The 15 best ski resorts you can reach by train

From rail-ski packages on the Eurostar Snow service to a host of other options beyond France, here's everything you need to know

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Train journeys in Europe are a unique way to get to the slopes Credit: Rail Europe

This winter, Eurostar will once again run an indirect service to the Tarentaise region of the French Alps. Tickets go sale on the morning of July 10, 2025.

Called Eurostar Snow, the service combines two trains – a Eurostar from London to Lille and then an onward connecting Eurostar continental (formerly Thalys) train. The service stops at six stations in France: Chambéry, Albertville, Moûtiers, Aime la Plagne, Landry and Bourg St Maurice. The outbound service will leave London on Saturdays throughout the season (from December 20), returning from the French Alps on both Saturdays and Sundays (ending April 5).

Eurostar Snow serves a multitude of resorts – including La Plagne, Les Arcs, Peisey-Vallandry, Les Menuires, Méribel, St Martin de Belleville, Sainte Foy, Valmorel, Tignes, Val d'Isère, Val Thorens, Courchevel and La Rosière.

What's more, several tour operators and travel agencies will sell rail-inclusive packages using the service. These include Inghams, Peak Retreats, Travelski, Ski Solutions, Skiline, Snowfinders and SNO. Eurostar also sells seats independently, giving skiers the chance to use the service in combination with any accommodation they like.

Train journeys to the Alps begin in London St Pancras Credit: Getty/Artie Photography

While the operational dates of Eurostar Snow have been extended for winter 2025/26, skiers wanting to travel to French Tarentaise ski resorts before or after the set dates of Eurostar Snow must travel using a combination of Eurostar to Paris and TGV.

Ticket sales for rail services such as TGV and Intercités de Nuit from Paris, open in early October 2025, for dates between December 15, 2025 and January 8, 2026. In mid-November, tickets for train travel in Europe for dates between January 9 and March 30, 2026 will go on sale. Some international routes, such as Paris to Geneva and Turin, go on sale a few weeks earlier.

Travelling via Paris, Lille or Brussels, combined with onward high-speed or sleeper trains, has become an increasingly popular choice for British skiers and snowboarders looking for relaxing, scenic journeys and no airport queues or long drives.

Indirect routes open up many more resorts in other regions of the Alps. These include Alpe d'Huez, Avoriaz and Les Gets in France, Sauze d'Oulx in Italy, and the Swiss resorts of Saas-Fee and Zermatt – by using a combination of Eurostar to Paris and TGV from Paris to the Alps. Travellers can also depart from Paris by sleeper train to resorts such as Serre Chevalier in France and Claviere in Italy, or take high-speed services via Brussels to Cologne to take the Nightjet sleeper trains to the ski slopes of Austria.

Private train company Urlaubs Express runs an overnight service for skiers from the Netherlands and Germany to Austria. At February half term, UK-based skiers can connect to this at Cologne.

Expert ski guides

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Below we run through the best ski resorts to reach by rail, and how to do it this winter. Find out more about this winter's Eurostar Snow service here.

In this guide:

- Top destinations and packages
- Maps for rail travel to the Alps
- How to book independent tickets
- When to book tickets
- Further information

1. Morzine, France

Central to the vast 650km Portes du Soleil, Morzine is a resort with something for everyone. Chalet-style buildings give the village bags of ambience, and the lift system gives easy access to neighbouring Avoriaz, Les Gets and beyond. For eco-conscious train travellers, the resort has been awarded the prestigious Flocon Vert for its environmental steps and train travellers can receive discounts around the village.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Saturday on the 09:31 Eurostar to Paris-Nord. Change to Paris-Lyon and take 14:18 TGV, changing at Bellegarde, to arrive in Cluses at 18:52; from there it's 40 minutes by bus or taxi.

Rail journey time

8 hours, 21 minutes

Journey highlight

Gliding through the Arve valley on the approach to Cluses

How much?

Return rail fares cost from £124 per adult, booked through Trainline or Rail Europe.

