

St. Moritz

Canton of the Grisons · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

St. Moritz sits at 1,822 metres in the Swiss Alps' Engadin valley, beside a lake that turns from deep blue in summer to a frozen white stage in winter. It is where modern winter tourism began: in 1864, hotelier *Johannes Badrutt* bet a group of English summer guests that autumn in the Alps would be sunnier than they expected, and offered to pay their travel costs if he was wrong. They came, they stayed, and St. Moritz went on to host the Winter Olympics twice, in 1928 and 1948.

Today the resort still draws two different crowds. Skiers come for wide, sunny slopes and a historic bobsled and skeleton scene found nowhere else. Summer visitors come for high-altitude hiking, lake walks, and the same clear light that first made the town famous. Expect a genuinely glamorous reputation and polished hotels, but the mountains and lake around it are the real draw.

When to visit

Winter is the main season here: cold, sunny, and reliably snowy from December to March, best for skiing and the resort's ice sports. Summer (June to September) is much milder and suits hiking, with warm days and cool nights. Spring and late autumn are quiet shoulder seasons when many lifts and hotels close.

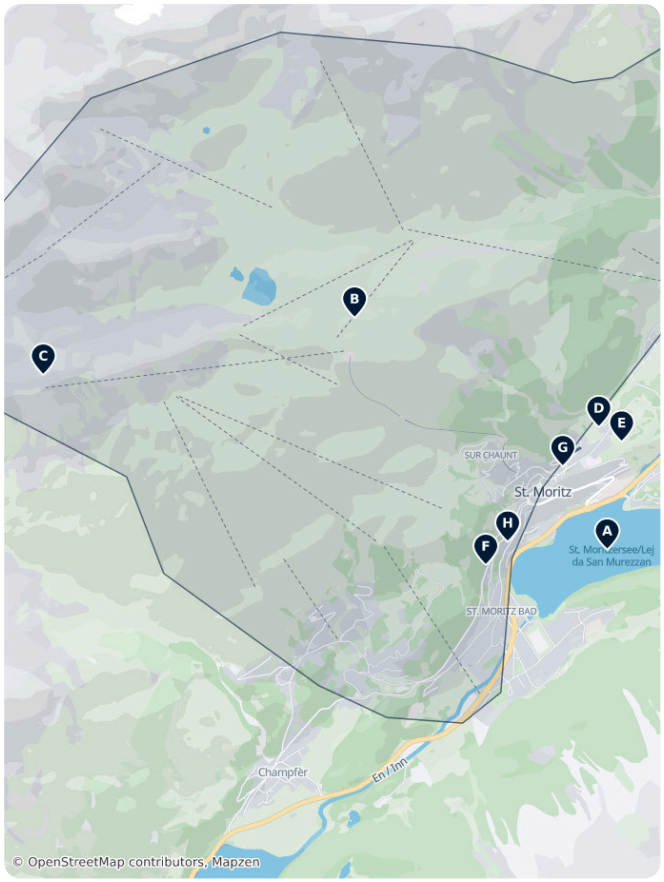
Plan around White Turf if you can: for three weekends every February, thoroughbred horses race on the frozen lake in front of the town, a spectacle unique to St. Moritz.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-3° / 3° Feels like -7°	-12° / -20°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 3° Feels like -6°	-12° / -21°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Great Great for skiing	1° / 6° Feels like -4°	-8° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for hiking	11° / 18°	2° / -3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 22°	6° / 0°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 22°	8° / 2°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 23°	8° / 2°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 20°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Poor Poor for skiing	9° / 16°	1° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	2° / 10° Feels like -1°	-5° / -15°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 4° Feels like -6°	-10° / -20°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Nights stay well below freezing for most of the winter. Even July and August afternoons rarely feel hot, so pack warm layers whatever the season.

Top sights



A Lake St. Moritz is the heart of the resort, a small alpine lake that hosts polo matches and horse races on its frozen surface every winter. In summer, a path circles the shore for an easy walk with views back to the village.

