**Grindelwald**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

16

**Intermediate Runs**

24

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

55

**Lifts**

27

**Chairs**

12

**Drags**

9

**Gondola Cable Cars**

6

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5.3m (17.4ft).

**Overview**

Grindelwald is one of the world's classic resorts with a ski history that dates back to the early 1880s, when a visiting English tourist strapped on his newfangled skis in his hotel room and heroically clomped out down the stairs, through the bar, and out onto the snow.

Set in the magnificence of the Jungfrau Alps, Greindelwald shares one of Switzerland’s larger ski areas with neighbouring Wengen, which is possible to reach on skis, and Murren that requires trains and lift rides to reach.

Despite the extensive skiing facilities, with runs to suit all skill levels, it’s Greindelwald’s scenery that’s its biggest draw, with photo-hungry, dramatic panoramic views of the mighty Eiger and neighbouring peeks. The village itself, which is enjoying a greater selection of après-ski facilities with every consecutive year, is also suitably charming, with its wooden chalets neatly hemmed in by the surrounding mountainscape. It’s no wonder the Jungfrau region is regarded as having the most stunning scenery in skiing – and that’s not an easy category to top.

**Location**

South of Lake Brienz and east of Wengen in the Jungfrau region, Grindelwald is within the Bernese Oberland administrative area of the Swiss canton of Bern.

**Website**

http://grindelwald.ch

http://www.jungfrau.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.jungfrau.ch/en/winter/tourism/ski-area/grindelwald-first/weather-piste-information/railways-lifts/

**Hit The Slopes**

Skiers not wishing to take a day trip to a neighbouring resort can choose between Grindelwald's own First ski area or the larger Kleine Scheidegg and Männlichen sectors, which are shared with neighbouring Wengen and home to the infamous Lauberhorn downhill course that's an intimidating staple of the annual World Cup race circuit.

Just over half of the 160km (100 miles) of runs here are rated intermediate, but beginners have excellent nursery slopes in the Bodmi area that can be reached by a free bus from the resort centre. This has an easy-to-ride conveyor-type lift to make the first ascents as simple as possible.

Beyond the Lauberhorn, experts have several black runs to enjoy, including the aptly named Oh God (piste 27); the resort's toughest. There can be good off-piste skiing too after fresh snow on the Eiger's glaciers and the mountain guides can take accomplished skiers to the best and safest spots.

Beginner and intermediate snowboarders and slopestyle skiers can make the most of First ski area’s White Elements park, but there are more limited options for expert snowboarders who may want to head to nearby Mürren.

There are also more than 15km (9.5 miles) of cross-country trails for Nordic skiers to exploit, which although relatively little compared with many resorts in the Alps, is more than neighbouring Mürren and Wengen.

The ski season in Grindelwald generally runs from mid-December until mid-April.

**Grindelwald**

**Resort**

1034

**Base**

945

**Top**

2505

**Jungfrau**

**Resort**

XXX

**Base**

584

**Top**

2971

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Indoor attractions in Grindelwald include a local museum, several games rooms, a bouldering area, indoor rope park, ice skating and curling rink at the sports centre (tel: +41 338 541 230; [www.sportzentrum-grindelwald.ch](http://www.sportzentrum-grindelwald.ch)). The sports centre is also home to the resort’s public indoor pool with a 70m-long (240ft) slide, as well as a spa with saunas and steam baths. Several of the larger hotels also have swimming pools, saunas and fitness facilities that are open to non-residents.

Outdoor activities include sleigh rides and the world’s longest (15km/9 mile-long) sledge run. Then there’s tubing, marked and cleared winter hiking routes (80km/50 miles), snowshoe trails (20km/12 miles), cross-country tracks (25km/16 miles), and winter climbing and ski touring courses.

For extreme sport junkies, there’s adrenaline-inducing heli-skiing or tandem paragliding – the latter offering stunning views of the Jungfrau region and beyond.

**Family Fun**

The Sunshine nursery (tel: +41 338 541 290) in the Intersport Rent Network building (at the top of the Männlichen cable car) can look after babies from a month old, and can arrange collection from accommodation. In addition, the Swiss Ski and Snowboard School’s (tel: +41 338 541 280; [skischool-jungfrau.ch](http://skischool-jungfrau.ch)) team of experienced mothers provides drinks, small snacks and nappies free of charge.

Once ready to progress to snow sports, Snowli Children's Club (tel: +41 338 541 280; [www.grindelwaldsports.ch](http://www.grindelwaldsports.ch/en/snowli-kids-club-bodmi.html)) – organised by the local Swiss Ski School in the Bodmi area at Terrassenweg – accepts children aged three and over during the week.

