

Crans-Montana

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Crans-Montana sits on a broad, south-facing plateau high above the Rhône valley, with sweeping views toward the Pennine Alps. Despite the hyphenated name, it is really two adjoining villages, Crans and Montana, that grew into one resort. The municipality itself is newer still: in 2017, four communes — Chermignon, Mollens, Montana, and Randogne — merged to form the single commune of Crans-Montana. The plateau's sunny, south-facing position gives it more sunshine hours than many other Alpine resorts, which is part of its appeal in every season.

Winters here center on skiing, with slopes running down from the Plaine Morte glacier. In summer, the same terrain turns into hiking trails, small mountain lakes, and one of Switzerland's best-known golf courses. It suits travelers who want an active mountain base that works well beyond the ski season.

When to visit

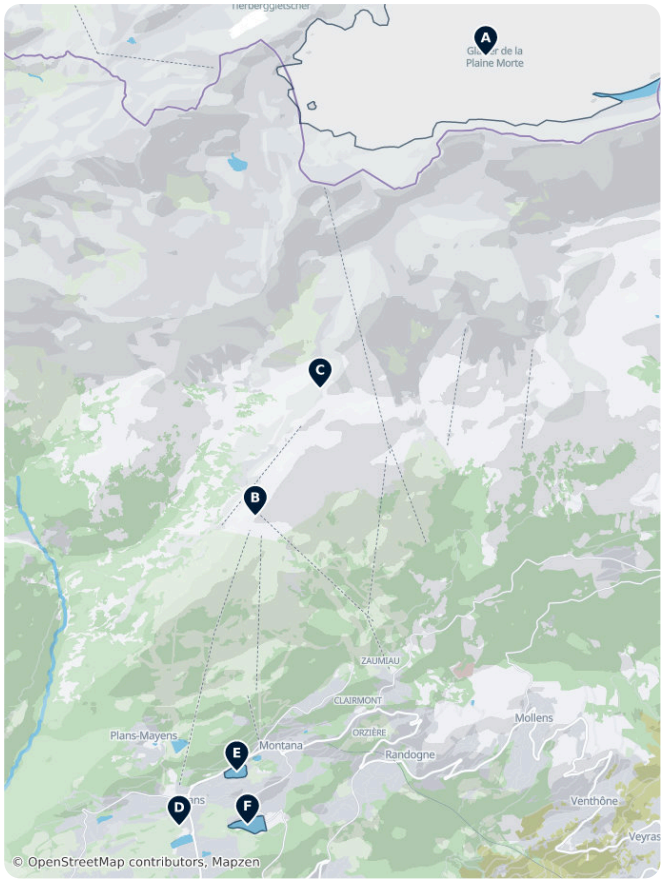
Winters are cold and snowy, good for skiing from December into April; summers are mild and sunny, better suited to hiking and golf. The biggest event on the calendar is the Omega European Masters, a leading European golf tournament held at Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club in late summer; it draws large crowds, so book accommodation well ahead if visiting then.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 4° Feels like -5°	-9° / -16°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	0° / 6° Feels like -4°	-8° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	3° / 10° Feels like -1°	-5° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	8° / 15° Feels like 5°	-1° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 19°	3° / -2°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 23°	8° / 3°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24°	9° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	9° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	15° / 21°	6° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18°	2° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 12° Feels like 1°	-3° / -12°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	0° / 5° Feels like -4°	-7° / -16°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

The plateau's south-facing position gives Crans-Montana more sunshine than many other Alpine resorts, even in winter.

Top sights



A Glacier de la Plaine Morte is the high glacier plateau above the resort, reached by cable car from Crans and Montana. It feeds the ski area in winter and, in summer, offers a glacier walk with wide views over the surrounding peaks.

B Cry d'Er is a panoramic summit reached by cable car, with a mountain restaurant and a family-friendly "sensation" trail; on a clear day the view stretches across the Rhône valley to the peaks beyond.

C Bella Lui is another cable-car and chairlift summit above the resort, popular with hikers in summer and skiers in winter for its wide views over the plateau.

D Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club hosts the Omega European Masters, one of the longest-running events on the European golf tour. Even outside tournament week, it's considered one of the most scenic mountain golf courses in Europe.

E Lac Grenon is a small lake near the center of the resort, a popular spot for a short walk or a swim on a sunny summer afternoon.