A funicular and cable car climb from the village to B Corviglia, the ski area that hosted the alpine events of the 1928 and 1948 Winter Olympics and still has some of the sunniest slopes in the Alps.

From the top station, a short ride continues to C Piz Nair, a 3,056-metre summit with a panoramic terrace looking out over the Engadin's chain of lakes.

Opened in 1884, D Cresta Run is the world's only natural ice track built purely for skeleton racing, rebuilt from scratch by hand each winter.

Nearby, E Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina has been in continuous use since 1904, making it the oldest bobsled track anywhere and the only one still refrigerated naturally by winter cold.

F Segantini Museum is dedicated to the paintings of *Giovanni Segantini*, the Alpine painter who spent his final years in this valley.

The G Leaning Tower of St. Moritz, a 33-metre stump of stone leaning sharply over the main square, is all that survives of a church demolished in the 1890s.

H Engadine Museum recreates historic Engadine interiors, with entire wood-panelled rooms moved here from farmhouses across the valley.

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What to experience

St. Moritz's identity comes from its winter sports heritage as much as its scenery, and several of its signature experiences let visitors join in rather than just watch.

- Take a guest ride down Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina in a professional-piloted bobsled. No experience is needed, and few other bob runs in the world let visitors do this.
- Toboggan the public run from Muottas Muragl down to Punt Muragl, a winter activity open to everyone, unlike the members-only Cresta Run.
- Ski or walk part of the Engadin Skimarathon route, an annual cross-country race held every March across the valley's frozen lakes.
- In summer, ride a cable car up for lunch on a sun terrace overlooking a glacier, then follow a marked trail back down to the valley.

Day trips

The Upper Engadin valley is dotted with villages and viewpoints that make easy trips from St. Moritz.

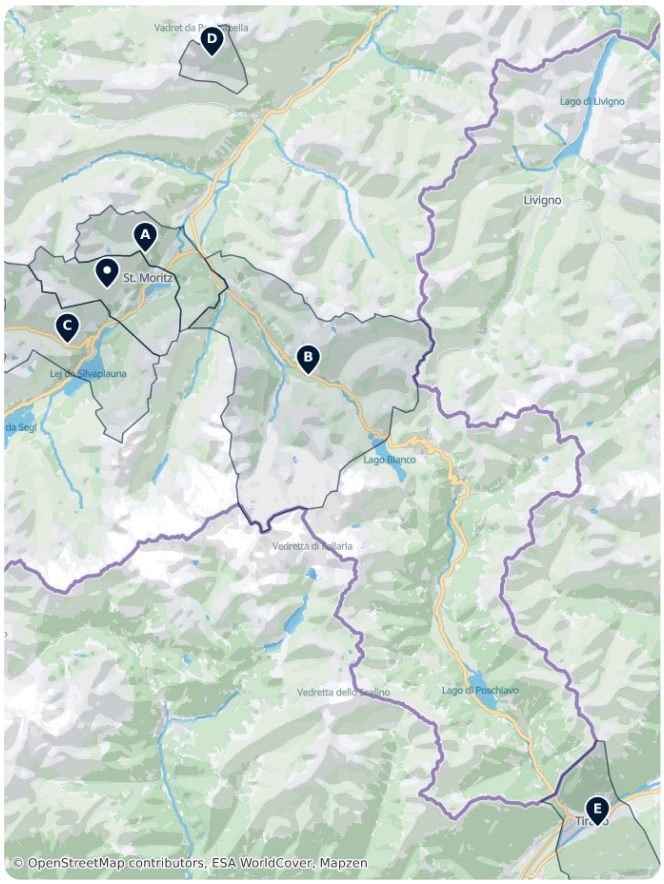
Nearby villages (10-15 min by bus, train, or bike):

- A Celerina: quiet and low-key, home to the finish line of the Cresta Run and Olympia Bob Run.
- B Pontresina: gateway to the Roseg Valley, a flat, car-free walk beneath glaciated peaks.
- C Silvaplana: a lakeside village known for windsurfing and kitesurfing on its reliably windy lake.