Our ski guide to Morzine →

Train travellers can receive discounts around Morzine

2. Les Arcs, France

Les Arcs' four villages are part of the Paradiski, a huge 425km ski area that caters for all abilities. The villages, 1600, 1800, 1950 and 2000, offer convenient, often ski-in/ski-out, access to the slopes – and with its upgraded, unique funicular railway. Daredevils can try the resort's zipline, which speeds from the Aiguile Rouge at 3,226m at speeds up to 130kmph.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras 09:01 on Saturday on the Eurostar Snow service via Lille arriving at Bourg St Maurice at 17:45. From there it's a 35- to 45-minute transfer to the villages of Les Arcs.

Rail journey time

8 hours, 19 minutes

Journey highlight

Direct overnight travel gives holidaymakers an extra day's skiing

How much?

Rail fares on Eurostar Snow cost from £99 one way in Standard Class, booked with Eurostar. Snowfinders offers seven nights at the Residence Le Belmont Apartments, Arc 1800, in a one-bed apartment, from £938 per person, self catering, including return train travel, lift pass and transfers.

Our ski guide to Les Arcs →

3. Alpbach, Austria

When you arrive at Alpbach it becomes immediately obvious why this resort has a loyal following. Voted one of the most attractive villages in Austria, the pretty streets are lined with rustic, timber-clad chalets. The 145km of pistes are dotted with mountain-hut restaurants, such as the Bogalm and the Alphof and in the evenings the friendly vibe continues.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Friday on the 15:04 Eurostar to Brussels, then the 18:25 ICE to Cologne and from there, the 21:45 Nightjet, arriving at Jenbach at 08:53. From there it's 20 minutes by bus or taxi.

Rail journey time

16 hours, 48 minutes

Journey highlights

Waking up to wintery Tirolean landscapes

How much?

Return rail fares cost from £158 return per adult in a six-berth couchette, booked with Eurostar for London to Cologne, and ÖBB for Cologne to Jenbach.

4. Val Thorens, France

Val Thorens' enviable position perched at 2,300m in the huge Trois Vallées ski area makes it a popular choice for British skiers and snowboarders. The resort has excellent beginner slopes and all the skiing that intermediates and experts could dream of, with 600km of slopes in total, and a 1,800-metre zipline, called La Bee, above the resort. There's an abundance of stylish hotels and a dedicated ski touring zone in the Borgne sector of the ski area.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras 09:01 on Saturday on the Eurostar Snow service via Lille arriving at Moutiers at 17:05. From there it's 50 minutes by taxi or bus.

Rail journey time

7 hours, 29 minutes

Journey highlight

The varied scenery of the Tarentaise valley

How much?

Rail fares on Eurostar Snow cost from £99 one way in Standard Class, booked with Eurostar. Snowfinders offers seven nights at the Résidence Le Cheval Blanc, Val Thorens, in a one-bed apartment, from £1,062 per person, self catering, including return train travel, lift pass and transfers.

Our ski guide to Val Thorens →

It's possible to reach Val Thorens, Europe's highest ski resort, by train Credit: JEFF PACHOUD

5. Alpe d'Huez, France

A quick jaunt by train brings you to the heart of the Isère region, where Alpe d'Huez's vast 250km ski area encompasses five villages, including the longest black run in Europe – La Sarenne. The terrain here will suit beginners through to advanced, and is dotted with cosy restaurants such as La Bergerie, at Villard Reculas – an ideal place for a coffee stop at the end of a powder run.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Saturday on the 10:31 Eurostar to Paris-Nord. Change to Paris-Lyon and take the 15:14 TGV to arrive Grenoble at 18:13. From there it's 90 minutes by taxi or bus.

Rail journey time

6 hours, 42 minutes

Journey highlight

Paris to Grenoble by TGV, through the French countryside

How much?

Return rail fares from £124 per adult, booked through Trainline or Rail Europe.

Our ski guide to Alpe d'Huez →

6. Tignes, France

Tignes has a high proportion of ski-in/ski-out accommodation in its higher villages, and an inviting array of traditional chalets at Les Brevières, its lowest. There are 300km of slopes to explore, which it shares with neighbouring Val d'Isère. Alternative activities include ice diving, ice climbing, snow tubing and Bun J Ride – a hybrid combination of a ski jump, bungee and a zip-line ride.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras 09:01 on Saturday on the Eurostar Snow service via Lille arriving at Bourg St Maurice at 17:45. From there it's a 40-minute transfer.

