
Winter fun in Saas-Fee/Saastal

Winter romance and fun in the Saas Valley

If you only think of skiing, snowboarding or après-ski on a winter holiday, you are not completely wrong - but also nowhere near the real truth, as a winter in the mountains, in Saas-Fee and the Saastal to be more precise, offers much more than that.

Shimmering white mountains wherever the eye can see, a brilliantly blue sky and absolutely pure mountain air! Saas-Fee and the Saastal are surrounded by the highest mountains in Switzerland. In total, 18 four-thousand metre high mountains look down on the cosy, traditional Saas mountain villages, sun-drenched even in winter. More than 140 kilometres of pistes invite you to ski, snowboard or telemark ski. For cross-country skiers, a 26km long track between Saas-Balen, Saas-Grund and Saas-Almagell awaits, plus also a good 5km loipe in Saas-Fee.

Yet the Saastal offers even more, many more winter activities than you might think at first sight, "off" the pistes too.

In order to get a brief overview of the varied activities on offer, the events and the programme items of Saas-Fee and the Saastal, here are some exciting tips and ideas for the coming winter.

Winter activities in the Saas Valley

How about spending one day off the piste?

For those who don't want to completely part company with the glorious snow, there is e.g. the option of a jolly sleigh ride, whether in Saas-Fee, in Saas-Almagell or on the 11km-long legendary descent in Saas-Grund. There are also various, well-signposted snowshoe trails, either sporty or leisurely, awaiting the guests. If you like it fast-paced, you will be at home on a ride on the Feeblitz bobsleigh run, the highest rollercoaster in the Alps. Further exciting activities that are just waiting to be discovered are e.g. ice climbing, snowtubing or husky fun rides.

If you would like to take it a bit more calmly, you can take a romantic winter walk on the sunny mountain Hannig in Saas-Fee through snow-covered forests up to the sun terrace. The Saas Museum charms the visitors with a look back in time and items of jewellery from past ages.

Organised activities

For those who do not want to be bothered on holiday with planning and organisation, there is a varied range of organised activities. On guided circular village walks, the guests will learn interesting things about the historical development of the Saas Valley and get valuable tips for planning their leisure. On a romantic torchlight hike, you can enjoy the silence in the forest and the wonderful view over the lit-up villages. Or allow yourself to be persuaded at a fine wine-tasting by the delights of the Wallis wines.

For adrenalin junkies, the Gorge Alpine is just the right thing even in winter: a gorge crossing from Saas-Fee to Saas-Grund. Secured with a harness and only under specialist supervision of a mountain leader, it goes via tyroliennes, ladders, "Tarzan" lianas and hanging bridges through the wintry gorge, surrounded by snow and ice. New for this winter there will be the "Gorge Alpine by Night". Also, exciting glacier trekking over perpetual ice, along deep glacier crevasses will raise your heart rate. Just as sporty but less adventurous are in contrast Nordic snowshoe walking or old style curling.

Alongside a wide range of activities, Saas-Fee and the Saastal also offer its guests various performances, concerts or large events. This is just a small selection:

7th Chain of lights in the snow

On 19th December, Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourism is organising for the seventh time a chain of lights in the snow in Saas-Fee in the period leading up to Christmas. Hundreds of candles on various streets will lead the way to the village square where there will be biscuits baked by the primary school children themselves and mulled wine. Christmas music provides the right atmosphere for the festive season. As every year,

the profits from the sales will be given to a good cause. This year, the Wunderlampe (Magic Lamp) foundation is being supported.

Ice Climbing World Cup

From 18th – 23rd January 2010, the Ice Climbing World Cup is taking place for the eleventh time in the glacier village. In a unique atmosphere, the spectators will experience the world's best ice climbers battling it out for the title on the 40-metres high ice wall. The event will take place in the Saas-Fee multi-storey car park and thus offers the possibility of watching the athletes from each storey right at their fingers or ice picks. The legendary parties mustn't be left out here either. New on offer for 2010 is a comprehensive and interesting programme lasting a week with talks by famous climbers, a youth cup in Saas-Grund and further activities.

Horn sled race

The fourth horn sled race will take place on 6th March 2010 in Saas-Grund, traditionally at the "Ziebel" village ski lift. The fun race run only has one category: jokers. The teams, each one consisting of 2-3 people (one steerer, one braker and one runner) have to survive a track laid out especially for the race, dotted with jumps and steep turns. The special horn sleds are provided by the organisers. Anyone can take part.

Glacier Bike Downhill Race

The spectacular Glacier Bike Downhill in Saas-Fee will also take place on 6th March. This is ridden on snow and ice. The start is at 3,500 m above sea level at the Allalin revolving restaurant, the finish at 1,800 m above sea level at the Kalbermatten sports ground in Saas-Fee – the difference in height of 1,800 m is partly completed at a rapid speed of over 100 km. Adrenalin rush for riders and spectators.

"Schneegaudi" at the Kreuzboden

On 4th April 2010, games, fun and bull-riding have already been announced for the afternoon. In the evening, it will then really get going with live music acts that will really hot up from traditional to rock. Atmosphere and entertainment in the party venues and the

Kreuzboden mountain restaurant are guaranteed.
In the converted mountain station, dancing can
take place until daybreak.

Allalin open downhill race

The Allalin race is one of the highest glacier
downhill races in the world. It starts at 3,600 m
above sea level. Participants from all over Europe
compete here in various disciplines, such as ski,
snowboard, team or fun races. From 16th – 18th
April 2010, these races will take place in Saas-Fee
for the 28th time.

Winter concerts in the parish church

During the whole of winter, weekly concerts,
primarily of a classical nature, will take place in
the churches of the local parishes. After a
strenuous day on the piste, just sit back and
listen to the sounds of the music. A lovely way to
end an eventful day!

You can find more information on the activities
mentioned and many more ideas for a varied
winter holiday on: www.saas-fee.ch or directly
from the Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourist Office: +41
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