



Andorra

Includes »

Andorra la Vella	41
Naturalandia	45
Sant Julià De Lòria	45
Encamp	45
Canillo & Soldeu	45
Sispony	46
Ordino & Around	46
Arinsal & Pal	47
Understand Andorra	48
Survival Guide	48

Best Places to Eat

- » Borda Pairal 1630 (p43)
- » Ca la Conxita (p43)
- » Borda del Rector (p46)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Pyrénées (p43)
- » Hotel Bonavida (p46)
- » Hostal Poblado (p47)

Why Go?

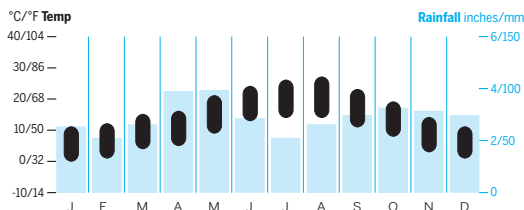
Some say Andorra's nothing but skiing and shopping. They may add that Andorra la Vella, its capital and only town, is a fuming traffic jam bordered by palaces of consumerism. (Fact: Andorra has over 2000 shops – that's more than one for every 40 inhabitants.)

They're right to a point, but also way off course. Shake yourself free of Andorra la Vella's tawdry embrace and one of the principality's three secondary roads and you're very soon amid dramatic mountain scenery.

This minicountry wedged between France and Spain offers by far the best ski slopes and resort facilities in all the Pyrenees. Once the snows melt, there's an abundance of great walking, ranging from easy strolls to demanding day hikes in the principality's higher, more remote reaches. Strike out above the tight valleys and you can walk for hours, almost alone.

When to Go

Andorra La Vella



Mid-Jan to mid-Feb Ski slopes are at their quietest after New Year and before French school holidays.

Mid-Jun to mid-Jul & Sep Camp and hike either side of the summer peak, before new snow falls.

8 Sep Every hamlet and village celebrates Fiesta de Meritxell, also marking Andorra's national day.

ANDORRA LA VELLA

POP 20,400 / ELEV 1030M

Andorra la Vella (pronounced 'vey-yah'; literally 'old') is both capital and sole town of this tiny principality. Its main preoccupation is retailing electronic and luxury goods.

👁 Sights & Activities

The small **Barri Antic** (Historic Quarter) was all there was of Andorra la Vella until well after WWII. The rooftop **Plaça del Poble** (accessible by a public lift), a popular gathering place, gives good views of the valley.

FREE Casa de la Vall

PARLIAMENT

(📞tour reservations 829 129; Carrer de la Vall; ⌚10am-2pm & 3-6pm Tue-Sat, 10am-2pm Sun) Built as a private home, the House of the Valley has served as Andorra's parliament building since 1702. **El Tribunal de Corts** is the country's only courtroom. The **Sala del Consell**, upstairs, must be one of the world's cosiest parliament chambers. Free guided tours (optionally in English).

La Caldea

SPA

(📞800 999; www.caldea.ad; Parc de la Mola 10; adult/child €34/25; 🕒variable, consult website) What a sensual delight after a tough day



Andorra Highlights

1 Ski the snowfields of **Grandvalira** (p48)

2 Tramp a sample of the walking trails that thread through the principality,

especially above **Ordino** (p46) and **Soldeu** (p45)

3 Steep yourself in the warm mineral waters of space-age **La Caldea** (p41)

4 At **Casa Rull** (p46) see how Andorrans lived before skiing and shopping.