**La Clusaz**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

23

**Intermediate Runs**

54

**Advanced Runs**

7

**Total Runs**

84

**Lifts**

52

**Chairs**

14

**Drags**

32

**Gondola Cable Cars**

6

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

La Clusaz, one of the most northerly resorts in the French Alps, has a ski heritage dating back more than a century. The charming resort has been welcoming ski holiday makers since the mid-1920s, making it one of a handful of famed French resorts that was not purpose-built during the boom period of the 1950s to 1980s.

Although the village itself has grown considerably in time – and is now a bustling resort with frequent traffic congestion on its sloping main street – it has retained much of its Savoyard charm and traditional architecture. Today, somewhere between large village and small market town, it preserves a clear connection to the local agricultural sector – famed for its delicious Reblochon cheese – through traditional shops and markets.

The resort, which is internationally renowned – having staged World Cup downhills and the Freestyle and Telemark Ski World Championships – provides extensive skiing divided between five main sectors. Each of these areas is interlinked, allowing skiers to explore the whole resort from various parts of the mountain, with one or more lifts within easy reach of most accommodation options. Additional terrain at neighbouring Le Grand Bornand is available on the Aravis regional pass.

**Location**

La Clusaz is located in the Haute-Savoie region of France, in the Aravis district of the western Alps.

**Website**

http://www.laclusaz.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.laclusaz.com/hiver/alpin-plan.html

**Hit The Slopes**

La Clusaz has a relatively good reputation for its snow cover, despite the resort being lower than most other major French resorts – as most slopes are north facing and snow-making facilities are available on key slopes. The five mountains that contain La Clusaz’s ski offering host the Balme, Beauregard, La Croix Fry-Manigod-Merdassier, L'Aiguille and L'Étale areas.

This classic resort has something for all skiing and boarding abilities. For example, Beauregard (the closest mountain to the village) is home to easy runs as well as the more challenging tree skiing. These slopes are linked over the back to La Croix-Fry Manigod Merdassier with its more gentle slopes, while the steeper runs of L'Étale lie largely above the treeline.

For expert skiers, the Aiguille Mountain across the village provides steeper slopes and some of the biggest verticals, including the Grand Crêt with its 1,200m (3937ft) descent. The popular black/red Combe du Fernuy run takes skiers from here to the fifth and highest mountain, Balme – it’s also the resort’s most snowsure. There is also a ‘Summit Circle’ route for advanced skiers, which incorporates only red and black pistes.

La Clusaz has good facilities for freestyle skiing and boarding that have been added to recently with a new terrain park centred on Crêt du Loup. The resort, which was an early adopter of snowboarding, has previously hosted the Freestyle World Skiing Championships and it was one of the first to offer a boardercross course.

Cross-country skiing is very popular in and around La Clusaz. There are 86km (53 miles) of trails in total; with the main sector (50km/31 miles) at the Plateau des Confins being a host area at the 2013 FIS Cross-Country World Cup. A 7km (4-mile) connection links neighbouring Le Grand Bornand village – this area even has snow-making facilities, a rare treat for cross-country skiing. And a further eight trails can be found at the Plateau de Beauregard, which can be reached directly from the village on the Beauregard gondola.

**La Clusaz**

**Resort**

1100

**Base**

1100

**Top**

2600

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

As one of the largest year-round resorts in the French Alps, there is plenty to do besides ski and board in La Clusaz. Visitors will find several indoor spa and fitness centres, including Espace Aquatique des Aravis (434 Route de la Piscine; tel: 04 5002 4301) with its indoor pools and state-of-the-art spa facilities. There’s also a cinema, library and games room. Outdoors, the ice rink is a popular attraction, while the resort touches on its agricultural origins with farm visits and village heritage tours several times a week.

Back on the snow, options include snowshoeing, snowmobiling (tel: 04 5032 3537) sleigh rides, winter hiking, dog-sledding and paragliding. Many of these activities are provided at the nearby Confins Lake.

**Family Fun**

In common with most French resorts, childcare facilities are well-organised in La Clusaz. A nursery service is available for full or part days (with lunch cover optional) for babies aged from eight months. A ski school helps to keep children aged four and up entertained in a specially created and protected ‘snow garden’ at the base of the slopes. There’s also an increasing range of family attractions off the slopes, particularly the swimming pool complex.

The Club des Mouffets (tel: 04 5032 4891), which offers indoor play, music, arts and crafts, is located above the tourist office. It’s wise to book early and remember to bring along the child’s NHS booklet documenting the child vaccinations, as that will be requested by the facility. L'Ecole du Ski Français (tel: 04 5002 4083; [www.esf-laclusaz.com](http://www.esf-laclusaz.com)) offers lessons suited to each child’s age and ability following the French national tuition and certification system.

**Retail Therapy**

La Clusaz has much more shopping choice than most French resorts, with around 150 place to flex the plastic. The majority of the shops line the bustling main street that climbs up through the village centre.

Those who love fresh, local food products and handmade crafts shouldn’t miss the weekly market each Monday morning, which has a great choice of nicknacks and delicacies; including the famous Reblochon cheese. Among the places to look out for in town is the Morand Chocolaterie (476 Route du Col des Aravis), which sells a mind-boggling array of delicious chocolates and sweets.

