



Winter 2024 / 2025

Saas-Fee/Saastal Magazine

4545

Saas-Fee
Saastal



Don't drive; relax!

Get in, sit back and relax: the BLS car transport service takes you quickly and conveniently from the beautiful Saas-Fee/Saastal back home.



bls.ch/autoverlad

SAAS-FEE/SAASTAL - THE HIGH ALPINE HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Dear readers, now is the perfect time for high alpine winter adventures!

The Saas-Fee/Saastal holiday region invites you to experience unforgettable adventures and savour the most precious days of the year to the fullest. Your winter holidays are too valuable not to fill them with unforgettable moments.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Saas Valley!

Matthias, Mattia and the entire Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourism Team



Matthias Supersaxo, Tourism Director
Mattia Storni, Head of Marketing and Communication



MOBILITY IN THE SAAS VALLEY

Don't feel like driving? No problem! We've got e-buses all over the Saas Valley and local buses in Saas-Fee, so you can enjoy your well-deserved vacation in comfort and in an environmentally friendly way. It's easy to switch between ski resorts and villages on the go. The SaastalCard gives you free access to all our public transportation!



Information
saas-fee.ch/ortsbus

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ALWAYS STAY UP-TO-DATE!

Would you like a taste of our alpine experiences while keeping up to date with the latest news? You can check us out daily on Instagram and Facebook and discover what's going on. Visit our YouTube channel and discover all the exciting stories. Our TikTok channel has some cool videos and hot trends from the area.



YouTube



@saasfee
#saasfee



@saasfee_saastal



@saasfee

IMPRESSUM

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150 kilometres of slopes for every level, with many sunny days. The pleasure begins right on the doorstep and reaches up to 3,600 m a.s.l.. Natural snow is not a luxury here but guaranteed throughout the season. The high alpine location also offers a unique panorama and descents of 1,800 metres in altitude.



WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE DESTINATION SAAS-FEE/SAASTAL!

With us, you can have fun, learn, be inspired, make new memories and just live in the moment. To help you plan the perfect adventure, we've compiled a personal Top 10 List of ideas for your visit. The time has come: Escape the daily grind and have an adventure!

1: Hit the Slopes

Enjoy the freedom of 150 km of perfectly groomed slopes in the Saas Valley. It doesn't matter if you're new to skiing or an expert, you'll find the perfect conditions for your personal skiing pleasure here. Take in the stunning mountain views and feel the adrenaline rush with every descent!



2: Glacier Experience Tour

Take a fascinating snowshoe tour across the Fee Glacier. Experience the majestic ice world up close and be amazed by the incredible landscape. If you've got the right gear and a good guide with you, this trip will be an amazing experience that you'll never forget.

3: Sunset@Lagginjoch

After a day on the ski slopes, it's time to climb the Lagginjoch. A mountain guide leads you over 500 metres in altitude over the Hohlaub Glacier to the Lagginjoch, which is located at 3'500 m a.s.l.. At the top, an absolutely breathtaking view of the four-thousand-metre peaks and the Laggin valley awaits you. You'll be back at Hohnsaas in the evening twilight, just in time to catch the cable car before nightfall. And to finish off, there's a delicious cheese fondue waiting for you!



4: Winter Foxtrail

Take part in a thrilling scavenger hunt through the picturesque, snow-covered winter landscapes of Saas-Grund and Saas-Fee. Uncover hidden clues, solve tricky puzzles and experience the excitement of tracking down the mysterious fox. An adventure for the whole family!

5: Experience culture

Saas Museum & Cultural Centre Sonnenhalde

Discover the fascinating history of our beautiful region and experience the incredible heritage of the Saas Valley in a whole new way. The Saas Museum is a great place to learn about how people used to live in the area. You can also follow in the footsteps of pioneer pastor Johann Imseng and the King of the Mountain Guides, Alexander Burgener, at the Cultural Centre Sonnenhalde.

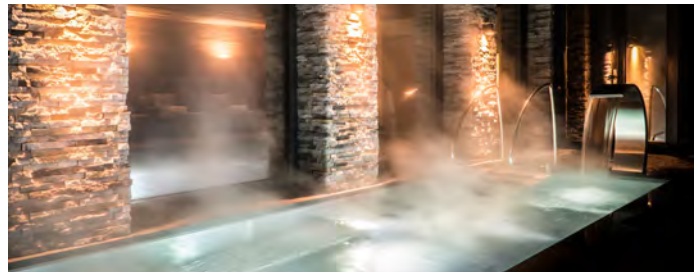


6: Sunrise Skiing

Get up early - It's worth it! Watch in awe as the first rays of sunshine illuminate the mountain peaks. Enjoy a hearty breakfast in the highest revolving restaurant in the world, located at 3,500 m a.s.l. in the breathtaking Alpine landscape, followed by an exclusive skiing experience!

7: Rest and relaxation in winter

Treat yourself to some well-deserved relaxation in our warm spa while you watch the gentle snowflakes fall outside. Unwind in the sauna, indulge in a massage or enjoy a refreshing swim. The combination of winter cold and cosy warmth is the perfect recipe for relaxation.



8: Experience night sledging

Sledging at night – an unforgettable experience! Glide through the winter silence under a starry sky and enjoy a fast descent under a beautiful, moonlit sky.

9: Fondue Gondola

Treat yourself to a truly unique cheese fondue experience. Soar above the snow-covered slopes and take in the breathtaking view of the magnificent mountain world while you enjoy an unforgettable meal! A culinary journey through the night!



10: Come back!

There's so much to see and do in Saas-Fee/Saastal that one visit is never enough. Come back and experience something new every time! Make more amazing memories and let yourself be blown away by the incredible scenery and the many adventures!

FREDERIK KALBERMATTEN

Frederik "Fredi" Kalbermatten has had a fascinating career journey, going from a professional snowboarder to a passionate photographer. After a successful career in snowboarding, he is now focusing on photography, capturing the fascinating mountain world in which he grew up in a new way. In the interview, he discusses his transition from sport to art and how the mountains remain a source of inspiration.

Text: Laila Zurbriggen

Please introduce yourself briefly.

My name is Frederik Kalbermatten. I grew up in Saas-Fee and I still live here. I come from a family of mountain guides. My father and grandfather were guides, so I started climbing the Allalin when I was seven. When I was younger, I spent a lot of time outside, playing football and hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter. Snowboarding wasn't around back then, so I started with alpine skiing. I'll never forget that I was up on Plattjen, skiing in the powdery snow as soon as training was over. That was a real highlight for me even back then!

Have you always loved the outdoors?

Yes, that's right. I love nature and the outdoors, so I still live here with my family. I had the great fortune of growing up in Saas-Fee and am grateful to be able to give my kids the same opportunity to grow up here. That's amazing, of course!

You mentioned snowboarding wasn't really a thing in Switzerland when you were a kid. How did you come to do that?

