

# SNOWSPORTS COACH PAL-ARINSAL RESORT GUIDE

A LITTLE SKI GUIDE  
FOR OUR WINTER  
RESORT - HERE IN  
ANDORRA.....



# WELCOME

Thanks for thinking of joining us in Arinsal in Andorra. We put this little pack together so you have a better idea of what the resort has to offer.

The Pal Arinsal area, collectively now known as the “Nord” region consists of 3 resorts. These are Pal and Arinsal & Arcalis and are all covered on the same pass.

Arinsal and Pal are, for 2024, now skiable thanks to a multi million pound investment which removed the cable car link and created a skiable linked area. Arcalis is a free 30 minute bus ride away.

This investment came from Grandvalira Resorts due to a buy out of the Pal-Arinsal area in the summer of 2021.

The main town where everyone stays and where the parties happen is in Arinsal. The area has been a firm favourite with Brit skiers since the mid nineties. The low tax and duty free status of Andorra has always made it an affordable destination where you can still have a pint after a day's skiing without breaking the bank.

Andorra itself is sandwiched in between France and Spain making it a really easy to get to. The official language in the town is Catalan, a mix of Spanish and French, and both of these are also spoken. But English is widely used in town.

## EU 90 DAY RULE:

Whats also amazing is that the 90 day rule for UK travellers does not relate to Andorra so any time spent in Andorra does NOT come from your 90 day European allowance. To affect this you need to stop at the border and ask for you passport to be stamped.

## AIRPORTS:

Barcelona and Toulouse are the best airports to fly to. Both of which are serviced by all the major budget airlines. We always recommend Barcelona though. Its an easier transfer and the road to Andorra is better and less prone to being closed due to avalanches. Transfer time is about 3 hours.

## MORE ABOUT ARINSAL:

The village of Arinsal sits at some 1550 metres above sea level and has a main gondola in the town that takes you from the centre of the village to the main hub of the mountain. We also have a high speed 6 man from the top of the village that takes you to the same spot. Once up, the highest serviced lift will take you up to nearly 2600m.

There is also a new high speed chair that takes you from mid way to Pic Negre allowing you to now ski into Pal

The lift pass on ALL our weekly courses cover Pal/Arinsal/ Arcalis and 1 day in Grandvalira.

# THE AREA

## THE PISTES:

The Pal-Arinsal area tends to get the better weather compared to other resorts in Andorra. So whether you're learning or cruising you can't beat a good blast around on well groomed pistes on a nice day. The area has a nice split of beginner and intermediate pistes, boasting 15 blue runs but 16 red runs and still keeping the advance skiers busy with 4 steep black runs. There is something here for any level of skier. It also has over 1000m of vertical and one Arinsal has one of the steepest black runs in the whole of Andorra.....The Capa!

## THE POW:

Andorra is always underrated for off piste. Our region is the same. You have some cracking tree runs of the Pal side and in Arinsal you have the back of the “Capa” the peak that sits above Arinsal. Some of these are easy finds as you just pop off the cat tracks or piste, others like the Capa require a lot of local knowledge and a good avalanche awareness and the ability to use Avi kit.

Also on offer is Heli skiing. Not being in France it's fully legal and not off the scale in terms of price.

A day out in Arcalis will also be very much worth it. The freeride world tour has a stop here so that should tell you its a great place for riding. But reports of the free bus are terrible and limited service was offered during the season 2023.

## THE PARKS:

Being a freestyle friendly area from the early 90's the parks are always well maintained. Now ski freestyle has got bigger you'll see just as many skiers as snowboarders in the park. Usually built at the start of the season regardless of snow conditions, you can expect a cracking selection of rails and kickers from beginner to pro. These normally take the form of a friendly beginner line of ski on boxes and rails with a nice set of smaller kickers and rollers.

Stepping it up for intermediate/advanced freestylers, the bigger kickers have a real nice double transition so you can choose how big you want to go.

All the features are meticulously shaped by the GV Snow Park crew. There is zero attitude or yo-ness and all the locals are super friendly and polite.

## THE PARTIES:

The benefits of tax and duty free means a bottle of Gin only costs a few ££'s. It's no wonder then that the main village of Arinsal is rather lively during the winter. With our wristbands we get pints ALL THE TIME for 2 Euro in Cisco's.