**Splashing Out**

The Espace Aquatique des Aravis (tel: 04 5002 4301; [www.espaceaquatique-laclusaz.com](http://www.espaceaquatique-laclusaz.com)), a swimming pool, spa and leisure complex, is open year-round. Spend a few hours or a full day here being pampered by body treatments in the spa, or explore the indoor and outdoor pools, fitness centre, saunas, steam room, hammam and various hot tubs.

**Apres Ski**

La Clusaz is one of the livelier French resorts thanks to its long-standing status, year-round operation and international clientele. There are several dozen dedicated après-ski bars (in addition to those in the numerous restaurants and hotels) and several nightclubs, while a wide range of evening activities from ice skating, sleigh rides and snowmobiling to a night out at the cinema are available to all ages.

Popular and typically lively venues include Les Caves du Paccaly (10 Passage du Vatican; tel: 04 5063 3739) with its excellent patio and La Pressoir (62 Route de l'Étale; tel: 04 5002 6410) video bar, which has a breathtaking selection of nearly 100 beers – it’s just one of several bars regularly open to 0200. Those who want to party later still should try L’Écluse (Place de L'Église; [www.ecluse.fr](http://www.ecluse.fr/)), which is the coolest nightclub in town. It stays open until to 0500 each morning.

Come nightfall, there’s weekly floodlit skiing, and the resort has built a reputation for its ‘Full Moon Evenings’ where guests ski by moonlight on the Crêt du Loup and Crêt du Merle areas from 2100 to 0100 once a month.

**Eating Out**

There are more than 70 restaurants to enjoy in La Clusaz; the vast majority serving traditional local Savoyard dishes, including the ever-popular fondue and raclettes made with the local Reblochon cheese. Diners will also find affordable crêperies and pizzerias among other offerings.

L'Outa (88 Route des Grandes Alpes; tel: 04 5002 4535) is one of the most popular options in the village; while La Ferme (1078 Route du Col des Aravis, tel; 04 5002 5050; [www.lesfermiers.com](http://www.lesfermiers.com)), five minutes away at the base of the slopes, produces local dishes using ingredients supplied by the region’s farmers.

For high-end gastronomic specialities, the best options are Cin5 (26 Montée du Château; tel: 04 5001 5001; [www.hotel-aucoeurduvillage.fr](http://www.hotel-aucoeurduvillage.fr)) in the 5-star Hôtel Spa Au Coeur du Village and La Scierie (321-331 Route du Col des Aravis; Tel: 04 5063 3468).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Grenoble-Isère Airport (GNB).

Distance to resort: 70km (43 miles); 80km (50 miles); 170km (105 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour; 1 hour 10 minutes; 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

Various shuttle buses, which are free for lift pass holders, circulate the village every 20 to 30 minutes during the day (approximately 0800 to 1800). During the main season (Christmas to mid-March) there is also an evening service on Fridays and Saturdays. Buses also connect the resort to neighbouring Le Grand Bornand for holders of the Aravis regional lift pass. These run every 30 minutes during the day.

La Clusaz is one of the quickest and easiest resorts to reach from Geneva’s airport, or for those driving from the Channel ports.

**Hotels**

As a traditional resort, La Clusaz has always offered a wider choice of hotel accommodation options than most of its competitors in the French Alps, which generally consist of a majority of apartment-style accommodation. In fact, the resort has more than 20 hotels in all categories, as well as a large choice of apartments.

**Hôtel Alpen Roc**

A modern 3-star hotel close to resort centre, Hôtel Alpen Roc has a small swimming pool and popular bar/restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

388 Route des Grandes Alpes

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5002 5896.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-alpenroc.fr

**Altitude 1647**

A good choice for those who want to stay up on the slopes, Altitude 1647 has a dozen simple and affordable rooms to rent in addition to a restaurant and games room.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Pointe de Beauregard

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5002 4400.

**Website**

http://www.altitude1647.eu

**L’ Étale**

The only 1-star hotel in town, L’ Étale provides affordable and simple lodgings that are also suitable for families.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

359 Route du Col des Aravis

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5002 4183.

**Website**

XXX

**Au Cœur du Village**

This 5-star hotel boasts a restaurant serving local and regional cuisine, as well as an English-style ‘smoking room’. Spa facilities are also available here; including treatment cabins and access to a hammam.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

26 Montée du Château

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5001 5001.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-aucoeurduvillage.fr

**Le Vieux Chalet**

An intimate 4-star chalet hotel with four rooms and two suites, one of which is specially equipped for people with reduced mobility. Le Vieux Chalet is located on the slopes, 10 minutes’ walk from the centre.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

309 Route du Crêt du Merle

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5002 4153.

**Website**

http://www.levieuxchalet.fr

**Hotel Beauregard**

One of the larger and better located hotels in Las Clusaz, Hotel Beauregard offers accommodation right by the slopes, just above the resort centre. The hotel provides friendly service and good facilities, including an indoor pool.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

90 Sentier du Bossonnet

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Clusaz

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5032 6800.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-beauregard.fr