

Adventures for babysitters! Also known as the non-skiing Grandparent guide!

More and more young families are choosing to bring their parents along to help with childcare. We have been collating some of the most successful outings with young ones to provide you with some ideas. Note: If you are worried about taking a little one to altitude the BabyCenter has a great article here <http://www.babycentre.co.uk/a561725/holidays-at-high-altitude#ixzz2NDzjJeou>

Mon: Morzine

Why Morzine today? You can get your bearings, go to the tourist office and pick up information specific to your needs, get orientated and start introducing your little accomplice to snow based activities.

What is the plan? Go to the tourist office, maybe outdoor ice skating and/or the merry-go-round, tour the village via foot/stroller/sleigh! Meet for lunch at the Auberguarde hotel (567 Avenue de Joux Plane +33 (0)6 24 94 81 14) and go sledging.

What to bring? Shoes for walking in the snow. Gloves if you plan to sledge and/or ice skate.

When you are ready leave the chalet, take a left, then right at the petrol station and you are on the road into Morzine. In about 250m the tourist office will be on your right and you can pop in here and pick up all the leaflets you will ever need, with information specific to your needs. If you come out of the back exit you will see an ice skating rink to your right and a merry-go-round straight ahead! From here you could take horse drawn sleigh tour of the village (opposite the tourist office), rent a stroller suitable for use in the snow (from Alpes Attitude, on the other side of the road from the tourist office if you are facing the mountain called Nyon) or simply continue on foot. The village stretches down to your left and down the hill, here you will find interior shops, wine shops, chocolate artisans, ski shops, coffee shops, saucisson shops, the church where Dom and Steph got married... What goes down must come up! So back up the hill we go! When you get back to the tourist office, walk down the pedestrianised street towards the Pleney cable car. Take a left at the top and continue until you see the Auberguarde hotel on your right. Here you can meet the rest of the team for lunch and use their free sledges to sledge outside!

Tue: Nyon

Why Nyon today? Nyon is a great place to visit if the weather is fine, it is a nice sunny plateau with a lot to see while having a bite to eat. If the weather is not fine Nyon is also a great place to sit and soak up the skiing atmosphere by a big open fire and while watching the snowboard park, the slalom, the snake run and the pistes all from one point! Nyon is also the least expensive cable car to take you up into the mountains.

What's the plan? Take the bus to Nyon, go up the cable car, have coffee/lunch and soak in the atmosphere.

What to bring? Shoes for walking in the snow, your camera and possibly sun cream too.

Turn right out of the chalet on route to Pleney (cable car). From Pleney take bus line N to Nyon roughly every 20 minutes. Take the Nyon cable car up to the Plateau. If it is a nice sunny day you can sit outside the Point de Nyon restaurant (at the top of the cable car on the right) have a lovely bite to eat and kill hours watching the skiers/boarders in the snow park/boarder cross/slalom/piste! If the weather is not so great, snuggle down inside by the great open fire.

Weds: Morzine

Why Morzine today? It is market day!

What is the plan? Go to the market. Walk along the river. Swim or ice skate.

What to bring? A bag for your shopping. Baby stroller, if applicable. Walking shoes. Swimming suit and towel if applicable.

A.M: Either walk towards Super Morzine cable car, then take the elevator down to the ground level of the valley and take a right towards the market. Or walk down to the church as you did on Monday, as you walk down the hill, on the left hand side you will see the market. When you see the church follow the road round to your left (keep the Marie on your right), left over the bridge and down through the car park to the market.

The market goes on for as long as there is demand so be sure to be there before 10:30/11:00. After the market you can follow the river downstream as far as you like, there are around 3 different bridges that you can use to cross back over and come up the other side. If you reach the main road at the end then perhaps turn around here as the path deteriorates a little once you have crossed the road. This is a lovely quiet, flat riverside walk flanked with trees.

P.M: There are plenty of places to grab lunch or a light bite in Morzine. You could even tuck into your produce from the market! Satellite coffee shop is a popular option for a light lunch situated on the Rue Du Bourg about 5 minutes walk up from the market on the main street that climbs up to Morzine. After lunch you could either go back down to the market area and cross the river to access the indoor swimming pool (with heated pool to 33 degrees for little ones) or indoor ice rink.

Thurs: Avoriaz

Why Avoriaz today? You are doing so well with your adventures you might as well see all there is to see and from the top here you certainly can!

What is the plan? Sleigh ride. All meet for lunch. Water park (heated for little ones). Tourist office to book more activities like husky rides!

What to bring? Shoes for walking in the snow. Swimming suit and towel.

A.M: When you are ready, leave the chalet direction Super Morzine and wait at the bus stop to the right of the garage and on the same side as the garage. The bus is around every 10 minutes and a little less frequent between 12:00 – 14:00. The bus takes about 15 minutes to reach the Avoriaz cable car which is the last stop. At the bottom of the cable car, buy a return pedestrian ticket. At the top of the cable car, go up the escalator and there will be a black phone straight ahead of you. Pick this up and book your sleigh ride if you wish. While you wait for the sleigh you can take in the view or go for coffee in one of the restaurants opposite. There are 6 different sleigh rides from €15.

P.M: Meet the family for a late lunch, La Tanniere is one of our favorites (opposite the cable car station). After allowing time to digest, on to swimming at Aquariaz the water park! There is a well trodden route if you follow the buildings round from La Tanniere to Changabanga and then go up the elevator. Aquariaz open at 14:00, costs around €8 and parts are heated to 34 degrees so perfect for little ones! One can also visit the tourist office and book activities such as snow snowing around €27 pp and dog sledding around €30 - €50 (15 and 10 minutes).

Friday & Saturday

Where did the week go? So little time and so many excursions left. You could go to visit Lac Montriond and go for a walk around the frozen lake (requires taking the bus). You could go up Super Morzine and meet for the team for lunch at the charming La Grenouille du Marais +33 4 50 79 24 39

with a lovely log burner and resident cat or L'Passage +33 6 77 56 88 83. Or you could go up the Pleney cable car for coffee. Feeling REALLY adventurous? Get the bus to Les Gets and meet the team at Le Grand Cry +33 (0)4 50 79 72 97 Top of the Chavannes bubble. Or take the Mont Cheri cable car up to the self service restaurant at the top with stunning views of Mont Blanc Le Belvedere +33 4 50 83 31 34. Got a car? Take a day trip to Annecy, France's 4th most visited town or Chamonix France's 3rd most visited town both within 1 1/2 hrs reach!

Please let us know of your adventures to so that we can add them!