



# Press kit

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2018/2019 SEASON

 **BAQUEIRA/BERET**

## New for the 18/19 season

# Baqueira Beret has kilometres of fun and a new peak for the 2018-2019 season

This winter in the Val d'Aran and Valls d'Àneu resort, skiers and snowboarders will have the chance to experience up to 165 km of runs (160 km marked and 5 km off-piste), thanks to the creation of the new Baciver area which joins the three existing areas of Baqueira, Beret and Bonaigua. Furthermore, the highest point of the resort is now the Cap de Baciver at 2,610 m.

### 1. New ski lift and Baciver area:

It is no wonder that Tuc de Baciver, the mystical mountain that presides so imposingly over Beret and Orri, should be the namesake of the new area that will be skiable on part of its Eastern face from this season. This is due to the installation of the ski lift that takes its name from this peak and leads up to Cap de Baciver, a peak located very close to Tuc. It is an area designed for experts, with five new red ski runs.

With the Baciver ski lift, the resort also gains 100 m of elevation, reaching its highest point at 2,610 m on Cap de Baciver, and as such offering a descent of more than 1,100 m to the base in Baqueira 1500. The length of the ski lift is 1.7 km, travelling up 400 m during a journey that offers unique views of the North Face and even the unrivalled Escornacrabes off-piste route.

Of the five new runs, all red and of corresponding difficulty, of particular note is the run bearing the name "Baciver" - it boasts a 405 m vertical drop, a length of over 2 km, and an average gradient of 19%. Also worth special mention is the run with the highest gradient of 21%, "Ta Tq Baciver", and the easiest run "Estanholes", which has 150 m vertical drop with a smoother average gradient. The other two runs in this area are "Orqueta" and "Roca Blanca".

### 2. Funpark at Beret:

As for Beret, the new run FunPark premiered halfway through last season in the Beret area runs parallel to the Clot Der Os run. Little ones (and not so little ones) can discover a blue ski run of 1,750 m in length with plenty of fun elements. The route travels past giant flowers and models of animals native to the Pyrenees, some of which make their distinctive sounds which are bound to give some people a bit of a surprise.

What matters in FunPark is not the speed, but the fun surrounding the different elements. The first part features easy ski runs where the big flowers have been placed, and when the route goes into the forest it is the turn of local fauna to take centre stage. There are around a dozen figures featuring a wide variety of species: marmots, owls, deer, wolves, foxes, chamois and wood grouse, among others. Visitors can interact with the rubber figures and seek out the animals hidden among the trees. Fun guaranteed!

### **3. More runs and skiable surface area:**

With this expansion, the Baqueira Beret ski runs map is now comprised of 111 marked ski runs. The new skiable area of Baciver also adds hectares of terrain to the resort, reaching 2,273 hectares of surface area, an expansion of 107 hectares that will increase the enjoyment of the Baqueira Beret experience based on its wide scope and quality of snow.

To prepare the slopes, two state-of-the-art machines have been acquired, one featuring a winch to groom runs with a steep slope. With regards to the snow production, two innovative low-pressure snowmakers have been installed at the Beret Era Marmota Snowpark, to guarantee snow on the main features of this freestyle area.

### **4. F&B options:**

The resort boasts 25 restaurants and cafés on the slopes, 5 of which are themed eateries offering unique dining experiences. One of which, perhaps the most renowned, is the Moët Winter Lounge, which this year has improved its services and expanded its kitchens to continue growing in quality. Refurbishments have also taken place in the Audi Quattro Bar, located in Beret. Whether it's due to its location or its charm, this spot is always very popular for breakfast and snacks.

The other fine dining restaurants in the resort (Refugi San Miguel, 5J Grill Baqueira, Restaurant Pla de Beret and Borda Lobato) have also improved their menus, with new dishes and a growing wine cellar.

Meanwhile, the best café in the resort, Bosque, located in Baqueira 1800 and just refurbished last season, now has a more comfortable magic carpet, allowing for a comfortable ascent from the base when heading to the gondola lift.

The Hotel Montarto, where visitors can find the Winebar by Viña Pomal and the Drinkery Pub, has also renovated some of its rooms and the lobby areas which access the dining room and the Piano Bar of this establishment at the foot of the slopes.

