**Riksgränsen**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

4

**Intermediate Runs**

11

**Advanced Runs**

14

**Total Runs**

29

**Lifts**

6

**Chairs**

2

**Drags**

4

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

0

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Situated on the cusp of the Arctic Circle, Riksgränsen is Sweden’s northernmost ski resort. Known as the spring skiing capital of Europe, the resorts latitude also means that it’s possible to ski here at midnight during the last few weeks of the season in May and for a few days when the centre re-opens during Midsummer in June - when there’s 24-hour daylight.

The resort receives plenty of natural snow each year providing reliable season-long cover. Riksgränsen offers first-class skiing in well-prepared pistes, as well as great off-piste opportunities. It's very popular with freeriders and the snowboard and Telemark crowd, but it is also a great place for conventional downhill skiing, albeit on a more limited scale than other European resorts – particularly those in the Alps.

Off the slopes, there are limited activities due to the resort’s small and compact nature, but the thriving and friendly après-ski scene provides plenty of opportunities between ski days. An additional resort attraction is the chance to witness one of nature’s phenomena during the winter months, as the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) streak across the night sky.

**Location**

Riksgränsen (meaning 'state border') is located in the very north of Sweden, just east of the Norwegian border, 130km (81 miles) from Kiruna in Sweden and 45km (28 miles) from Narvik in Norway.

**Website**

http://www.riksgransen.se

**Piste Map**

http://www.piste-maps.co.uk/Piste-Maps/Sweden/Riksgransen-PisteMap-2012.jpg

**Hit The Slopes**

Riksgränsen has a lot to offer all kinds of skiers. Beginners, intermediates and families in particular are well served by the wide slopes and the soft, copious layers of snow; and there is a ski school in the resort for those wishing to learn or to brush up on their skills.

While experts may find the conventional slopes too easy (there is only one black run), Riksgränsen is ideal for freeriding and has exceptional off-piste conditions. The large amounts of powdery snow and the wide-open terrain also make the mountain a popular destination for snowboarding.

There are 13 marked off-piste areas, and several of these are very difficult. One classic off-piste run goes from the top of Riksgränsen Mountain to Björnfjell train station on the Norwegian side (skiers then return to Riksgränsen by train/bus). There are also guided tours on mountain tops around Riksgränsen, for example; the Vassitjåkko, Rombakkstötta, Spanstind and Storfjället, which is dependent on weather and snow conditions.

Heli-skiing is also very popular and is among the best value in the world, with around 60,000-sq-km (23,000-sq-miles) of terrain to explore. Meanwhile, cross-country skiers can make use of plenty of trails or go back country with a guide.

The ski season in Riksgränsen ski resort runs from middle/end of February until late May and then re-opens for a few days during midsummer (late June), with skiing under the midnight sun available towards the end of the season.

**Riksgränsen**

**Resort**

522

**Base**

522

**Top**

909

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

During winter, Riksgränsen is very much all about the snowsports, and therefore off-slope activities are fairly limited in comparison to other European ski resorts.

Those looking to get their adrenaline fix can try their hand at dog sledding, with two-hour long ‘Alaska Trapper’ tours departing the resort at 1000 each morning, or snowmobiling, with excursions that send participants racing across nearby frozen lakes. Snowshoeing is a more relaxed option, with evening excursions providing visitors with a chance of catching a glimpse of the mesmerising Northern Lights.

The Riksgränsen hotel complex includes a spa facility that offers a range of treatments, including a special package ‘for the skier’. This 80-minute therapy includes an exfoliating body scrub, eucalyptus soak and deep massage.

**Family Fun**

Riksgränsen is certainly a very different destination for a family ski holiday, and an adventurous one too, thanks to its intrepid location on the cusp of the Arctic Circle.

However, while the small size of the ski area can be a big plus for families, there are limited specified facilities to keep children entertained here, with the exception of a children's play area near the Nordal lift and Nordalskiosken restaurant.

There is no ski school specifically for children either, and the resort’s owners are keen to promote Riksgränsen’s sister facility Björkliden, 30km (18.6 miles) away, for families where there is a designated ski school. Riksgränsen and Björkliden offers a combined ski pass and a free ski bus transfer between the resorts.

**Retail Therapy**

Riksgränsen does not have a lot to offer in terms of shopping. A recently constructed ICA supermarket has marginally expanded the choice of goods on offer, but aside from food items, a shop selling sports equipment is about as far as it goes. Those who are particularly keen to flex the plastic should head to nearby Kiruna, or across the border to Narvik in Norway.

