**Morzine-Avoriaz**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

58

**Intermediate Runs**

41

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

114

**Lifts**

48

**Chairs**

17

**Drags**

26

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

9

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

9m (30ft).

**Overview**

Morzine and Avoriaz are two neighbouring, but very different ski resorts in the Portes du Soleil area that stretches across the French-Swiss border. Both have grown remarkably in international significance and in dimensions with 650km (400 miles) of piste served by more than 200 lifts all on the open pass. However there are some notable differences between the two.

Morzine is one of the original ski resorts in the Alps, with skiers having visited here for more than 80 years. It’s located at quite a low altitude and is built in a traditional chalet style.

On the other hand, Avoriaz, 800m (2,625ft) above Morzine, was stylishly purpose-built in the late 1960s to a futuristic design using traditional wood and sloping roofs, in order to blend in to the surrounding environment. Avoriaz is also France's first car-free resort and its authorities are quick to emphasise its environmental credentials.

The two are linked by a number of lifts, including an ultra modern giant gondola that was installed in 2014, which greatly improved both the speed and capacity of the connection. Among other recent developments, the large Aquariaz thermal swimming and leisure complex opened at the base of the slopes in Avoriaz, offering a great place for family fun.

**Location**

Avoriaz and Morzine are located in the Haute Savoie department of the Rhône-Alpes region in the southeast of France, near the border with Switzerland.

**Website**

http://www.morzine-avoriaz.com

http://www.avoriaz.com

**Piste Map**

http://en.morzine-avoriaz.com/piste-maps.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Both resorts are at the heart of the Portes du Soleil ski area, which incorporates the skiing at 12 villages on either side of the French-Swiss border.

The skiing here is not quite fully interlinked, however, otherwise it would be more widely acknowledged as the world's biggest ski area (as it claims to be). Its 650km (407 miles) of runs total more than the Trois Vallées, which is popularly regarded as the world's biggest as all its runs are lift-linked – but who's splitting hairs?

Needless to say, with such a huge area there's a vast choice of terrain suiting accomplished skiers, intermediates and also beginners looking to take on their first few runs. The snow is reliable in both resorts, with Avoriaz offering the most snowsure slopes and Morzine having invested heavily in snowmaking – the ski season in both resorts runs from mid-December until mid-April.

The ski area between the two resorts is known as Super Morzine and offers plentiful options, but those staying in Morzine may instead opt for the ski area on Le Pleney/Les Chavannes rather than Mount Ranfolly, which is shared with another neighbour, Les Gets.

From Avoriaz, it’s easy to head over to the Swiss resorts like Champéry, with brave skiers having the option of taking the infamous Swiss Wall black run down (many others descend on the chairlift).

**Morzine-Avoriaz**

**Resort**

1800

**Base**

1000

**Top**

2277

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Both resorts have a wide range of activities off the slopes. At Avoriaz there's a cinema, bowling alley, ice rink and fitness centre. Morzine's indoor ice rink stages national league ice hockey matches as well as providing leisure skating, while the resort also has a bowling alley, games arcade and two cinemas.

There are two large swimming complexes, Aquariaz in Avoriaz, a tropical-themed indoor water park, and Morzine’s water sports centre (tel: +33 450 790 169) with family pools and a wellness area.

Outdoors activities are plentiful and include sleigh rides, winter hikes, snowshoeing, sledging, dog sledding, guided snow biking tours and snowmobiling excursions. You can also take to the skies hang-gliding, paragliding or on a helicopter tour. For those with a penchant for underwater activities, try a guided scuba dive beneath Lake Montriond, organised by Caméléon Production (tel: +33 450 759 400; [www.cameleon-organisation.com](http://www.cameleon-organisation.com)), an unorthodox off-slope offering from your traditional ski resort.

**Family Fun**

Both resorts are well equipped for families with good nursery provision (from three months of age) and a choice of high-quality children's ski schools. Avoriaz also has the added attraction of its safe, car-free status, whilst Morzine has the traditional resort charm and wide choice of off-slope activities.

Morzine has a programme of free entertainment for children, as well as a special sledging run and a dedicated children’s ski area. A free guide is available from the tourist office with details of the various activities on offer.

Avoriaz has built a strong family-friendly reputation with its Village des Enfants (tel: +33 450 740 446), which offers a host of activities beyond skiing, including skijoring for children, where they are towed on skis behind a pony.

**Retail Therapy**

Although there are about 25 shops covering all the basics in Avoriaz, Morzine is the better destination for shoppers with 100 or so choices. This is partly due to the fact the area has been a regional market town since well before the arrival of winter sports.

Morzine's wide selection includes stylish boutiques, jewellers and chocolatiers. Visitors also have the option of taking an empty backpack and skiing over to one of the Swiss resorts such as Champéry for Swiss souvenirs and delicacies.

**Splashing Out**

Spend an hour drifting above the slopes aboard a hot-air balloon with Caméléon Production (tel: +33 450 759 400; [www.cameleon-organisation.com](http://www.cameleon-organisation.com)). As the route depends to some extent on wind direction, the operators cannot guarantee the exact landing point, but they do promise to return customers to the resort.

**Apres Ski**

Both resorts can become lively after the ski day is over..