### **5. Return of the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup**

More and more prestigious events are heading to the Val d'Aran, with the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup coming to Beret on 1-2 March 2019. This will be the second time that this leading global circuit of this thrilling format - which could be defined as motocross with a snowboard - will be held in the Aranese region. The first took place in March 2016. Taking part in the competition will be the finest in the world, including two leading Spanish winter athletes and members of the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI) team: the Andalusian bronze Olympic medallist Regino Hernández and the Basque world runner-up Lucas Eguibar.

This event, consisting of qualifying rounds on 1 March and finals on 2 March, is also a great celebration, in which there will be plenty of entertainment and even a gastronomy event in the arrival area, easily accessible from the Beret parking area.

### **6. Online and web booking system with better usability**

Improvements have been made to the Viajes Baqueira Beret booking system, with the installation of a new program that streamlines and facilitates reservations, both over the phone as well as those booked directly on the revamped website [www.viajes.baqueira.es](http://www.viajes.baqueira.es)

# #Baqueira Beret Spirit

- The **Val d'Aran** and the **Valls d'Àneu** make up a unique area of the Pyrenees, with excellent snow quality and a unique topography that allows for **165 km of skiable area**: (160 km of marked pistes and 5 km of off-piste routes), making Beret a leading winter holiday destination.
- The Atlantic climate of the station ensures a high volume of snow to create a **skiable area of 2,273 hectares, while its altitude of 2,610 m allows for unique freeriding conditions in the Pyrenees that at the same time can be combined with family skiing** on the beginner slopes or in the Fun Park.
- **Five high-altitude themed restaurants**, in addition to 20 other dining spots on the slopes, and the après-ski and shopping areas of Ruda and Baqueira 1500 give the resort a **fantastic atmosphere and a top-notch range of dining options**.
- In all areas the transport is fast and efficient thanks to the **36 ski lifts with a total carrying capacity of more than 61,024 people per hour**.
- For this season, Baqueira Beret has updated the usability of its **online booking system [www.viajes.baqueira.es](http://www.viajes.baqueira.es)** making it easy to book holidays ensuring the best price both on and off the slopes.

## Baqueira Beret, a singular winter destination

The resort, located in the Lleida Pyrenees between the Val d'Aran and Valls d'Àneu, is made up of four large areas, each with their own personality. The famous Baqueira, Beret and Bonaigua area joined this season by a fourth "B" - the Baciver area.

With a total of 111 ski runs for downhill skiing and snowboarding, plus 7 kilometres of cross-country skiing, snowpark, bordercross, spread across a total skiable area of 2,273 hectares. The area, with a vertical drop of 1,110 metres, beginning at 1,500 above sea level and reaching an altitude of 2,610 metres at the Cap de Baciver, accessible for the first time this season thanks to the installation of a ski lift of the same name.

Baqueira Beret invests in its facilities each year with the aim of improving the experience for the skiers and snowboarders who visit the skiable area that includes 160 km of marked ski runs and 5 kilometres of off-piste routes. The installation of the new Funpark at Beret is intended for the enjoyment of all the family, with a simple run filled with full-size models of animals native to the area. It is clear proof that tourist skiing is not incompatible with the world-acclaimed off-piste that allows for the extensive and varied skiable terrain.

Meanwhile, the Audi Ski Kronos is another example of how visitors can enjoy new experiences in a ski resort, combining reality with the digital world. At this facility, located next to the Baqueira 2200 cafeteria, visitors compete on a timed giant slalom while they are recorded on video. When they cross the finish line, their time is automatically added to the virtual leader board and they can share their video, if they wish, on social media.



## The power of the 4 Bs

### **Baciver, the newcomer**

What will come as the biggest surprise to the skiers and snowboarders discovering this new area, made accessible by the newly-installed ski lift, is not only its five red ski runs, but also the incredible views of the colossal façades of the North Face of Baqueira. While these are not the most difficult slopes, those located in Baciver are intended for expert visitors eager to ski down a terrain that until now has only been within the reach of backcountry skiers.

### **Bonaigua, the most easterly**

The resort has areas for every level in each of its three sections. The largest number of black ski runs are located in Bonaigua. Of particular note are the Barranc der Aire run, which opens up a new route linked to the Bonaigua run and the Cigalera, prominent at the top of the Tuc de la Llança ski lifts. Also notable is a very popular former backcountry skiing route that is now a black run: Gerber.

