**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 one of the six ski villages that lie below the Grandvalira region, which has grown to become the largest ski area in the Pyrenees. Once fierce rivals with neighbouring Pas de la Casa, the two resorts have shared Grandvalira for the last 10 years, and it has since spread over the border into France.

As well as being one of the world’s biggest ski areas, it also has some of the most modern uplift. A fast network of six-seater chairlifts and gondolas makes getting around the wide sunny slopes quick and easy.

Soldeu itself lines the main road up to the border. As with most of Andorra’s old budget resorts it has moved ‘up market’ over the past decade or so and now offers some of the best hotels in the principality, including several 4- and 5-star choices. The budget options are still there, but they’re much less obvious than once they were.

Sometimes referred to as Soldeu El Tarter (lumped together with the small enclave of El Tarter down the road), it’s worth confirming that your hotel is actually in the resort when you book as the slopeside facilities at El Tarter are good but limited.

**Location**

Soldeu is part of the Grandvalira ski domain, which takes up much of the northeastern part 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**

www.grandvalira.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.grandvalira.com/sites/default/files/files/PLANIGRAFIA%2014-15%20CA%20web.pdf

**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.

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 tree line. 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 Fifteen run.

Off-piste courses and heli-skiing excursions are also available and are organised by the ski school.

**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: +376 870 510; [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. More adventurous visitors may want to try archery, rifle shooting, paintballing and paragliding.

**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.

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: +376 800 999; [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.

Fat Albert's (+376 851 765; [www.fat-albertssoldeu.com](http://www.fat-albertssoldeu.com)) is one of the most popular thanks to its live bands. It is located in one of the oldest surviving buildings in the village - an old cattle shed behind the Hotel Himalaya.

The Aspen Bar (tel: +376 851 974), in the resort centre, is another long standing favourite, with a lively atmosphere, big screen TVs showing sports and a great choice of drinks.

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).

**Eating Out**

There is a good range of restaurants in Soldeu, the majority of which are typically relaxed and affordable.

The Merlot Restaurant (tel: +376 370 002) is a popular choice, tucked away on a back street, it offers international cuisine to a good standard and has an extensive menu of local wines.

Restaurant Taverna de la iaia (tel: +376 851 321) is a friendly tapas restaurant with joint English and Spanish management and a reputation for high quality cuisine at reasonable prices.

For a special dining experience, try the rustic La Llar de L'artesa (tel: +376 851 078), located about 2.5km (1.5 miles) up the road from the resort centre. With an open fire place in the corner, it’s like dining in a museum of Andorran heritage here.

There are plenty of choices for fast food and pizza of course. Pizzeria L'Avet (tel: +376 851 018) being one of the most popular.

**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 paid services link to neighbouring Grandvalira base villages such as Canillo. 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 in a traditional stone-clad style, create a rustic feel to the resort. There are also some chalets, though the choice isn't large.

**Sport Hotels Resort & Spa**

Rated 4-star, this cosy hotel in the village centre is right next to the gondola. It’s all about luxury here, especially in the wonderful spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Soldeu

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 870 550.

**Website**

www.sporthotels.ad

**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**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 739 300.

**Website**

www.hotelnaudi.com

**Hotel Roc de Sant Miquel**

This partly British-run hotel is not only affordable but has a good restaurant too and is just 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**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 346 791.

**Website**

www.hotel-roc.com

**Hotel Galanthus**

This modern, clean, 4-star hotel is on the outskirts of the resort, but it’s just a short walk to the centre. It features a good restaurant, relaxing spa, underground parking and games room. The quieter rooms are at the back and there’s a free shuttle to the gondola station.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Crta Gral. nº2 , dirección Francia – Km.18

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Canillo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 753 300.

**Website**

www.hotelgalanthus.com

**Hotel del Clos**

Located in El Tarter, the Alpine-style Hotel del Clos is a decent budget stay near the foot of the slopes with well-appointed rooms, open air terrace and onsite restaurant.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General s/n

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

El Tarter

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 851 500.

**Website**

XXX

**Hotel Bruxelles**

Located just 50m (14 ft) from the slopes, guests at Hotel Bruxelles are also allowed to leave their equipment overnight in lockers at the base of the gondola at no additional cost. Not a good choice for light sleepers however due to thin walls and noisy nearby bars.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Carretera General

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Soldeu

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

AD 100

**Country**

Andorra

**Telephone**

+376 851 010.

**Website**

www.hotelbruxelles.ad