

Verbier

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Verbier sits on a sunny, south-facing shelf above the Val de Bagnes, at around 1,500 meters in the Swiss canton of Valais. It has no historic old town — it grew from a small farming hamlet into one of the Alps' best-known ski resorts, and that mountain-sport identity still defines a visit today.

In winter, Verbier is the main gateway to Val de Bagnes's share of the 4 Vallées, the largest ski area entirely within Switzerland, and is famous among skiers and snowboarders for its steep off-piste terrain. In summer, the same lifts open up an extensive network of hiking and mountain-biking trails, and the village fills with visitors for classical-music concerts. It suits travelers who want an active mountain trip built around skiing, hiking, or biking, rather than museums and monuments.

When to visit

Winter (December to April) is cold with regular snowfall and is the main season, since Verbier is built around skiing. Summer (June to September) is mild and sunny, ideal for hiking and biking; spring and late autumn are quiet shoulder seasons with limited lift service.

Plan around **Xtreme Verbier**, the Freeride World Tour's season finale, held each spring (usually March or April, weather permitting) on Bec des Rosses. Crowds gather on the valley floor to watch the competitors ski and ride down.

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

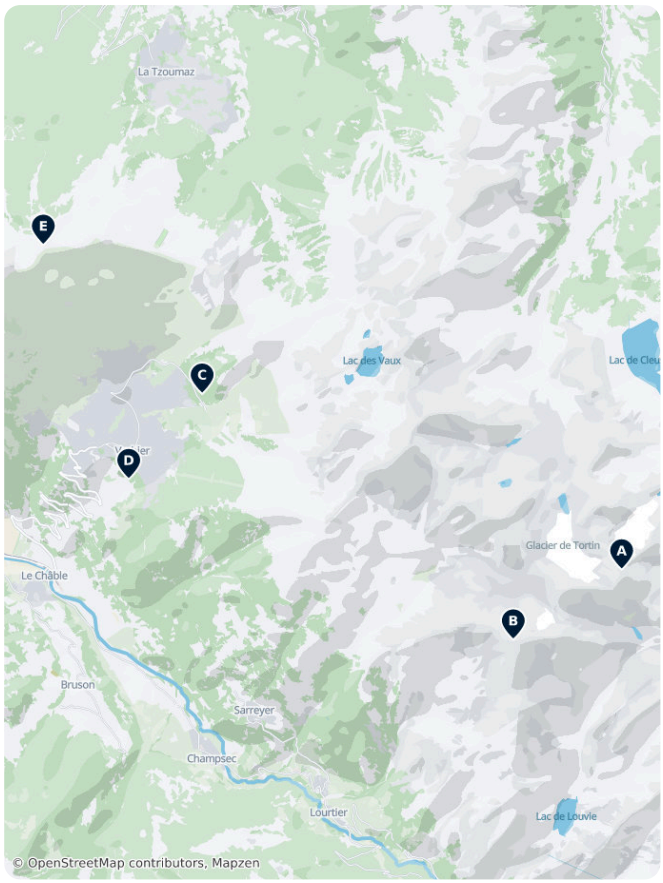
Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Winter days rarely climb above freezing and nights are well below it, so pack for genuine alpine cold. Summer afternoons are pleasantly warm, but mountain thunderstorms can build quickly, so carry a rain

layer on any hike above the treeline.

Top sights

Verbier's sights are mostly reached by cable car, not on foot, and the ride up is part of the experience.



A Mont Fort is the highest point of the 4 Vallées at 3,328 meters, reached by cable car from the Col des Gentianes. Its secured viewing platform looks out over a wide sweep of the Pennine Alps.

B Bec des Rosses is the dramatic rock face that hosts the Freeride World Tour finale every spring. Even outside competition dates, its near-vertical north side is one of the most photographed peaks above Verbier.

At **C** Les Attelas, a panoramic terrace and brasserie sit at 2,734 meters with views toward the Grand Combin and Mont Blanc massif — a good stop for lunch between runs or a mid-hike break.

D Mont Gelé rises to 3,023 meters above the village. Locals know it for steep, technical off-piste skiing. In summer it becomes a hiking destination, reached via the Col de Chassoure or the Cabane du Mont-Fort.

E Savoleyres is a gentler, sunnier peak on the opposite side of the village, popular with families in winter for its wide, easy pistes and in summer for undemanding panoramic trails.