Mountain viewpoints (20-40 min by funicular, cable car, or postbus):

- Muottas Muragl: a funicular ride to a panoramic terrace over the Engadin's chain of lakes. Go at sunrise or sunset for the best light.
- Piz Corvatsch: a high cable car above Silvaplana with glacier views and a summer ski slope.
- Diavolezza: a cable car near Pontresina facing the Morteratsch Glacier and Piz Bernina, the highest peak in the Eastern Alps.

Further afield:



- D Zuoz: about 30 min by train, an Engadine village of sgraffito-decorated stone houses, largely untouched by tourism.
- E Tirano: about 2.5 hours one-way on the Bernina Express, which follows a UNESCO World Heritage rail line across open mountain passes into Italy.

Where to explore

St. Moritz sits inside a single valley system that shares hiking trails and a regional bus and rail network with its neighbors.

Samedan is the valley's transport hub, home to the regional airport and the area's main golf course. Sils im Engadin sits at the quiet, western end of the valley's lake chain, a favourite retreat of the philosopher *Friedrich Nietzsche*, who spent several summers there working.

Getting there

- **By air**: the nearest airports with scheduled flights are Zurich (ZRH) and Milan Malpensa (MXP), each roughly 3 to 3.5 hours away by train or car, with a change required along the way. St. Moritz's own high-altitude airfield at Samedan handles only private and charter flights, not scheduled passenger service.
- **By train**: Chur is the main junction for trains from the rest of Switzerland; from there, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rhaetian Railway line climbs over the Albula Pass to St. Moritz. The Bernina Express continues this same line south from St. Moritz, crossing open mountain passes to Tirano in Italy.
- **By bus**: postbuses cross the Julier and Maloja passes to link St. Moritz with central Switzerland and Italy, though both routes can close after heavy snow.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: local buses link St. Moritz Dorf, St. Moritz Bad, and the neighboring villages. Buy tickets from the machines at stops, or through the SBB Mobile and PostAuto apps before boarding.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: international ride-hailing apps have little presence here. Call a local taxi firm, or ask your hotel to book one.
- **On foot / cycling**: Dorf sits on a hillside above Bad and the lake; the walk between them takes about 20 minutes downhill. Cycling suits the valley-floor paths around the lakes better than the steep streets of the centre.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

St. Moritz Dorf's centre is compact and walkable, but it sits on a steep hillside above St. Moritz Bad and the lake, so the two halves of town are a downhill or uphill walk apart, not a flat one.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is enjoyable on the valley-floor paths around the lakes, but the town centre's slopes make it less practical there.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for the town itself. St. Moritz is compact and well served by local buses. A car helps for reaching the Julier and Maloja pass viewpoints and villages off the rail line, especially outside peak season when buses run less often.
- **Parking**: paid garages serve both Dorf and Bad; street spaces are metered and scarce in winter. Many hotels include a space, so check before driving in.
- **Restrictions**: snow chains or winter tyres are compulsory on mountain passes in winter, and the Julier and Maloja passes can close temporarily after heavy snowfall.

Food & drink

Look for Engadine specialties: capuns, chard leaves stuffed with a bread-and-cheese filling, and pizokel, a rustic buckwheat pasta. Bakeries across town sell Engadiner Nusstorte, a caramel-and-walnut tart that travels well if you want to take one home.

For a meal out, the restaurants and pastry shops along Via Maistra, St. Moritz Dorf's main pedestrian street, cover everything from casual lunches to fine dining.

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

St. Moritz is very safe; petty crime is rare, though it is worth locking valuables out of sight if you park at a trailhead or ski-area car park, since gear theft does happen occasionally.

The town itself sits at 1,822 metres, and the cable cars go considerably higher — Piz Nair tops 3,000 metres. Take it easy on your first day if you are not used to altitude, since headaches or breathlessness become more likely the higher you go. Sun and glare are stronger here too, so sunscreen and sunglasses matter even on a cloudy day, especially on snow.

History

St. Moritz's mineral spring has drawn visitors since at least the Bronze Age, but the town's modern identity was built in the 19th century. Hotelier *Johannes Badrutt* is credited with inventing winter tourism here in 1864, and the Kulm Hotel installed the first electric lighting in a Swiss hotel in 1878, a novelty guests came specifically to see.

