.hotelmontblanc.com)) is a wellness mecca, specialising in innovative treatments and also housing an indoor pool and sauna.

For the more active, a sports centre offers curling, ice skating and swimming. While outdoors, sleigh rides, dog sledding and snowshoeing are all popular around the village. Activities that see visitors leave the ground altogether are also on offer, with paragliding, light plane flying lessons and hot air ballooning (tel: +33 450 555 060; [www.alpes-montgolfiere.fr](http://www.alpes-montgolfiere.fr)), all available for those with a head for heights.

**Family Fun**

The village has received the official French government Family Plus Mountain award for its services to families, including activities, childcare and medical facilities. There are activities for the whole family, including a number of sledging areas in the resort.

Children aged three to five can be cared for at the École du Ski Français’ (ESF) Caboche Club des Piou-Piou (tel: +33 450 589 765). This nursery is located next to the Caboche lift station, which has its own snow play garden and English-speaking instructors. There is a second club Piou-Piou in the Mont-D’arbois sector (tel: +33 450 216 586). The ESF (tel: +33 450 21 0 097; [www.megeve-ski.com](http://www.megeve-ski.com/)) also teaches children aged from three on its courses.

**Retail Therapy**

Megève, with its 200 plus shops, is an excellent choice for visitors in search of a little retail therapy.

It’s not just the volume of shops on offer that’s impressive; it's the quality of mostly locally owned retailers that is most striking. These include La Boutique aux Chocolats (tel: +33 450 210 164) with its large selection of delicious, homemade chocolates; and unique gift stores such as Le Folklore (tel: +33 450 212 919), which has a collection of jewellery for dogs. There are also prominent designer outlets such as Hermès (tel: +33 450 210 290); but for something a little less expensive, head to the weekly market with its array of nick-nacks and local products.

**Splashing Out**

There are few resorts better suited to getting airborne without skis or boards than Megève, with several flying-based attractions on offer.

Mont Blanc Hélicoptères (tel: +33 450 927 821; [www.mbh.fr](http://www.mbh.fr/)) offers perhaps the most scenic of all options with a wide variety of tours, including lunch-inclusive or full weekend trips, that provide stunning views overlooking the Mont Blanc mastiff.

**Apres Ski**

Not normally the place for raucous nightlife, Megève’s central square and surrounding pedestrianised cobbled streets still lend themselves to fun-filled après-ski, and fortunately there are dozens of bars and cafés in which to indulge.

Le Bar Saint Paul (tel: +33 450 919 303) is one of several popular and more affordable bars in the village, where skiers gather after a day on the slopes. There are four nightclubs that continue into the early hours, the most famous of which being the chic Palo Alto (tel: +33 450 918 258; [www.palo-alto.fr](http://www.palo-alto.fr)).

Away from the drinking and clubbing scene, there are several cinemas and a small casino (tel: +33 450 930 183; [www.casino-megeve.com](http://www.casino-megeve.com/)) for visitors to sample.

**Eating Out**

Megève has a reputation for some of the finest dining of any ski resort, and indeed of any location in the Alps. As a consequence, a number of the village’s 90 plus eateries regularly adorn the centrefolds of prestigious gourmet guides.

Emmanuel Renaut’s restaurant Flocons de Sel (tel: +33 450 214 999; [www.floconsdesel.com](http://www.floconsdesel.com/)) is one of Europe’s best – in fact, it is the only restaurant in an Alpine ski resort with 3-Michelin stars. Cooking lessons here are available to visitors throughout the season.

But the love of food in the village is reflected in all levels of dining, not just the gourmet establishments. The low-cost OK Burger (tel: +33 614 180 610), for example, is one of Megeve’s most highly rated eateries, illustrating the resorts proclivity towards high quality produce, regardless of price bracket.

Other options include L’Alpage (tel: +33 450 213 039; [www.feracheval-megeve.com](http://www.feracheval-megeve.com)), which serves regional dishes, and the traditional teashop Le Prieuré (tel: +33 450 210 179; www.[leprieure-megeve.com](http://leprieure-megeve.com/)), located in the church square. Also, don’t miss the many purveyors of the local (and tasty) Tomme cheese.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS).

Distance to resort: 90km (55 miles); 95km (60 miles); 170km (105 miles) respectively.

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours 10 minutes respectively.

**Getting Around**

A range of free bus services circulate around the village and the wider area – most operate between 0600 and 1900 (these are not free of charge during the summer months). There are also a number of taxi providers in the resort. Bus links to Geneva airport operate three times a day in each direction, for which advance reservations are essential (tel: +33 450 211 824; [www.borini.com](http://www.borini.com/)).

**Hotels**

Megève has more than 40,000 guest beds in and around the village; a good reflection of its status as one of the leading ski resorts in France. Most of these are in chalets and apartments, but there are also about 20 hotels in Megève – most in the 3- or 4-star category. It’s worth checking where in the village the accommodation is before booking to ensure it’s convenient for the lifts and village centre.

**Chalet du Mont d’Arbois Relais et Chateaux**

A well-positioned 33-room, 8-suite luxury hotel, Chalet du Mont d’Arbois Relais et Chateaux became the first to officially be awarded the 5-star accolade in the resort. Facilities here include a lavish spa and a gourmet restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

447 Chemin de la Rocaille

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 212 503

**Website**

www.domainedumontdarbois.com

**Flocons de Sel**

An intimate property with only eight rooms and two suites, Flocons de Sel is a great choice for those in search of a quiet base. What’s more, it has its own world-class restaurant managed by acclaimed chef Emmanuel Renaut.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

1775 Route du Leutaz

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 214 999

**Website**

www.floconsdesel.com

**Au Coeur de Megève**

This centrally located and affordable 3-star hotel is decorated in a traditional style and boasts two restaurants that serve local specialities such as fondue and raclette.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

44 Rue Charles Feige

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 212 530

**Website**

www.hotel-megeve.com

**L’Arboise**

This fully renovated wooden chalet overlooks the village, just a five-minute walk from the centre. L’Arboise features a restaurant, indoor/outdoor pool and luxury suites.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

483 Route du Gollet

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 553 590

**Website**

www.hotel-arboisie-megeve.com

**Au Refuge Margot et Leon**

A friendly, family-run bed and breakfast with four double rooms, Au Refuge Margot et Leon provides good value and comfortable accommodation in the Le Maz area of the resort.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

32 Route du Tour

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 185 202

**Website**

www.refuge-margot-leon.com

**Hôtel Rond Point D’Arbois**

This affordable, 13-room catered chalet hotel is British-owned and is just a three-minute walk from the nearest lift. Guests here can be treated to a daily 3-course dinner, and a games room is situated on site to keep the kids entertained.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

111 Route Edmond de Rothschild

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

74120

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 211 750

**Website**

www.stanfordskiing.co.uk