### **Baqueira, the pioneer**

Three of the most prominent runs of Baqueira are Luis Arias (the run dedicated to the first director of the resort and a pioneer of skiing in Spain), Eth Mur, Tobo Nere and the Escornacabres route, an iconic off-piste descent. The cherry on top for serious experts is the Passarells, which last season went from off-piste to a marked run, perhaps the resort's most demanding black run.

### **Beret, the welcoming one**

The Beret area is more tranquil - this is where the Marxa Beret takes place, the most important cross-country skiing race in our region. With gentle slopes and spacious runs, it is best for beginners, families and children, with large areas dedicated exclusively to the teaching of winter sports.

## Gastronomy and après ski

Baqueira has 25 dining establishments, five of which are theme restaurants on the slopes strategically located: Refugi San Miguel at Bonaigua, 5J Grill at Baqueira 1800, Moët Winter Lounge at Orri, Restaurant Pla de Beret and la Borda Lobato at Baqueira 1500. Over the past few seasons they have been joined by an inviting range of après ski options, such as the Winebar by Viña Pomal and the Drinkery Pub, both located in the outstanding area of the Hotel Montarto in the Forum of Baqueira 1500. A great spot to dine and drink without having to drive if you are staying at the foot of the ski resort.

In the Forum area there is also a delicatessen with products from Val d'Aran and Valls d'Àneu. Along the ski runs, and especially on the terrace of Beret 1,850 and in the Baqueira Bar 1500, there are DJs or live music every weekend, giving the end of each day a festive atmosphere that is already becoming a tradition.

Also on offer is a range of special activities for trainees: on weekends, the chance to tour the Safaris with a guide from Era Escòla; special Christmas activities (classical music concerts, torchlight descent, etc.); special Carnival programme; special World Snow Day programme; snowshoe excursions; full moon nights; snowmobiles; popular charity activities and competitions; the Romanesque Val d'Aran route; Pla de Beret dog sledding; horse-drawn sleigh rides and excursions; thermal baths and hot springs at Baños de Tredós and Baronía de Lez; excursions to Montgarri with lunch or dinner at the Refuge; heli-skiing and scenic flights by helicopter; ice palace, heated pools and gym at Vielha; museums in Vielha, Vilamòs, Bagergue, Unha and Salardú; adventure park in Les; Aran-Park Wildlife Park (March to November); cinema in Vielha; covered paddle tennis courts with café and kids play area in Vielha.

## Family

One of the attractions of skiing is that you can enjoy it with the whole family. Parents can take a skiing course or ski on their own in the knowledge that their children are also having fun.

In Baqueira Beret there are 3 ski playgrounds and there is an additional one at Baqueira 1500. The latter is located at Borda Lobato, next to Hotel Montarto, and is designed for children from 3 months to 2 ½ years old. It has an outside garden and specialised staff.

For those over 2 ½ years old, the ski playgrounds are at Baqueira 1800, opposite the Bosque chairlift, in Beret opposite the control tower and in Bonaigua next to the service centre alongside the car park. The Baqueira 1800 and Beret playgrounds have a magic carpet and a ski run in their outdoor areas so that children can be introduced to skiing through play. The playgrounds provide skis and boots.

However, that is not the end of the options on offer for children in the station. There are also special weekly classes for them which combine a stay in the crèche with classes and food. These are offered at the Baqueira 1,800 level crèche. They are designed for children aged four to five years old.

## Sport, from the highest level to the basics

On 1 and 2 March, the Spanish Bronze medallist in the PyeongChang Olympic Games, Regino Hernández, will thrill us once more as he competes in the FIS Snowboard Cross in Beret. Competing beside him will be his RFEDI teammate and world runner-up in snowboard cross, Lucas Eguibar. This competition took place once before in Val d'Aran in 2016 and was hugely successful with the public, who were able to enjoy a world-class event with some of the best riders in the world.

On the agenda this season is the return of several classics such as the popular Marxa Beret cross-country skiing race, the Fundación Jesús Serra Open Trophy with their generous grants, and the CAEI-FIS Top alpine skiing competition. Not forgetting the popular events of World Snow Day with many opportunities for beginners, the participatory Audi Era Baishada Open and the fun BBB Ski Race Experience and Solomon Quest Challenge. Also of note are the Spanish Mushing Championships, bringing together the best mushers across the country in a sport where man and dog make an inseparable team. Also coming to Beret this season is the Absolute Alpine Skiing Championship.

