

GATEWAY TO THE FRENCH ALPS

When it comes to giving access to some of France's best skiing, Grenoble Alpes Isère Airport is the perfect pick



Paragliding over
Alpe d'Huez. Right:
viewing platform at
Les Deux Alpes



Whether you are a timid skier or a gung-ho expert, there's something for everyone in France's mountainous landscape, and getting there couldn't be any easier from London, with direct British Airways flights to Grenoble, departing from Gatwick from Thursday to Sunday (and returning Sunday to Thursday).

Touching down at Grenoble Airport, at the foot of the French Alps, will put you in reach of this region's exhilarating slopes within just a few hours. Not only do the flights make this ideal for a short break in an idyllic snow-capped landscape, but the journey is also hassle-free, with regular shuttle buses operating between the airport and the area's major ski resorts.

One of Europe's finest winter sports destinations, Isère county is renowned for its vast choice of activities, from high-altitude skiing and extensive cross-country trails to snow-shoeing and snowboarding. Fly into this hub mid-morning and by the afternoon, you could be skiing at Les 2 Alpes or Alpe d'Huez – two of France's finest winter resorts.

Stretching across four massifs, Isère county is home to some 21 ski resorts. Among the most loved is Les 2 Alpes, known for its long ski season, snow guarantee and variety of runs. This high-altitude terrain is perfect for adrenalin-junkies who can enjoy runs with a hair-raising vertical drop of up to 2,300m. Yet the area is also well-suited to novices and families, with beginner slopes and ice skating to enjoy in a fairy-tale setting. What's more, a recent modernisation programme has made the pristine mountains accessible to everyone.

Alpe d'Huez is another gem in the region, averaging a delightful 300 days of sunshine a year. With 250km of runs and 70 high-speed lifts, this resort climbs from 1,860m to the Pic Blanc summit at 3,330m. While serious skiers can enjoy runs with vertical drops of 1,000m to 2,000m, there's also a wealth of activities that families will love, including access to picturesque Alpine villages, ice skating and fun après ski. It's the ultimate adventure just waiting to happen. grenoble-airport.com; les2alpes.com; alpedhuez.com