**St Moritz**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Non-skiers

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

18

**Intermediate Runs**

61

**Advanced Runs**

9

**Total Runs**

88

**Lifts**

56

**Chairs**

20

**Drags**

25

**Gondola Cable Cars**

11

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

3m (10ft).

**Overview**

St Moritz is the world's original ski resort and has long been the most famous. As well as playing host to kings, presidents, fur-clad movie stars and private jets, this illustrious resort has also staged Olympic Games, Alpine Ski World Championships and world-class horse races on its frozen lake. The resort also delights in offering all manner of imaginable luxuries in its 5-star deluxe hotels and private clubs.

But, as with its twin town of Aspen in the USA, it's a mistake to think St Moritz ski resort is exclusively for the rich and famous. Yes, they keep a few places just for themselves (and quite a few of the others price out mere mortals), but St Moritz can be done on a budget. The huge Engadin ski domain isn't the cheapest lift ticket in Europe, but it's not the most expensive either, and affordable dining and lodging is there for those who look hard enough.

Whatever your budget, St Moritz is an attractive proposition, with 350km (219 miles) of varied pistes and a plethora of off-slope activities within the resort. So don the furs, strut your stuff and sample a taste of the ski world’s high life.

**Location**

St Moritz is located in the Engadin Valley in southeastern Switzerland, close to the borders of Italy to the south and Austria to the east.

**Website**

www.stmoritz.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.infosnow.ch/~apgmontagne/pub/mod/stmoritz/Pistenplan\_web\_Corvatsch.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

St Moritz is part of the Engadin ski region, which includes multiple ski areas above the Engadin Valley, an overall domain that covers 350km (219 miles) of pistes.

The main ski area directly above the resort is Corviglia, which is reached by a state-of-the-art funicular, complete with solar panels to help generate power. There are runs for all abilities here and a cable car carries on further to Piz Nair, from which it’s possible to see the steep start of the men’s World Cup downhill course.

The second nearest ski area is Corvatsch, a short bus ride away above Silvaplana-Surlej. These slopes offer the highest skiing in the region and more challenging terrain.

A 30-minute bus ride the other way is the third ski area, Diavolezza, which has some of the region's toughest runs, including a 10km-long (6-mile) descent over the glacier back down to Morteratsch in the valley below.

Then there is Zuoz, which promises relaxed days for the whole family. Here you have plenty of room to carve wide turns on quieter pistes. The ride on the chairlift is a pleasure too, especially for families as it is one of two in the Engadin equipped with special child safety features.

The ski area's altitude and extensive snowmaking mean it is snowsure throughout the season. There used to be a small summer ski area on the glacier, but climate change and lack of interest put an end to that in 1999. The season generally runs from mid-October until May.

**St Moritz**

**Resort**

1856

**Base**

1716

**Top**

3303

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Nearly two-thirds of visitors to St Moritz in winter have no intention of skiing or boarding. They are happy to take the lift up to a gourmet restaurant, go on a sleigh ride along the frozen lakes or, if they time it right, perhaps watch a horse race, polo or a cricket match on the ice.

St Moritz has the famous Cresta Run ([www.cresta-run.com](http://www.cresta-run.com)) toboggan route, which is men only – due to old-fashioned chauvinism or chivalry, depending on your point of view. It also has the only bobsleigh run still ‘handmade' out of natural ice each winter, which hosts international races and can claim to be the world's largest ice sculpture.

Other things to do in St Moritz include visits to the various spas, museums and galleries, a trip to the cinema or casino, or a game of indoor tennis or squash.

**Family Fun**

There are non-skiing childcare facilities in several of the hotels, typically operating between 0900 and 2100 with a break for lunch. Among these, the nurseries in the Kulm Hotel (tel: +41 81 836 8000; [www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch](http://www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch)) accept children from age three; while Kempinski Hotel (tel: +41 81 838 3838; [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com)) can look after kids aged three months to 12 years. Badrutt's Palace Hotel (tel: +41 81 837 1000; [www.badruttspalace.com](http://www.badruttspalace.com)) and the Hotel Schweizerhof (tel: +41 81 873 0707; [www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch](http://www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch)) also have day nurseries.

The local ski schools accept children in special all-day classes on the slopes from age three, with indoor periods for younger participants. Several of these schools will pick up children from various points around the resort.

**Retail Therapy**

St Moritz is the ultimate destination for serious shoppers. In fact, arguably more people travel here for the shopping than for the skiing. There are more than 150 shops in St Moritz, including designer boutiques such as Armani, Versace, Cartier, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci and Bulgari along Via Serlas. For delectable chocolates, head to Confiserie Hauser at Via Traunter Plazzas 7 (tel: +41 81 837 5050; [www.hotelhauser.ch](http://www.hotelhauser.ch)).

**Splashing Out**

Not splashing out is the challenge in St Moritz. Spend an evening in the famous King's Club in the Badrutt's Palace Hotel (tel: +41 81 837 1000; [www.badruttspalace.com](http://www.badruttspalace.com)). This swanky nightclub stays open until sunrise (or whenever it feels like closing) with celebrities and lesser-known royalty among the clientele.