The number of sports venues available at Baqueira Beret is countless. In particular, the Beret Stadium where local clubs train to become the champions of the future. It comes as no surprise that the Olympians Alex Puente (CAEI) and Juan del Campo (CEVA) trained here. There is also a toboggan run, snowshoeing, 7 km of marked cross-country skiing and a snowpark, funpark and bordercross. Constantly growing, our respect for the environment is paramount, and transport throughout all areas is fast and efficient thanks to the 36 ski lifts.

# Technical information

- 165 skiable kilometres:
  - 160 km marked runs
  - 5 km off-piste routes
- 111 ski runs: 6 green (5 km), 43 blue (75 km), 45 red (59 km), 17 black (20 km).
- 3 routes (5 km)
- 7 km of cross-country skiing track
- 1 Snowpark, 1 Slalom Stadium, 1 Kronos Ski, 1 Bordercross, 1 Funpark
- Freeride Zone
- 36 ski lifts: 1 gondola (9 seats), 19 chairlifts (10 detachable 3x6, 7x4 and 9 fixed grip -6x3, 3x2-), 9 lifts (5 lifts, 2 two-seater lifts, 2 rope pull) and 7 magic carpets.
- Carrying capacity: 61,024 people/hour
- VTMH: 18,567\*
- Maximum height: 2,610 m
- Minimum height: 1,500 m
- Vertical drop: 1,110 m
- Skiable area: 2.273Ha.
- Snow makers 660
- Grooming machines: 15

\* VTMH =  $\frac{\text{Transport capacity} \times \text{gradient (of each ski lift)}}{1,000}$

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- 5 Ski rental and repair centres
- Car parks: 7 with space for a total of 5,040 vehicles
- 25 Restaurants, bars and cafés on the slopes
- 4 Children's snowparks
- 2 First aid points on the slopes
- 1 Private medical centre in Baqueira 1500
- More than 500 ski instructors

**Residential complex at the foot of the slopes with: hotels, apartments, restaurants, discos and shops.**

# Provisional calendar

## of events and competitions Baqueira Beret 2018/2019

### December

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- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 8  | Salomon Quest Challenge, popular event for teams        |
| 15 | Charity race for La Marató on TV3                       |
| 16 | Naut Aran Skating, cross-country skiing in Beret        |
| 24 | Arrival of Santa Claus at the resort pulled by dog sled |
| 31 | Torch descent, fireworks and Vin Cau.                   |

### January

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- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1     | New Year Concert  |
| 3     | CEVA Triathlon  |
| 5     | Three Kings Cavalcade   |
| 19-20 | BBB Ski Race Experience, the main activity of World Snow Day (FIS)  |
| 26-27 | Movistar Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding Spanish Cup and Cts Catalonia Snowboard Cross and Ski Cross. Beret |
|       | GS/SL Spanish Adaptive Skiing Championships. Beret  |

### February

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|------|---|
| 2-3  | 40 Marxa Beret, popular cross-country skiing race, all categories, Beret.                                 |
| 9-10 | Amics de Montgarri Audi Quattro Cup, Alevines Alpine skiing, GS and Combi Race, Beret. Organised by CAEI. |
| 23   | Carnival Celebration  |

### March

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- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1-2   | FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup in Beret                                     |
| 9-10  | Fundación Jesús Serra Trophy, GS open and parallel, Beret                  |
|       | Cts of Spain of Sledding with Dogs - Mushing                               |
| 16-17 | CAEI-FIS Top, Alpine skiing GS and SL, junior and senior categories, Beret |
| 23    | Audi Quattro Era Baishada, Combi Race Open, Beret                          |
| 26-28 | Spanish Absolute Alpine Skiing Championship. SL, GS, SG. Beret             |



## April

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|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 17 | Mac-AinhoaSC club fun race        |
| 18 | COPOS club fun race               |
| 19 | Ski-Camp Era Escòla club fun race |
| 20 | CEVA club fun race / Gold Test    |
| 21 | CAEI club fun race                |
| 22 | Baqueira Beret staff race         |

## Notable events and competitions at Baqueira Beret, 18/19 season

### 8 December – Salomon Quest Challenge

The SQC is a fun event in which teams of three take part in two categories - Challenge and Family - the latter of which includes the participation of a child aged between 8 and 15 years. Each team has an official bib and a roadbook provided by the organization. A giant slalom race takes place on a closed run prepared for the occasion, a fast-paced Skicross, a freeride and other challenges throughout the resort.