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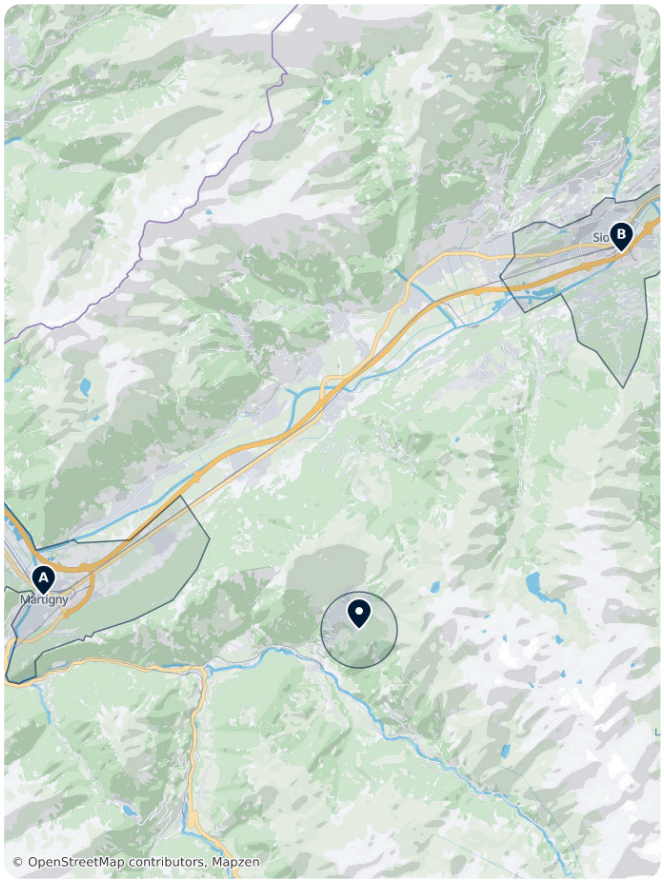
What to experience

- **Watch the Freeride World Tour finale.** Unlike gated ski racing, competitors choose their own line down Bec des Rosses, and that choice is part of how judges score the run; watching from across the valley is a genuine spectacle.
- **Catch a concert at the Verbier Festival.** For two weeks each summer, leading classical musicians and young soloists perform in venues around the village as part of this internationally known festival.
- **Take a tandem paragliding flight.** Launching from the slopes above the village, paragliding pilots offer tandem flights with views over the Val de Bagnes — a popular way to see the terrain from the air in both summer and winter.
- **Ride a lift up and hike or bike back down.** In summer, cable cars stay open for hikers and mountain bikers, so you can gain altitude quickly and spend the day moving downhill through alpine scenery.

Day trips

Verbier sits at the head of a side valley, so most day trips run down toward the Rhône valley.

- Ⓐ Martigny — about 45 minutes by car or train via Le Châble. This Roman-founded town has excavated remains of an amphitheater and the Fondation Pierre Gianadda, a well-regarded art and classic-car museum.
- **Barrage de Mauvoisin** — around an hour's drive up a dramatic dead-end valley south of Le Châble. One of the tallest arch dams in Europe, it holds back a turquoise reservoir ringed by glaciated peaks; the drive alone is worth it on a clear day.
- Ⓑ Sion — about an hour by car or train. The Valais cantonal capital is watched over by two hilltop medieval castles, Valère and Tourbillon, with an old town of narrow lanes below.



Where to explore

Verbier is one village within the municipality of Val de Bagnes, which stretches from the valley floor up to the glaciers at the head of the valley. Le Châble, in the valley below, is the railhead and gondola base for reaching Verbier by public transport.

Verbier's lift network is also directly linked to two neighboring resort villages that share the same 4 Vallées ski area: Nendaz and Veysonnaz. Both make an easy lift-served detour for a change of scenery without leaving the ski area.