Winter sport followed close behind: the Kulm Hotel's guests and local residents built the first Cresta Run by hand in 1884, and the Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina opened in 1904, both still in use today. That sporting pedigree brought the Winter Olympics here twice, in 1928 and 1948. That is a rare distinction for a town of under 5,000 people.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

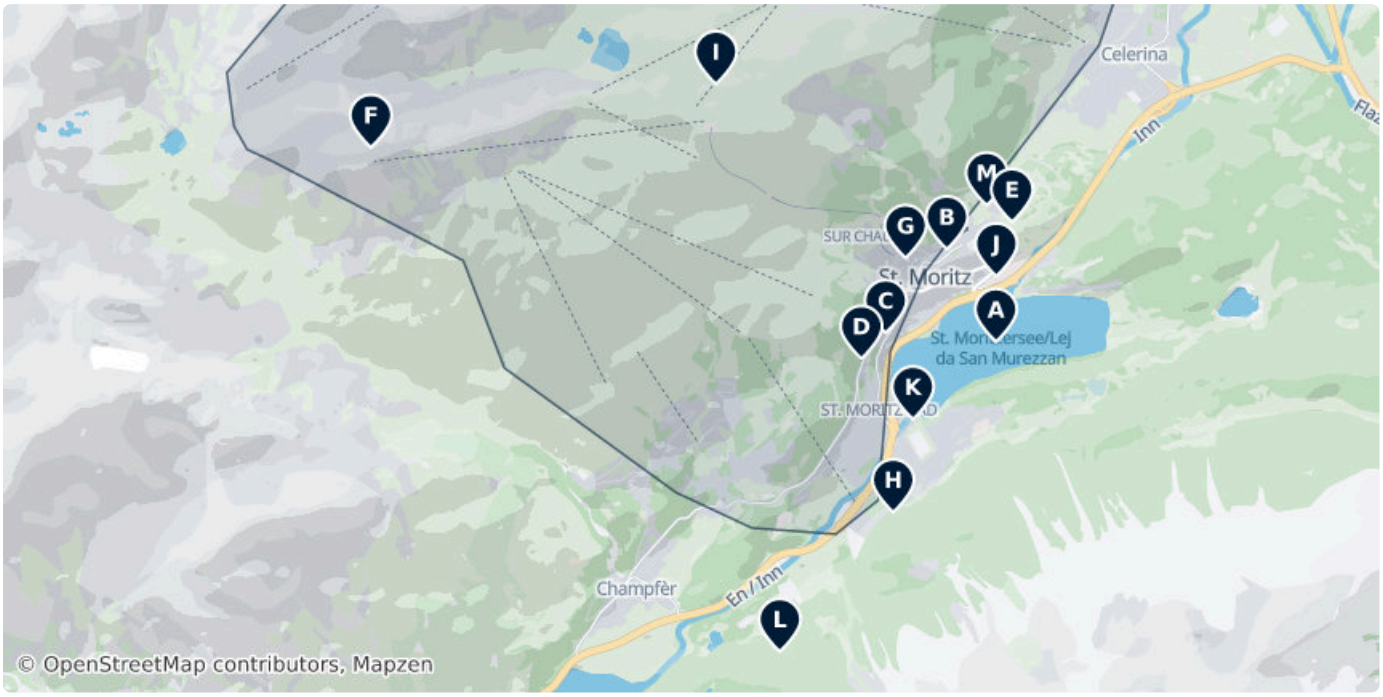
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LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

St. Moritz Unmissables

St. Moritz, situated in the Engadin Valley, is a historic alpine resort famous for hosting two Winter Olympics. This selection features the iconic Lake St. Moritz and the world-renowned Olympia Bob Run, the oldest natural ice track in existence. Cultural highlights include the Segantini Museum, housing symbolist alpine art, and the Engadine Museum, showcasing traditional chalet interiors. Architecture ranges from the 12th-century Leaning Tower to Norman Foster's modern Chesa Futura.





