

## Ski Meribel

Spread your wings and explore the three Valleys from the chalet hotel Tarentaise, an ideal base for skiers who enjoy plenty of variety.

Dates and Prices      9 March to 16 March - £800.00

Unique Features      Spread your wings and explore the three Valleys from the chalet hotel Tarentaise, an ideal bases for skiers who enjoy plenty of variety.

Intermediates especially will thrive on the 600kms of well-kept pistes; you can ski all week and still leave plenty of runs untouched. In the two villages and higher up, beginners can cut their teeth on a wealth of uncrowded nursery slopes. Experts can tackle the infamous Courchevel couloirs and the Chanrossa bumps. If the weather closes in, forest runs down the valley are the answer, while in sunny conditions Val Thorens, Europe's highest resort, is the place to head for. Meribel is one of the more lively alpine resorts for après ski and Mottaret a little more reserved, but it has a good choice of bars and restaurants including Le Rastro which is always a good buzz. Meribel is easily reached from Mottaret by the free resort bus service.

Skiing in Meribel offers something for everyone. With an unrivalled amount of skiing and boarding (600km), the Trois Vallées is a magnificent ski area. From the main lift station you can climb either side of the valley by gondola and find yourself either at Saulire admiring the view down to Courchevel, or at La Tougnete with its access to Val Thorens and Les Menuires. For the advanced skier, the area's blacks and off-piste will need little introduction, but do try the black from the top of the Roc de Tougne and the pistes around La Caron which will test you to the full. Runs through attractive woods lead to Méribel Village from where a chairlift returns you to the Altiport area. Snowboarding in Meribel is excellent across the whole Trois Vallées ski area.

Après-ski in Meribel centres on bars such as Les Enfants Terribles (Funky 70s), Dicks T-bar and La Taverne in Méribel, plus the British-run Plein Soleil bar/restaurant and Rastros Bar in Mottaret. Other good restaurants include the friendly Le Refuge and the more expensive Chez Kiki. For dancing the night away try Le Loft in the ice rink complex. The Olympic Centre hosts top-level ice hockey matches and has a swimming pool, climbing wall and bowling alley. New to the Centre this winter will be a gym, saunas, Jacuzzis, massage and relaxation rooms.

This holiday includes 6 months' membership to Spice, the UK's largest adventure, sports and social group, plus £100 worth of vouchers to help you get started on your membership. These vouchers are broken down as £50 for you and £50 for a guest to be used against a variety of events.

The tour operator for this flight inclusive holiday is Mark Warner (ATOL 1176) for whom we act as Agents. This holiday is protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under the ATOL scheme in the event of failure of the tour operator. Mark Warner holiday terms and conditions apply, as supplied with the full holiday information pack. Your money is protected via our trust account in compliance with EC travel regulations.

### Your Holiday

What's Included      

- | Flights from London (Manchester and Birmingham available at a supplement of £30)
- | Airport transfers
- | Welcome drinks
- | 7 nights' accommodation in the Chalet Loden
- | Breakfast each morning
- | Six evening meals with wine
- | Six afternoon teas
- | SPICE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDED: This is a SPICE holiday and the price includes 6 months membership to Spice, the UK's largest adventure, sports and social group ([www.spiceuk.com](http://www.spiceuk.com)), plus £100 worth of vouchers to help you get started on your membership. These vouchers are broken down as £50 for you and £50 for a guest to be used against a variety of events.

Is this holiday for me?      Meribel is a great resort with plenty of variety for anyone from Intermediate upwards and excellent off piste opportunities.

Your Destination, includes sightseeing      Meribel Valley, the resort's local slopes, is central to the Trois Vallee ski area, one of the largest linked ski area in the world. It has around 150km of piste in its own right (the majority blue, plus around 25%

red and under 10% green or black), but offers access to a total of over 600km of pistes served by 180 lifts with more than 330 designated runs and around 130km of cross country tracks.

Its sheltered setting compared to neighbouring valleys means its good selection of blues and reds leading into resort are protected by the steep-sided mountains and enjoy more settled weather conditions than in the adjacent broader valleys.

For beginners, the gentle green slopes at Altiport, reached by the Morel chair from Altiport 1600, and the nursery slopes at Rond Point beneath it make a good starting point, while intermediates can enjoy some of the area's best pistes south of Mottaret, at the head of the valley, accessed by the Plattieres gondola from Mottaret. Dedicated beginner and young children area also include La Sittelle, accessed by the Plattières gondola, Le Rossignol, accessed by the Chatelet chair and Le Doron at the foot of the pistes in Mottaret.

