**Pas de la Casa**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

2

**Intermediate Runs**

8

**Advanced Runs**

4

**Total Runs**

14

**Lifts**

11

**Chairs**

10

**Drags**

0

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2.5m (8.3ft).

**Overview**

While Pas de la Casa’s run stats may appear somewhat limited on paper, the resort’s merger with neighbouring resort Soldeu in 2004 formed the giant Grandvalira area opening up 200km (124 miles) of piste, 129 runs and 65 state-of-the-art high-speed lifts.

The area has become one of the world’s leading - and largest - ski regions in the Pyreneese, so much so that pistes have been extended over the border into France and there have even been murmurs of a Winter Olympic hosting bid.

But more than the big ski area, it’s the village’s border location, duty free status and snow sure altitude that have been, and continue to be, the key ingredients of Pas de la Casa’s success. The resort also benefits from often warmer, sunnier conditions than centres in the Alps, thanks to its southerly latitude and relative proximity to the Mediterranean.

Despite a gradual move upmarket and increasing amalgamation into the Grandvalira ski area, the resort maintains its strong independent identity and reputation as a base for hardcore snow sports fans and après-ski devotees; perhaps more than any other Andorran ski village.

**Location**

Pas de la Casa ski resort is part of the Grandvalira ski area, which takes up much of the northeastern region of the small principality of Andorra. Andorra is sandwiched between Spain to the west and France to the east in the Pyrenees mountains, and is about 160km (100 miles) north of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Website**

http://www.grandvalira.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.pasdelacasa-andorra.com/pdfs/grandvalira-piste-map.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Pas de la Casa has an excellent English-speaking ski school and wide, sunny slopes on which to learn; so it's a good choice for beginners. Once those first turns have been mastered, there are numerous easy green runs on which to totter around. The largely easy-to-ride high-speed detachable chairlifts or walk-in gondolas take beginner skiers back up the slopes without needing to master the dreaded drag lift too early on.

Progressing on to the wider Grandvalira area, roughly two-thirds of the terrain is in the form of wide, fast blues and reds above the treeline, which are perfect for confident intermediates.

Experts, meanwhile, have 25 blacks, including the toughest run, the 2km-long (1.2 miles) Avet No Fifteem. Accomplished skiers can also try heli-skiing, or an off-piste powder course with the ski school when snow conditions are right.

Despite its southerly latitude, the high altitude of the Grandvalira ski area, its mostly north-facing slopes, and its extensive snowmaking have been proven to provide snow cover over much of the terrain even in poor snow years. The ski season in Pas de la Casa typically runs from early December until late April.

Grandvalira and the other Andorran ski area, Vallnord (which covers three resort bases at two other ski areas), participate in the Ski Andorra lift pass, which is valid at any ski area in the principality.

**Pas de la Casa**

**Resort**

1710

**Base**

1710

**Top**

2640

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Pas de La Casa ski resort has fairly limited facilities beyond snow sports, but there is a leisure centre with an indoor pool and a gym. However, other resorts on the Grandvalira pass, that linked by a bus service, do widen the choice.

Test your skills behind the wheel when ice karting or ice driving on the Grandvalira Circuit, located at Port d'Envalira, five minutes from Pas de la Casa. The circuit is the highest in Europe (2,370m/7,775ft) and is the site for one of the stages of the prestigious Andros Trophy and the Andorran ‘Speed on Ice’ championships.

Canillo, a 20-minute bus ride down towards La Vella, has another sports centre with a small indoor pool, ice rink and squash courts. Other activities here include snowmobiling, snowshoeing and dog sledding. Nearby Encamp also offers a range of on-snow activities; while a large and luxurious spa centre, the Sport Wellness Mountain Spa (tel: +376 870 510; [www.sportwellness.ad](http://www.sportwellness.ad)), can be found in Soldeu.

**Family Fun**

Pas de la Casa is a friendly resort for families, with very good childcare and ski-school facilities – just be wary that the accommodation does not incorporate a lively late-night bar, as getting children to sleep may be an issue.

The local nursery (tel: +376 872 920) in Grau Roig accepts children from a year old, while there are additional nurseries in Canillo, El Tartar and Soldeu. The Grandvalira Ski and Snowboard School (tel: +376 871 920), which has a special snow garden nursery incorporating indoor areas, takes kids from age three.

**Retail Therapy**

Pas de la Casa's growth and success has, in part, been built on retail as well as winter sports. Its location on the French border meant it was the first place for visitors arriving from France to be able to purchase duty-free goods, so it rapidly grew in popularity.