A Lake St. Moritz

Lake St. Moritz is a lake at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

7500, Switzerland (46.49379, 9.84591)



B Leaning Tower

A 33 m high leaning tower - once a part of St. Mauritius church, which was demolished at the end of the 19th century.

2 Via Brattas, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.49976, 9.84131)



C Engadine Museum

Take a look at various chalet rooms which were completely moved from their original locations. Notice the authentic furnishings.

43 Via dal Bagn, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.49436, 9.83559)

engadiner-museum.ch, +41 81 833 43 33

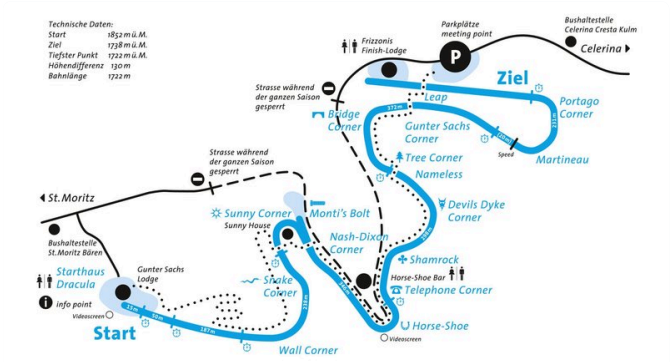


D Segantini Museum

Museum dedicated to the work of the renowned symbolist artist displays the most important paintings inspired by the Alps.

Via Somplaz 30, 7500 St. Moritz (46.49270, 9.83331)

segantini-museum.ch, +41 81 833 44 54



E Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz–Celerina

The Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina is a bobsleigh track located in the Engadin Valley, Switzerland.

6 Via Foppas, 7500, Switzerland (46.50152, 9.84742)

olympia-bobrun.ch, +41 81 830 02 00



F Piz Nair

Piz Nair is a mountain of the Albula Alps in Switzerland, overlooking St. Moritz in the canton of Graubünden.

7500, Switzerland (46.50631, 9.78737)



G Chesa Futra

If you're into modern architecture you'll surely want to see this unique apartment project built by legendary N. Foster.

Via Tinus 25, 7500 St Moritz, Switzerland (46.49919, 9.83744)

fosterandpartners.com/projects/chesa-futura/



H Église au bois

A protected heritage site in St. Moritz Bad, this French Evangelical-Reformed church serves as a significant religious landmark under the protection of the Canton of Graubünden.

7500, Switzerland (46.48281, 9.83629)



I Corviglia

A major alpine ski area encompassing the Marguns and Piz Nair sectors, offering extensive slopes and hosting international winter sports competitions.

7505, Switzerland (46.51039, 9.81968)

mountains.ch, +41818300000



J St. Moritz railway station

St. Moritz railway station is a railway station in the resort town of St. Moritz, in the Swiss canton of Graubünden.

Plazza da la Staziun, 7500 St. Moritz, Switzerland (46.49802, 9.84594)



K St. Karl Church, St. Moritz-Bad

A rather small stone church built in the late 19th century in Romanesque style. Come and have a rest next to the picturesque lake.

Via Sela, 7500 Sankt Moritz, Switzerland (46.48879, 9.83813)



M Cresta Run

The Cresta Run is a natural ice track in eastern-Switzerland used for skeleton-toboggan racing. Located in the winter sports town of St.