### 15 December – Marató TV3

Charity Race in partnership with La Marató from TV3, dedicated this year to cancer research.

### 19 & 20 January – BBB Ski Race Experience - World Snow Day Celebration (FIS)

An open event for skiers aged 6+, combining alpine races, bordercross and freeride with the emerging art of selfies at the highest points of the resort. Fun guaranteed! The event allows visitors to explore parts of the resort where skis or snowboards have never gone before. The race is ranked individually, however stretches can be performed in groups, especially for little ones with their clubs or families.

The BBB will make up part of Baqueira's activities for World Snow Day, sponsored by the International Ski Federation (FIS), in which special activities and promotions are organised to bring the snow closer to children and families, in order to convey the benefits of practising winter sports. The resort organises a torch descent, and extends the promotion with special prices over several weekends.

### 3 February – 40th Marxa Beret

3 February sees the cross-country skiing race promoted by the Conselh Generau d'Aran, Baqueira Beret and the Municipality of Naut Aran, in collaboration with other organisations, entities and clubs of the Val d'Aran. It is included in the FIS and RFEDI calendar of popular cross-country skiing races. The race will take place over the three usual distances of 10, 21 and 42 km. More information at: [www.marxaberet.com](http://www.marxaberet.com)

### 10-11 February – Audi Quattro Cup - Amics de Montgarri Trophy

The Amics de Montgarri Trophy, organised by the Club Aranès Esports d'Iuern (CAEI), is part of the Audi Quattro Cup circuit of alpine skiing competitions of the calendar of the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI). The super giant (SG) and slalom (SL) races will take place in Beret Stadium over the weekend.

### **1 & 2 March - FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup**

The leading global snowboard cross circuit featuring the best in the world, including the Spaniards from the RFEDI team, Regino Hernández (bronze at the PyeonChang18 Olympic Games) and Lucas Eguibar (world runner-up). This competition took place once before in Val d'Aran in 2016 and was hugely successful with the public, who were able to enjoy a world-class event with group descents of four riders through a circuit filled with jumps and cambers.

### **9 & 10 March- Fundación Jesús Serra Trophy**

The Fundación Jesús Serra organises an event named after this foundation, consisting of a popular race in a giant slalom format on Saturday and a parallel on Sunday, in which those ranked top the previous day may participate. This is an open race and an extremely popular one as the winners, aged under 25, can earn a study grant, as well as many other gifts for participants.

### **16 & 17 March - CAEI-FIS Top**

The CAEI organises the FIS race at the highest level of Alpine skiing in Val d'Aran, which in recent years has corresponded to the Spanish Citizen Championships in the youth and adult categories. This competition, which features a giant slalom (GS) and a slalom (SL), attracts more than 250 riders from Spain, France and Andorra, among other countries.

### **23 March – Audi Quattro Era Baishada**

The Audi Quattro Era Baishada celebrates its sixth year. All previously enrolled competitors will be able to take part in this open race, which combines different disciplines of alpine skiing and bordercross in the Beret Stadium. The competition will have a parallel start leading to a super giant, a jump, a flying kilometre and a giant slalom with cambers and dubbies. Participants can compete for prizes worth €10,000 and a driving lesson at the Audi Driving Experience in Baqueira, among others.

[www.quattroerabaishada.com](http://www.quattroerabaishada.com)

### **20 April - Gold Test**

A competition organized by Baqueira Beret involving the top three winners of the races held every week of the season, in which trainees of all levels of skiing and snowboarding compete. Award ceremony and surprise prize draw for all participants.

## Prices Ski Passes. Season 2018-2018

| PERIOD | TYPES OF SKI PASSES                        | EUROS            |
|--------|--|------------------|
| 1 day  | Adult                                      | 52,00            |
|        | Children                                   | 34,50            |
|        | Spectator                                  | 16,50            |
|        | Beginner adult                             | 35,00            |
|        | Beginner child                             | 23,50            |
|        | Afternoon (13,30 h)                        | 37,00            |
|        | Senior Citizens (70 and over) and under 6s | 5,00             |
| 2 days | Adult                                      | 96,50            |
|        | Children                                   | 59,50            |
| 3 days | Adult                                      | 143,00           |
|        | Children                                   | 89,00            |
| 4 days | Adult                                      | 182,50           |
|        | Children                                   | 114,00           |
| 5 days | Adult                                      | 219,50           |
|        | Children                                   | 139,00           |
| 6 days | Adult                                      | 252,00           |
|        | Children                                   | 161,00           |
| 7 days | Adult                                      | 273,00           |
|        | Children                                   | 171,00           |
| Season | Adult                                      | *950,00 1.050,00 |
|        | Juvenile (from 12 to 17 years of age)      | *825,00 925,00   |
|        | Children (under 12 years of age)           | *600,00 650,00   |
|        | Midweek - Adult                            | 500,00           |
|        | Senior Citizens (70 and over) and under 6s | 32,00            |