Rail journey time

8 hours, 19 minutes

Journey highlights

The views onto mountain villages in the Tarentaise valley

How much?

Rail fares on Eurostar Snow cost from £99 one way in Standard Class, booked with Eurostar. Inghams offers seven nights at Hotel Le Paquis, Tignes from £1,139 per person, B&B, based on two adults sharing, including return train travel and transfers.

Our ski guide to Tignes →

Then and now: How travelling on the ski train has changed

I took the inaugural ski train on December 13 1997 as part of a group of journalists invited to try the service. I was en route to work in Méribel, and overjoyed at the unlimited luggage allowance, and taking the train to Moûtiers was a revelation – we enjoyed breakfast and lunch and had fun along the way.

Since then, I've taken overnight services with friends, partying my way out to the Alps on a Friday – I know of one couple who met in the disco carriage of the overnight ski train and went on to marry.

I've taken indirect services a lot, too. For a time, to see a boyfriend in Paris, I would take Eurostar to meet him and we'd race to catch the overnight SNCF sleeper down to the mountains, returning on Sunday, and arriving back in the office on Monday: three days' skiing for one day off work.

I've lugged my skis across Paris from the Gare du Nord to the Gare de Lyon on the Métro, been held up in traffic trying to make the journey easier by going by taxi, and this January watched a member of my group almost lose their wallet to a professional pickpocket – I've seen it all.

But until rail travel becomes easier and cheaper, it will remain a lifestyle choice. Unless you live in London, it almost certainly takes longer, and it definitely costs more than flying. Until then, this sustainable mode of transport will remain unsustainable.

Abigail Butcher

7. Söll, Austria

The impressive SkiWelt region, of which the compact village of Söll forms a part, boasts 284km of ski runs dotted with 77 rustic Alpine huts and après bars. The views over the Wilder Kaiser mountain range are stunning and you can even ski at night, as well as enjoy some of the longest floodlit toboggan runs in Europe at Hexenritt and Mond.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Friday on the 15:04 Eurostar to Brussels, then the 18:25 ICE to Cologne and from there the 21:45 Nightjet, arriving at Kufstein at 08:26. From there it's 25 minutes by bus or taxi.

Rail journey time

15 hours, 26 minutes

Journey highlights

The ICE restaurant carriage en route to Cologne.

How much?

Return rail fares cost from £168 return per adult in a six-berth couchette, booked with Eurostar for London to Brussels, and ÖBB for Brussels to Radstadt.

Söll forms part of the SkiWelt region Credit: CHRISTIAN KAPFINGER

8. St Martin de Belleville, France

Far less famous than its neighbours, St Martin de Belleville delivers the huge Trois Valleés ski area while providing an authentic, relaxed base. The picturesque Savoyard village has been adopted by innovative chalet providers, and its superb local restaurants, such as the high-end Le Montagnard and the hearty L'Eterlou are helping create a loyal following. A new wellness centre, La Belle Vie, sits above the village, with panoramic views.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras 09:01 on Saturday on the Eurostar Snow service via Lille arriving at Moutiers at 17:05. From there it's a 30-minute transfer.

Rail journey time

7 hours, 29 minutes

Journey highlight

Snacks at high-speed in the café bar carriage

How much?

Rail fares on Eurostar Snow cost from £99 one way in Standard Class, booked with Eurostar. Ski Solutions offers seven nights at the five-star M Lodge Hotel, St Martin de Belleville from £2,295 per person, B&B, based on two sharing, including return train travel and private transfers.

9. St Anton, Austria

You can't walk through St Anton's charming centre without being impressed by the bustle and character. This is a resort with buzz, and part of the excitement stems from the fact that it's blessed with some of the Alps' finest expert off piste, in addition to 340km of pistes, as part of the giant Arlberg ski area.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Friday on the 07:31 Eurostar to Paris-Nord. Change to Paris-Lyon and take the 12:22 TGV from Paris-Lyon, changing in Zurich onto the 12:40 RailJet to arrive at 21:01 in St Anton.

