**Tignes**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

20

**Intermediate Runs**

108

**Advanced Runs**

26

**Total Runs**

154

**Lifts**

89

**Chairs**

45

**Drags**

34

**Gondola Cable Cars**

10

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

6m (20ft).

**Overview**

A long-time popular resort, Tignes’s crown jewel is the 3,456m (11,339ft) Grande Motte glacier which grants the resort the longest ski season in France – from October to May plus a two month summer ski period in July ad August. A stat that is particularly impressive given the region’s ongoing struggle with dry slopes, making Tignes’s snowsure pistes an attractive prospect to European skiers.

Indeed the resort has grown in to one of Europe’s biggest with links to neighbouring Val d’Iisere, forming an area known as the Espace Killy with 300km (186 miles) of runs spread over some 10,000 hectares (24,710 acres).

Tignes itself is split into several villages. There are three main settlements: Val Claret is the highest – and therefore the closest to the funicular station – and provides access to the glacier; Tignes-le-Lac is the bustling resort centre; while adjacent Le Lavachet provides a scattering of accommodation and bars lower down. Further down the valley, there is the quieter Tignes 1800 (which has recently been redeveloped and was previously called Tignes les Boisses), and its more traditional neighbour Tignes les Brévières.

**Location**

Tignes ski resort is located in the southeastern French region of Savoie in the Western Alps, close to the Swiss and Italian borders.

**Website**

http://www.tignes.net

**Piste Map**

http://www.tignes.net/en/skiing-in-tignes/ski-run-map-28.html

**Hit The Slopes**

The main winter season runs from early December until early May, but skiing doesn’t stop there. The glacier is open for summer skiing from mid-June to late August and then re-opens a few weeks later in mid-September right through to the following May. Tignes is now the only French outdoor ski area fully open in October and November and has the longest ski season in France.

Tignes alone offers an enormous variety of terrain, but add Val d'Isère into the mix and visitors can easily ski a different zone every day of the week. Lift passes are available for Tignes only or the entire Espace Killy area with its 300km (187 miles) of linked piste. Most of Tignes' ski area is served by state of the art lifts accessed by hands-free passes, meaning queues are usually kept down too.

Complete beginners can take advantage of the free Rosset chairlift, around which their first lessons take place on the nursery slopes of Tignes-le-Lac and Le Lavachet. There is a good choice of ski schools in the resort, including the École du Ski Français (ESF) in Tignes-le-Lac and Val Claret (tel: +33 4 7906 3028; [www.esf-tignes.com](http://www.esf-tignes.com/)).

Intermediates have a huge choice of blue and red cruisers on either side of the valley or up on the glacier. For experts, Sache is an epic black run (when snow conditions are good), descending from the 2,478m (8,130ft) Aiguille Percée down to Tignes les Brévières (1,550m/5,085ft).

The off-piste skiing in Tignes is fantastic, but the less experienced should head first to Le Spot, a specially marked off-piste zone. Skiers and boarders can seek advice from the 'ski patrol' at the chalet, then practise using avalanche transceivers. The Naturides (ungroomed, but patrolled black runs) are a good next step, before progressing on to unpatrolled terrain.

Tignes ski resort is particularly good for snowboarding as there are relatively few flat areas (unless you head over to Val d'Isère) and plenty of wide, groomed trails. There's a good terrain park under the Palet chairlift, with jumps and rails for all levels, plus beginner and advanced halfpipes and a boardercross course.

**Tignes**

**Resort**

1550

**Base**

1550

**Top**

3450

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Outdoors, visitors can try ice diving, dog sledding, skijoring (being pulled along on skis or snowboard by a horse), ice skating on the lake or mountain biking on snow. Then there's horse riding, ice climbing, paragliding and even an ice-driving circuit. The most unique attraction at this resort, however, is the ice grotto at the top of the Grande Motte funicular with its glistening ice sculptures.

Back at the base is the Tignespace sports centre (tel: +33 4 7940 0440), which offers basketball, football, volleyball, tennis, squash and a climbing wall. The on-site auditorium is a good place to hear live music or see staged performances, so keep an eye out for regular events and concerts. Alternatively, catch the latest big screen hit at the cinema in Val Claret or attempt a strike or two at the bowling alley in Le-Lac.

All ages will enjoy splashing about in Le Lagon (tel: +33 4 7940 2995), an indoor aquatic and wellness centre incorporating a 25m (82ft) pool, ‘fun pool’ with water slides, bubble beds and waterfalls, and a lavish spa.

**Family Fun**

The dedicated children's ski school Les Marmottons (tel: +33 4 7906 5167; www.[lesmarmottons.com](http://lesmarmottons.com/)) has its own specially marked areas and accepts children from age two-and-a-half to 10. Lessons are available in English. Caro Nonou (tel: +33 6 6153 9698) in Tignes-le-Lac can provide non-ski childcare.

In the evenings, the children's toboggan runs are always a big hit, while Le Lagon's (tel: +33 4 7940 2995) ‘fun pool’ can keep the kids entertained throughout the day.

**Retail Therapy**

Tignes is no shopping mecca, but there are a reasonable number of ski and souvenir shops in which to seek out the perfect accessory or gift.