\* Advanced purchase until 04/11/2018

**All ski passes are consecutive.**

## Ski and Après-ski Non-Stop Baqueira Beret

Few resorts can offer such good conditions and so varied a range of après-ski activities as Baqueira Beret.

- Guided tour of the resort.
- Special activities programme for trainees.
- Safaris, routes designed to discover the whole resort.
- Ski touring circuits. Five routes designed as an introduction to ski touring in a safe environment.
- Cross-country skiing track.
- Special Christmas activities (arrival of Santa Claus, Three Kings Cavalcade, classical music concerts, torchlight descent, etc.)
- Special Carnival Programme.
- Special Programme for World Snow Day.
- Snowshoeing excursions.
- Snowmobile excursions.
- Dog sledding on the Pla de Beret.
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides and excursions.
- Romanesque Val d'Aran route.
- Thermal baths and hot springs at Baños de Tredós and Baronía de Les.
- Excursions to Montgarri with lunch or dinner at the Refuge.
- Heli-skiing and scenic flights by helicopter.
- Ice palace, heated pools and gym at Vielha.
- Museums in Vielha, Vilamòs, Bagargue, Unha and Salardú.
- Adventure park in Les.
- Aran-Park Wildlife Park (March to November)
- Cinema in Vielha
- Covered paddle tennis courts with café and kids play area in Vielha.

Detailed information at [www.baqueira.es](http://www.baqueira.es), Aran-Aneu/Actividades

Our après ski range also includes a selection of restaurants offering cuisines ranging from typical Aranese, French and international, as well as Pizzerias and Crêperies. And to round off the night, there's nothing better than enjoying a drink at one of the numerous bars and nightclubs of Baqueira Beret, particularly at the new area of the Hotel Montarto, the Ruda arcade, and Val d'Aran.

## Hotels and accommodation

### **VAL D'ARAN HAS MORE THAN 33,300 BEDS.**

Hotels, “pagès” houses, guesthouses, hostels, apartments, houses and chalets make up the wide range of accommodation options available for all kinds of visitors.

11,300 HOTEL ROOMS across a total of 67 hotels (4\*\*\*\*, 13\*\*\*\*, 17\*\*\*, 26\*\* and 7\*) and apartments, apart-hotels, guesthouses, hostels and “pagès” houses. Some 4,000 lodgings are located at the foot of the resort.

22,000 RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, second homes, spread throughout the various towns of Val d’Aran and at the foot of the resort. These are most often used on weekends and holiday periods such as Christmas, New Year and Easter.

### **STAY IN LES VALLS D’ANEU**

Access to the Baqueira Beret resort via the Port de la Bonaigua means that we can expand our accommodation options, connecting with Les Valls d’Àneu, in Pallars Sobirà, and its network of hotels, hostels and apartments spread across its villages.

## Val d'Aran

In the Pyrenees of Lleida province lies Val d'Aran, the only valley with an Atlantic character in Spain and a privileged location due to the quality of its snow. Specifically in Pla de Beret are the sources of the rivers Garonne and Noguera Pallaresa.

This is a valley surrounded by peaks that reach 3,000 metres in height and which contains more than two hundred lakes. Some, such as the Mar or the Tort de Rius, are the largest in the Spanish Pyrenees. Its large forests consist of firs, pines and beech.

Val d'Aran preserves and maintains its hugely rich artistic and cultural heritage. It includes numerous churches: Salardú, Arties, Vielha, Bossòst; the beloved carvings of Romanesque images such as the Christ of Salardú, Casarilh and Vielha; the unique baptismal fonts and holy water of Arties, Vilac and Vilamòs; and works of art dating from the 12th and 13th centuries that form a unique and exceptional artistic heritage.