Getting there

- **By air**: Geneva Airport is the practical gateway, about 2 to 2.5 hours away by road. A private or shared transfer runs via the A9 motorway to Martigny, then a mountain road up to Verbier.
- **By train**: Take a mainline train to Martigny, then the Saint-Bernard Express branch line to Le Châble; from there, a cable car (about 10 minutes) or a Postbus completes the journey up to Verbier. The whole trip from Geneva takes roughly 2.5 to 3 hours. On winter weekends, a direct train runs between Geneva and Le Châble, skipping the change at Martigny.
- **By bus**: Postbus services connect Le Châble and Martigny to Verbier and run through the day, useful if you arrive without a car.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: A local and regional bus network (Postbus) links Verbier's different neighborhoods and connects onward to Le Châble; buy tickets from the driver or the SBB app, which covers regional buses as well as trains.
- **On foot**: The village center is compact and walkable, though built on a slope — expect some uphill walking, more noticeable with snow underfoot in winter.
- **Cycling**: Mountain biking is popular in summer, with lift-served trails rather than road cycling around town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village center is compact but built on a slope; central areas are easy on foot, while outlying chalet neighborhoods are a steeper walk or a short bus ride.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Mountain biking on lift-served trails is excellent in summer, but there is little dedicated road-cycling infrastructure in the village itself.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not essential for a stay centered on the village and lifts, but useful for reaching Martigny, Sion, or the Val de Bagnes' side valleys at your own pace.
- **Parking**: Pay-and-display car parks sit near the village entrance and the Médran lift station; central streets have limited space, especially in peak winter weeks.
- **Restrictions**: The access road up from Le Châble is steep and winding; carry snow chains or use winter tires in heavy snowfall, as the road is occasionally closed to non-equipped vehicles.

Food & drink

Valais specialties dominate menus here: raclette, melted tableside from a wheel of cheese, and cheese fondue are the classic cold-weather meals, often paired with dried alpine meat (viande séchée) as a starter.

For a memorable meal with a view, head up to Les Attelas, where a mountain brasserie serves lunch on a terrace looking toward the Grand Combin. Otherwise, the streets around Place Centrale and Rue de Médran cluster the widest choice of restaurants and cafés in the village.

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

Verbier is a safe destination with very little petty crime. The main risks are mountain-specific rather than urban.

- Off-piste and freeride terrain, including areas around Mont Gelé and Bec des Rosses, carries real avalanche risk — ski with a guide, carry avalanche safety gear, and check the daily bulletin before leaving marked pistes.
- Altitude reaches over 3,300 meters at Mont Fort; take it easy on your first day at height if you feel short of breath or lightheaded.
- Mountain weather changes quickly. Check forecasts before a hike or high-altitude outing and carry warm, waterproof layers even in summer.

History

Verbier was a quiet farming hamlet for centuries before tourism arrived. The valley's defining historic event came much earlier: in 1818, a glacial lake dammed by the Giétro glacier above Val de Bagnes burst and sent a catastrophic flood down the valley, destroying villages and killing dozens — still remembered locally as one of the region's worst disasters.

Verbier itself changed slowly at first: the first guesthouses opened in 1927, and a road finally linked the village to Le Châble in 1935. The turning point came in 1950, when the first chairlift opened between Médran and Les Ruinettes, launching Verbier's transformation from hamlet to international ski resort within a generation. Today's lift network and the Bec des Rosses freeride reputation both trace back to that single chairlift.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

