**Saas Fee**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

9

**Intermediate Runs**

17

**Advanced Runs**

7

**Total Runs**

33

**Lifts**

21

**Chairs**

2

**Drags**

11

**Gondola Cable Cars**

8

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2.7m (8.8ft).

**Overview**

Set in a spectacular location, surrounded by the highest mountains in the Swiss Alps, Saas-Fee is made even more magical by the glaciers rising above it, which are snow covered year round, making it popular for summer skiing. Open from mid-July straight through to late April, it has one of the world’s longest ski seasons.

The village's high altitude and the dizzying heights not only give Saas-Fee a world-class skiable vertical, but also snowsure slopes. In addition to its natural beauty, it’s also relatively peaceful thanks to its car-free status.

Although Saas-Fee has successfully retained its traditional charm, it is also at the cutting edge, particularly with its mountain infrastructure. On the Mittelallalin, the resort holds three world records: the highest underground funicular railway train rising from 3,000m (9,842ft) to 3,500m (11,480ft), the world's highest revolving restaurant and the world’s biggest ice cave.

At the end of the day the runs merge with the resort’s pedestrisanised streets, lined with enticing restaurants, shops and bars running down away from the snow front to the heart of the resort. The village has spread out over the years and today offers a rich range of accommodations as well as non-skiing attractions.

**Location**

Saas-Fee is the largest and highest village in the Saas Valley, which is part of the Alps. The resort can be found within the German-speaking sector of the Swiss canton of Valais in central-southern Switzerland.

**Website**

www.saas-fee.ch

**Piste Map**

http://files.gadmin.ch/39841

**Hit The Slopes**

Saas-Fee's ski season is almost runs all year round. The main season begins in October and runs until the end of April. After a few weeks' closure, it reopens in July through to September for glacier skiing.

Saas-Fee's extensive ski area is divided into three sectors: Morenia, Plattjen and Längfluh, together offering 100km (63 miles) of runs. A quarter of these are easy, half are moderate and the rest are classified as difficult.

Beginners will find nursery slopes next to the village which, thanks to the altitude and snow machines, are usually open all season long too. Intermediates have the full area to enjoy, whilst experts will find plenty of challenges, including numerous off-piste routes accessible with a guide. After heavy snowfalls, there are also official freeride slopes that have powder runs. These then develop into moguls as they are never groomed.

Freestyle skiing has been popular here for decades and it’s easy to see why with a top quality halfpipe in the summer and parks throughout the year to explore, alongside slopes to suit all abilities.

The Saas-Fee ski pass includes the whole valley with the slopes in Saas-Grund, Saas-Almagell and Saas-Balen – although most guests prefer to spend all of their time solely on Saas-Fee's slopes. There is also an increasingly integrated reciprocal agreement with nearby Zermatt, which may be worth considering for those who are in Saas-Fee for a longer stay.

**Saas-Fee**

**Resort**

1800

**Base**

1800

**Top**

3600

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Aqua Allalin (tel: +41 27 958 5050; [www.aqua-allalin.ch](http://www.aqua-allalin.ch)) is a great place to unwind. It has an indoor pool, Finnish sauna, bio-soft sauna, herbal steam bath, whirlpool, footbath, navel stone, hydromassage showers, relaxation room and phone-free area.

Other indoor facilities include the Saaser Museum (tel: +41 27 957 1475) with its exhibits of traditional clothing and artefacts. Alternatively, you can spend time in Micro-Bowl (tel: +41 27 957 1052), the small bowling alley on a rainy day.

Among the outdoor activities are the usual ski resort offerings of ice climbing, canyoning, snowshoeing, a natural ice rink, toboggan run and cleared winter walking routes.

More unique to Saas-Fee is the Ice Pavilion at the top of the Metro-Alpin funicular, which houses a glacier exhibition. There’s also a cinema within a swimming pool at the Wellness & Spa Primin Zurbriggen (tel: +41 27 957 2301; [www.wellnesshotel-zurbriggen.ch](http://www.wellnesshotel-zurbriggen.ch)).

**Family Fun**

Saas-Fee's car-free status and excellent children's facilities make it a first-class ski resort for families.

Gästekindergarten Murmeli offers nursery care for babies aged 18 months to six years old. The Swiss Ski School (tel: +41 27 957 2348; [www.skischule-saas-fee.ch](http://www.skischule-saas-fee.ch)) has special classes for children aged from three, while other ski schools offer group and private lessons for kids.

Child lift ticket prices are also amongst the most generous anywhere, with children skiing free until age nine and then paying a teen rate up to 16.

