

Aletsch Arena

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

The Aletsch Arena is a mountain area in the Valais made up of Riederalp, Bettmeralp and Fiesch. It sits beside the Aletsch Glacier, the longest glacier in the Alps. The glacier and the surrounding peaks are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Riederalp and Bettmeralp are car-free villages on a sunny terrace. The area is known for hiking, skiing and views of the ice.

When to visit

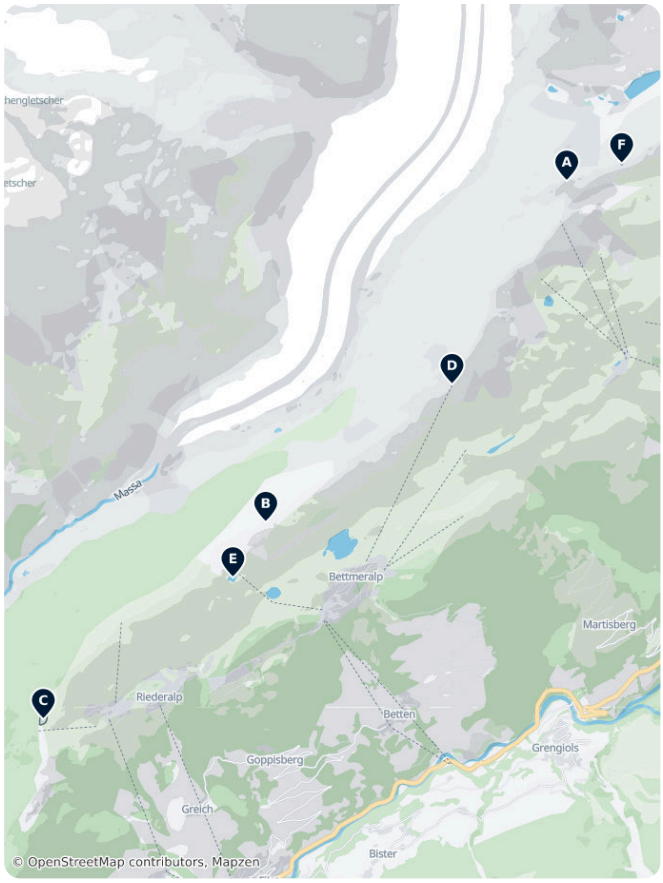
July to September is the best time for hiking. Snow can stay on high paths until June. December to April is the ski season. Spring and November are quiet, and some lifts and hotels close. The views depend on weather, and clouds can hide the glacier.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-6° / -1° Feels like -11°	-14° / -21°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	-5° / 0° Feels like -10°	-13° / -22°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 3° Feels like -7°	-10° / -18°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for skiing	2° / 9° Feels like -2°	-6° / -13°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for skiing	8° / 15° Feels like 5°	-1° / -6°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 19°	4° / -2°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 19°	5° / 0°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 20°	5° / 0°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 16°	2° / -5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	-2° / -8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	-1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-8° / -17°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	-5° / 0° Feels like -9°	-12° / -21°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Eggishorn is a mountain viewpoint above Fiesch, reached by cable car, with views of the glacier.
- B Moosfluh is a viewpoint on the edge of the glacier, reached from Riederalp.
- C Alpengarten Pro Natura Zentrum Aletsch is an alpine garden and nature centre in a historic villa.
- D Erlebniswelt Aletsch is a visitor centre about the glacier and the area.
- E Blausee, F Tällisee and small mountain lakes are good for walks.



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What to experience

- Walk to the glacier viewpoints.
- Hike to a mountain lake and swim in summer.
- Ski in winter on the pistes above the glacier.
- Walk with a mountain guide on the ice. Guides can be booked in the villages.
- Visit the alpine garden and nature centre.

Day trips

- A Aletsch Glacier is the glacier itself. Hikes lead to viewpoints and along the ice.
- B Brig-Glis is the nearest larger town in the valley.
- C Visp is a small town on the way to Zermatt and Saas-Fee.



Where to explore

- Aletsch Glacier is the main sight of the area.
- Brig-Glis and Visp are the nearest towns in the Rhone valley.

Getting there

- By train: go to Mörel for Riederalp, Betten for Bettmeralp or Fiesch for the Eggishorn. Trains run from Brig. Check times on SBB.
- Brig is about 2.5 hours from Zurich and about 3 hours from Geneva.
- From the valley stations, cable cars go up to the villages.

Getting around

- Riederalp and Bettmeralp are car-free and small.
- Cable cars link the villages and the viewpoints.
- Marked hiking paths link the lakes, huts and viewpoints.
- In winter, ski lifts connect the villages.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The villages are small and car-free, but many paths climb or drop steeply.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

The villages are car-free and the terrain is steep. Mountain bikes can be used on some trails.

Driving

- Riederalp and Bettmeralp have no cars.
- Park at the valley cable car stations in Mörel or Betten.
- Winter roads in the Valais can need chains.

Food & drink

Try raclette, rösti and cheese fondue in the mountain restaurants. The Valais is known for dried meat and rye bread. Local wines are served in many places.

People speak German with a Valais dialect. English is widely understood.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Birchermüesli
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

LUNCH

Rösti
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

DINNER

Cheese Fondue · Fondue
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

Raclette
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

Zürcher Geschnetzeltes
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

Älplermagronen
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Cervelat
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

Basler Läckerli
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

DRINKS

Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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Safety & health

- The area is very safe.
- Mountain weather changes fast. Check the forecast.
- Do not walk onto the glacier without a guide. It has crevasses.
- The viewpoints are at altitude. Take warm clothes and sun protection.

History

The Aletsch Glacier has shaped the valley for thousands of years. The ice has been shrinking since the 19th century. The glacier area became a UNESCO site in 2001.

The villages grew as summer pastures and later as tourist resorts. Cable cars from the valley opened the area to visitors in the 20th century.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Eggishorn

3984, Switzerland (46.43135, 8.09423)

B Moosfluh

(46.39623, 8.04935)

C Alpengarten Pro Natura Zentrum Aletsch

(46.37594, 8.01619)

D Erlebniswelt Aletsch

Bettmergrat-Höhenweg, 3992 Bettmeralp, Switzerland
(46.41043, 8.07712)

E Blausee

(46.39054, 8.04446)

F Tällisee

(46.43316, 8.10242)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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