The most widely available duty-free items are tobacco, spirits, electronic goods, music, jewellery, perfumes and cosmetics, designer clothing and photography equipment. These products can be found in a number of shops in Pas de la Casa.

For a wider choice, it’s a 30-minute drive to the province’s capital, La Vella, where there’s a vast range of retail options.

**Splashing Out**

Ease the post-ski aches and pains at the Caldea spa (tel: +376 800 999; [www.caldea.com](http://www.caldea.com)). For the ultimate in relaxation, choose one of the spa’s two-day packages encompassing various massages and treatments; among the options is the Massages of the World package that includes a Thai massage, Hindu foot massage and a facial ayurvedic massage.

**Apres Ski**

Pas de la Casa, and the wider Grandvalira area, is one of the best resorts in the world for après ski. This being the Pyrenees the partying doesn’t really peak until shortly before midnight, with bars open to 0300 and clubs an hour later than that.

The Red Lion (tel: +376 685 634) has a reputation for its inventive shot menu, while Paddy's Irish Bar (tel: +376 856 546) is a perennial favourite.

Les Olimpiades (tel: +376 755 460) is a popular stopping off point at the end of the day at the base of the slopes. It has a wide ranging drinks menu that includes tasty cocktails.

**Eating Out**

There are now around 80 places to eat in Pas de la Casa, with a good mix of cuisine on offer, mostly at good prices. Most establishments are relatively small and family run.

The Underground Sports Bar and Grill (tel: +376 856 808) is especially popular, with the ribs served here acquiring something of a legendary status. Bo & Gola (tel: +376 856 777) serves great tapas dishes and KSB (tel: +376 856 453) is particularly good for meat dishes, with some cooked on an open grill.

If you’re interested in the cross-boarder French influence, Els Flocs (tel: +376 856 390) is worth a visit serving good crepes, fondue and raclette.

However, those looking for fine-dining restaurants in Pas de la Casa need not be disappointed, as The Marmita in Hotel Grau Roig (tel: +376 755 556; [www.hotelgrauroig.com](http://www.hotelgrauroig.com)) is highly regarded for its use of fresh, local produce in its culinary creations.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (TLS); Barcelona Airport (BCN).

Distance to resort: 160km (100 miles); 186km (116 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours; 3 hours.

**Getting Around**

Most accommodation, ski lifts and facilities in Pas de la Casa are within easy walking distance of each other. A ski bus circulates around the village and between ski area bases throughout Grandvalira. Driving can be difficult due to road overcrowding and limited parking.

**Hotels**

Although not the prettiest resort - accommodation in Pas de la Casa is mainly found in concrete box-style hotels and apartment buildings near the lift base and slopes - there is plenty of choice when it comes to apartments and hotels in Pas de la Casa; and there are also a few chalets.

**Hotel Llac Negre**

Hotel Llac Negre provides cheap, cheerful and clean 2-star accommodation with basic facilities and good food.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Carrer de Sant Jordi 43

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 755 025.

**Website**

http://www.hotelpasdelacasa.com

**Font d'Argent**

This slopeside 4-star hotel is one of the most popular in town thanks to its great wellness facilities including saunas, hot tubs, steam rooms and massage services.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Carrer de Bearn 20-24

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 739 739.

**Website**

http://www.fontdargent.com

**Hotel Meta**

Hotel Meta is a slopeside 3-star hotel that's near all of Pas de la Casa's main facilities. On-site parking is available for use by guests, and the hotel features a friendly bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Plaça dels Coprínceps 19

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 755 635.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-meta.com

**Hotel Sporting**

One of Pas de la Casa’s newest hotels, rebuilt as a 4-star for the 2010-11 ski season, the slopeside Hotel Sporting hotel has 80 rooms including 10 family, four junior suites and two deluxe suites, as well as a spa area.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Carrer de Sant Jordi 43

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 755 355.

**Website**

http://www.hotelsporting.ad

**Hotel Himalaia Pas**

One of a new breed of more comfortable establishments in Pas de la Casa, this 4-star hotel has 98 rooms and a spa with indoor pool, it’s located close to the slopes.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Calle de la Solana, 51

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 735 515.

**Website**

http://www.himalaiapas.com

**Kandahar Hotel**

Close to all resort amenities and with spacious rooms, the Kandahar Hotel includes a small spa area (available to guests for an additional cost).

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

C/ Bearn, 5,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pas de la Casa

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 200

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 755 700.

**Website**

www.hotelkandahar.com