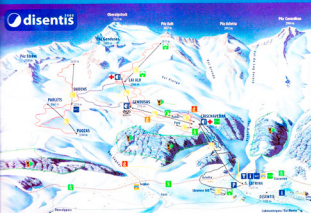


DISENTIS

RESORT HEIGHT 2833m LIFTS 7 SKI AREA 13km

17% 50% 33%



WOMES to this year's Fall-Line Gear Test, Disentis is an unknown marvel. Relatively low on the radar, this small resort surprised us with its versatile terrain. Backcountry opportunities are big, with a lot of easily lift-accessible powder fields, chutes and rock drops (not that we were trying those, well, certainly not the desk monkeys on test). The **team** here even produce a feveride-specific map to give skiers safe routes from peak to base. There's a small park too, with skicross, and your Disentis liftpass can include access to the rest of the Sadrin-Andermatt area, which offers up another 140 kilometres of piste.

However, Disentis is not directly linked to these spoils. The area's local dialect and culture is **ikunisch**, which should make for a novel new experience, and remember to try some of their local dishes including Capuns and Buzochis. **Meanwhile**, pro ski snapper Oskar Knudler is a regular here, so if it's good enough for Oskar then... well, you get the picture (or rather, he does).

FALL-LINE'S FAVOURITE RUN

Give yourself a good warm up by honing between Lai Alv - Dufers - Gerchuss and then Gerchuss carry on down to Caischawstra.

The run between Per Aull and Lai Alv is nicely testing, so is the run between Parlets and Pucosa.

I'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE

We'd recommend heading for the Hotel Alpen in town for some traditional cuisine at a decent price. Buzselva, also in town, is well worth a look for excellent pizza and more, and then there's Casa Cruna - Disentis may be small but there's plenty to choose from.

ANY NIGHTLIFE?

Nangjala is where the party is at! It's an excellent café bar, with a great mellow vibe to it, you can arrive on your skis and they'll find somewhere for you to leave them - that's the kind of place we like. And the beer is great.

➔ Go to www.nangjala.ch for more details.

IS IT FAMILY FRIENDLY?

There are several spots to choose from. We'd recommend Cuscagna (www.cuscagna.ch), Montana (www.montana.ch) or Baur (www.parkhotel-baur.ch). These are all good options at a decent price point for families looking to make their pound stretch a little further.

TAKE ME PRESHING!

This is where Disentis really comes into its own. Disentis Sedrun has an abundance of off-piste and ski touring opportunities, why settle for a chairlift and a groomed piste, surrounded by other skiers when you can hitch a ride to ski heaven? So goes the resort's mantra. Get yourself a guide and get exploring as those in the know consider Disentis to be one of the last hidden powder paradises of the Alps. ➔ All the details you will need can be found here: www.disentis3000.ch

WHERE CAN I LAY MY HAT?

Hotel Krutzi is located in the heart of Sedrun and you can get a room for 80CHF (€16) a night, or try the Parkhotel Baur, located on the outskirts of Disentis in the canton of Graubünden. The atmosphere here is great, with staff that are friendly and knowledgeable. Alternatively, head to Hotel Desentiserhof, a short walk from the slopes.

ANY LIFTPASS DEALS?

If you're fortunate enough to be between 18 and 19 years of age, there's a nice little discount on your liftpass - 200CHF (€120) for six days. For the rest of us, it's 200CHF (€140) for six days.

We'd recommend upgrading to a Disentis-Sedrun-Andermatt pass for an extra few quid, which opens up another 140km of piste.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Zürich, Friedrichshafen and Milan airports all have the area whilst the reliable Swiss Rail Service will bring you conveniently (and an arm) to Disentis Sedrun from Zürich airport and farther afield. The Graubünden Express offers a transfer service from Friedrichshafen and Zürich airports straight to your hotel or apartment.

The wide open spaces of Disentis. It looks a bit busy, we're off to play golf in Switzerland instead. PHOTO: JAMES SPENCE