Off the slopes, a rare facility is the resort's free games and toy library, which was established in 1996 by a few local ladies.

**Retail Therapy**

With 60 shops to choose from, Grindelwald is one of the better choices for shopping-focused skiers in the region. Beyond sports and souvenir shops, there's a good selection of fashion boutiques and jewellers in the resort centre. Before leaving, don't forget to purchase some of the local cheese from one of the well-stocked delicatessens in the resort.

**Splashing Out**

Receive VIP treatment on the slopes by hiring a private ski instructor and guide from Privat Ski (tel: +41 795 556 699; [www.privat-ski.ch](http://www.privat-ski.ch)). Guides will collect clients from their accommodation and treat them to exclusive service and attention, including VIP access to the First ski lifts.

**Apres Ski**

Besides hotel bars, Grindelwald has a good selection of night spots and can provide a full-on après-ski experience. The Espresso Bar in the Hotel Spinne (tel: +41 338 548 888; [www.spinne.ch](http://www.spinne.ch)) is one of the most popular bars in town. A younger crowd can be found at Avocado (tel: +41 799 552 704; [www.avocadobar.com](http://www.avocadobar.com)). For those looking to stay out a little later, the Mescalero Disco, also in Hotel Spinne, sometimes has live acts.

**Eating Out**

There is an excellent choice of more than 60 restaurants in Grindelwald that can be subdivided into the usual categories of Swiss, Italian, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, fast food and gourmet. In this case it’s also possible to add to this a ‘cheese' category, with a choice of seven restaurants specialising in cheese dishes.

A handful of restaurants can be classed as gourmet havens. Among these, the restaurant in Hotel Aspen (tel: +41 338 544 000; [www.hotel-aspen.ch](http://www.hotel-aspen.ch)) offers high-quality food, including one of the best fondues in town.

Other options include Barry’s in the Hotel Eiger (tel: +41 338 543 131; [www.eiger-grindelwald.ch](http://www.eiger-grindelwald.ch)) with its Swiss and international cuisine; and the atmospheric La Marmite at Hotel Kirchbühl (tel: +44 338 544 080; [www.kirchbuehl.ch](http://www.kirchbuehl.ch)).

The best of the non-Swiss restaurants is probably Golden India (tel: +41 338 535 555; ) which serves up sublime Indian dishes from its large menu, while the Pizzeria Da Salvi in the Hotel Steinbock (tel: +41 338 538 989) makes an excellent pizza.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Bern-Belp Airport (BRN); Zurich Airport (ZRH); Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Distances to resort: 70km (44 miles); 196km (122 miles); 210km (130 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour 5 minutes; 2 hours 35 minutes; 3 hours.

Nearest railway station: Grindelwald.

Distance to resort: Within the town.

**Getting Around**

Much of the resort can be accessed on foot, but a bus service circulates around the wider area. There are also bus, funicular rail and gondola or cable-car links to points of interest, such as Europe's highest railway station (Jungfraujoch), and neighbouring towns.

**Hotels**

The main village is made up of old, traditional chalet-style buildings that offer everything from luxurious hotel-style comforts to more modest choices. There are also plenty of apartments for those looking for self-catering options, while for the budget conscious, a choice of hostels and cheaper bed and breakfast hotels is available a little further out.

**Lehmann's Herberge**

Lehmann’s Herberge is a centrally based establishment that’s run by an attentive owner who ensures a great breakfast is provided each morning. The rooms are basic but clean and payment is required in cash.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Ahornengässli 2NeighborhoodXXX

**Neighborhood**

Grindelwald

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

CH 3818

**Postcode**

Switzerland

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

www.lehmanns-herberge.ch

**Website**

This lavish 5-star hotel offers a luxurious spa with six different types of sauna and various massages. Guests here can also enjoy gourmet dining in the hotel’s Pendule d'Or restaurant, while other facilities include an indoor pool and a fitness room.

**Hotel Gletschergarten**

The Hotel Gletschergarten is a very pleasant chalet-style three-star hotel in a peaceful location that’s now run by the third generation of the family that originally built it. The hotel is known for its friendly atmosphere and the fine four-course meal served nightly at the on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Obere Gletscherstrasse 1

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Grindelwald

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3818

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 338 531 721.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-gletschergarten.ch

**Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof**

The sprawling, luxurious, five-star Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, is located close to the station and is renowned for its exemplary service and comfort. South facing suites look out onto the imposing Eiger.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Swiss Alp Resort 1-3,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

3818 Grindelwald

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3818

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 338 545 858.

**Website**

www.hotel-schweizerhof.com