F Lac Moubra is another lake close to the golf course, with a lakeside restaurant and pedal-boat rentals in summer.

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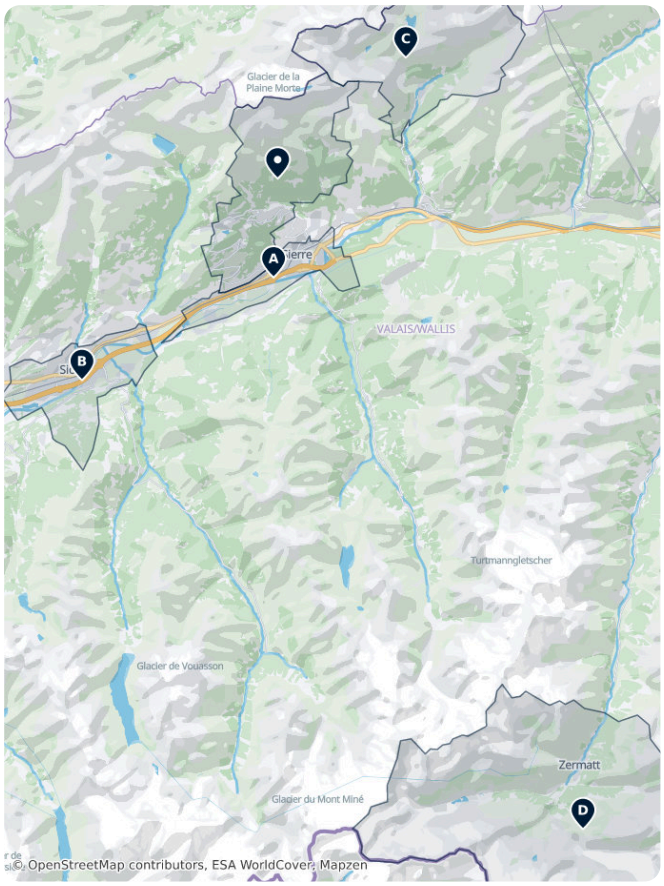
What to experience

A couple of activities here go beyond sightseeing and skiing:

- Walk a stretch of the Bisse du Ro, a centuries-old irrigation channel near the golf course. Following one of these historic Valais "bisses" on foot, with its narrow wooden trough running along the hillside, is a distinctly local way to spend an afternoon.
- In winter, try the plateau's cross-country ski trails, which cover gentler, rolling terrain than the downhill runs and suit a slower-paced day on snow.

Day trips

Crans-Montana's plateau position makes several valley towns and other resorts easy day trips.



- A Sierre — about 15 minutes down by funicular or car; a sunny old town known for its vineyards.
- B Sion, the capital of canton Valais — about 40 minutes by car or train; its old town is watched over by two hilltop castles, Valère and Tourbillon.
- C Leukerbad — about 45 minutes by car; the largest thermal spa village in the Alps, with open-air pools set against the mountains.
- Saint-Luc and the Val d'Anniviers — about an hour by car; a quieter side valley with traditional wooden villages and a public observatory.
- D Zermatt — about 2 to 2.5 hours by car or train via Visp; a longer trip, but the closest look at the Matterhorn most travelers get from this region.

Getting there

- **By air**: Geneva Airport is the main international gateway, roughly 2 to 2.5 hours away. Take the train to Sierre (change in Lausanne or Visp depending on the connection), then the funicular up to the resort; driving via the A9 motorway takes a similar amount of time.
- **By train**: regular trains connect Sierre/Siders with Geneva, Lausanne, and Zurich. From Sierre, the Sierre-Montana-Crans funicular climbs to the resort in around 12 minutes.
- **By bus**: PostBus routes link Crans-Montana with Sierre and villages across the plateau, useful for arriving without a car.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: a local bus network connects Crans, Montana, and outlying hamlets such as Aminona and Vermala; many hotels issue a guest card that covers rides. Cable cars and chairlifts move visitors between the village centers and up the mountain, in both summer and winter. See Crans-Montana public transport for routes and schedules.
- **Taxi**: local taxi and shuttle services operate; ride-hailing app coverage is limited given the small year-round population.
- **On foot / cycling**: the centers of Crans and Montana are each walkable, though the resort is spread across a wide plateau. Cycling on the marked summer trails is popular, though the terrain is hilly.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Crans and Montana each have a walkable center, but the resort is spread across a wide plateau, so getting between them or out to the lakes and golf course usually means a bus, taxi, or car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Summer brings a network of marked mountain-biking and cycling trails across the plateau, but the hilly terrain makes it a workout rather than easy riding.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for a stay centered on the resort itself — buses and cable cars cover Crans, Montana, and the ski area well — but a car makes day trips into the valley and side valleys easier.
- **Parking**: both Crans and Montana have pay parking garages and lots near their centers; many hotels include parking for guests.
- **Restrictions**: parts of both village centers are pedestrian priority, especially during the winter season.

