

Savoie Mont Blanc: a family-friendly destination

The ski season has officially started in Savoie Mont Blanc! Tignes, Val d'Isère and Val Thorens are now open, and more resorts will open this weekend.

Savoie Mont Blanc is a family-friendly destination, which offers some fun activities for all ages!

Courchevel Adventure invites children aged six and over to learn how to drive a real snowmobile. The activity takes place on a specially adapted 700-metre circuit near the Family Park, at an altitude of 2,000 metres. The concept was tested for the first time last year, and was an immediate success.

It costs €45 per child for 20 minutes.

A third BabyPark is opening in Savoie Mont Blanc. After Praz de Lys and Val d'Arly, Les Saisies is the third resort to have a BabyPark. Created by Frédéric Borgey and Elsa Jouglu, the BabyPark allows children aged from three to seven to learn dog sledding in a safe environment. The equipment used is adapted to little ones and the dogs are specially trained to be with children. The BabyPark has a chalet where children can warm up after a session of fun learning, or play when it snows.

The BabyPark concept has been franchised and is now being exported to Germany, Italy and Norway.

New on the slopes: The ESF (French Ski School) in Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc is launching Freeski+ video courses. The mini riders will be filmed by the instructors and will learn how to edit their own videos.

Mickey on the snow

Val Cenis has a new children's slope with sculptures of the famous Mickey Mouse and his friends. Children can learn to turn, slow down and ski over bumps while having fun.

Yugikassen is a snowball-fighting competition in Japan. Two teams of seven players each compete on a 40 x 10m pitch. Each team has a flag and the goal is to capture the other team's flag. Players are eliminated when hit by a snowball.

Yugikassen tournaments already take place in North America and Scandinavia, and this fun sport is now coming to Savoie Mont Blanc!

Avoriaz will organise the snowball fights, and snowball fights based on the strict Yugikassen rules will take place every Tuesday at 17.30 at the Lodge Mille8, in Les Arcs.

Learn about astronomy in Les Arcs every Tuesday from 6 to 8pm. Children and their parents can go for a short hike to an observatory in a hut on the Cabane slope in Les Arcs. A professional will show them the constellations. This is a free activity, open to all.

Ski-Cool ski school in Val Thorens offers the chance to learn a language while skiing this winter. The bilingual ski instructors will help you to learn a few words, increase your familiarity, or hone your expertise in another language during group lessons. Lessons take place in French for English speakers and in English for French speakers. €204 per week (6 x 3 hours) during school holidays only (groups limited to eight people).

Alpine French School in Morzine combines skiing in the morning with the ESF and French lessons in the afternoon, followed by activities at night, such as wine tasting for the adults.

Prices start from €889 for a shared self-catered room and €1,100 half-board with a French host family.

Little ones can start learning French in **Les Menuires** with the ESF. Piou-Piou, Sifflole and Blanchot, the three characters used by the ESF to teach skiing, are now also teaching French! The ESF offers group classes for children mixing French and English.

Baby swimming: The aqua centre in Morzine-Avoriaz organises baby-swimming courses for babies from four months old – accompanied by their parents, of course!

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Savoie Mont Blanc Tourisme is the Tourist Board for the Savoie and Haute-Savoie departments. Savoie Mont Blanc covers two thirds of the French Alps and boasts 110 ski resorts.

www.savoie-mont-blanc.com

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