Snowboarding arrived in Switzerland around the beginning of the 90s, and my sister was the first in our family to get a snowboard. She let me borrow it from time to time, and I started teaching myself how to snowboard. I was drawn to the powder very quickly. Unfortunately, I broke her board because I rode over some stones (laughs). So I apologized to her for doing that. Nevertheless, I was extremely hooked by this feeling. All I wanted to do was snowboard and learn all the tricks that were out there at the time. The following summer, I had a holiday job looking after the little lift next to the halfpipe on the glacier. I sometimes had time to practise on the halfpipe that was open on the glacier back then. I was able to make good progress in a relatively short period of time.



Jan Scherrer, Stompinggrounds
by Frederik Kalbermatten

And how did you become a professional?

I started in the sports business school back then because we had two months off in the winter and generally got a lot of time off to train. I started off in regional cups, then moved on to cantonal cups, and so on, until I finally made it to the World Cup. Back then I was sponsored by Burton, which gave me the chance to be involved in some major American film projects. This enabled me to pursue snowboarding as a full-time profession.

Andrew Pollard, Felsental Saas-Fee
by Frederik Kalbermatten

How did you get into photography?

I always had a compact camera with me when I was travelling, which was great for capturing those special moments when I was snowboarding. I then had this amazing realisation that I really enjoy it, and so it also sparked my interest in landscape photography! I also had the chance to see that there are lots of beautiful places in the world while I was travelling, but I still think the Saas Valley has one of the most beautiful landscapes.

So you were also interested in photography from an early age. When did you decide to pursue a career in photography?

It was actually a pretty smooth move from snowboarder to photographer. I still love snowboarding, but I'm getting older, and I've realised I don't want to do the same wild things I used to. I've always been interested in photography, so five years ago, I decided to make a bit more of an effort and get a plan together. For instance, I'm a staff photographer and team rider for the snowboard brand United Shapes, which lets me combine my two passions and stay fit by snowboarding. I think that's another reason why I'm so good at this job. I can go on challenging back-country trips with a splitboard, climb any peak with an athlete, and get into positions that other photographers probably wouldn't be able to reach.

Are there any particular themes or niches in photography that fascinate you?

As I've said before, landscape photography remains one of my favourite genres, especially photographing glaciers. And, of course, action shots, especially on powder snow slopes. I also sell prints of my pictures. In 2018, I decorated my first chalet with my framed photos. Since then, I've been lucky enough to work with a few local architects and builders to decorate chalets and second homes with my work. I really like seeing a great photo enlarged and used as a focal point in interior design. It's great to work with customers on their favourite themes too. I then gradually built up my business around these categories: real estate, architectural photography for



You've already worked with some big names like Red Bull, Faction and Switzerland Tourism. What are some of the most exciting projects you've had the chance to work on so far?

One of last year's highlights was working with Red Bull, where we were helicoptered up to the Nadelhorn in the Saas mountains. I was absolutely thrilled to be able to ride down the Nadelhorn and capture some incredible moments of some of the world's best athletes in action. The conditions were perfect and it was just awesome!

Do you have a favourite photo that you've taken? And what makes it so unique?

That's hard to answer. I can't say that this picture is my absolute favourite because I do so many different things. As I mentioned, I'm passionate about action photography, but I also have a soft spot for landscape photography, which comes in so many different forms. I couldn't say this person is the best snowboarder, either, for example (laughs). There are so many different stories and nuances behind each picture that I can't and won't just choose one. One minute, I like this one the most; the next, I might like another more.

You mentioned your project about the stars above Saas-Fee to me earlier. Is this a project where you wanted to try something new?

Exactly, it's a good example to show different ways of photographing landscapes. I wanted to do something new. That's when I had the idea for a project about the starry sky above the Saas Valley. This will be a series of pictures and take over than a year to complete. If you want the Milky Way to be in

a particular place, you'll just have to wait (laughs). You can't force Mother Nature to do anything. It is also extremely dependent on the weather and, of course, needs to be done at night. But it's precisely because it involves so much planning and working that I enjoy it so much. I also get a lot back from it. One evening, for example, I went to Kreuzboden with my older son and spent the night there to take some good pictures. It's great to have experiences like that and the chance to work on personal projects too!

That is very nice indeed! Where can people go to buy these pictures and find out more about you and what you're doing in general?

My pictures are on display in the Hannig mountain restaurant and the Zurbriggen sports shop in Saas-Grund. You can also view available prints on my website, www.fredi-k.com, and I regularly post my work on my Instagram channel, [@frederik_kalbermatten](https://www.instagram.com/frederik_kalbermatten).

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today!

Thanks



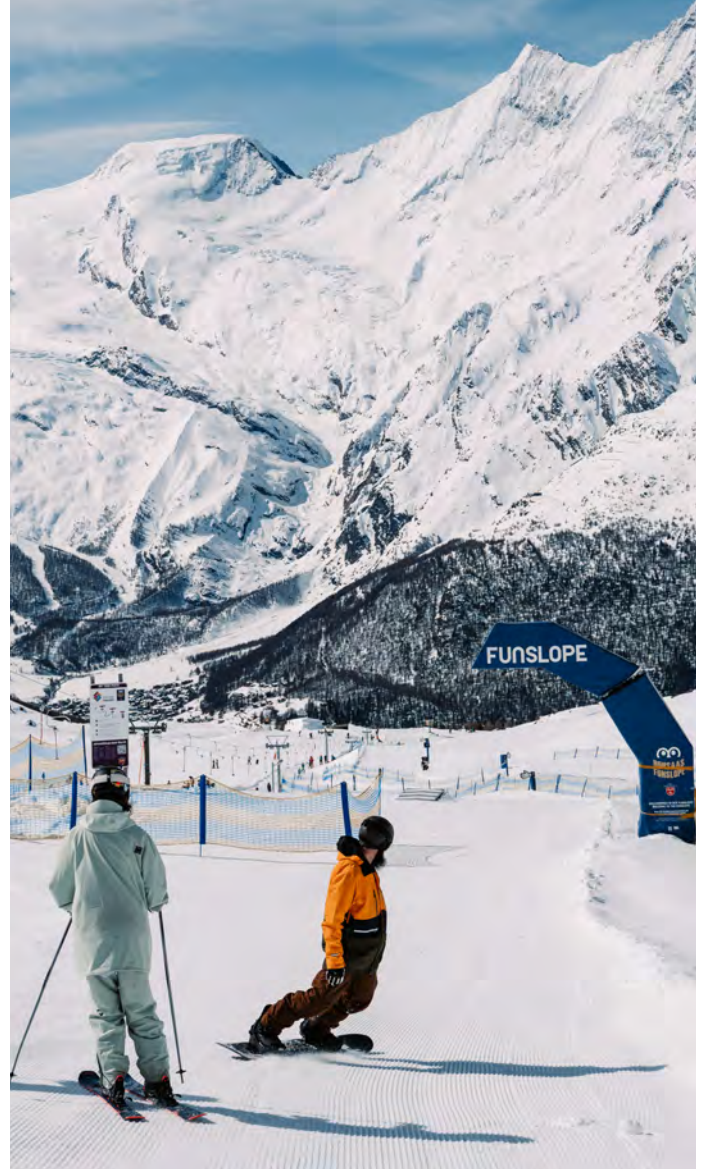
Milkyway over Rimpfischhorn
by Frederik Kalbermatten

KIAN'S ADVENTURE LAND

The Furggstalden ski area above Saas-Almagell is home to Kian the Dragon's Adventure Land. This family-friendly ski resort, set in a stunning mountain location, provides the perfect place for adults to unwind. For the little snow fans, on the other hand, fun and adventure are guaranteed in Kian's Adventure Land. Children can look forward to a tepee, an igloo with children's films, a free snow tubing track for the whole family and children's skidoos. For the very young, there is a carousel with a playground. This is the perfect place for families to spend some quality time together during the winter months!



