**Saas Fee**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

13

**Intermediate Runs**

14

**Advanced Runs**

8

**Total Runs**

35

**Lifts**

21

**Chairs**

2

**Drags**

12

**Gondola Cable Cars**

7

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2.7m (8.8ft).

**Overview**

Saas-Fee is one of the world's most beautiful ski resorts, set in a spectacular location surrounded by the highest mountains in the Swiss Alps. The area is made even more magical by the glaciers rising above it, which are snow covered year round, making it popular for summer skiing.

The village's high altitude and the dizzying heights accessible by ski lifts give Saas-Fee ski resort not only a world-class skiable vertical, but also slopes that are snowsure from the very start to the end of the season. 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 when it comes to 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), where you find the world's highest revolving restaurant as well as the world’s biggest ice cave.

**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**

http://www.saas-fee.ch

**Piste Map**

http://ski3.intermaps.com/saastal/skimap.asp?map=Saasfee&startdata=aktuell&lang=de

**Hit The Slopes**

Saas-Fee's ski season continues almost 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. Of these a quarter are easy, half are moderate and the remaining quarter are classified as difficult, in terms of the challenge they provide.

Beginners will find nursery slopes next to the village which, thanks to the altitude and snow machines, are usually open all season long. Intermediates have the full area to enjoy, whilst experts have plenty of challenges, including numerous off-piste routes accessible with a guide, as well as official freeride slopes that have powder runs after a snowfall which 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**

The Bielen Leisure Centre (tel: 027 957 2475) is one of the best public facilities any ski resort has to offer. A great place for all ages to unwind, the centre has an indoor tennis court, four badminton courts, 25m (80ft) swimming pool, sauna, two Jacuzzis, steam bath, solarium and table tennis tables.

Other indoor facilities include the Saas Museum (tel: 027 958 1858) with its exhibits of traditional clothing and artefacts. Alternatively, you can spend time in the small bowling alley (tel: 027 957 2301) 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; while there’s a cinema within a swimming pool at the Wellness & Spa Primin Zurbriggen (tel: 027 957 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 option for families.

Gästekindergarten Murmeli offers nursery care for babies aged 18 months to six years old. The Swiss Ski School (tel: 027 957 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, there's plenty to do, including sleigh rides, tubing and a children's pool and slide within the leisure centre.

**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 (Obere Dorfstrasse 32; tel: 027 957 3401) sells original carved wooden items.

**Splashing Out**

Take a gondola up to the Hannig restaurant (tel: 027 957 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, after the hearty meal, take the 5.5km-long (3 miles) toboggan run back down. Night sledging here is available every Tuesday evening (tel: 027 957 2615).

**Apres Ski**

The lower slopes lead down to Assembly Square, which has a line of lively après-ski bars. This starts with Snowpoint followed by Mistral, Zur Mühle, the outdoor Black Bull bar, Holzwurm, Fee Iglu, and finally Nesti’s skibar. These outdoor bars open in the afternoon and stay open until 1900. In total, there are about 20 of these nightspots in Saas-Fee, as well as hotel bars and lounges.

The Popcorn Bar and Hotel (Obere Dorfstrasse 6; tel: 027 958 5000; [www.popcorn.ch](http://www.popcorn.ch)) is one of the liveliest, attracting the snowboard crowd throughout the year. For late-night party-goers, the Poison bar (Bahnhofstrasse 10; tel: 027 957 5051) opens at 2200 and continues ‘to the end'.

**Eating Out**

With about 60 places to eat in Saas-Fee, there's a lot of dining choice. The majority of the restaurants in Saas-Fee are, unsurprisingly, traditional Swiss Alpine establishments; but there are various Italian restaurants, as well as Thai fare from Le Mandarin restaurant in the 5-star FerienArt Resort & Spa (Dorfweg 1; tel: 027 958 1900; [www.ferienart.ch](http://www.ferienart.ch)). Another of the FerienArt's restaurants, Cäsar Ritz, serves a six-course dinner each night and organises cheese buffets with 50 different varieties.

**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 from the village and must be parked in a large car park at the edge of the resort on arrival. Small electric taxis are used where required 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 in Saas-Fee, ranging from luxury to budget options. There are also apartments for rent, though many are far from the slopes – so check the location first.

**Hotel Alphubel**

A traditional 3-star hotel close to the main car parking area 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**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 958 6363.

**Website**

http://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**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

027 958 1900.

**Website**

http://www.ferienart.ch

**Garni Alba**

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**

XXX

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

04 7689 9063.

**Website**

http://www.alba-albana.ch