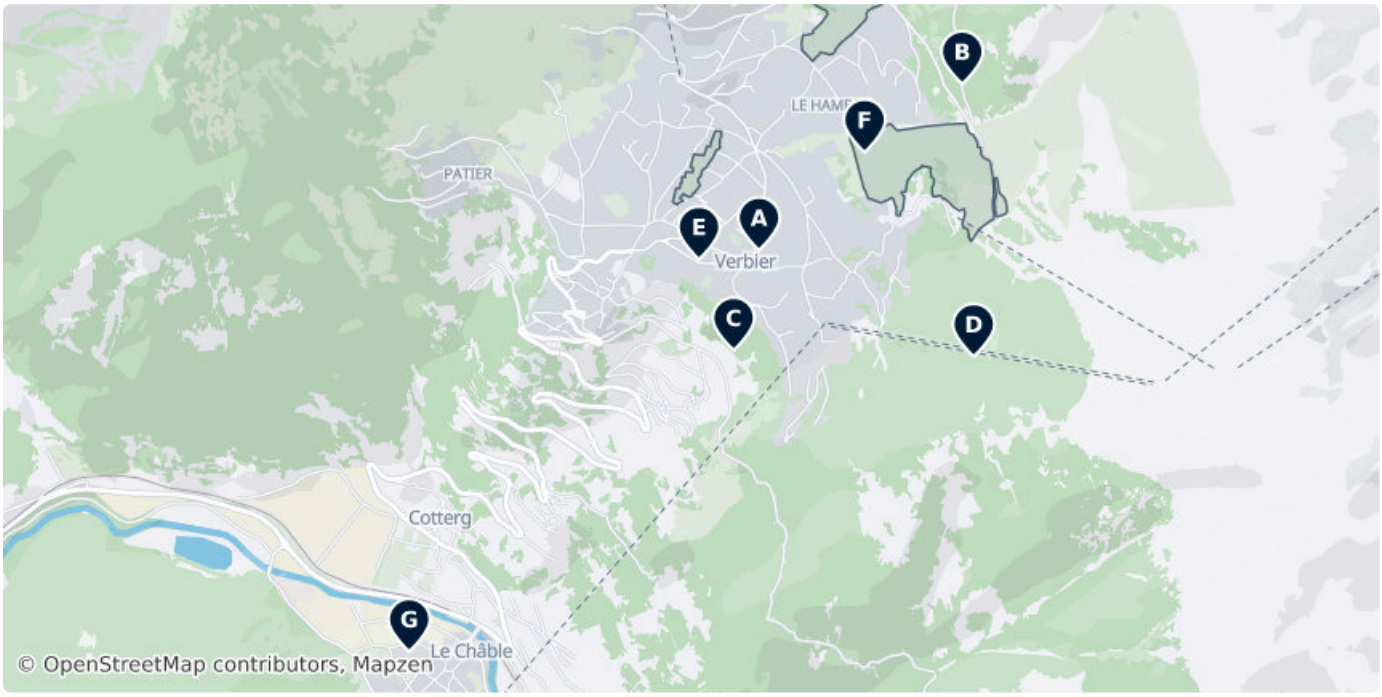
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Verbier Essentials

Verbier serves as the central gateway to the Four Valleys ski area, connecting five resorts including La Tzoumaz and Nendaz. The Médran transport hub provides access to high-altitude peaks like Les Attelas, which features a brasserie at 2,734 meters, and the 3,023-meter Mont Gelé, famous for its steep off-piste terrain. Beyond the slopes, the village hosts the historic Farm Club nightlife venue and an 18-hole golf course situated at 1,600 meters. Local heritage is preserved at Le Musée de Bagnes, which has occupied its historic building since 1984.



A Médran

Cable car station and central transport hub providing access to the Verbier 4 Vallées ski area. The facility includes ticket machines for purchasing ski passes and connections to the surrounding mountain infrastructure.

Route des Creux, 1934 Verbier, Switzerland
(46.09660, 7.22950)

Mo–Su 05:10–23:55

verbier.com/transport/verbier-shuttles

B Les Attelas

Mountain peak and viewpoint in a ski resort featuring a live webcam for monitoring snow and weather conditions. It houses a brasserie situated at an elevation of 2734 meters.

Route des Planards, 1934 Verbier, Switzerland
(46.10340, 7.24150)

verbier4vallees.ch/en/useful-information/webcams



C Mont Gelé

Alpine peak reaching an elevation of 3,023 meters known for its steep off-piste terrain and summer hiking trails. Access to the summit is provided by an aerial cable car.

Route du Soleil, 1934 Verbier, Switzerland (46.09250, 7.22800)

verbier4vallees.ch/en

D Four Valleys Ski Area

The world-known ski area stretches across five resorts (Verbier, La Tzoumaz, Nendaz, Veysonnaz and Thyon) and boasts wonderful conditions.

1936, Switzerland (46.09225, 7.24218)

4vallees.ch

E Farm Club

One of the top nightlife spots in Verbier. With its history stretching 40 years back, it's the place to spend the night out.

Route de Verbier Station 55, 1936 Verbier, Switzerland (46.09622, 7.22596)

hotelnevai.com/farm-club, +41 27 775 40 00

F Verbier Golf Club

A stunning Alpine golf course at an altitude of 1600 m. It provides not only 18 challenging holes, but also amazing views of the Alps.

1936 Verbier, CH (46.10061, 7.23573)

verbiergolfclub.ch, +41 277715314

G Le Musée de Bagnes

This art museum established in 1984 is worth the visit not only for its collection, but also for its building.

Chemin de l'Eglise 13, 1934 Le Châble VS (46.08017, 7.20884)

museedebagnes.ch, +41 27 776 15 25

DATA SOURCES

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