Information
saas-fee.ch/kian



FUNSLOPE SAAS-GRUND: FUN IN THE SNOW FOR EVERYONE

As the name suggests, the Funslope in the Kreuzboden/Hohsaas ski area above Saas-Grund is all about having fun. It doesn't matter if you're new or a seasoned pro, Funslope has something for everyone with its wide range of elements. The start is at the top station of the Sandiger Boden ski lift, and the slope runs parallel to the lift on the north side down to Kreuzboden. It starts with a speed boost that brings the driving speed up to Funslope temperature. From here, the route continues over sweeping waves and dynamic steep curves and through a spiral and a tunnel, ending with a final jump. Let's go!



Information
saas-fee.ch/funslope



CHILDREN GORGE ALPINE

This wintery via ferrata is perfect for little and big ice dwarfs, a gentle adventure in the deep snow-covered gorge between Saas-Fee and Saas-Grund. Under the open sky, the winter via ferrata leads over a suspension bridge past snow-covered forests and ice formations and ends with an exciting abseil. Under the expert guidance of a mountain guide, a unique winter experience awaits the little guests. So, who's up for an adventure?



Information and bookings
saas-fee.ch/kindergorge



INTERACTIVE SLEDGING RUN HANNIG **NEW!**

This winter, Hannig Mountain is offering a unique experience for those who love to go sledging. The evil eagle Aragon has stolen the magical crystals that protect the Larch Forest. Collect the hidden crystals with Eddie, the brave marmot, while avoiding Aragon. The interactive toboggan run offers a lot of fun with lots of surprises, including an exciting speed test.

Our tip: Complete the mission during the weekly night sledging session. Reflectors will light the way to the crystals.



Information
saas-fee.ch/schlitteln



Fluchthorn
3790 m

Pizzo d'Andolla
3654 m

Stellhorn
3436 m

Joderhorn
3035 m

Monte Moro Pass
2868 m

Almagellerhorn
3327 m

Mattmark
2497 m

Weissmies
4017 m

Heidboden
2400 m

Hohsaas
3200 m

Furggstalden
1893 m

Plattjen
2570 m

Saas-Almagell

Kreuzboden
2400 m

Jegihorn
3206 m





Strahlhorn
4190m

Allalinhorn
4027m

Féechopf
3887m

Alphubel
4206m

Tüschhorn
4481m

Dom
4545m

Mittellallalin
3500m

Felskinn
3000m

Morenia
2590m

Längfluh
2870m

Spielboden
2448m

Hannig
2336m

Saas-Fee

Saas-Grund

Saas-Balen

FONDUE GONDOLA

Dinner with a view: Treat yourself to a lovely fondue experience on a gorgeous winter's evening, nestled cosily in a gondola, surrounded by snow flurries and white winter landscapes! The journey takes about an hour. Wine, tea and snacks will be provided. Whether if you're in the family gondola with two adults and up to four kids, or in the candlelight gondola with your special someone, this is the perfect way to enjoy fondue together.



Information and bookings
saas-fee.ch/fonduegondel



SUNRISE SKIING WITH BREAKFAST

The early bird catches the worm! Or, in this case, you can be the first to enjoy the freshly prepared slopes. As you climb aboard the gondola and it takes you higher and higher, up to 3,500 m a.s.l., you'll be treated to a truly magical experience as the first rays of sunshine of the day slowly make their way over the mountain tops, creating a truly breathtaking scene. Watch the sun rise over four-thousand-metre peaks, eat a hearty breakfast in the world's highest revolving restaurant, and then hit the slopes!



Information and bookings
saas-fee.ch/sunriseskiing



FULL-MOON SKI TOUR MATTMARK

Experience the magic of ski touring under a full moon to Mattmark reservoir in winter. The tour along the snow-covered roads is a great way to experience the silence of the winter landscape and get to the Mattmark reservoir. Glinting off the snow-capped mountains and frozen water, the moonlight casts an enchanting glow over the scene. This guided tour offers stunning views and fascinating insights into Alpine nature after dark!



Information and bookings
skischule-saas-almagell.ch/skitouren

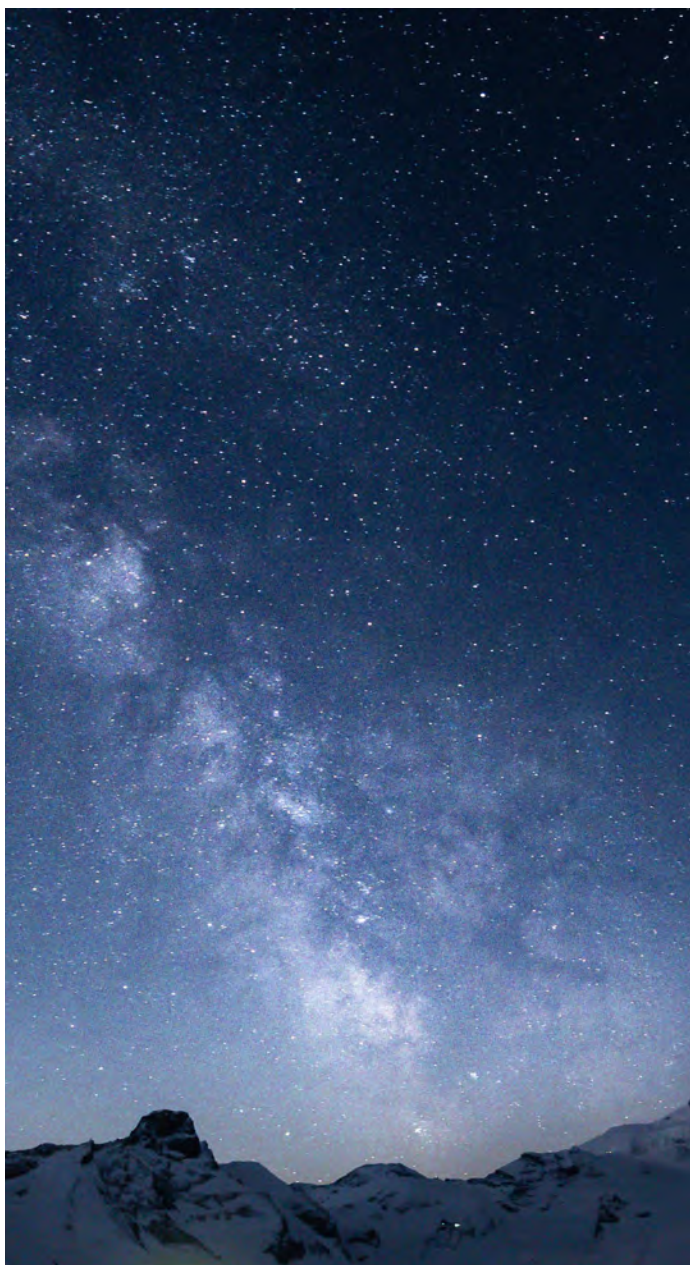


FOXTRAIL IN WINTER

Get to know the Saas Valley in a whole new way by exploring its snow-covered landscapes, solving tricky puzzles together and discovering hidden gems along the way. The winter version of our Foxtrail is perfect for families and groups of up to 18 people. The two-hour tour is guaranteed to be fun.



