



## **COURCHEVEL, FRANCE**

A vacation in Courchevel tucked into the peaks and hamlets of the French Alps means a chalet with access to the Les Trois Vallées, the largest linked system of ski areas in the world. It is also entrée into a world of glamour among the glitterati with the highest concentration of five-star establishments and Michelin-starred menus outside of Paris.

Courchevel is at one end of Les Trois Vallées, which has 1800 miles of ski paths and runs and 166 lifts. Because of its north-facing slopes, the snow in the Courchevel valley is considered among the best in the whole ski area, with terrains to appeal to beginners to experts.

Several villages amid the ski mountains comprise the area known as Courchevel: Courchevel 1300 (Le Praz), Courchevel 1550, Courchevel 1650 (Moriond), and Courchevel 1850, are monikers that also mark the altitudes of their locations in meters. At 1,747 meters (5,732 ft) is Courchevel – the central village, although Courchevel 1850 is the highest and best known for its flash. It's also the central lift hub with gondolas from heading up and away in three different directions. Courchevel 1850 is also at the apex of luxury for Les Trois Valles, the epicenter for high-end chalets, designer shopping, haute dining, and purposeful lounging.

### **LOCATION**

Find Courchevel in the southeast corner of France in the Alps divide adjoining Switzerland. It's an easy two- to three-hour drive from Geneva, Lyon, Grenoble or Chambéry, or a 20-minute drive from Moutiers high-speed rail station. Trains from Paris take just over five hours.

## **SKIING IN COURCHEVEL**

Your Courchevel ski chalet is located in the Belvédère community near Moriond and concierge services include the care of a private ski instructor to take care of all arrangements, lessons and accompaniment throughout a ski day.

Courchevel's ski area provides variety in 1,001 different landscapes, from alpine forests to narrow pistes to wide, glorious, top-of-the-world expanses. Choose your altitude and your perfectly positioned slope.

Courchevel's intricate lift system with access to the world's largest ski area offers some 166 lifts and counting, with more than 180 green-blue slopes and at least 140 red-black slopes. A Courchevel ski pass is available and quite economical for those who plan to stay for a week or longer. They come in four options, starting with a Courchevel ski pass for the family down to the Courchevel ski solo pass, averaging less than 60 Euros per day per person. Guests more than 75 years old are celebrated with a gratis pass.

## **SUMMER IN COURCHEVEL**

This is a magical time in these mountains and the perfect place to relax and retool with yoga in the altitudes and a focus on wellness. Enjoy Manalaya Yoga in Moriond each afternoon in a setting that might be considered heaven on earth. Explore breathing and meditation moments every morning in Courchevel 1850. Learn the transformative practice of Sophrology to boost focus, confidence and harmony; take in the benefits of eastern and shamanic massage techniques through the Shambhalla program offered at Courchevel. You can keep it simple and order up an in-chalet massage through Massage Me and their My Massage Service – therapists come to you and melt away your aches and pains.

And in between, embark on some of the best hikes in Europe on clean trails that seem to touch the sky at 8000 feet. A Courchevel map of family walks, short hikes and challenging nature explorations is available for the asking.

## **THINGS TO DO IN COURCHEVEL**

These include a bragging-rights tandem paragliding experience through the Oxygene Sky School and Altitude Parapente. Paragliders take off from the summit of the Col de la Loze and land in Courchevel Le Praz.

Swim, surf, simmer and sweat at Aquamotion just below Moriond with indoor and outdoor pools, including a diving pool, a surfing area with a tech-forward wave generator, a three lane water slide, wild water rapids, saunas, steam room, wellness amenities and services, hot tub and climbing wall.

Zipline over waterfalls, wild flower meadows and firs on a complex course of cables in the alpines. Go mountain biking (or dirt scooting), take flying lessons, pull out your compass for a bout of orienteering, or see what golfing in the altitudes of Courchevel does to your swing.

Shopping in Courchevel: Shopping in Courchevel is a must, if not a blood sport. As the center of luxury it comes with a see and be seen crowd always on the lookout for the perfect what-not to wear to the gym, the slopes or the après-ski party. To meet this shopping in Courchevel need, Courchevel 1850 offers a wide range of designer boutiques stocking precious French labels and works from independent designers all in a fairyland of pedestrian streets leading to the slopes.

Avenue Montagne in the Place du Tremplin is the place to start for those looking for such labels as Chanel

Moncler, Hermes, Louis Vuitton, Fendi Ski, Dior Ski, Prada and Gucci. Names like Isabel Marant, Celine and a number of other leading French designers can be found at Blu&Berry. Le Forum in Courchevel 1850 is a complete entertainment and shopping arcade with activities for the family as well as the latest ski gear and fashion favorites. Find great bakeries there too.

## **RESTAURANTS IN COURCHEVEL**

Dining in Courchevel is a treat with all manner of meals available, from BBQ to seafood to vegetarian. You can test your taste buds at altitude with peak-view lunch spots such as La Cave des Creux atop Courchevel 1850 for comfort food served by warming outdoor firepits. Or try Le Bouc Blanc at the crest of the La Tania gondola, should you want to be met by the non-skiers in your party.

For haute cuisine at the lower elevations, Courchevel 1850 has the stars – Michelin stars. There are at least Michelin-awarded restaurants in Courchevel sharing some 14 stars between them. Notable among them is

Le Chabichou with two Michelin stars. It was the first to plant the Michelin flag in Courchevel and offers a magnificent menu food orchestrated by chef Stéphane Buron. Le Chabotté is Le Chabichou's sister restaurant, located next-door, and brandishing two Michelin stars of its own. It brings the term

“Bistronomique” to life with accessible options, such as skewered meats and seafood from area lakes all fused with a Savoyard approach and offered for prices much lower than other Michelin venues in the area.

In Moriond, Le Petit Savoyard serves traditional local fare and woodfired pizzas. For tapas, charcuterie and fondue, its La Cave des Lys and its comely vaulted wine bar in Le Praz.

Should dining be in rather than out, check with your concierge for private chef services or consider using Huski for meal delivery service. They now offer a new, locally made, Savoyard-inspired range of dishes called “Gourmet 73” cooked daily. They also brew their own beer in a collaboration with the Brasserie du Petit St Bernard.

## **GETTING TO COURCHEVEL**

Courchevel Airport or Altiport de Courchevel (CVF) is a specialized port for private aircraft with a very short runway and strict landing protocols. It’s used mostly by smaller fixed-wing aircraft, such as the Cessna 208 Caravan, as well as helicopters. With no instrument approach options or runway lighting aids it is considered an “extreme” airport, the seventh most extreme airport in the world. It is open all year and recently opened a comfortable departure lounge.

A safer choice for travel to Courchevel is Geneva International Airport (GVA), the second-largest airport in Switzerland, a drive of about 2 hours on a good day.

A number of private transfer options for parties of one to eight are available in abundance from Geneva, Chambery, Lyon and Grenoble.

Snowlinx transfers has a new service for those who want to travel in style. Guests are driven in a spacious Mercedes E Class saloon car that comfortably fits up to three passengers. The trip includes onboard WiFi, water and light snacks. For larger groups, the Mercedes V Class minivan can seat up to six people. The vehicles offer all black with leather interiors and a chauffeur dressed in a spiffy chauffeur attire.