There is an ever-improving selection of après-ski bars in Avoriaz, one of the more vibrant of the French purpose-built resorts. Popular choices include Le Yéti (tel: +33 450 741 278) and Le Shooters (tel: +33 450 740 722). At Le Yak nightclub (tel: +33 450 495 166) the music keeps pumping until the early hours.

Popular venues in Morzine include Chaudanne wine bar (tel: +33 450 791 268) for electro-jazz and Le Robinson (tel: +33 450 790 978), a Morzine institution that serves the famous Mutzig beer.

The free Rock the Pistes ([www.rockthepistes.com](http://www.rockthepistes.com)) après-ski music festival takes over the area for a week each March.

**Eating Out**

There are around 30 restaurants in Avoriaz, predominantly serving French mountain staples or pizza. Among these is the popular Wild Horse Saloon (Centre Commercial du Snow), which is a lively, modern restaurant with good music and a menu including both traditional dishes and tapas.

There is a much bigger selection of restaurants in Morzine, with over 100 restaurants and cafes to choose from, including a wide choice of traditional French establishments. Among the options for local specialities is the cosy La Grange (tel: +33 450 759 640; [www.lagrangemorzine.com](http://www.lagrangemorzine.com)), and La Ferme de l’Alpage (tel: +33 450 791 239), which is owned and run by the local *fruitière* (cheesemaker) – guaranteeing excellent cheese dishes.

For gourmet fare, L'Atelier d'Alexandre (tel: +33 450 790 079; [www.hotel-lesamoyede.com](http://www.hotel-lesamoyede.com)) in the Samoyède Hotel has been awarded two Chef’s Hats – a high grade from the famous Michelin gourmet guide.

If it’s a quick bite you’re searching for, a pizza from Le Schuss (tel: +33 611 919 404) really hits the spot after a long day on the slopes.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distance to resort: 75km (47 miles) to Morzine; 90km (56 miles) to Avoriaz.

Driving time: 1 hour 10 minutes to Morzine; 1 hour 30 minutes to Avoriaz.

Nearest railway stations: Cluses; Thonon-Les-Bains.

Distance to resort: 28km (17 miles) to Morzine; 35km (22 miles) to Avoriaz (from either station).

Driving time: 40 minutes to Morzine; 1 hour to Avoriaz (from either station).

**Getting Around**

Walking, on skis or travelling by horse-drawn sleighs are the main means of getting around Avoriaz. Morzine also has a relatively compact centre, but a bus service links the wider area and there are more than a dozen taxi operators. A cable car descends from Avoriaz to a midway point above Morzine, which is served by the village bus service. The two resorts are linked by the new lift service.

**Hotels**

The twin resorts of Morzine and Avoriaz vary in style and accommodation. Whilst Avoriaz is a mixture of futuristic design and traditional chalet-style buildings, Morzine has a cosier, quaint vibe. There are around 50 hotels in Morzine, as well as a wide choice of chalets and apartments and a handful of guest houses. Avoriaz has slightly less choice but is still well equipped with a good selection of hotels and chalets.

**Hotel L'Ours Blanc**

A pleasant little 2-star hotel with a family atmosphere, Hotel L'Ours Blanc is handily located 500m (1,600ft) from the Super Morzine cable car and the sports centre.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Route des Bois Venants

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Morzine

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 74110

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 790 402

**Website**

www.oursblanc-morzine.com

**Chalert d’Amo**

Budget accommodation situated 2km (1.2 miles) from the centre of Morzine, Chalert d’Amo offers rooms with private or shared bathrooms. Free Wi-Fi access is available, as well as an on-site restaurant and resort transfer services. Airport transfers and ski storage can also be arranged.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

1082 Route de Morzine

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Morzine

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 74110

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 640 924 637

**Website**

www.chaletdamo.com

**Club Med Avoriaz**

The Club Med Avoriaz is an all-inclusive resort complex designed in a traditional wooden-chalet style. The resort is a good choice for families, with a central location in the heart of the pedestrianised area and ski clubs for both younger children and teenagers. Other facilities include a restaurant and cosy bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

+33 450 742 870

**Website**

www.clubmed.co.uk

**Au Coin de Feu**

A British-run, luxury catered chalet where attentive service is the priority. The slopeside Au Coin de Feu offers various rooms, including a honeymoon suite with a four-poster bed and a hot tub.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

2740 route des Ardoisières

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Morzine

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 74110

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 747 521

**Website**

www.chillypowder.com

**The Farmhouse**

The oldest building in Morzine, built in 1771, The Farmhouse is a British-run, luxury chalet with 11 well-appointed rooms and an on-site restaurant that serves delicious gourmet fare to diners seated round a grand communal banqueting table.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Le Mas de Coutettaz, 429 Chemin de la Coutettaz

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Avoriaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 74110

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 790 826

**Website**

www.thefarmhouse.co.uk

**Hotel L'Aubergade**

Blessed with an ideal central location granting easy access to both the town and ski lifts, the 2-star Hotel L’Aubergade has spacious rooms and serves up good food in its on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

567 Avenue de Joux Plane

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Morzine

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 74110

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 450 790 369

**Website**

www.laubergade.com