**Megève**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

107

**Intermediate Runs**

80

**Advanced Runs**

34

**Total Runs**

221

**Lifts**

103

**Chairs**

34

**Drags**

56

**Gondola Cable Cars**

13

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2m (6.5ft).

**Overview**

Megève is one of the great success stories of French skiing but it is often overlooked by the big tour operators, which some would argue contributes to its standing as one of the region's most stylish resorts.

As well as its almost century-old status as a high-class ski destination, the resort also has a world-renowned reputation for its dining and shopping, and guests here can also enjoy some of the best views in the Alps.

The resort was created in the early 1920s as a French response to the success of ski developments in other Alpine nations, particularly St Moritz in Switzerland. It was hugely successful in the following decades, attracting the ‘great and the good’ from the era. However, in the post-war period, the new breed of high-altitude, purpose-built resorts swept across the French Alps and Megève was no longer the sole high-end offering.

But Megève’s success quietly continues to this day. The village maintains its wonderful ambience and charm – centred on its narrow (and now pedestrianised) cobbled streets – and it has grown to offer a wide range of accommodation, restaurants and shops. The surrounding ski area has merged with neighbouring villages to become a giant domain with hundreds of kilometres of pistes.

**Location**

Megève is located in the Haute Savoie region of the French Alps, close to Western Europe’s highest peak, Mont Blanc; within the Pays du Mont Blanc area.

**Website**

http://www.megeve.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.megeve.com/en/hiver/mont-blanc/alps/haute-savoie/france/page/slopes-map

**Hit The Slopes**

Megève has an enormous ski area – albeit broken into three major and eight minor sectors – encompassing 445km (277 miles), more than 220 pistes and over 100 lifts. The classic resort is at a lower altitude than many other major French alternatives, with its highest point at 2,525m (8,284ft) on Mont-Joly, but snow cover is rarely a problem.

The largest single area links the village to the old spa town of St Gervais, just over the Mont d'Arbois summit. On the other side of Megève, the Rochebrune sector is uniquely accessed from the town itself, while the third sector, Jaillet, is shared with two neighbouring villages: Combloux and La Giettaz.

The lifts connecting these areas are included on the affordable Evasion Mont Blanc lift pass, which costs less than most ski areas of comparable or smaller size. But for those who want the full experience, the Ski Pass Mont Blanc Area pass gives access to eight or so additional villages, such as Chamonix, Les Contamines, Verbier and Courmayeur. Skiers pay for this privilege however, as it is one of the most expensive in the Alps.

Whichever pass visitors choose, they’ll find Megève’s terrain offers numerous green, blue and red trails winding through scenic woodland. Beginners have convenient nursery slopes near the village, while the more advanced are likely to find the greatest challenges on Mont d'Arbois. In addition, there are plenty of off-piste routes on Mont Joly and Mont Joux, and there's even the chance to go heli-skiing over the border in Italy.

Boarders and freestyle skiers have two terrain parks, a boardercross and a halfpipe to enjoy, while cross-country skiers can explore 43km (27 miles) of groomed tracks through forests to sunny plateaus.

**Megève**

**Resort**

1113

**Base**

1113

**Top**

2353

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Megève has developed into a year-round, multi-activity resort of which skiing and boarding are only a part. Dog sledding and snowshoeing are popular in the village; but there are dozens of other activities on offer, from relaxing in numerous spas and beauty salons to discovering more of the Mont Blanc Massif area on scenic flights. A sports centre offers curling, ice skating and swimming.

**Family Fun**

The village has received the official French government Family Plus Mountain award for its services to families, including activities, childcare and medical facilities. Six to 14 year olds receive an interactive comic telling them about Megève and its history on their arrival, and there are activities for the whole family, including a number of sledging areas in the resort.

Children aged three to five can be cared for at the École du Ski Français’ (ESF) Caboche Club des Piou-Piou (tel: 04 5058 9765). This nursery is located next to the Caboche lift station, which has its own snow play garden and English-speaking instructors. There is a second club Piou-Piou in the Mont-D’arbois sector (3001 route Edmond de Rothschild; tel: 04 5021 6586). The ESF (tel: 04 5021 0097; [www.megeve-ski.com](http://www.megeve-ski.com/)) also teaches children aged from three on its courses.

**Retail Therapy**

Megève, with its 200 plus shops, is an excellent choice for visitors in search of a little retail therapy; and given this choice, it’s no surprise that most tastes are fulfilled.

It’s not just the volume of shops on offer that’s impressive; it's the quality of mostly locally owned retailers that is most striking. These include La Boutique aux Chocolats (176 Rue Charles Feige; tel: 04 5021 0164) with its large selection of delicious, homemade chocolates; and unique gift stores such as Le Folklore (91 Rue Monseigneur Conseil; tel: 04 5021 2919), which has a collection of jewellery for dogs. There are also prominent designer outlets such as Hermès (126-128, Place de l’église; tel: 04 5021 0290); but for something a little less expensive, head to the weekly market with its array of nick-nacks and local products.

**Splashing Out**

There are few resorts better suited to getting airborne without skis or boards than Megève, with its scenic flights over the stunning mountain landscape of the Mont Blanc region. Options range from a paragliding trip and private plane and helicopter flights to a sedate hot-air balloon ride.

