Courchevel, *without the waiting list.*

Courchevel is one name for five villages, an altiport that no jet can land on, and the best lunches on the slopes rather than in the village. This guide covers which village to choose, how to arrive, the palaces and chalets, the tables, the nights, and the season.

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE

Courchevel

1850 · MORIOND · LE PRAZ · LA TANIA

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

OUR PICK · ON REQUEST

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS

Every address is marked: what we arrange, and what you simply walk into.

KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

One name, five villages.

Each Courchevel is named after its altitude, and each feels different. The skiing, in the 3 Vallées, is shared by all five.

Courchevel 1850

The one people mean: the palaces, the starred restaurants, the boutiques, the clubs, and the main lift hub up to La Saulire. The highest prices and the liveliest nights.

Courchevel 1650 · Moriond

The sunniest village. Wide, easy runs, a relaxed feel and informal bars. A favourite for families and intermediate skiers.

Courchevel 1550 · Village

Quiet and residential, with a fast gondola straight up to 1850. Calmer evenings and traditional Savoyard dinners.

Courchevel 1300 · Le Praz

The old village: narrow streets, stone-and-wood chalets, and the Olympic ski jumps.

La Tania

Among pine forests, with gentle tree-lined runs down to the door. Ideal with children.

INSIDER TIP

For the palaces and the nights, choose 1850 and ask for the Jardin Alpin to ski in and out. For families, Moriond or La Tania. For calm with fast access to 1850, the Village. For old Savoie charm, Le Praz.

BEFORE YOU LAND

The mountain rules.

Check which village you are booking

Courchevel runs from 1300 to 1850 metres. Prices fall with the altitude.

Never drive up on a Saturday

Changeover traffic between Albertville and Moûtiers can double the journey.

Book the instructor with the chalet

Private instructors for February sell out before the snow falls.

March is the insider month

Sun on the terraces, snow still good, and the crowds gone.

Fly to Geneva or Chambéry

Then a helicopter straight to the altiport, about half an hour from Geneva and twenty minutes from Chambéry.

Winter tyres are the law

From November to March, winter tyres are mandatory in the mountains.

Heli-skiing is banned in France

For fresh tracks, hire a guide and go off-piste in the Vanoise.

ARRIVAL

Arrive privately.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

There is no airport for jets in Courchevel. Here is how the regulars arrive.

Private jet to Geneva or Chambéry

Geneva is about two hours by road, Chambéry about an hour and a quarter.

The altiport

One of Europe's highest and steepest runways, uphill with no second attempt. Private turboprops with mountain-rated pilots only.

Ski train to Moûtiers

From London or Paris, then under an hour up the mountain.

Helicopter to the altiport

Door to slopes in under an hour.

Chauffeur

A winter-equipped car, waiting at arrivals.

WHERE YOU STAY

Your palace, or your chalet.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Courchevel holds more of France's Palace-distinguished hotels than any other resort.

Cheval Blanc Courchevel

In the Jardin Alpin, skis on at the door.

Le K2 Palace · Le K2 Djola

The K2 collection, in the Altiport district.

Airelles Courchevel

The Savoyard fairy tale of 1850.

L'Apogée Courchevel

On the slopes of the Jardin Alpin.

Fouquet's Courchevel

In the heart of 1850.

Private chalets

In 1850 and the Jardin Alpin for ski-in, ski-out, or Moriond for sun and space, with chef, staff and a chauffeur on call.

Rosewood Courchevel · Alpes Hôtel Pralong

Five-star addresses in 1850.

Skis delivered

Rental fitted at the chalet and collected at the end.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Private instructors and chalets for February go first. Book them together, with the flights.

ON THE SLOPES

Lunch on the mountain.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Le Chalet de Pierres

Fireplaces, roasted meats and a seafood buffet.

Le Panoramic

At the top of La Saulire, 2,700 metres.

Cap Horn

Seafood, sushi and a serious wine list.

La Ferme Saint Amour

A chic lunch that turns into a party.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Courchevel's best lunches are on the slopes. Book 1pm, ski to the door, keep the afternoon free.

APRÈS-SKI & DINNER

Every table.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

La Folie Douce

Méribel side: ski over, dance on the terrace. Check the time of the last lift back.

Bagatelle

Mediterranean food, live music and DJs.

Beefbar · Loulou

Beef, reef and leaf, and Italian Riviera style.