Information and bookings
saas-fee.ch/winterfoxtrail



COME ENJOY WITH US

Restaurant Schweizerhof Young, dynamic, authentic.

The culinary ambition and passion of the motivated kitchen team cater to every need.

Our cuisine is known for creative and delicious dishes. We use fresh and exclusive products from Switzerland and all over the world that are prepared with love and respect. Enjoy a drop of fine local wine from our cellar. Our ever-changing 4-course evening menu is sure to delight, or you can choose from our à la carte options. We look forward to providing you with an excellent meal and dining experience.



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3906 Saas-Fee
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info@schweizerhof-saasfee.ch
schweizerhof-saasfee.ch



Röstihüs Monte-Moro

Welcome to the Röstihüs Monte-Moro Gondola Restaurant in Saas-Almagell.

We invite you to enjoy the largest home-made Cordon Bleu, 13 different Rösti or fondue in the gondola. The fondue is made exclusively for our restaurant by a Fri-bourg cheese dairy. Live music every Sunday evening with Mike and Fabian (open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.).

Our hit: Meat fondue 180 grams of beef, 6 sauces, chips, fruit
CHF 42 per person.



Furusandstrasse
3905 Saas-Almagell
+41 27 957 10 12
info@monte-moro.ch
monte-moro.ch



Restaurant Schäferstube

On the edge of the forest in Saas-Fee, accessible to skiers during the day (Stafelwald slope), the Schäferstube, with its unique sun terrace is well worth a visit. The charming, rustic shepherd's house will tempt you to stay a while. Our offer is the result of honest handiwork, creativity, precision and a love for local quality products (14 Gault Millau points).

We invite you to enjoy the view, discover Daniel's creations and simply enjoy yourself.



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schaeferstube.ch





Discover the restaurants and
après-ski bars.



WINTER HIKING TRAIL BRITANNIA HUT: AN ADVENTURE IN THE WORLD OF GLACIERS

This winter walk offers an unforgettable experience in the midst of a magnificent glacier world. The short but challenging trail leads from the Felskinn mountain station to the Britannia Hut. The groomed trail runs over the Chessjen glacier to the Egginerjoch. The path branches to the right and heads south towards the Britannia Hut. From the Britannia Hut, 3,030 m a.s.l., you can enjoy an absolutely breathtaking view of the magnificent Allalin Glacier and the stunning Mattmark region with its natural dam. The Britannia Hut, built in 1912 and modernised in 1997, is one of the most visited SAC mountain huts in the Alps and a great place to start the famous Haute Route. This trail is also ideal for snowshoe hikes.

The hike is open from the end of february until the end of april.



Difficulty	medium
Route	3 km
Duration	1:15 h
Ascent	201 hm
Descent	160 hm
Highest point	3'030 hm
Lowest point	2'862 hm



SUN TRAIL HANNIG IN WINTER

The new Hannig gondola lift is now open for business, offering even more comfort for winter hikers and tobogganers. The leisurely winter hiking trail starts at Hannig mountain Station and leads southwards on a prepared winter hiking trail. In addition to spectacular views of the Saas mountain panorama, there are various stations along the way with interesting facts about the sun. The sun trail initially zigzags downhill through open terrain until it reaches the forest's edge. The trail continues through the larch forest towards Café Alpenblick, where the themed trail ends. The descent to Saas-Fee takes place behind the Alpenblick in a winding descent to the glacier village.



Difficulty	easy
Route	4 km
Duration	1:30 h
Ascent	14 hm
Descent	526 hm
Highest point	2'336 hm
Lowest point	1'790 hm



HEIMISCHGARTE TRAIL: DISCOVERY TOUR THROUGH THE SAAS VALLEY

The Heimischgarte Trail leads through the alpine hamlets and the breathtaking landscape above Saas-Balen and ends in Saas-Grund. This trail offers a more laid-back experience of the Saas Valley, passing old, rustic buildings and through the "Löubinubodme" natural forest reserve. There are many great spots to enjoy the fantastic views of the Saas Valley, its mountains and villages. The trail begins in the smallest village in the Saas Valley, Saas-Balen. First, the trail follows the forest road up the valley past the Fellbach waterfall and then leads through the snow-covered larch forest via Matt and Ze Gartu to Heimischgarte. The Heimischgarte chapel is a great place to take a break and enjoy the views of the villages at the bottom of the valley, the Mattmark dam and the white peaks of the Saas Valley. The trail crosses several alps from here, such as Obru Brend, Unnru Brend, Tewaldji and Bodme. The destination is Saas-Grund.

This trail offers the perfect combination of tranquillity, nature and stunning views, making it ideal for snowshoeing.



Difficulty	medium
Route	9 km
Duration	4:00 h
Ascent	602 hm
Descent	520 hm
Highest point	2'090 hm
Lowest point	1'487 hm



EIU TRAIL: A WINTER ADVENTURE HEADING TO THE MATTMARK REGION

Take a snowshoe tour from Saas-Almagell and experience the tranquil beauty of the Alpine winter landscape. The trail leads snowshoers south, away from the village of Saas-Almagell and into the stunning mountain scenery below the Mattmark dam.

The starting point is at the car park of the mountain railways in Saas-Almagell. The route then heads to the chapel in Zer Meiggeru before taking the cross-country ski trail towards Mattmark. Just before you get to the young larches and the signpost, the trail turns left and slowly leads up the slope to the old path. A beautiful, snow-covered forest landscape awaits hikers, ready to be explored. You'll find a short descent back to the cross-country trail once you get to the huts at the Eiu alp. This lovely area is just the place to unwind. Please always be aware of possible avalanches. After a break, the route continues alongside the cross-country ski trail out of the valley back to Zer Meiggeru and along the road back to Saas-Almagell. Alternatively, you can follow the cross-country ski trail from Zer Meiggeru to the Webstube.

This trail is perfect for anyone looking to enjoy some peace and nature with a little adventure. It's ideal for snowshoe hikers who want to explore the winter wonderland of Saas-Almagell.



Difficulty	medium
Route	9.6 km
Duration	3:00 h
Ascent	415 hm
Descent	415 hm
Highest point	1'930 hm
Lowest point	1'686 hm



Hohsaas with view of the Mischabel group





OF WOODEN BOARDS AND PIONEERS: THE HISTORY OF WINTER SPORTS IN THE SAAS VALLEY

Skiing is more than just a sport – it's a passion that unites generations, a blend of technology and nature, and a tradition that's deeply embedded in the history of Alpine regions. The Saas Valley, surrounded by its four-thousand-metre peaks, is a place where you can experience the magic of winter sports.

