**Geilo**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

9

**Intermediate Runs**

24

**Advanced Runs**

5

**Total Runs**

38

**Lifts**

20

**Chairs**

5

**Drags**

15

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

1.5m (5ft) to 2.4m (8ft).

**Overview**

Once known as, ‘The St Moritz of the North’, Norway’s Geilo ski resort, has been a popular tourist destination since the late nineteenth century.

Geilo’s skiing really took off in the early 1950s when the first ski lifts were installed. This was the resort’s heyday, when international tourists were drawn by cheap prices and quality powder. Although in recent decades other resorts have surpassed it in terms of the extent of its slopes, there are, none-the-less, a great selection of descents here for all ability levels, from young children to top-level alpinists.

The resort's well-prepared terrain parks also provide excellent opportunities for snowboarding. In addition, there are 550km (137 miles) of trails for those who prefer cross-country skiing; while the kite-skiing conditions are among the best in the world.

Aesthetically, Geilo is a very pleasant resort, emphasised by its title as a ‘National Park Village’, due to its close proximity to the large national parks of Hardangervidda and Hallingskarvet. It is also easily accessible, located halfway along the main route between Norway’s two largest cities, Oslo and Bergen.

The ‘St Moritz of the North’ it may not be, but quality skiing can still be found at Geilo.

**Location**

Geilo is situated in the mountain region of Hallingdal, in south-central Norway's Buskerud County. It is overlooked by the Hallingskarvet mountain range (the highest peak is the 1,933m/6,342ft Folarskardnuten) and bordered by Hardangervidda, the largest mountain plateau in Northern Europe.

**Website**

http://www.geilo.no

**Piste Map**

http://www.geilo.no/en/winter/alpine-and-snowboard

**Hit The Slopes**

Geilo's slopes cover the mountains on both sides of the town, which sits in the bottom of the Hallingdal valley. The two sides of the valley are not ski- or lift-linked, so skiers must use the shuttle bus between them; but all the slopes on each side are interlinked by lifts and runs criss-crossing the hillsides.

Most of the slopes are wide and comfortable even for inexperienced skiers, and all the runs are extremely well-prepared and maintained. The lifts here are new, modern and comfortable.

Geilo is also one of Scandinavia’s leading destinations for snowboarders and freestyle skiers: there are four excellent terrain parks and a halfpipe. Additionally, night skiing is available on six floodlit runs.

There is usually plenty of snow throughout the season, although snow cannons are used to build up the base early in the season in case snowfall is insufficient. The ski season in Geilo runs from November until April.

Several ski schools offer instruction in alpine skiing, telemarking and cross-country skiing, and a number of outlets provide ski hire.

**Geilo**

**Resort**

800

**Base**

800

**Top**

1178

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Geilo has a lot to offer in terms of activities other than skiing and snowboarding. Snowshoeing, dog sledding, sleigh rides, ice skating, as well as nature and troll safaris are all on offer. In addition, there is a bowling alley, cinema and several swimming pools, spas and gyms in the town itself.

Among the more unusual activities in the resort is the chance to forge iron at the local blacksmith’s workshop. This activity allows adults and children a taste of one of the town’s most important industries stretching back across generations.

Visitors should also take some time to explore the two national parks that are within easy reach of the ski resort. Hardangervidda and Hallingskarvet National Parks both offer stunning scenery and plentiful opportunities for snowshoeing, winter hiking and ice fishing.

**Family Fun**

Childcare is offered at the various ski centres, at the resorts, and also at some of the hotels. In addition, there is the Trollklubben (the Troll Club) kindergarten at Geilolia (tel: +47 32 095 515; [www.geiloskisenter.no](http://www.geiloskisenter.no)).

There are dedicated child-only ski areas within five of the ski areas: Kikut, Geilolia, Slaatta, Havsdalen and Geiloheisen. Here, children can learn in safety and take part in fun activities.

Tobogganing for small children and those a little bit older (10 to 14 years) is a popular activity at Geilo. The family parallel slalom competitions are always great entertainment, while treasure hunting and ski orienteering are other fun options. The biggest hotels in Geilo have children's playrooms and swimming pools.

**Retail Therapy**

There are plenty of shops in Geilo town centre, including grocery stores, sports/ski shops, clothing boutiques, gift shops and florists. For something a little different, several furniture shops sell traditional and rustic Norwegian décor and decorative objects that make perfect gifts or souvenirs.