Mont Blanc Hélicoptères (tel: 04 5092 7821; [www.mbh.fr](http://www.mbh.fr/)) offers a wide variety of tours, including lunch-inclusive or full weekend trips, each with a spectacular flight allowing stunning views of Mont Blanc. Scenic flights by plane can be arranged by Aérocime (04 5021 0321; [www.aerocime.com](http://www.aerocime.com/)). Hot-air balloon trips are offered by Alpes Montgolfière (tel: 04 5055 5060; [www.alpes-montgolfiere.fr](http://www.alpes-montgolfiere.fr/)).

**Apres Ski**

The village’s central square and surrounding pedestrianised cobbled streets lend themselves to fun-filled après-ski, and fortunately there are dozens of bars and cafés in which to indulge. Le Bar Saint Paul (43 Quai du Prieuré; tel: 04 5091 9303) is one of several popular and more affordable bars (the two facts are no doubt connected). There are four nightclubs that continue into the early hours: most famous is the chic Palo Alto (192 Rue Charles Feige; tel: 04 5091 8258; [www.palo-alto.fr](http://www.palo-alto.fr)).

Away from the drinking and clubbing scene, evening activities include several cinemas and a small casino (199 Rue Charles Feige; tel: 04 5093 0183; [www.casino-megeve.com](http://www.casino-megeve.com/)).

**Eating Out**

Megève has a reputation for some of the finest dining of any ski resort, and indeed of any location in the Alps. A number of the village’s 80 plus eateries are listed in prestigious gourmet guides, with chefs of each establishment competing to gain even higher prominence. Emmanuel Renaut’s 3-star Michelin restaurant Flocons de Sel (1775 Route du Leutaztel: 04 5021 4999; [www.floconsdesel.com](http://www.floconsdesel.com/)) is one of Europe’s best – in fact, it is the only restaurant in an Alpine ski resort with three Michelin stars. Cooking lessons here are available to visitors all season long.

But the love of food in the village is reflected in all levels of dining, not just the gourmet establishments. Other options include L’Alpage (36 Route du Crêt d'Arbois; tel: 04 5021 3039; [www.feracheval-megeve.com](http://www.feracheval-megeve.com)), which serves regional dishes, and the traditional teashop Le Prieuré (116 Place de l'Eglise; tel: 04 5021 0179; [leprieure-megeve.com](http://leprieure-megeve.com/)) in the church square. Also, don’t miss the many purveyors of the local Tomme cheese.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA); Chambéry Airport (CMF); Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport (LYS).

Distance to resort: 90km (55 miles); 95km (60 miles); 170km (105 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours 10 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A range of free bus services circulate around the village and the wider area – most operate between 0600 and 1900 (these are not free of charge during the summer months). There are also a number of taxi providers in the resort. Bus links to Geneva airport operate three times a day in each direction, for which advance reservations are essential (tel: 04 5021 1824; [www.borini.com](http://www.borini.com/)).

**Hotels**

Megève has more than 40,000 guest beds in and around the village; a good reflection of its status as one of the leading ski resorts in France. Most of these are in chalets and apartments, but there are also about 20 hotels in Megève – most in the 3- or 4-star category (the highest two categories in France until the recently introduced 5-star rating). It’s worth checking where in the village the accommodation is before booking to ensure it’s convenient for the lifts and village centre.

**Chalet du Mont d’Arbois Relais et Chateaux**

A well-positioned 33-room, 8-suite luxury hotel, Chalet du Mont d’Arbois Relais et Chateaux became the first to officially be awarded the 5-star accolade in the resort. Facilities here include a lavish spa and a gourmet restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

447 Chemin de la Rocaille

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5021 2503.

**Website**

http://www.domainedumontdarbois.com

**Flocons de Sel**

An intimate property with only eight rooms and two suites, Flocons de Sel is a great choice for those in search of a quiet base. What’s more, it has its own world-class restaurant run by acclaimed chef Emmanuel Renaut.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

1775 Route du Leutaz

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5021 4999.

**Website**

http://www.floconsdesel.com

**Au Coeur de Megève**

This centrally located and affordable 3-star hotel is decorated in a traditional style and boasts two restaurants that serve local specialities such as fondue and raclette.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

44 Rue Charles Feige

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5021 2530.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-megeve.com

**L’Arboise**

This fully renovated wooden chalet overlooks the village, just five minutes away from the centre. L’Arboise features a restaurant, indoor/outdoor pool and luxury suites.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

483 Route du Gollet

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5055 3590.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-arboisie-megeve.com

**Au Refuge Margot et Leon**

A friendly family-run bed and breakfast with four double rooms, Au Refuge Margot et Leon provides good value and comfortable accommodation in the Le Maz area of the resort.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

32 Route du Tour

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5018 5202.

**Website**

http://www.refuge-margot-leon.com

**Hôtel Rond Point D’Arbois**

This affordable 13-room catered chalet hotel is British-owned and is just three minutes’ walk from the lift. Guests here can be treated to a daily 3-course dinner, and will enjoy use of the games room.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

111 Route Edmond de Rothschild

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Megève

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

04 5021 1750.

**Website**

http://www.stanfordskiing.co.uk