Text: Laila Zurbriggen

How it all began

The history of skiing in the Saas Valley starts with an incredible figure: Pastor Johann Josef Imseng. Imseng was born in Saas-Fee in 1806. He was a spiritual leader and also a pioneer of winter sports. In a time when skiing was still unheard of, Imseng saw the potential of this new form of transport.

During the winter of 1849, when the postal route from Saas-Fee to Saas-Grund was blocked by snow, Imseng came up with the idea of using wooden planks to go and administer the Last Sacrament to a dying man. He was inspired by reports from Scandinavia and set out on skis he'd made himself from wooden planks, becoming presumably Switzerland's first skier. He was the first to introduce skiing to the Saas Valley. His pioneering work wasn't just a rescue operation; it also marked the start of a new era for the region.

The development of a winter sports paradise

The first skiers to arrive in the Saas Valley found a pristine winter landscape perfect for the new sport. The conditions were ideal, with stunning glaciers, snow-covered slopes and clear winter days. Over the years, the Saas Valley has become a popular destination for skiers from all over the world.

In the 1950s, Saas-Fee experienced a real boom. The first ski lifts and cable cars began to open up the higher slopes, making the area even more attractive to ski in. The construction of the world's highest funicular, the Metro Alpin (1984), which opened up the glacier region at an altitude of 3,500 metres, was not only a pioneering achievement at the time but also demonstrated the inventive spirit of the people of Saas-Fee when it came to challenging construction projects: To get the equipment and components up to the Felskinn station at 3,000 m a.s.l., they had to be dismantled and transported up, partly by helicopter and partly by hanging from the Felskinn cable car.

Today, the holiday region of Saas-Fee/Saastal has not only established itself as a winter sports paradise but has also committed to sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism. The focus on renewable energy and environmentally friendly technologies is in line with the protection of the region's unique natural environment. State-of-the-art lifts and snowmaking equipment ensure optimal conditions and minimal environmental impact.





The magic of skiing.

But what is it that makes skiing so fascinating? It's the perfect combination of physical activity, enjoying the great outdoors and that unbeatable feeling of freedom. The smooth glide over the glistening blanket of snow, the exhilarating speed and the flowing, balanced movements create a feeling of lightness and almost weightless flight. Skiing is more than just a sport; it's an art form that challenges the whole body.

The Saas-Fee/Saastal area is famous for its combination of lightness and a dash of adrenaline. With over 150 kilometres of slopes, we offer a great way to have fun in stunning natural surroundings where it's easy to forget your worries as you race down the next descent.

Your winter wonderland awaits; we have three high-Alpine ski resorts and breathtaking glacier worlds! You'll also enjoy a great view of Switzerland's highest mountain entirely within its borders, the 4,545-metre-high Dom.



YOUR SNOW-SURE WINTER PARADISE

Three high alpine ski areas, 150 kilometres of slopes and glacier worlds! Our panorama also includes the highest mountain located entirely within Switzerland, the 4545-metre-high Dom.





Buy your ski pass online:
saas-fee.ch/skipass



For more winter activities:
saas-fee.ch/wintererlebnisse



ADVENTURE TOUR ON THE GLACIER

The excursion tour on the Fee Glacier is a great way to enjoy an unforgettable winter adventure. From the Längfluh mountain station, the route takes you through some pretty incredible powder snow to the "Panoramaplatz". You'll be equipped with snowshoes, ski poles and a climbing harness, and you'll follow the guide past some impressive ice spikes and deep crevasses before the tour wraps up at the Spielboden station. In just 4-5 hours, you'll experience the glacier's wild beauty up close. It's a great way to discover the winter paradise of Saas-Fee in its purest form. For those who want to try another adventure, there is also a glacier tour on the Hohsaas glacier!



Information and booking
saas-fee.ch/gletscher-erlebnistour



WINTER VIA FERRATA

There's something special about climbing in the winter, and the winter via ferrata in Saas-Grund is the perfect place to experience it. The tour starts at the edge of the village and then takes you on a steep climb. The 150-metre altitude difference is easily manageable with some fitness and a head for heights. You'll benefit from an experienced mountain guide with you every step of the way, leading you through this extraordinary challenge. And for the grand finale, there is an amazing rappelling experience of about 40 metres. In just two hours, you'll have an unforgettable adventure that'll show you that via ferratas aren't just for summer.



Information and booking
saas-fee.ch/winterklettersteig



NIGHT SLEDGING

Whether in Saas-Grund, Saas-Fee or Saas-Almagell: Sledging in the Saas-Fee/Saastal holiday region can be the ultimate adrenaline rush. When you're feeling the rush and your heart is racing, you just want to be out there on the slope, day and night. So why not? Borrow a headlamp and experience the thrill of adventure by moonlight. There's nothing like racing down the mountain at full speed in the dark. It's an unforgettable thrill that's perfect for families and adrenaline junkies alike! Note: Night sledging is offered on certain dates.



Information and booking
saas-fee.ch/nachtschlitteln



ICE CLIMBING

Experience a special kind of introduction to ice climbing with the Saas-Fee Guides! You can snowshoe to the amazing ice-blue glacier walls, where you can climb safely. Take in the stunning scenery and enjoy an unforgettable adventure in Saas-Fee's one-of-a-kind winter wonderland. A highlight for everybody seeking something special!



Information and booking
saas-fee.ch/eisklettern



Tip:

You'll definitely want to check out the Ice Climbing World Cup in Saas-Fee. On 24 and 25 January, the world's best ice climbers will be there, battling it out in a series of exciting contests. This is a great chance to see the top ice climbers in action and soak up the excitement of this fantastic event.

ICE CLIMBING WORLD CUP 24. – 25. JANUARY 2025

For those at the top of their game in ice climbing, Saas-Fee is a must-visit destination. The World Cup will take place for the 25th time from January 24 to 25 2025, and the parking garage at the entrance to the village will once again be transformed into the Ice Dome.

This stunning "ice cathedral" is perfect for the speed and lead disciplines, with walls that rise several metres into the air.

This place is where the audience is particularly close to the action: Up to 2,500 people watch the spectacle on the floors of the parking garage. What once began modestly – with ten crates of beer and a few advertising banners – is now one of Valais's most significant sporting events. The rapid development of the sport is also remarkable: The best times on the 20-metre-high wall in the speed discipline have halved to under 6.5 seconds within less than ten years.

The after-party in the basement of the car park, where, where the winners celebrate together with the audience, rounds off the event. Here, spectators and top athletes alike bring the evening to a perfect close!