Visitors here can hunt for bargains in the ubiquitous Intersport sports shops (Tignes-le-Lac and Val Claret) with rack upon rack of ski gear and clothing. Snowboarders will also enjoy checking out specialist stores Snowpark (tel: +33 4 7906 5500) in Tignes-le-Lac and Black Cats (tel: +33 4 7906 4246) in Val Claret.

There are a few fashion and souvenir shops in Tignes-le-Lac to explore, including Anthracite (tel: +33 4 7906 5849) in Val Claret for children’s wear and Boutique Berlingo in Tignes-le-Lac (tel: +33 4 7906 3857) for gifts.

**Splashing Out**

Take to the skies with a helicopter sightseeing flight over Tignes and the Espace Killy as a whole, which boasts magnificent mountain scenery. Flights are available through Evolution 2 (tel: +33 4 7908 3529; [www.evolution2.com](http://www.evolution2.com/)).

**Apres Ski**

The après ski scene in Tignes has grown gradually over the years and now enjoys somewhat of a buzz on the weekends during the long ski season.

Lo Terrachu (tel: +33 4 7940 0348) is a popular option, especially when punters can take advantage of its outdoor decked area during sunny days. The Loop Bar (tel: +33 4 7909 1589; www.loopbartignes.com) is equally popular, with live music, resident DJs, good beers on tap and a late opening time (0200).

After the bars have closed, cheesy nightclub Jack's Club (tel: +33 4 7906 5484) in the bowling centre has late-night dancing until 0400.

**Eating Out**

There’s now around 70 cafes and restaurants in Tignes to get those taste buds tingling.

Couloir in Val Claret (tel: +33 4 7906 3264; www.couloirbartignes.com) has risen to be the most popular venue in the resort (book early) with an international menu and a reputation for excellent service.

In Le Lavachet, La Ferme des Trois Capucines (tel: +33 4 7906 3510) serves up superb French cuisine in a converted traditional wooden farm building and is very popular.

Other options in the resort include the Jam Bar (tel: +33 4 7900 2105; [www.jambar.fr](http://www.jambar.fr)) for excellent Italian fare (and Italian coffee) and Tignes Cuisine (tel: +33 9 8458 3904; [www.tignescuisine.com](http://www.tignescuisine.com)), which has an eclectic menu that includes both Chinese and Indian dishes.

Alternatively, head up the mountain via funicular or snowcat for a traditional Savoyard dinner, then ski or sledge back down by torchlight. Further details are available from the tourist office (tel: +33 4 7940 0440).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distance to resort: 140km (88 miles); 175km (109 miles); 220km (137 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 50 minutes; 2 hours 50 minutes; 3 hours.

Nearest railway station: Bourg-Saint-Maurice.

Distance to resort: 31km (19 miles).

Driving time: 35 minutes.

**Getting Around**

The centre of Tignes is car free, meaning visitors leave their vehicle in a designated car park upon arrival. There are lifts within walking distance of most accommodation; otherwise hop on the free ski buses that connect the different parts of Tignes (except Tignes les Brévières).

**Hotels**

There is a good choice of accommodation close to the slopes, mostly made up of catered chalets and a wide selection of apartments in all price ranges. The few hotels in Tignes are concentrated in Tignes-le-Lac and are mostly 2- to 4-star rated.

**Les Suites du Nevada**

Having recently been upgraded, this is Tignes’ first 5-star hotel. Situated in Val Claret, the all-suite accommodation here is complemented by a luxury spa, a chic bar and a gourmet eatery.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes Val Claret

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7941 6830.

**Website**

http://www.les-suites-du-nevada.com

**Hôtel Le Ski d'Or**

This 4-star hotel has modern rooms with balconies, as well as an on-site spa area with a sauna, hammam and Jacuzzi. The on-site restaurant serves gourmet local fare every day, as well as a seafood buffet on Thursdays, while the bar is a good spot for a relaxing drink at the end of the ski day.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes Val Claret

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7906 5160.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-skidor.com

**Hôtel Le Lévanna**

Located at the foot of the slopes in Tignes-le-Lac, the pretty wood-clad Hôtel Le Lévanna has a restaurant with a terrace and a cosy bar. This 3-star option also has parking space for guests.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes-le-Lac

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7906 3294.

**Website**

http://www.levanna.com

**Hôtel Le Dôme**

Linked to the other villages by a free bus service, the 2-star Hôtel Le Dôme has 14 rooms, a cosy restaurant serving local dishes and a small bar. Parking is available on-site.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Tignes 1800

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7922 6591.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-ledome-tignes.com

**Hotel Le Gentiana**

Founded in 1964, this beautiful, family-owned, chalet has spacious rooms with free Wi-Fi as well as a high quality on-site restaurant. Other facilities at the Hotel Le Gentiana include a swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Le Rosset

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7960 5246.

**Website**

http://www.hotelgentiana.com/

**Hôtel Les Capanules**

A traditional Savoyard family run hotel located a short walk from the slopes, the Hôtel Les Capanules is renowned for high service standards. Facilities here include a small spa area.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Quartier Du Rosset

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Tignes

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

F 73320

**Country**

France

**Telephone**

+33 4 7906 3436.

**Website**

www.campanules.com