Fifty Seats

The dancing restaurant, Franco-New York.

Baies

Courchevel's après-ski club.

Kinugawa

Japanese and signature cocktails, in 1850.

Lumara

Mexican, with a resident DJ.

La Mangeoire

Dinner first, then the party. Arrive on time: the dinner service is short.

LATE NIGHT

Piano bar first, then the club.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Django

1850's piano bar: jazz first, house later.

CatClub

The club.

Les Caves de Courchevel

The legend of 1850's nights.

> INSIDER TIP
>
> Start at Django while it is still jazz. The clubs fill after 1am.

NO DRESS CODE

Laid-back Courchevel.

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

Le Tremplin · La Croisette

The sunny end-of-day terrace: a DJ, dancing in ski boots, giant cocktails. Arrive around 4pm.

La Crêperie du Tremplin

Crêpes all day, fondue and raclette in the evening.

Au Pain d'Antan

Maison Gandy's bakery and tea room.

L'Oeil de Boeuf · 1550

A small hut cooking over an open fire, the locals' favourite.

La Soucoupe · La Loze

A relaxed terrace lunch with the view.

La Corto · 1550

Wood-fired pizzas, fondue and raclette.

FREE & UNFORGETTABLE

The views, yours.

OUR PICK · WALK-IN

Nothing to book beyond your lift pass.

The Saulire snowflake

The resort's emblem at 2,700 metres, with Mont Blanc behind. Best in the morning light.

The Biollay panorama

1850, the altiport and Mont Blanc in one frame.

The altiport landings

Planes land uphill. Watch from the slopes around it.

The Olympic ski jumps · Le Praz

Still used for World Cup jumping.

The Forum ice rink

Skate in the evening, then mulled wine by the fire.

The ESF torchlight show

Thursday evenings in winter: instructors ski down by torchlight.

ON THE MOUNTAIN

The mountain, yours.

ARRANGED BY PLATINUM

Private ski instructor

Morning or full day, from beginner to off-piste.

Off-piste guide

Fresh tracks in the Vanoise, safely.

Spa & massage

At the hotel or in the chalet.

Private chef

Breakfast to dinner, at the chalet.

THE SEASON

When to come.

From early December to mid-April. Exact dates change every year: contact us for this year's dates.

Early December

The season opens, with a women's World Cup night slalom before Christmas.

Christmas & New Year

The peak. Palaces, chalets and tables go first.

Mid-January

The quiet weeks: cold, empty slopes, the best value of the winter.

February

French school holidays: the busiest weeks.

March

The insider month: sun on the terraces, good snow, and the Live on the Slopes festival.

Mid-April

The season closes: spring skiing in the morning, long lunches in the sun.

ITINERARY

Four days for two.

Day 1 · Arrive

Helicopter from Geneva to the altiport, check in at Cheval Blanc, the spa, dinner at Loulou, a nightcap at Django.

Day 2 · Ski

A private instructor above 1850, lunch at Le Chalet de Pierres, the Saulire snowflake, dinner at Kinugawa.

Day 3 · Three Valleys

Ski across to Méribel, après at La Folie Douce, then La Mangeoire: dinner, then the party.

Day 4 · Slow

The Biollay panorama, lunch at Cap Horn, helicopter back to Geneva.

Platinum Agency Group is an independent concierge, not affiliated with the hotels, restaurants, clubs or events named in this guide. “Arranged by Platinum”: access we arrange directly. “Our picks”: recommendations, with reservations on request and subject to availability. Venues, opening periods and event dates change: contact us for current details before you travel.

Questions

Which Courchevel village should I stay in?

Courchevel 1850 for the palaces, restaurants and nightlife; Moriond (1650) or La Tania for families and easy skiing; the Village (1550) for calm with a fast gondola to 1850; Le Praz (1300) for old Savoie charm.

How do you get to Courchevel by private jet?

Fly into Geneva or Chambéry, then take a helicopter to the Courchevel altiport, about half an hour from Geneva and twenty minutes from Chambéry. Jets cannot land at the altiport.

When should I book a chalet in Courchevel?

For Christmas, New Year and February, as early as possible, ideally in the autumn, together with private ski instructors, which sell out before the snow falls.

When is the best time to go to Courchevel?

The season runs from early December to mid-April. Mid-January offers the best value; March brings sun on the terraces and fewer crowds.