As a complete architectural unit, the towns of Val d'Aran are formed by buildings of stone, slate and wood, in which the Romanesque and Gothic style churches particularly stand out.

A characteristic element of the Val d'Aran is its language: Aranese. It is a living language spoken by the people of the country. It belongs to the Occitan branch of languages and is a variant of the Gascon language of Comminges, while retaining its own personality. Another important heritage of Val d'Aran is the richness of its gastronomy. Aranese cuisine is heavily influenced, given the location of the valley's border, by French cuisine, but it still retains the typical cuisine, most notable of which is the famous "Aranese Stew".

## Valls d'Aneu

The Valls d'Àneu are valleys bordering with the Val d'Aran. Located in the municipality of Alt Aneu, across the natural barriers of the Bonaigua Pass and the foothills of the National Park of Sant Maurici and Aigüestortes, they are almost an extension of the Aranese lands. The clearly Pyrenean character gives these valleys their beautiful scenery.

The Valls d'Àneu offer a variety of treasures. Along with their physical charm and their unique landscape, there are other features worth mentioning. The cuisine, sports, art and culture have helped shape these valleys' unique character. The proximity to the Val d'Aran makes it easy for visitors to travel between one area and the other.

Along with the typical constructions of Pyrenean architecture, with stone walls and slate roofs, these valleys are dotted with Romanesque churches in their purest form, with magnificent examples of religious art and architecture. For example, the parish church of Sant Lliser in Alos d'Isil, the church of Saint John in Isil or the church of Sant Just and Sant Pastor in the small hamlet of Son. These are some of the most characteristic buildings, and their artistic treasures, many of which are now exhibited in the Museu d'Art de Catalunya (Catalonian Museum of Art) in Barcelona, are among the greatest exponents of the Romanesque period



## The past, at a glance

Since the first chairlift was opened on **6 December 1964**, BAQUEIRA/BERET has grown significantly.

In December **1982**, after 7 years of negotiations, the Reina chairlift opened, the first ski lift in the Beret area.

In December **1985** the Dossau chairlift completed the first phase of the development of Beret.

In **1988** the skiable area of Baqueira was expanded with the opening of the new Argulls area, featuring three triple chairlifts giving access to 150 ha of skiable area. Argulls is the area that accumulates the most snow in the Resort, and the terrain is made up entirely of grass.

In **1990** the most important investment was made in a single season, with the implementation of the snow production system covering the main axes of Baqueira Beret, and the opening of the second quadruple express chairlift "Mirador", which gives access to the Cap de Baqueira from 1800 in just 7 minutes.

The major new feature of the **92/93** season was the preparation of the new North Face/Cascada run, which travels from the Cap de Baqueira to Baqueira 1500, adding 5.5 kilometres in length with 1,000 metres vertical drop.

In **1994** BAQUEIRA/BERET inaugurated a new access to its slopes, with a service centre and the "Bonaigua" chairlift, by the Port de la Bonaigua, connecting it with another valley: the Vall d'Aneu and area, Pallars.

In **1995** the snow production system was installed in Beret, and in 1997 the installation was broadened between the two areas of Baqueira and Beret and to ensure their connection.

In **1998** the resort's first six-seater express chairlift was launched, the new Pla de Baqueira, replacing the two-seater of the same name. Its ability to transport 3000 people per hour, 1,800 metre length and the remodelling of the Mirador and Pla de Baqueira runs allowed for more skiing in Baqueira, while relieving congestion in other areas.

In **1999**, the launch of the resort's second six-seater express chairlift "Dera Reina" in Beret improved the quality of skiing in that area and facilitated the connection with Baqueira.

In **2000** the four-seater express chairlift "Blanhíblar" and the "Costarjàs" ski lift in Beret were launched, opening up a huge off-piste skiable area. The new "Teso dera Mina" chairlift in Argulls gave access to several faces and "couloirs" for expert skiers. A total of 100 more hectares of skiable terrain was opened up.

In **2002** the historic Luis Arias ski lift was removed, and replaced by a spectacular black run. Two other important projects were also approved: works to expand Bonaigua with a new access from Alt Aneu, and the works for additional parking at Cota 1500 with 1500 places. The new Baqueira Beret office in Vielha was opened.

In **2003** the first phase of the Bonaigua expansion project was built, with three new chairlifts (two express four-seaters: La Peüllà and Bonaigua, and one two-seater: Cap del Port), three ski runs (La Peüllà, Pleta del Duc and Cresta de Bonaigua) and two ski touring routes (Gerber y Lo Boscàs). A new services centre was also opened at Bonaigua 1900.