The resort also organises ‘Kidsweek’ at Saas-Grund, a week-long initiative in which lessons, equipment hire and ski passes are free for children. Away from skiing, little ones love sleigh rides and tubing.

**Retail Therapy**

There are about 60 shops in Sass-Fee, including plenty of interesting boutiques, most of which are independently owned. Along with a dozen ski shops, there's an eclectic mix covering most requirements and some good souvenir retailers. Among them, Woodpecker (tel: +43 27 957 3401) sells original carved wooden items.

**Splashing Out**

Take a gondola up to the Hannig restaurant (tel: +43 27 957 1419; [www.hannig-saas-fee.ch](http://www.hannig-saas-fee.ch)) in the evening and enjoy a traditional dinner while looking down on the sparkling lights of Saas-Fee. Then ride the 5.5km-long (3 miles) toboggan run back down.

**Apres Ski**

The lower slopes lead down to Assembly Square, which has a line of lively après-ski bars, including Snowpoint (tel: +41 27 958 6464) the outdoor Black Bull Snowbar. There are about 20 of these outdoor spots in Saas-Fee, which start serving in the afternoon and stay open until 1900.

Later on, The Popcorn Bar ( tel: +41 27 958 5000; [www.popcorn.ch](http://www.popcorn.ch)) gets lively and attracts the snowboard crowd, while the Dom Hotel bar (tel: +41 27 958 7700) is the place to go for live music. Party-goers should head to Poison (tel: +41 27 957 5051) which opens at 2200 and continues ‘to the end’.

**Eating Out**

Saas-Fee offers a lot of dining choice. Unsurprisingly, the majority of the restaurants are traditional Swiss Alpine establishments, but there are various Italian restaurants too. One of the most popular is Don Ciccio Ristorante-Pizzeria (tel: +41 27 957 4020; [www.donciccio-saasfee.ch](http://www.donciccio-saasfee.ch)). Meanwhile, Cäsar Ritz (tel: +41 27 958 1900; [www.ferienart.ch](http://www.ferienart.ch)) serves a six-course dinner each night and organises cheese buffets with 50 different varieties.

For the full Saas-Fee alpine experience, try Alphitta (tel: +41 27 957 1050; [www.alpendoerfli.ch](http://www.alpendoerfli.ch)) which serves up mountain favourites like rosti, fondue and raclette in a two-storey barn like building filled with local antiques.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Sion Airport (SIR); Geneva International Airport (GVA); Zurich Airport (ZHR).

Distance to resort: 70km (43 miles); 234km (145 miles); 246km (153 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour; 3 hours 30 minutes; 3 hours 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Visp.

Distance to resort: 26km (16 miles).

Driving time: 40 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Most of Saas-Fee can be accessed on foot. Cars are banned in the village and must be parked in a large car park at the edge of the resort on arrival. Where required, small electric taxis are used to transport the infirm and luggage.

**Hotels**

Most of the accommodation in Saas-Fee is found in hotels rather than chalets. In total, there are more than 50 hotels on offer, ranging from luxury to budget options. There are also apartments for rent, though most of these are far from the slopes.

**Hotel Schweizerhof**

This central, 5-star hotel has an excellent spa and a highly-rated restaurant which serves wonderful six-course dinners. With panama suites and a great spa, it’s one of the best stays in town.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

123 Schweizerhof Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 958 75 75

**Website**

www.schweizerhof-saasfee.ch

**Erlebnishotel Etoile**

This traditional 3-star hotel treats its guests like family and has strong repeat business. Clean rooms, good food and a short shuttle bus ride from the slopes all help.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Wildistrasse

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 27 958 1550.

**Website**

www.hotel-etoile.ch

**Elite Alpine Lodge**

Living up to its name, the cosy 4-star suites and apartments in Elite Alpine Lodge are located just off the main street and are modern, tastefully finished and include access to a spa.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Haltenstrasse 21

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 27 957 1400.

**Website**

www.elite-saas-fee.ch

**Hotel Alphubel**

A traditional 3-star hotel on the outskirts of the resort, Hotel Alphubel is a particularly good option for families with young children as it has its own kids' club.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Hügelstrasse 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 27 958 6363.

**Website**

www.hotelalphubel.ch

**Ferienart Resort & Spa**

This beautiful chalet-style hotel offers 5-star slopeside pampering, complete with a luxury spa and six restaurants.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 27 958 1900.

**Website**

www.ferienart.ch

**Garni Alba**

Dated but delightful, Garni Alba is a small, traditional chalet-style hotel with beautiful views and a central location.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Lomattenstrasse 17

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saas-Fee

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

CH 3906

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 27 957 2724.

**Website**

www.alba-albana.ch