Information
saas-fee.ch/iceclimbing

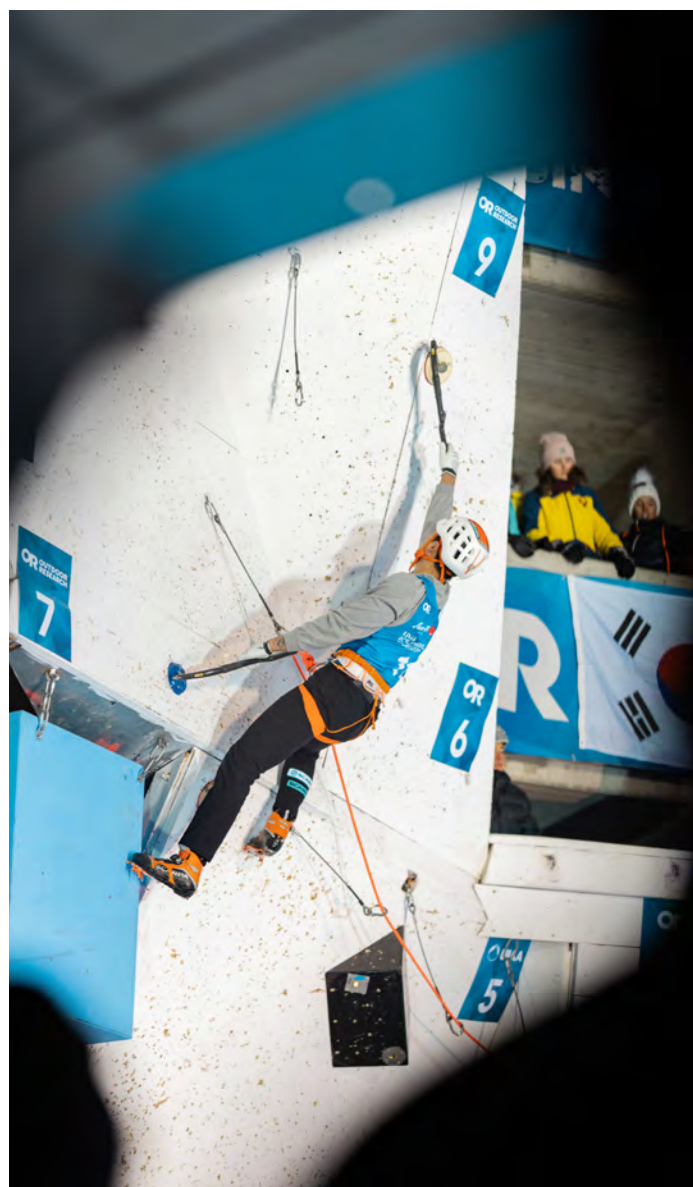


12 HOURS RACE AND MENTELITY GAMES 21 - 22 MARCH AND 23 - 29 MARCH 2025

The goal of the Mentelity Games in the Kreuzboden/Hohsaas ski area is to make winter sports possible for people with physical disabilities. The four-day ski and snowboard event from 23 to 29 March 2025 will bring together people from all over the world. The focus is on a range of courses with trainers, coaches and Paralympic athletes in all snow sports for all levels of ability. The event will be financed by donations collected at the 12-hour race on 21 and 22 March 2025.



Information
saas-fee.ch/mentelitygames



SWISS SNOW HAPPENING 24–28 MARCH 2025

The Swiss Snow Happening will take place in Saas-Fee from March 24 to 28, 2025. Set amidst the highest mountains in Switzerland, this week promises action on the slopes, unforgettable experiences and endless fun. Swiss winter sport instructors will be competing in various disciplines and formation skiing, showing off their skills. There are some great competitions lined up, along with some enthusiastic crowds and lively après-ski events. This spectacular winter event leaves nothing to be desired. It will be #legendär2025!



Information
saas-fee.ch/snowhappening



ALLALIN RACES 11–12 APRIL 2025

Welcome to one of the oldest public ski races in the world! The Allalin Races have been a fixture of the Saas-Fee winter programme since 1946. Back then, just five participants made it to the finish line with their wooden skis and leather straps. The start was just below the Allalin before snow groomers were even a thing.

Much has changed since then: Modern equipment and perfectly groomed slopes allow speeds over 140 kilometres per hour. This spectacular winter event leaves nothing to be desired. The nine-kilometre course will see over 400 runners in various categories start and finish.

The incredible views and the one-of-a-kind start below the Allalin make the descent an unforgettable experience. Passages such as the "white mile" or the "Linkisch Egg" are legendary. The route is twice as long as a World Cup downhill run, which will make the legs burn quite a bit at the finish.

The party in the marquee on the sports field is also a legend in its own right: Here, you can have a chat about where those crucial seconds were lost - or simply enjoy some fun moments.



Information
saas-fee.ch/allalinrennen



MOON LIGHT FIGHT 20 APRIL 2025

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, the Moon Light Fight will take place in Saas-Fee, promising exciting competitions in unique conditions. A special atmosphere is created by the parallel slalom on the Jowang-Hang, illuminated by floodlights and the full moon.

Participants compete in head-to-head duels – women against women and men against men – to qualify for the next round. In the end, only one winner per category remains. The top performers will be rewarded with great prizes, while everyone else can look forward to exciting duels and a legendary party in the marquee. The party goes on late into the night with music from a DJ and drinks available from the bar.



Information
saas-fee.ch/moonlightfight



SEASON END PARTY 26 APRIL 2025

Are you ready for THE party of the year? Season End, the end-of-season party guaranteed to get you in the mood for spring! From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., there will be six hours of pure partying, as the party mile leads from the Burgener ski hut via the Black Bull Arena, Hotel Bristol to the Restaurant Zur Mühle and the Hotel Mistral. It's most fun when attended in a bad-taste costume. Let's mark the end of the season with a celebration!



Information
saas-fee.ch/season-end-party





Travel sustainably
in the Saas-Fee/Saastal region



postbus.ch/valais



FIND YOUR PLACE TO STAY HERE

Boutique-Hotel The Capra

Warm coziness and luxury modern chalet. This is how the five-star superior boutique hotel The Capra in Saas-Fee welcomes you. The cosy rooms and suites reflect the region's traditional alpine character. Relax in the luxurious Peak Health Spa or unwind in the Private Spa with sauna, steam bath and hydrotherapy pool. Culinary highlights can be experienced not only in the hotel's own Brasserie 1809, but also in the Spielboden restaurant at the summit station of the same name. Delicious alpine dishes made from locally sourced, seasonal and sustainable ingredients blend here to create excellent alpine cuisine.



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capra.ch





Discover the variety of accommodation
in the Saas Valley!



40 YEARS OF “LAST CHRISTMAS”

Who doesn't know it: As soon as stores have Christmas articles on sale, the absolute classic “Last Christmas” by Wham! can be heard echoing through the aisles. You might love the song or not, but there's no denying it has achieved absolute cult status. Text: Laila Zurbruggen

On Spotify, the song has been listened to almost 1.5 billion (!) times. People have watched the accompanying music video over 890 million times on YouTube – and those numbers are growing every year. But not everybody knows: The video was actually filmed in Saas-Fee at the time.