Rail journey time

12 hours, 30 minutes

Journey highlight

Passing by Lake Zurich and later through the Arlberg Valley

How much?

Return rail fares from £174 per adult booked through Railtrail. SNO offers eight nights at Chalet Valluga, St Anton, from £1,189 per person, chalet board, based on two sharing, including return train travel and transfers.

Our ski guide to St Anton →

Beyond France, rail options include sleepers and fast trains Credit: Rail Europe/Kai Michael Neuhold

10. Obertauern, Austria

Crowned as Austria's snowiest ski resort, the village of Obertauern, in the SalzburgerLand region, sits at 1,740m above sea level. The ski area has 100km of terrain, with slopes that will suit intermediates. For children, there are beginner zones that include slalom runs and a ghost-themed piste. The season runs from late November to early May.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Friday on the 15:04 Eurostar to Brussels, then the 19:07 Nightjet to Salzburg and then the 08:16 InterCity, arriving at Radstadt at 09:34. From there it's 20 minutes by bus or taxi.

Rail journey time

17 hours, 30 minutes

Journey highlights

Waking up to Austrian winter scenery

How much?

Return rail fares cost from £158 return per adult in a six-berth couchette, booked with Eurostar for London to Cologne, and ÖBB for Cologne to Kufstein.

Our ski guide to Obertauern →

11. Serre Chevalier, France

Made up of four villages, Serre Chevalier is a friendly, unpretentious resort with access to some marvellously varied terrain and plenty of wooded runs. The 250km of pistes suit intermediates perfectly, with long reds and simple off piste. Alternative winter activities here include paintballing on snow, dog sledding and fat biking.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on Friday on the 15:31 Eurostar to Paris-Nord. Change to Paris-Austerlitz and take the 20:51 Intercités de nuit to Briancon, arriving at 08:21. From there it's 15 to 25 minutes by bus or taxi to Serre Chevalier's other villages.

Rail journey time

15 hours, 50 minutes

Journey highlights

Waking up in the Southern Alps, looking forward to an extra day's skiing

How much?

Return rail fares from £128 per adult, booked through Trainline, Rail Europe or Railtrail. Peak Retreats offers seven nights at Cristal Lodge apartments in a two-bedroom apartment, sleeping four, from £820 per person, self catering, including return train travel and transfers.

Our ski guide to Serre Chevalier →

Travelling by train to the slopes is particularly popular with families Credit: Daniel Elkan

12. Peisey-Vallandry, France

Located right at the heart of the 425km Paradiski region, between its more famous neighbours, Les Arcs and La Plagne, this resort is made up of several charming villages with old farmhouse buildings converted into beautiful chalets and apartments amid a friendly, laid-back vibe – and a superb Nordic ski network of slopes too. There's a museum of mountain wildlife, and the resort offers guided tours through the Vanoise National Park with reindeer.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras 09:01 on Saturday on the new Eurostar Snow service via Lille arriving at Landry at 17:38. From there it's a 35-minute transfer.

Rail journey time

8 hours, 8 minutes

Journey highlight

The scenery in the Tarentaise valley

How much?

Rail fares on Eurostar Snow cost from £99 one way in Standard Class, booked with Eurostar. Peak Retreats offers seven nights at l'Oree des Cimes apartments in a two-bedroom apartment sleeping four, from £776 per person, self catering, including return train travel and transfers.

13. Montgenèvre, France

Montgenèvre's nursery slopes sweep down right into its pretty village centre, making it an attractive destination for families with young children. The resort also has plenty of intermediate-friendly terrain and links into the 400km Milky Way ski area, which includes Sestriere in Italy.

The journey

Depart London St Pancras on the 09:31 Eurostar to Paris-Nord. Change to Paris-Lyon and take the 14:48 TGV to Oulx, arriving at 19:23. From there it's 30 minutes by bus or taxi.

Rail journey time

8 hours, 52 minutes

Rail journey highlights

A ringside seat passing Lac du Bourget

How much?

Return rail fares from £124 per adult, booked through Trainline, Rail Europe or Railtrail. Peak Retreats offers seven nights at Le Napoleon apartments in a two-bedroom apartment sleeping four, from £918 per person, self catering, including return train travel and transfers.