14 Via Ruinatsch, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.50258, 9.84505)

cresta-run.com, +41818333112

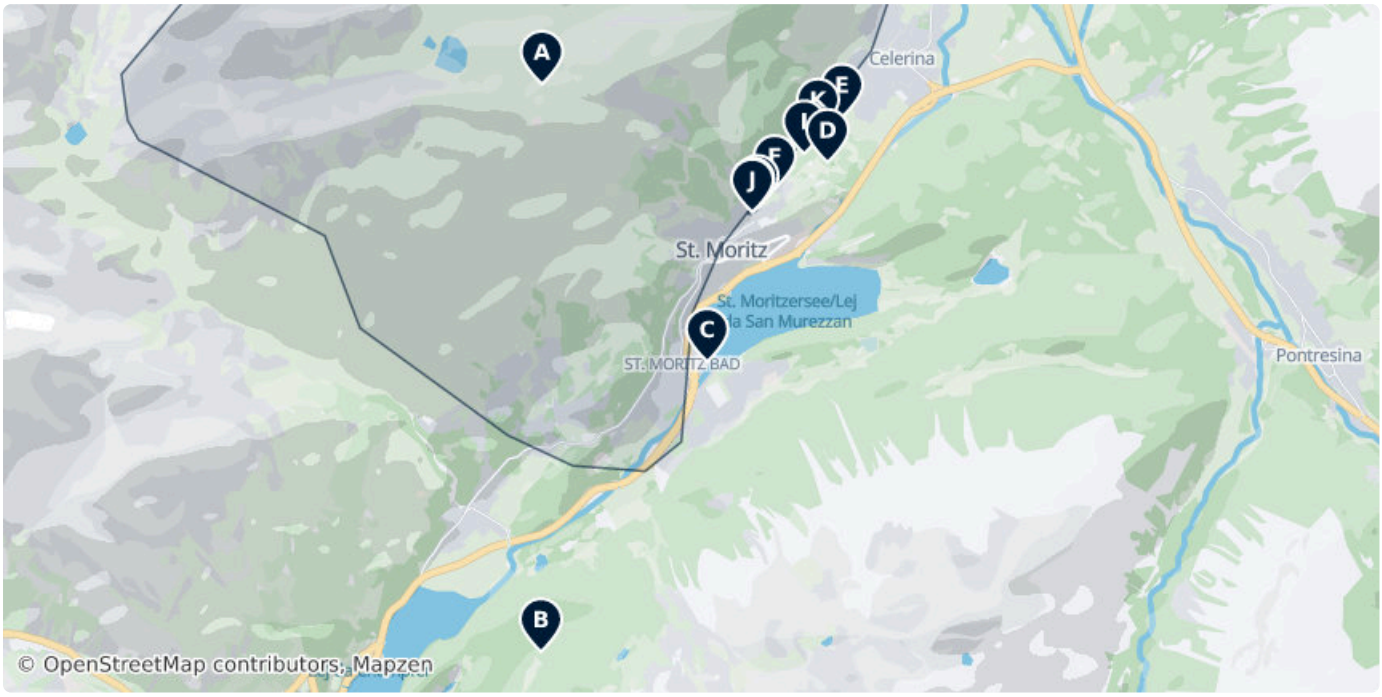
L St. Moritz Olympic Ski Jump

Olympiaschanze was a ski jumping venue in St. Moritz, Switzerland, it was built in 1926 and closed in 2006.

7500, Switzerland (46.47383, 9.82568)

St. Moritz Winter Sports

St. Moritz is a historic hub for winter sports, having hosted the Winter Olympics twice. The Corviglia-Marguns-Piz Nair area offers extensive downhill skiing on world-class slopes, while the Ludains Ice Arena provides year-round skating and curling. The town is famous for its unique ice tracks: the St. Moritz-Celerina Olympic Bobrun, the world's oldest natural bobsleigh run, and the Cresta Run, a dedicated venue for skeleton racing. These facilities cater to both professional athletes and winter sports enthusiasts.





A Corviglia

High-altitude ski area encompassing Marguns and Piz Nair, frequently used for Alpine World Ski Championships and Olympic competitions.

7505, Switzerland (46.51039, 9.81968)

mountains.ch, +41818300000

B Via da la Palüd Lungia

Intermediate-level ski piste and pedestrian path.

(46.46787, 9.81957)

C Ludains Ice Arena

An arena with artificial ice available all year round. Rent skates, play Bavarian curling or visit some ice-skating events.

5 Via Ludains, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.48960, 9.83768)



D St. Moritz-Celerina Olympic Bobrun

The Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina is a bobsleigh track located in the Engadin Valley, Switzerland.