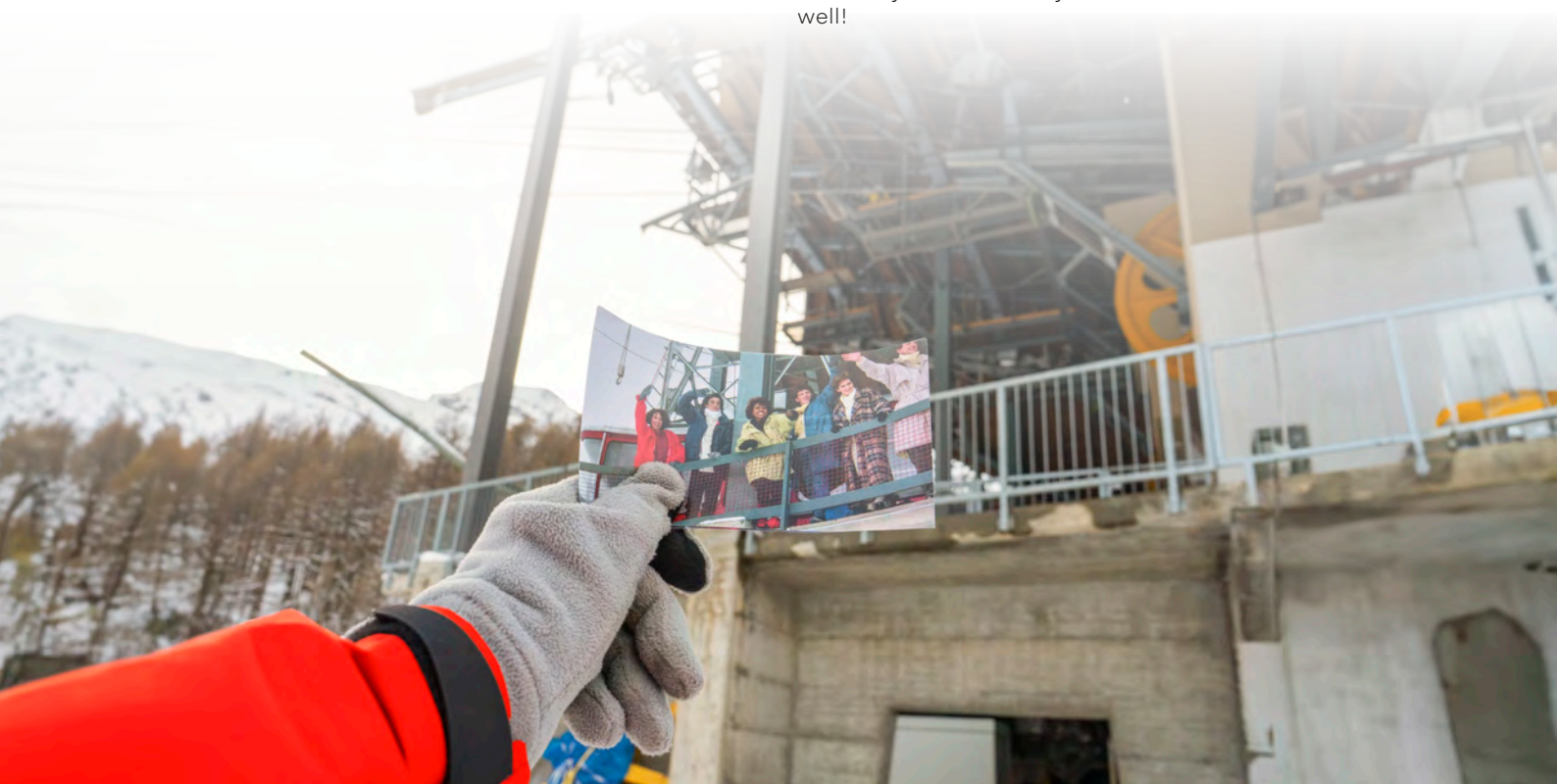
Coincidences and Stretch Limousines

What even fewer people know: The plan was originally to film the video in the Bernese Oberland, not in Saas-Fee. Unfortunately, there wasn't any snow where they wanted to film at the time, so the crew had to change their plans. As luck would have it, they ended up in the snowy Saas-Fee area in 1984. Beat Anthamatten, the director of the Grand Hotel Walliserhof at the time, knew the crew from a previous shoot in Saas-Fee for a film with Bill Murray. When the location scout called him and asked if Saas-Fee would be a good candidate for a shoot, he was immediately on board. Just a week after the call, the crew, including Wham! stars George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley arrived in Saas-Fee. They didn't get the stretch limo George Michael had requested because Saas-Fee was already car-free, and no exceptions were made for world stars. Rumour has it that the stars' first stop on arrival was a sports shop: They had only moccasins and thin jackets - not the best equipment for a snow-covered village at 1,800 m a.s.l.!

Tricks and Celebrations

Filming began soon after, but the crew were faced with a number of problems. After a lot of back and forth, the film crew got the green light to drive two jeeps to the Felskinn cable car to shoot the famous opening scene of the music video. In the video, the main characters are seen waving cheerfully to each other as they board the gondola and head off to their cosy mountain chalet. It's just a shame there aren't any chalets at that altitude. To get around this issue, the filmmakers came up with a plan: they used the cable car to imply that the stars were heading into the mountains but then shot the Christmas party scenes at a chalet in the village. The outdoor scenes were filmed in front of a hut in the 'Wildi' part of the village, whereas the indoor scenes were done in the Cultural Centre because they wanted to have a wood-burning stove in the set-up.

But the celebrations were not just in front of the camera: People who were there at the time claim that the stars had also been drinking a lot at the hotel. They apparently drank the entire bar dry and then jumped naked into the pool. An exciting story about George Michael is still widely told today. Apparently, he lost a valuable brooch while shooting in Saas-Fee. The hotel was searched thoroughly, and the brooch was thankfully discovered by chance outside. All's well that ends well!



HOTEL WALLISERH

Saas-Fee



Activities for the anniversary
saas-fee.ch/wham



Wham! – Last Christmas
Musicvideo

A Piece of Music History turns 40

It's been 40 years since George Michael and Co. had fun in the snow in Saas-Fee. The song is a Christmas classic that millions of people around the world enjoy every year. It has also become an important part of Saas-Fee's culture, representing the warm melodies associated with the country. There are so many memories from that time – all the anecdotes from the filming days and the sheer excitement of being part of something huge. To keep these memories alive and to celebrate the anniversary in style, numerous activities are being organized this year around Wham!'s "Last Christmas" in the Saas Valley. Come and follow in the band's footsteps on one of our amazing Wham!Walks. Why not let your inner pop star run wild in the karaoke box? Or you'd like to enjoy one of our specially created Wham! cocktails? Join Wham! fans from around the world celebrate this iconic song that has captured the hearts of so many and continues to do so today.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Whether in the classic or skating style, cross-country skiers will feel right at home in Saas-Fee/Saastal. The breathtaking landscape, with snow-covered larch forests, the frozen Saa-ser Vispa river, and towering four-thousand-metre peaks, offers a unique and unforgettable winter experience.

The 23-kilometre Saas Valley trail starts in Saas-Balen at 1,485 m a.s.l. and follows a gentle uphill route via Bidermatten, Saas-Grund, Unter den Bodmen, Saas-Almagell and Zermeigern to the Eiu Alp at 1,870 m a.s.l.. It's also easy to find your way back, as regular bus stops are along the trail. The route can be explored in its entirety or in stages.

For beginners, there are cross-country skiing courses, and the right equipment can be found in the local sports stores.



Information
saas-fee.ch/langlauf



ICE SPORTS

Curling and ice stick shooting are among the many leisure activities in the Saas Valley. Ice stick shooting is a sport in which competitors use round ice stocks to get as close as possible to a so-called stave. Fun for the whole family! There is also a natural ice rink in Saas-Fee for those who prefer to try their hand at curling. Both sports offer fun as well as challenges on the ice. They are the perfect complement to the winter activities on offer in the Saas Valley.



