**Montgenèvre**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

31

**Intermediate Runs**

40

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

86

**Lifts**

35

**Chairs**

17

**Drags**

15

**Gondola Cable Cars**

3

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Montgenèvre is one of the world’s original Alpine ski resorts, having welcomed downhill skiers for over a century. But its history stretches back further, as Hannibal passed through with his elephants around 2,000 years before, crossing what is now the Italian border just a few hundred metres away.

Skiers and boarders have since been sliding where the legendary leader once set foot, enjoying the giant Via Lattea or ‘Milky Way’ pass that ties the village to its Italian neighbours Claviere, Sansicario, Sauze d’Oulx and Sestriere. In total, visitors here can ski more than 400km (250 miles) of connected cross-border pistes from their base in Montgenèvre – making it one of the world’s biggest ski areas.

Montgenèvre’s popularity has waivered over the years. It has always been considered as one of France’s top destinations – as well as one of its highest and therefore most snowsure non-purpose-built villages in the Alps – but until a few years ago, it suffered from busy traffic through its centre. This changed, however, with the decision to move the boarder road to bypass the centre, allowing for a spectacular transformation to a pedestrianised centre. This area includes a stylish boardwalk, which is the hub of day and night-time activity, while improvements in the slopes have brought the ski area firmly into the 21st century with state-of-the-art lifts and re-graded runs.

**Location**

Montgenèvre is located between the River Durance and the River Po in the Southern French Alps, on the Italian border.

**Website**

http://www.montgenevre.com

**Piste Map**

http://issuu.com/mtg05/docs/plan\_pistes\_mtg/1?e=0

**Hit The Slopes**

Montgenèvre’s altitude and geographical situation make it a dumping ground for precipitation from low pressure fronts from the west and returning fronts from the east, allowing reliable snow cover throughout the season. The resort also boasts vast artificial snow-making facilities, which guarantee fresh powder for up to eight days after the last snowfall. But despite all this snow, Montgenèvre also claims an average of 300 days of sunshine per year.

Much of the terrain here is made up of wonderful, long blue and red cruisers, all above the treeline; while there’s also a good choice of black-graded pistes. The available ski area can be quadrupled to one of the world’s largest by purchasing the Milky Way pass, which provides seamless access to the slopes of five neighbouring resorts, including Sauze d’Oulx and Sestriere. Beginners are also spoilt thanks to a new beginners’ park with its easy to use conveyor-style carpet lifts that are conveniently located near the village.

Due to Montgenèvre’s proximity to Italy, heli-skiing, which is banned in France, is possible by popping over the border to Sauze d’Oulx, where two helicopter teams and professional guides are based. From here, visitors can ski or board from one of more than 20 surrounding 3,000m (9,840ft) summits, including the slopes of Rocher de L’Aigle, or in the forests that run back towards the resort. It’s also possible to enjoy ski touring on Mont Chaberton, the highest summit in the area.

Snowboarders and ski freestylers can enjoy their own area near the village, complete with a super pipe and a boardercross course. There are also numerous cross-country ski trails in the area on both sides of the border.

**Montgenèvre**

**Resort**

1860

**Base**

1860

**Top**

2680

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Off-slope facilities, as with most other services in Montgenèvre, have improved in the past few years. There’s a cinema (tel: 09 6049 4916), while some of the relatively new accommodation options such as the Résidence Le Chalet des Dolines (tel: 04 9225 5780) have spa facilities.

Back on the snow, there’s tubing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, a natural ice rink, speed-skating courses and dog-sled excursions. There’s also the longest toboggan run in France, the 1.4km-long (0.8 miles) Monty Express, which is more of a downhill ‘monorail’ than a traditional track in the snow.

For something a little more unusual, spend a night (or part of it) riding the slopes inside a trail groomer, to see how the slopes are maintained. This is a popular activity and places are limited, so apply at the tourist office on arrival in the resort.

**Family Fun**

The improvements to Montgenèvre over the past few years have revitalised its reputation as a family-friendly resort. A nursery facility at the foot of the slopes caters for babies and toddlers from the age of six months to six years; and for those aged three and older, there is a 5-hectare (12-acre) beginners’ zone that contains state-of-the-art facilities and a treasure hunt slope.

The Piou Piou Kids Club at the École du Ski Français (tel: 04 9221 9046; [www.esf-montgenevre.com](http://www.esf-montgenevre.com)) teaches youngsters (three to five years) to ski in a child-friendly area that includes two easy-to-use carpets lifts, a carousel and a nursery in case of bad weather. Older children can join fun group lessons at the ski school to improve their ski technique.

Child-friendly activities in Montgenèvre include three free sledging areas (one of which is reserved for younger children) and snow playgrounds that enable the little ones to play safely away from skiing adults.