**Splashing Out**

The 1,000 sq m (10,763 sq ft) Dr Holms spa (tel: +47 32 095 700; [www.drholms.no](http://www.drholms.no)) was the first Shiseido spa in the Nordic countries, and only the fifth in Europe. Facilities here include an outdoor Jacuzzi, swimming pools, Qi massage and a range of treatments for both men and women.

Alternatively, Vestlia Resort (tel: +47 32 087 200; [www.vestlia.no](http://www.vestlia.no)) and Highland Lodge (tel: +47 32 09 61 00; [www.highland.no](http://www.highland.no)) have wonderful spas where you be pampered to a healthier state of body and soul with aroma and mud wraps.

**Apres Ski**

Most après-ski in Geilo takes place in the various hotels and restaurants. Some can get lively although high alcohol taxes in Scandinavia can dampened the party mood a little.

Skibaren in the Dr Holms Hotel (tel: +47 32 095 700; [www.drholms.no](http://www.drholms.no)) is a popular piano bar for more mature grown-ups, while the same establishment's Recepten Pub caters for a younger audience with regular après-ski parties. Sofias Cafe & Bar (tel: +47 32 094 100) is a cosy café with its own bakery that also serves drinks.

**Eating Out**

Of the 20 or so cafés and restaurants in Geilo, Ekte (tel: +47 94 024 574) is a good first stop to sample quality Scandinavian cuisine – expect fresh fish and vegetables in abundance.

The retro Bowl & Dine in the Dr Holms Hotel is a fun eating place modelled on a 1950s American diner and offers – unsurprisingly given its name – the chance to grab a burger and milkshake before or after bowling. The same hotel also has a French-inspired Brasserie serving a great selection of classic dishes.

For a truly sophisticated dining experience with an atmosphere more typical of the region, try Restaurant Hallingstuene (tel: +47 32 091 250; www.[hallingstuene.no](http://hallingstuene.no)) in Geilo town centre – it is regularly hailed as one of the region's best restaurants and is run by TV chef Frode Aga, who uses local ingredients in his immaculately presented creations.

If it’s international cuisine your craving, head to the Golden House (tel: +47 32 088 374) for excellent Chinese fare, while for Italian and Turkish specialities, head for the very popular AL Paso Pizza and Grillhouse (Lienvegen 1).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Fagernes Airport (VDB); Oslo Airport (OSL).

Distances to resort: 105km (65 miles); 300km (186 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour 40 minutes; 3 hours 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Geilo.

**Getting Around**

The ski slopes flank Geilo town centre, and there is a shuttle bus running between both sides of the valley. Taxis are on hand to take visitors from the hotels to the slopes and back again.

**Hotels**

There is a good choice of hotels in Geilo, from beautiful luxury establishments that boast spas and stunning restaurants to more affordable options with basic amenities. Those looking for self-catering options can stay in one of the charming traditional wooden chalets, cabins and lodges that are scattered across the area.

**Lia Fjellhotel**

A good option for non-skiers, private transport owners or those on a budget, the Lia Fjellhotel offers basic accommodation in a remote, and peaceful, location 25 minutes’ drive from the ski centre. The hotel benefits from great views of the Skurdal lake.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Skurdalsvegen 660

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 087 400.

**Website**

http:// www.fjellhotell.no

**Highland Lodge**

The Highland Lodge is centrally located with a free ski bus that shuttles guests directly to the slopes. Facilities here include an indoor pool, on-site restaurant and large lounge area with big screen TV.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Lienvegen 11

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 096 100.

**Website**

http://www.highland.no

**Vestlia Hotel**

Located right by the slopes, Vestlia Hotel offers a heap of facilities including an on-site bar and restaurant, pool, gym, spa, golf course, and perhaps most intriguingly, an ‘adventure bathroom’.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Bakkestolvegen 81

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 087 200.

**Website**

http://www. vestlia.no

**Dr Holms Hotel**

One of the most luxurious hotels and most popular hangouts in Geilo, Dr Holms Hotel has comfortable rooms, great bars and restaurants, and a lovely spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Timrehaugvegen 2

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 095 700.

**Website**

http://drholms.no

**Ustedalen Hotell Geilo**

This comfortable family hotel boasts a swimming pool, piano bar and a nice view of the Ustedalen Fjord.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Gamlevegen 32

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 096 700.

**Website**

http://www.ustedalen.no

**Ro Hotel**

Rooms at this budget hotel can accommodate up to five guests, and there is an on-site restaurant. Ro Hotel benefits from a convenient location near the railway station.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Geilovegen 55

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Geilo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

3580

**Country**

Norway

**Telephone**

+47 32 095 090.

**Website**

http://www.rohotel.no