**Apres Ski**

St Moritz has a wide range of bars and clubs, including some of the most infamously exclusive (and expensive) nightspots in skiing. There are regular après-ski spots too.

The long-standing Cascade Bar (tel: +41 81 833 0303; [www.cascade-stmoritz.ch](http://www.cascade-stmoritz.ch)) remains popular, while Pavarotti & Friends wine bar (tel: +41 81 833 0700) is a local’s favourite, not least because the owner looks like Pavarotti himself.

Fabulous drawings by local artist, Carigiet, decorate the walls at Bar Carigiet in the Chesa Veglia (tel: +41 81 837 1000), and there’s always something going on in Hotel Schweizerhof’s pub (tel: +41 81 837 0707; [www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch](http://www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch)).

**Eating Out**

Although St Moritz is known for its sophisticated restaurants, it can cater for all tastes. Chasellas (tel: +41 81 833 3854; [www.suvrettahouse.ch](http://www.suvrettahouse.ch)) is a popular lunchtime stop that is transformed into a secret gourmand destination come dusk, with Chef Robert Jagisch using seasonal produce in his signature Italian haute cuisine. El Paradiso (tel: +41 81 833 4002; [www.el-paradiso.ch](http://www.el-paradiso.ch)) has a similar offering, though it’s more cheese fondue than fine-dining.

Ecco on Snow in the Giardino Mountain Hotel (tel: +41 818 366 300; [www.giardino-mountain.ch](http://www.giardino-mountain.ch)) is one of the resort’s most popular and has earned 2-stars from the prestigious Michelin guide, thanks to its innovative head chef, Rolf Fliegauf.

Veltlinerkeller (tel: +41 81 833 4009; [www.veltlinerkeller-stmoritz.ch](http://www.veltlinerkeller-stmoritz.ch)) is good for Swiss specialities, but if you want choice, Hotel Laudinella (+41 818 360 000; [www.laudinella.ch](http://www.laudinella.ch)) has four restaurants: Siam Wind (Thai), Pizzeria Caruso (Italy), Kura (Japanese) and La Brasserie (French).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Samedan Airport (SMV); Milan Linate Airport (LIN); Zurich Airport (ZRH); Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP).

Distance to resort: 8km (5 miles); 180km (112 miles); 210km (130 miles); 220km (137 miles).

Driving time: 15 minutes; 3 hours; 3 hours 10 minutes; 3 hours 20 minutes.

Nearest railway station: St Moritz.

Distance from resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Buses and trains link the various villages and the ski areas on the Engadin pass, though horse-drawn sleighs can be hired to act as taxis.

**Hotels**

The glitzy resort has its fair share of luxurious accommodation to suit well-heeled visitors, with over half the hotels being rated either 4- or 5-stars – the highest concentration in Switzerland. Most of the accommodation is modern, with some traditional, chalet-style offerings.

**Hauser's Hotel**

This central 3-star hotel has been run by the Hauser family for more than 50 years. What rooms lack in imagination (they can feel like student accommodation), is made up through comfortable beds and an incredible on-site confectionary shop selling mouth-watering, energy-replenishing treats.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Traunter Plazzas 7

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 818 375 050

**Website**

www.hotelhauser.ch

**Kulm Hotel**

Having welcomed its first guests 150 years ago, Kulm Hotel is the world's original, winter holiday retreat. Rated ‘beyond 5-star’, it includes a glut of restaurants and bars, plus an on-site wellness centre.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Veglia 18

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 818 368 000

**Website**

www.kulmhotel-stmoritz.ch

**Hotel Piz**

Centrally located, this high-quality bed and breakfast has a Scandinavian-feel about it with plenty of creams, clean lines and wood-clad finishes. Facilities here include a sauna and on-site pizza restaurant.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via dal Bagn 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 818 321 111

**Website**

www.piz-stmoritz.ch

**Hotel Schweizerhof**

With remarkable views over Lake St Moritz, the superior 4-star Hotel Schweizerhof has been wowing guests with its comfortable and well-appointed rooms since 1897. The hotel is located centrally within the resort and houses a popular restaurant and bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via dal Bagn 54

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 818 370 707

**Website**

www.schweizerhofstmoritz.ch

**Giardino Mountain Hotel**

The Giardino Mountain Hotel suits younger clientele with guest rooms that combine stylish sophistication and rustic elegance, offering quiet comfort in an eclectic mix of warm colours.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Maistra 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 800 333 315

**Website**

www.giardino-mountain.ch

**Hotel Waldhaus**

Regarded as one of the best 3-star hotels in Switzerland, Hotel Waldhaus reputedly has the world’s largest whisky bar, the Devil’s Place. The recently renovated rooms are bright, light and tastefully finished.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Via Dimlej 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Moritz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 7500

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 818 366 000

**Website**

www.waldhaus-am-see.ch