For the more experienced, the red Combe Vallon piste from the top of the Mont du Vallon gondola at 2952m is a good option, or the Face run (created for the downhill races in the 1992 Olympics), from the top of the Roc de Fer at 2290m.

However, with the exception of beginners and those who've had experience of a week or two, the joy of staying in Meribel is using the resort as a springboard to the area as a whole. Usefully, local lift passes of two days or more can be upgraded on a daily basis to include the whole of the Trois Valleees, but, unless the weather is forecast to be particularly poor, most people opt for the straightforward Trois Valleees pass.

Queues are a big issue in Meribel: if possible avoid the Chaudanne at the start of ski school (usually around 9.15am) and the runs to Mottaret in the late afternoon, when overcrowding is also a problem.

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#### Your Accommodation

Chalet Tarentaise - Hotel\*\*\*\* (Half Board) (Included)

Tucked right on the edge of the piste with dazzling views of the mountains beyond, the Chalet Hotel Tarentaise is located in the heart of the Three Valleys, offering you some of the very best skiing and boarding available in a truly stunning setting. Its central location gives you easy access to the Three Valley network of over 600km of pistes with the added advantage of ski-in ski out.

At Chalet Hotel Tarentaise you will find all home from home comforts, from the large lounge with central log fire and bar area to the dining room looking out to the mountains. The spacious bedrooms are all en-suite, have flat screen TV showing English channels and most have balconies. Choose from a twin, double or inter-connecting room, most of which can take an extra bed.

You're spoiled for choice when you breakfast in the dining room - indulge yourself in a full English breakfast, a bowl of fuel-packed porridge, an omelette specially cooked to order or help yourself from a mouth-watering range of fruit, pastries and yoghurts. And of course, the holiday wouldn't be complete without our famous high tea with its selection of homemade cakes, bread and soup and a choice of starters, main course and desert in the evening, pleasantly accompanied by complimentary wine.

And if you're feeling in need of some pampering, all you need to do is pop into our sauna or beauty salon on the lower ground floor.

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#### Classes and Workshops

Ski lessons are available in resort.

Although Meribel has very good ski schools it is not really suited to those newer to skiing. Meribel is a great resort with plenty of variety for anyone from Intermediate upwards and excellent off piste opportunities.

To help with your selection of resort, with the assistance of one of our long standing members we have created the following Ski Ability Scale.

- 1) First time skier, totally new to the sport (Beginner)
- 2) Second week skier OR has had lessons at snow dome and/or dry ski slopes (Beginner Plus)
- 3) Skied a few weeks and happy on green and blue runs (Lower Intermediate)
- 4) Skiing parallel on blues and starting to tackle reds (Intermediate)
- 5) Okay on reds and starting to tackle blacks (Upper Intermediate)

6) Can get down blacks, but struggles on bumps (Lower Advanced)  
7) Happy on most groomed blacks and easy bumps, but finds steep bumps and off piste tricky (Advanced)  
8) Can ski all bar steepest bumps and ski off piste with style except with deep powder and in poor snow conditions (Upper Advanced)  
9) No problems: can ski everywhere in all manner of snow conditions (Expert)  
10) Professional skier, instructor, freerider etc  
Snowboarding - Meribel offers some great opportunities including some wonderful off piste boarding.

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The Learning Experience

Ski lessons are available in resort.

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Food and Meals

Chalet Board is included. This comprises of six evening meals with wine, seven breakfasts and six afternoon teas.

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Optional Extras

Single trip insurance £37

Annual insurance from £57

Ski Requirements (last seasons prices as guide)

6 day 3 Valleys Lift Pass £230; Ski & Boot hire from £158; Snowboard & boots hire from £158.

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Single Room Supplements, Upgrades and Budget Options

Option 1 - Included

Chalet Tarentaise - Hotel\*\*\*\* Half Board - (09/03/2014 to 16/03/2014 - 7 nights)

Twin / Double (Per Room)

Included

Extra Nights

Twin / Double (Per Room)

500 GBP per night

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Flights and Transfers

Flights included from Gatwick. Birmingham and Manchester available for a supplement of £30. Transfer time is 2 hours 20 minutes.

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