Food & drink

Mountain restaurants across the ski area serve hearty Valais classics such as raclette and air-dried beef, often eaten on a sunny terrace with a view over the valley. In summer, lakeside spots such as the one at Lac Moubra serve simpler grilled food that suits an afternoon outdoors.

For a special evening, several of the resort's hotel restaurants offer some of the more refined dining in the region; otherwise, the centers of Crans and Montana have the widest choice of everyday restaurants and cafés.

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

Crans-Montana is a safe destination with very low crime; the usual care around unattended belongings in busy spots and parking areas is enough. On the mountain, stay on marked ski and hiking routes and check conditions before heading onto glacier terrain — crevasses and shifting weather are the main hazards, not crime. Tap water is safe to drink everywhere on the plateau.

History

Crans-Montana's history as a resort goes back more than a century. Like other Swiss Alpine resorts of that era, the clear mountain air and long hours of sunshine drew early tourism pioneers from the late 19th century onward, and the plateau grew into a base for both leisure travelers and health visitors. Golf arrived early too: the course that is now Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club dates back to the early 20th century and has hosted a leading European tour event, the Omega European Masters, for decades.

The resort's political geography is much newer than its tourism history. Crans and Montana grew as two separate villages under different communes for most of that time, and only came together administratively in 2017, when the wider commune of Crans-Montana was formed — unifying under one name a resort that had already worked as one for a century.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

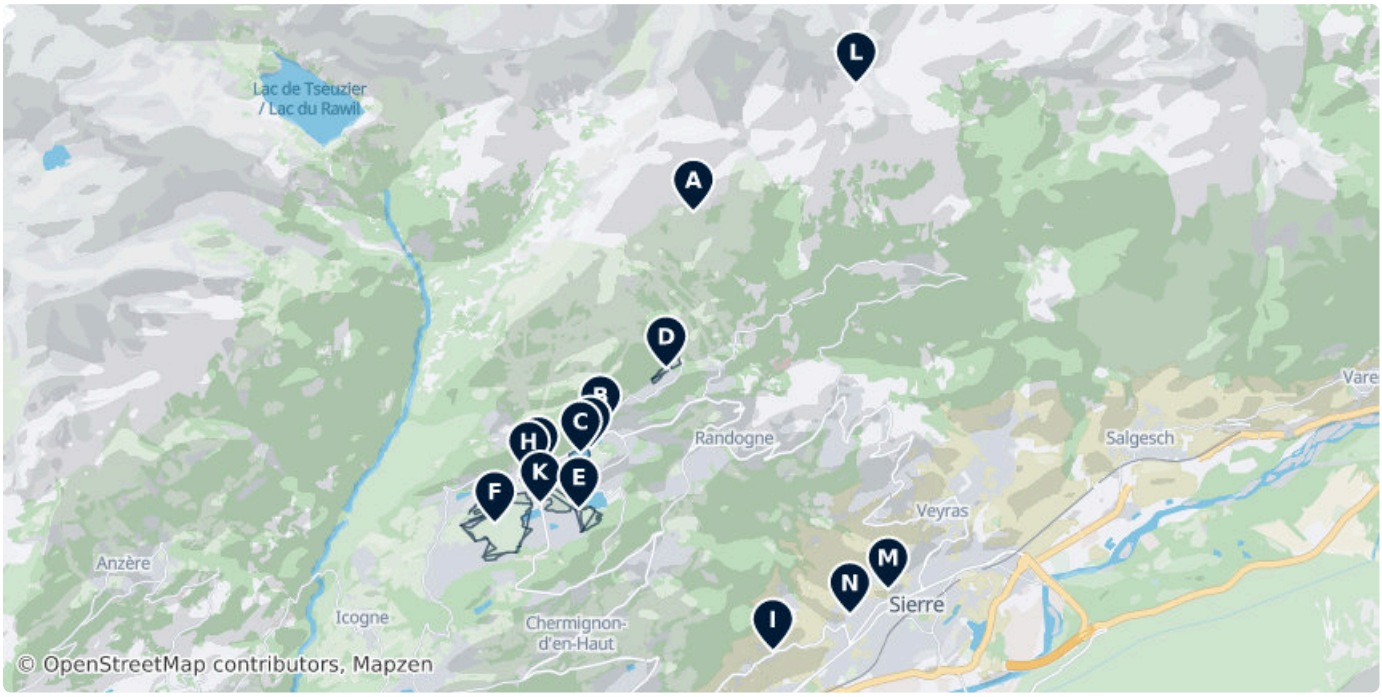
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Crans-Montana Unmissables