There are plenty of other bars such as Fugazetta, Molis, 360, Cisco's, El Cabin, The Derby that will give you locals prices straight away if you are with us for a week. All of the bars stay open until the early hours of the morning.

# THIS IS OUR AREA!



# MORE INFORMATION

## COST OF LIVING:

Again duty free and low tax makes Arinsal great value for money. Food in town is awesome and reasonably priced and includes everything you could want from Argentinean steaks to Thai Green curry. Up the mountain and if you are on one of our courses you are looking at around £8 for a plate of the day and a drink and coffee.

In town then any range of budget is catered for from under £8 for steak meal with a beer to over £30 for speciality cuisine in a more refined setting.

Drinks are way cheaper than other resorts and there are no real measures. Bottles of spirits start from £2 in the shops so this is reflected in the bar prices. Spirit mixers are around £5 and are not your usual UK measure so please be careful. An Andorran measure can easily be equivalent of a quadruple.

Standard beers range from £2-3 with Guinness or other UK larger's a little more as they are "imported". But with San Miguel and Estrella on tap why go for a UK larger.

If you smoke then you'll love Andorra. Tobacco is literally 1/3 of the price than the UK.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY:

Don't just take our word on this, below is some of feedback we have from other people who have come with us on our courses and holidays.

"Thanks for a brilliant week away, will recommend you guys to everyone, see you next year for some Heli-skiing"

**Craig Phillips – Big Brother winner and TV presenter**

"Again for the 6th year running, thanks to you guys for excellent coaching and an awesome time in Arinsal. Same again for next year...just book my place now"

**Derek Simmons**

"Thanks for an awesome week guys, my riding is better but think my liver may take a few weeks to recover. Definitely see you next year"

**Orin Goodridge**

"I had a wonderful holiday. Thanks a lot for all you did to make my stay so enjoyable"

**Patrick Byrne**

## HOLIDAY IN ANDORRA:

If you got this far and are up for a great value holiday to further improve your skiing skills, to train to be an instructor or just to have a week away, then you are more than welcome.

With prices starting from £675 for a week away with us you won't find cheaper with what we offer. That's including 7 nights in a B&B hotel, return airport transfers, 6 day lift pass. A Half Board Option is available from £750

On top of this you also get a special wrist band giving you local prices in our favourite bars and restaurants in the village and up the mountain, making your week even better value for money.

And with the Snowsports Coach crew on hand prior to your holiday to ask any questions and during your holiday...you'll get a more personal service than from a tour operator.

For more information on ALL our courses and not just holiday, please click on the link below which will take you to our Snowsports Coach website.

**VISIT THE SNOWSPORTS COACH WEBSITE**



# A BIT MORE ABOUT US

Snowsports Coach is a sister company of Snowboard Coach. It was started to offer the same high end training and holidays to our ever growing ski clients who are looking for a cost effective program for getting better at Skiing.

We hold the highest accreditation from the ISIA which is the worldwide governing body for snowsport instructors which is only given to the highest level snowsports coach's. We also have extensive experience in training every level of skier from beginner to instructors.

## A MESSAGE FROM ASH OWNER OF SNOWSPORTS COACH

I hope you find the resort guide useful. We initially wrote this for Whitelines, Ski and Board mag and the World Snowboard Guide. We decided it would be quiet useful for everyone that didn't see it and have updated it for the coming 2024 season.

Thanks for enquiring about our resort, I live in Arinsal all year around and really love the place. So if you fancy joining us for a good time in the mountains then get in touch and come and join us for a holiday or a course next winter.

## WE ARE AN APPROVED BASI PARTNER

We were one of the first company's to be accredited as a FULLY APPROVED BASI PARTNER.

This is a new accreditation that BASI are only issuing to approved companies with a proven track record of delivering a quality BASI product.

This means that we have been through a rigourous quality control process assesing everything from our training and delivery methods to our course structure and organisation. We have surpassed all these stringent controls with flying colours. We have worked hard to achieve this and are proud to carry this accreditation.

When looking for an instructor course package this is the accreditation you need to look out for to ensure you are getting the training you expect.



Snowboard Coach has earned the highest levels attainable from the following Worldwide Snowboarding Governing bodies:



And is sponsored by:





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