**Soldeu**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

21

**Intermediate Runs**

72

**Advanced Runs**

25

**Total Runs**

118

**Lifts**

65

**Chairs**

33

**Drags**

28

**Gondola Cable Cars**

4

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

2.5m (8.3ft).

**Overview**

Soldeu is part of the Grandvalira ski region, which also incorporates close neighbour Pas de la Casa and four other Andorran resort bases.

Although all these ski bases are linked into the ski area and each has its own facilities, it's important to be aware that they are all a few miles apart by bus. Thus, Soldeu and El Tarter, which are sometimes lumped together as one resort name, are in fact two separate villages a little way apart.

The combined ski area has rapidly grown to become one of the world's 50 largest, with an exceptional fleet of state-of-the-art, high-capacity chairlifts and swish gondolas.

Despite this rapid expansion, Soldeu has maintained high environmental standards and is one of the few resorts worldwide that has adopted the ISO 14001 international environmental management system – a blueprint for environmental sustainability.

Soldeu ski resort has also moved dramatically upmarket in recent years, opening a selection of extremely nice hotels and other quality services. As the price of the weekly lift ticket has risen to match, it can no longer realistically be thought of as cheap – with the exception of its well-publicised duty-free shopping, of course.

**Location**

Soldeu is part of the Grandvalira ski domain, which takes up much of the northeastern part of the small principality of Andorra. The small principality is sandwiched between Spain to the west and France to the east in the Pyrenees mountain range, about 160km (100 miles) north of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Website**

http://www.grandvalira.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.grandvalira.com/ca/mapa-interactiu-grandvalira?mapainteractivo=1

**Hit The Slopes**

Soldeu's ski area has grown to cover more than 200km (125 miles) of pistes linking six different bases. The original area, which joined the villages of El Tarter and Canillo together, had been linked for some years to neighbour Pas de la Casa, but no joint lift ticket was available – skiers therefore had to buy separate day tickets for each area to ski both.

But, in 2004, all that was forgotten as the two areas joined to form Grandvalira, immediately creating the largest ski area in the Pyrenees and one of the biggest in Europe. The combined area has subsequently expanded into France and now has a good number of high-speed detachable six-seater chairs and gondolas, giving it one of the most modern and efficient lift systems around.

Despite its southerly latitude, Andorra's ski villages are at a high altitude and, even in poor snow winters, more than 1,000 snow guns can be fired up to cover most of the pistes. The overall season runs from the start of December until late April.

The giant ski area has plenty for all levels of skier, but is predominantly made up of wide, fast intermediate blues and reds above the treeline. But there are excellent nursery slopes and highly regarded ski schools to teach beginners. There are fewer opportunities for experts, but there are still 22 black runs – the toughest is, arguably, the 2km-long (1.2 mile) Avet No Fifteem run.

Off-piste courses and heli-skiing excursions are also available and are organised by the ski school (tel: 753 191).

**Soldeu**

**Resort**

1710

**Base**

1710

**Top**

2640

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

The range of things to do off the slopes is continually expanding in Soldeu and its neighbouring Grandvalira resort villages. In Soldeu itself, the Sport Wellness Mountain Spa (tel: 870 510; [www.sportwellness.ad](http://www.sportwellness.ad/)) swimming pool and spa complex is great place in which to relax and be pampered.

In nearby Canillo, there's a sports centre with an indoor ice rink, squash courts and a medium-sized indoor pool. While over in Pas de La Casa, there's an ice-driving circuit visitors can tackle in either a car or a kart.

The usual ski resort activities of snowshoeing, snowmobiling and dog sledding are also available in the Grandvalira region.

**Family Fun**

Soldeu has exceptionally good service for children, particularly on the slopes. As well as being designed to a high standard, its main difference to some other European ski resorts is that staff are both friendly and professional, with many ‘imported’ from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

A non-ski nursery in the resort accepts children aged from two to four. Special ski school classes, indoor facilities and play in a specially designed snow garden are also offered to children aged three and older - these facilities can be found at Espiolets on the mountain, reached by gondola from Soldeu.

**Retail Therapy**

Andorra's duty-free status makes it a budget shopper's mecca, particularly for normally highly taxed items such as alcohol, tobacco and perfume. Consumer electronics and fashion clothing are also widely available here.

There is only a limited selection of shops in Soldeu, but many people make the short trip to the provincial capital La Vella to visit the wide-ranging shopping facilities, including department stores.

**Splashing Out**

Book in for a day (or more) of professional pampering at the spectacular Caldea spa (tel: 800 999; [www.caldea.ad](http://www.caldea.ad/)) in nearby La Vella. Treatments here include chocotherapy, a range of massage packages and a thermal circuit.

**Apres Ski**

Soldeu has a long-standing reputation for its lively après-ski scene, fuelled by Southern European sunshine and affordable alcohol. There are plenty of bars and five nightclubs in Soldeu, so enough to keep most visitors happy during their stay.

Although the bars are open all day and are busy as soon as the lifts close, serious partying typically starts at around 2300 (or 0100 for clubs) and lasts until 0300 (or 0400 for clubs). Private parties then often continue in many accommodations. Among the most popular après-ski spots in Soldeu are the Aspen Bar, Esquí Pub and Avalanche.

**Eating Out**

There is a good range of restaurants in Soldeu, the majority of which are typically relaxed and affordable. Among them, Borda del Rector (Carretera General; tel: 852 606) is a traditional Catalan restaurant located on the road out of Soldeu towards El Tarter. The restaurant has an open fireplace and often puts on live music.

Fat Albert’s Restaurant (Carrer Antic) is one of Soldeu's best-known eateries, with one of the highest reputations for good food. It is located in one of the oldest surviving buildings in the village, an old cattle shed behind the Hotel Himalaya.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (TLS); Barcelona Airport (BCN).

Distances to resort: 177km (110 miles); 186km (116 miles).

Driving times: 2 hours 15 minutes; 3 hours.

**Getting Around**

Free buses operate around the village, whilst other services link to neighbouring Grandvalira base villages such as Canillo (for a fee). The bucket lift transports skiers across the resort during the day, while free shuttles operate in the evenings until 2200.

**Hotels**

There are some attractive centrally located hotels in Soldeu which, along with a range of modern apartments built to a traditional stone-clad style, create a rustic feel to the resort. There are also some chalets; although the choice of this form of accommodation isn't large.

**Hotel Roc de Sant Miquel**

This partly British-run affordable hotel has a good restaurant and is a short walk from the main gondola station.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Soldeu

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

346 791.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-roc.com

**Hotel Naudi**

A 3-star hotel near the top of the village, Hotel Naudi has its own restaurant and bar and is decorated in a traditional style.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Soldeu

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

739 300.

**Website**

http://www.hotelnaudi.com

**Sport Hotel**

Rated 4-star, this luxury but cosy hotel is in the village centre, next to the gondola, and boasts a wonderful spa (entry to which is not included in the room rate).

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Soldeu

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

870 550.

**Website**

http://www.sporthotels.ad