Information
saas-fee.ch/eissport





REVIER MOUNTAIN LODGE SAAS-FEE

Opening

WINTER 2024/25

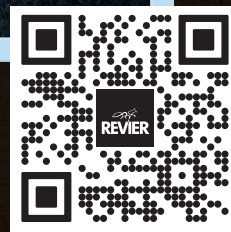
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FOR YOUR FORAYS THROUGH THE DAY AND THOROUGH THE NIGHT

SAAS-FEE: MASTERS OF THE SLOPES

Between glaciers and fresh snow. How Saas-Fee's rescue service and snow groomers keep you safe and on the slopes.

Saas-Fee is a car-free glacier village at 1,800 m a.s.l., nestled between some of Switzerland's highest peaks. It's the perfect place for winter sports enthusiasts, offering guaranteed snow and record-breaking hours of sunshine. Saas-Fee is a real snow lover's paradise, with 100 kilometres of marked slopes to suit all levels, from easy to moderately tricky runs, challenging routes and off-slope runs. While other ski regions have to deal with a lack of snow during certain times of the year, Saas-Fee is a great place to go skiing – thanks to its high altitude and unique glacier slopes, which offer excellent conditions right into spring.

Text: Bernd Schmellenkamp

Safety First

"My team and I are responsible for ensuring that every guest returns safely to the valley – if possible in good health, otherwise by rescue sled or, if necessary, by helicopter," explains Albert Hegner, Head of Rescue Services in Saas-Fee. It is a responsibility that is taken very seriously here. Hegner has 18 employees dedicated to slope safety, 20 to 25 Pistenbully drivers, and of course Rocky, the avalanche search dog. They work hard to ensure the safety of skiers and snowboarders. "We never cut corners when it comes to safety," emphasizes Hegner. "I can't control nature, but I can make sure that our slopes are as safe and comfortable as possible."

Hegner and his team monitor the slopes almost around the clock. They are responsible for avalanche dispersion, barriers and regular checks on the slopes. "Our slopes are constantly inspected by the mountain railway association (Bergbahnverband)," he explains. "We have to make sure that everyone who goes up the mountain comes down safely. We cannot sleep. Security is a constant challenge."

Challenges on the Glacier

For Hegner and his team, working on glacier slopes is particularly challenging. Saas-Fee's high alpine terrain, up to 3,600 m a.s.l., is rugged and often unpredictable. "The conditions of the glacier slopes are very different from those on grass. Meter-high stones and water channels can form on the glacier, which is a big problem," says Hegner, describing the unique requirements of glacier slopes. "I urge all skiers to stay on the marked and groomed slopes. Skiing outside the marked slopes is extremely dangerous, especially in the glacier area. I never go there myself because I know how dangerous it can be."

In addition to the slopes in the glacier area, Saas-Fee also has freeride slopes that are not groomed or controlled. These areas require drivers to be even more careful and responsible. "Our job is to ensure the marked slopes are safe and trigger avalanches before they become a problem. The freeride zones on Felskinn and Plattjen are for experienced skiers who know what they're doing and are aware of the risks."

Perfect Conditions from December to April

The Saas-Fee ski area is unique in that it begins at an altitude of 1,800 m a.s.l., where many other areas end. Here, state-of-the-art, electrically-powered snowmaking equipment ensures perfect conditions from mid-December to April. "Our teams have lots of experience and are always pushing the limits of what's possible when it comes to slope grooming," says Hegner proudly. "We use the latest technology, from energy-saving machines to creative methods like snow farming. We need to keep developing and innovating."

By continuously innovating, Saas-Fee is able to ensure that winter sports enthusiasts will enjoy the best conditions in one of Europe's highest ski resorts for years to come. "Machine snowmaking is very advanced here," explains Hegner. "We make sure we're always using the latest technology and we're always looking for ways to make our processes more efficient. The snow is pushed together in the summer with snow groomers and protected with fleece to make sure it's safe to use all year round."

Albert Hegner, Head of rescue services Saas-Fee



Unique Ski Region with Stunning Panoramic Views

What makes Saas-Fee so unique is the combination of stunning panoramic views, varied slopes for all levels of ability and an Alpine village renowned for its warm hospitality. "Skiing here starts at 1,800 m a.s.l., which is where others end," explains Hegner proudly.

But there's more to Saas-Fee than just the slopes. At 4,545 m a.s.l., the Dom is the highest mountain in Switzerland and a symbol of the stunning scenery that surrounds the village. "The Dom is our mountain, a symbol of our homeland," emphasizes Hegner. "The Dom is different from the Matterhorn, which sits on the border between Switzerland and Italy, because it's located entirely on Swiss soil. That makes it unique and something special to us."

The Head of Rescue Services, who has been in Saas-Fee since 2012, is really passionate about his job. "I fell in love with Saas-Fee and am proud to be part of this great team. For me, there's no better place to live out my passion for winter sports and make sure our guests are safe at the same time."

A Look into the Future

Saas-Fee officials are always looking for ways to make the conditions for winter sports even better. "Our vision is to keep offering the best skiing experiences while respecting the environment," says Hegner. One possible step, he suggests, would be to build a reservoir to generate electricity and make snow. This would ensure the sustainability of the skiing area. "We want to use resources wisely and make skiing possible without causing unnecessary damage to the environment."

The region is also committed to developing its technology and methods. The use of energy-saving technology and innovative concepts for snow production will be further expanded. "Our goal is to protect nature and make sure that everyone who loves winter sports can enjoy them in optimal conditions," emphasizes Hegner.

Saas-Fee is a great example of how it is possible to combine modern winter sports and environmental protection at the same time. Here, at an altitude of 1,800 to 3,600 m a.s.l., you can be sure: If skiing is still possible in the future, it will be here – in the heart of the Upper Valais.



RELAX WITH US

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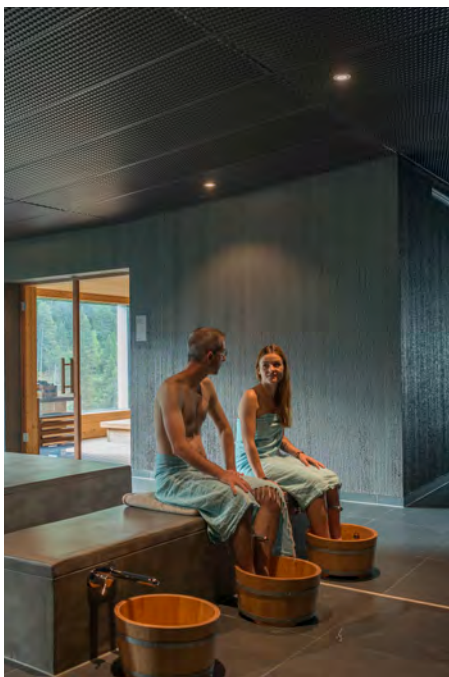
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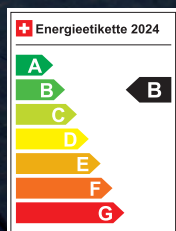


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