Via Maistra, 7505, Switzerland (46.50454, 9.85080)

olympia-bobrun.ch



E St. Moritz-Celerina Olympic Bobrun

The Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina is a bobsleigh track located in the Engadin Valley, Switzerland.

7505, Switzerland (46.50792, 9.85236)

olympia-bobrun.ch



F Cresta Run

The Cresta Run is a natural ice track in eastern-Switzerland used for skeleton-toboggan racing. Located in the winter sports town of St.

14 Via Ruinatsch, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.50258, 9.84505)

cresta-run.com, +41818333112

G Cresta Run

Natural ice track used specifically for skeleton-toboggan racing.

10A Via Brattas, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.50109, 9.84316)

cresta-run.com

H Cresta Run

Natural ice track used specifically for skeleton-toboggan racing.

16 Via Brattas, Sankt Moritz 7500, Switzerland (46.50090, 9.84268)

cresta-run.com

I Cresta Run

Natural ice track used specifically for skeleton-toboggan racing.

(Unnamed Road), 7505, Switzerland (46.50518, 9.84824)

cresta-run.com

J Cresta Run

Historic natural ice track and facility dedicated to skeleton-toboggan racing since 1884.

(46.50080, 9.84260)



K St. Moritz-Celerina Olympic Bobrun

The Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz-Celerina is a bobsleigh track located in the Engadin Valley, Switzerland.

(46.50682, 9.84975)

olympia-bobrun.ch

St. Moritz Mountain Peaks

St. Moritz is surrounded by the Albula and Bernina Alps, featuring prominent peaks like Piz Nair and Piz Julier. These summits offer vantage points over the Upper Engadine lake plateau and the glaciated Bernina Massif. The landscape is defined by diverse geological formations, including the rugged granite of the Rosatsch group and the retreating glaciers of Vadret Güglia and Vadret da Rosatsch, all accessible through an extensive network of high-altitude hiking trails and cable cars.





A Piz Nair

Piz Nair is a mountain of the Albula Alps in Switzerland, overlooking St. Moritz in the canton of Graubünden.

7500, Switzerland (46.50631, 9.78737)



B Piz Suvretta

A 3,124-meter peak in the Albula Alps situated northwest of St. Moritz.

7503, Switzerland (46.51459, 9.75870)

C Cuolms

High-altitude viewpoint and minor summit located within the Corviglia skiing and hiking area.

(46.50908, 9.76042)

D Vadret Güglia

Alpine glacier situated on the eastern slopes of Piz Julier.

(46.49270, 9.76428)

E Vadret da Rosach

Glacier located within the Rosatsch group of the Bernina Range, south of St. Moritz.

7500, Switzerland (46.46169, 9.85084)

F Piz Gügliet

A 2,937-meter peak in the Albula Alps located near the Julier Pass.

7500, Switzerland (46.49468, 9.76057)

G Piz da l'Ova Cotschna

A 2,716-meter summit in the Rosatsch massif overlooking the Upper Engadine valley.

7500, Switzerland (46.46876, 9.84639)

H Cuolm d'Mez

A 2,827-meter peak situated in the mountain range between St. Moritz and Pontresina.

7500, Switzerland (46.46527, 9.85773)

I Il Corn

A 2,781-meter peak located in the Rosatsch group of the Bernina Alps.

7500, Switzerland (46.46856, 9.86020)

J Piz Rosatsch

A 3,123-meter mountain in the Bernina Range providing views of the St. Moritz and Champfèr lakes.

7504, Switzerland (46.46021, 9.85406)

K Piz Güglia - Piz Julier

A 3,380-meter prominent granite peak overlooking the Julier Pass and Silvaplana.

7500, Switzerland (46.49099, 9.75989)

L Piz Albana

A 3,100-meter peak in the Albula Alps located directly above the village of Champfèr.

7513, Switzerland (46.48109, 9.77365)

M Corn Chamuotsch

A 2,921-meter summit in the Albula Alps situated south of Piz Nair.

7513, Switzerland (46.49961, 9.75388)

N Piz Mezdi

A 2,992-meter peak in the Rosatsch group, part of the Bernina Range.

7500, Switzerland (46.47012, 9.86329)

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