



Graubünden

POP 192,621 / AREA 7106 SQ KM / LANGUAGES GERMAN, ROMANSCH, ITALIAN

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Why Go?

Ask locals what it is that makes their canton special and they'll wax lyrical about how, well, wild it is. In a country blessed with supermodel looks, Graubünden is all about raw natural beauty. Whether it's wind-battered plateaux in Engadine where clouds roll over big-shouldered mountains, the Rhine gouging out knife-edge ravines near Flims, or the brooding Alpine grandeur of the Swiss National Park, this wonderfully remote region begs outdoor escapades.

While you've probably heard about Davos' sensational downhill skiing, St Moritz' glamour and the tales of Heidi (fictionally born here), vast swathes of Graubünden remain little known and ripe for the exploring. Strike into Alps on foot or follow the lonesome passes that corkscrew high into the mountains and chances are you will be alone in exhilarating landscapes, where only the odd marmot or chamois and your own little gasps of wonder break the silence.

Best Places to Eat

- » Bündner Stube (p291)
- » Burestübli (p296)
- » Schloss Brandis (p303)
- » Chesa Veglia (p316)
- » Kaffee Klatsch (p308)

Best Places to Stay

- » Gasthaus Bargis (p304)
- » Hotel Kurhaus (p294)
- » Posta Veglia (p298)
- » Hotel Engiadina (p310)
- » Vetter (p296)

When to Go

Graubünden's slopes buzz with skiers from mid-December to Easter. Cross-country pros swish across to Davos for the FIS Nordic in December, while upper-crust St Moritz attracts a discerning crowd at January's Polo World Cup on Snow. Summer cranks up the craziness: see men do battle with their beards in Chur and with their bulk *Schwinger* (Alpine wrestling) in Davos in August. Many resorts hibernate from May to mid-June and October to November. If you do rock up then, you might bag a good deal and some surprisingly nice weather.



Graubünden Highlights

- 1 Be elevated by high-altitude hiking and evocative Alpine scenery in the **Swiss National Park** (p309)
- 2 Cure your Heidi headache in the soothing thermal waters

- of **Tamina Therme** (p303), Bad Ragaz
- 3 Raft or hike past bizarre limestone formations in the **Ruinaulta** (p298), or Rhine Gorge

- 4 Take a horse-drawn carriage to the silent and sublimely pretty **Val Fex** (p317)
- 5 Get on your bike and ride heart-pulsing single tracks