**Splashing Out**

Try the Same Zen treatment in the local Relaxen Spa & Sauna. Inspired by traditional therapies from the Lapland region, the package includes a facial, treatment bath and a massage using warm, soft stones to spread locally produced birch oil all over the body.

**Apres Ski**

As with most off-slope activies at the resort, Riksgränsen’s après-ski offering is fairly limited.

Grönan is Hotell Riksgränsen’s (tel: +46 980 40080) main après-ski area and is good for a game of pool, live music and parties. For a quieter evening try the Meteorologen Ski Lodge ([www.riksgransen.se](http://www.riksgransen.se)) where the hotel’s sommelier is on hand to guide you through the extensive wine menu.

Another alternative option for après-ski in Riksgränsen, at the end of the season at least, is Pelikanhyllan, an outdoor venue offering entertainment in April and May.

**Eating Out**

On the slopes, Nordalskiosken, which can be found near the Nordal lift and the children’s area, has a variety of refreshments on offer; while at the base, Café Lappis serves food, including a good choice of pizza, and soft and alcoholic drinks.

For more formal dining, Restaurant Lapplandia in Hotell Riksgränsen is one of the best restaurants in the resort, offering modern Swedish cuisine based around local ingredients. Another option also linked to the hotel is Meteorologen Ski Lodge, which serves local dishes accompanied by fine wines.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Kiruna Airport (KRN); Harstad/Narvik Airport (EVE).

Distance to resort: 130km (80 miles); 65km (38 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes; 50 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Riksgränsen.

Distance from resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Visitors can either ski or walk from the hotel or the car parks to the slopes. There is no public bus or shuttle service in the resort, but there is a ski bus transfer between Riksgränsen and Björkliden (the ski pass in Riksgränsen is also valid in Björkliden ski resort).

Trains operate from the station in the village to Stockholm and Gothenburg.

**Hotels**

There is a range of accommodation linked to the resort-owned main hotel in Riksgränsen, the aptly named Hotell Riksgränsen. Among these options are a hostel, apartments and the Meteorologen Ski Lodge.

**Hotell Riksgränsen Apartments**

Located within the main hotel complex, Hotell Riksgränsen Apartments provide a budget (in relation to other options in the area) alternative to the hotel’s other accommodation. Apartments are available on a self-catering basis and house three to six beds.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Riksgränsen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 94

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 64100

**Website**

http://en.riksgransen.se/sidor/boende

**Låktatjåkko Mountain Lodge**

High up on the slopes, around 15km (9 miles) from Riksgränsen ski resort’s base, Låktatjåkko Mountain Lodge offers intimate accommodation with a sauna and a warming fire. The on-site restaurant serves gourmet dinners and daytime snacks.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Riksgränsen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 94

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 64100

**Website**

http://en.laktatjakko.com

**STF Hostel Riksgränsen**

The budget accommodation option in Riksgränsen, STF Hostel Riksgränsen has a range of rooms for one to four people. Among its facilities is a gym and sauna, while free Wi-Fi internet access is provided for guests.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Riksgränsen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 94

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 64100

**Website**

http://en.riksgransen.se/sidor/boende

**Icehotel**

Despite being around two hours from the resort (so therefore not practical in terms of those wishing to ski every day of their stay), Icehotel is certainly worth the detour for a night or two. One of the most unique hotels in the world, Icehotel in Jukkasjärvi is re-made out of ice and snow each winter by artists in a site bordering the Torne River and features an ice church and ice bar – gloves and boots are provided.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Marknadsvägen 63

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Jukkasjärvi

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 91

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 66800

**Website**

www.icehotel.com

**Hotell Riksgränsen**

The main accommodation option in Riksgränsen, the hotel is part of a larger complex that is a short walk from the lifts. Among the hotel's facilities are a restaurant and a spa area.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Riksgränsen 15A

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Riksgränsen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 94

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 40080

**Website**

http://en.riksgransen.se/sidor/boende

**Meteorologen Ski Lodge**

Connected to Hotell Riksgränsen, Meteorologen Ski Lodge offers comfortable and clean accommodation within a boutique-style old customs house. The lodge has its own restaurant and just 14 rooms.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Riksgränsen

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

981 94

**Country**

Sweden

**Telephone**

+46 980 64100

**Website**

http://en.riksgransen.se/sidor/boende