In **2004** the Era Cabana express chairlift was opened in Baqueira 1800, serving three new blue ski runs: Era Cabana, Era Coma and Ta Orri. In Bonaigua, an intermediate station for beginners was built on the Cap de Port chairlift, giving access to a new run: Debutants. The skiable area of Peüllà was also expanded with the construction of four new ski runs: Cap a Baqueira (blue), Les Paletes and Bosc de la Peüllà (red), La Perdiu (red) and Pala Gran (black).

The main event of **2005** was the installation of the resort's first gondola lift. The Baqueira gondola lift, with 78 nine-seater cabins, climbs from 1500 to 1800 together with the Bosque chairlift. The beginners' area of Baqueira 1900 was completely remodelled. The Pastores ski lifts were dismantled and the Rabada ski lift and magic carpets were relocated for better convenience for the skiers.

In **2006** the beginners' area of Baqueira 1800 was remodelled with 3 covered magic carpets, the first of their kind in Spain. Skiing for kids and beginners was improved, and access to the gondola lift from the Bosque cafeteria was made easier for pedestrians. The Bonaigua 2072 service area was expanded. The green run Era Coma was created in the Cabana area.

In **2008** the work to improve access to Pallars was completed, with a new variant from Guingueta d'Aneu to

Mare de Déu de les Ares, and another which connected Sorpe with Boren. The new underground car park in Ruda became fully operational, with 1400 places and direct access to the Baqueira gondola lift. A new facility with ski lockers was opened below the lower station of the gondola lift. The new stretch of the gondola lift connecting the urban area of Ruda and the new car park with the slopes was launched. Two new five-star hotels and one four-star opened their doors in Ruda.

In **2009** the resort's oldest chairlift was dismantled, the Horat deth Bò, in Orri and the Choza chairlift was remodelled. This step was the first phase of the project to install the Jorge Jordana chairlift planned for the 2010/2011 season. The slope grooming department received a major investment with the purchase of five new state-of-the-art machines.

The new star of **2010** was the inauguration of the Jorge Jordana express chairlift, connecting the Orri area with the Cap de Baqueira, the highest point of the resort, giving access to the whole mountain. Four new runs were marked out: Egua 2, Egua 3, Tuc deth Miei and Pala del Teso. The launch of the new Moët Winter Lounge at Orri was undoubtedly highly valued by our customers, offering a whole new experience.

In **2012** the Bosque cafeteria was renovated and the lower part of the Manaud run was redeveloped, as was the Tuc de la Llança ski lift and the final stretch of the Ticolet run. 3 Safari itineraries were proposed on a the website, with a new app for smartphones and images of all the slopes on Google Streetview.

In **2014** the station celebrated its 50th anniversary in full style, offering visitors 21 more routes, thereby expanding from 120 km to 146 km of pistes, and 7 km of off-piste routes, making a total of 153 km for the 2014-2015 winter across a wide skiable area of 2,166 hectares. New ski lifts were premiered, such as the TDS Jesus Serra, replacing Vista Beret for increased capacity. No less important were the Saumet ski lift that opened a new ski area in Bacier, and the Fernández Ochoa ski lift which served to improve the service for the clubs training at Beret Stadium.

In **2015** the three new ski runs in Beret raised the total to 155 km. Creation of the Ski Kronos, timed track in Baqueira. 18 new snow makers were installed, to increase and improve the efficiency of the system. Three new machines were acquired for slope preparation. A new dining and après ski area in the Montarto, with the opening of the Wine Bar restaurant and Drinkery Bar. Renovation of the hotel reception area and Ski Service space with a high-end store.

In **2017** the Bosque Restaurant and Café located at Baqueira 1800 underwent a total renovation, considerably expanding its space to make it the largest in the resort, and introducing the "free flow" concept to allow better and more convenient mobility for visitors. On the slopes, the new Blanqueta run was launched to connect the lower part of Tubo Nere and the ridges towards the north face which have good snowfall, expanding the skiable area of the north face in search of those places where the snow is abundant and of high quality. The inclusion of La Pasarell, the historic off-piste of the North Face, in the ski runs, created what is surely the most difficult run of the whole resort.



[www.baqueira.es](http://www.baqueira.es)

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