**Retail Therapy**

Montgenèvre’s shopping is limited to around 20 shops that are primarily there to serve winter sports holidaymakers – this is not a destination for those whose principal activity is spending hours perusing designer outlets. More than half of the shops in Montgenèvre are ski shops, with the remaining convenience stores – including several small supermarkets, a post office, newsagents, several boulangeries, a chemist and a couple of gift shops.

**Splashing Out**

Snowmobiling is a popular activity around the resort in the evenings after the ski runs close. A snowmobile excursion around the local area lasts for approximately one hour, departing hourly from 1730. No previous experience is necessary and prices range from €20 to be a passenger to €80 to drive a snowmobile. Alternatively, ride the snowmobile over the border into Italy and dine in an Italian mountain restaurant, before heading back to French soil. Excursions can be booked through the tourist office (tel: 04 9221 5253).

**Apres Ski**

There’s a growing range of après-ski bars in the resort, with around 20 combined bar/restaurants in total. Due to the full events calendar organised by the tourist office and a cross-border enthusiasm emanating from the proximity to Italy, Montgenèvre has a reputation as a fun and sometimes lively place when the sun goes down. Popular venues include Le Graal Café (tel: 04 9221 8635) wine bar and Le Jamy (tel: 04 9221 9262).

Away from the bars, spend a quiet evening at the digital cinema, which shows a wide range of films in French and English.

**Eating Out**

As with nightspots, there is a burgeoning choice of restaurants in Montgenèvre. The predominant influence remains in the resort’s location on the French-Italian border, bringing with it the best of both cuisines.

Exquisite French flavours abound at Le Refuge (tel: 04 9221 9297), which offers traditional dishes such as galette. Alpine staples such as raclette, fondue and *tartiflette* (a savoury potato dish) are served up at L'Estable (tel: 06 8170 1059). One of the best Italian options this side of the border is Le Capitaine (tel: 04 9221 8984), which can also rustle up delicious takeaway pizzas. For something a little more upmarket, try La Cloche (Route d’Italie; tel: 04 9221 9138), which gives a contemporary twist to traditional dishes.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Turin Airport (TRN); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Grenoble-Isère Airport (GNB).

Distance to resort: 110km (69 miles); 160km (100 miles); 230km (142 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes; 1 hour 55 minutes; 2 hours 45 minutes.

**Getting Around**

The centre of the village is relatively compact and largely pedestrianised and most properties have direct access to the slopes, so there is little need to use public transport to get around the resort.

The free Montgebus shuttle bus operates every day at regular intervals throughout the village.Shuttle bus and coach services also operate between the village and the neighbouring settlements of Les Alberts, Claviere, Sauze d’Oulx, Briançon and Sestriere. A dedicated coach service connects Montgenèvre to Turin International Airport.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Montgenèvre is mostly in the form of apartments; although there are a handful of hotels graded up to 4-star and a selection of bed and breakfast guesthouses is also available. In-keeping with its ongoing renaissance, some of the most recent additions are high-quality and spacious modern complexes, as well as some top-spec privately owned chalets.

**Le Pot de Miel**

This cosy, eco-friendly chalet boasts a Jacuzzi and sauna with exceptional views of the mountains. It can also organise cookery courses, which are perfect for non-skiers.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Quartier de l’Obelisque

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9221 9355.

**Website**

http://www.lepotdemiel.com

**Le Hameau des Airelles**

A modern 4-star apartment complex with a spa, Le Hameau des Airelles is located in the new Obelisque sector of the resort. Access to the slopes from here is relatively straightforward, with the nearest lift just 200m (218 yards) away.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9222 2500.

**Website**

http://www.mmv.fr

**Hôtel Valerie**

This friendly 2-star hotel in the centre of the village features cosy, traditional wood-panelled rooms and a small restaurant.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Rue de l'Église

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9221 9002.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-montgenevre.com

**Hôtel Anova & Spa**

Boasting very good access to the slopes, a spa and a swimming pool and poolside bar, this chic hotel is among the resort’s more recent luxury additions.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Hameau de l’Obélisque

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9254 4804.

**Website**

http://www.anova-hotel.com

**Hôtel Le Chalet Blanc**

A relatively new luxury hotel, Hôtel Le Chalet Blanc provides ski-in/ski-out accommodation, a lavish spa and a gourmet restaurant serving French fare.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Place de l'Obélisque

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9244 2702.

**Website**

http://www.hotellechaletblanc.com

**Hôtel Le Chalvet**

This recently renovated 2-star offering is located towards Briançon and has a Wi-Fi zone and on-site parking. Accommodation is available on a bed and breakfast or half-board basis.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Route d'Italie

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Montgenèvre

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 9221 9014.

**Website**

http://hotellechalvet.monsite-orange.fr