Crans-Montana sits on a sunny plateau 1,500 meters above the Rhone Valley, offering 140 kilometers of south-facing ski slopes and the Plaine Morte Glacier. The region is home to the prestigious Severiano Ballesteros and Jack Nicklaus golf courses, which host the Omega European Masters. Cultural landmarks include the early 20th-century Château Mercier in Sierre and the alpine waters of Lac Grenon. For dining, local establishments serve traditional Valaisan specialties like raclette and fondue against a backdrop of 4,000-meter peaks including the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.





A Crans Montana Ski Resort

South-facing resort featuring 140 kilometers of slopes ranging from 1,500m to 3,000m at the Plaine Morte Glacier.

3963, Switzerland (46.33790, 7.49480)

crans-montana.ch



B Montana (télécab. rte Vermala)

Cable car station providing primary access to the Cry d'Er sector and the upper mountain trail network.

3 Route de Vermala, Crans-Montana 3963, Switzerland (46.31288, 7.47921)

C Etang Grenon

Etang Grenon or Lac Grenon is a lake at Montana in the canton of Valais, Switzerland.

Crans-Montana 3963, Switzerland (46.30988, 7.47584)

D Golf de Supercrans

High-altitude golf facilities situated on the Crans-sur-Sierre plateau with views of the Rhone Valley.

Route de Lens-Crans 15, 3963 Crans-Montana, CH (46.31975, 7.49024)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

crans-montana.ch/en/, +41 27 486 66 00

E Jack Nicklaus Course

A 9-hole course frequently cited for its technical difficulty and views of the Valais Alps.

Crans-sur-Sierre 3963, Switzerland (46.30342, 7.47556)

F Severiano Ballesteros Course

The 18-hole championship course that hosts the annual Omega European Masters.

3963, Switzerland (46.30174, 7.46143)

G La Broche des Ours

Restaurant specializing in regional Valaisan dishes and meats prepared on a traditional spit.

(46.31043, 7.47751)

restaurantgreni.ch, +41 27 481 24 43

H La Désalpe

Traditional restaurant focused on local cheese specialties, including fondue and raclette, within a rustic alpine interior.

6 Rue du Pas-de-l'Ours, 3963, Switzerland (46.30756, 7.46711)

I Restaurant Le Rocher

Regional eatery located near Sierre, serving traditional Swiss cuisine and local wines.

(46.28690, 7.50816)

+41 27 456 4400

J Cinecrans

Local cinema complex screening international films and seasonal premieres.

(46.30812, 7.46874)

K Galerie Evana

Art gallery showcasing contemporary works and regional exhibitions in the heart of the resort.

(46.30404, 7.46904)

L Petit Mt Bonvin

Alpine peak and mountain hut at 2,412 meters, offering panoramic views of the Bernese and Valais Alps.

(Unnamed Road), 3963, Switzerland (46.35275, 7.52216)

Château Mercier

A 1908 manor house in Sierre featuring 40,000 square meters of Italian-style gardens and regional art collections.

19 Montée du Château, Sierre 3960, Switzerland
(46.29406, 7.52755)



ECAV - École cantonale d'art du Valais

The École de design et haute école d'art du Valais, a public art and design institution located in Sierre.

(46.29116, 7.52111)

ecav.ch, +41(0)27 456 55 11

DATA SOURCES

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- ECAV - École cantonale d'art du Valais — "Fr:École cantonale d'art du Valais" by Orphée, CC BY-SA 3.0

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