

Travel Information Sheets – 2018 edition – FOR GUIDANCE ONLY – YOU MUST CHECK THE TRAVEL DETAILS FOR YOUR SPECIFIC DATES AND JOURNEYS

Getting there from the UK

By Air

Geneva Airport provides the easiest transfer to Grimentz. From the rail station within Geneva Airport there are two direct trains an hour to the local town of Sierre, from where you can connect just outside the rail station with the local bus to Grimentz. The trains would generally have Brig or Visp as their destination. The return trains would have Geneva Airport as the destination.

Geneva Airport is very easy to navigate and it takes about 5 minutes to get from the Arrivals exit to the rail station platforms. The train takes about 2 hours and, on a clear day, this journey provides stunning scenery as it travels along Lake Geneva and into Valais. Taxis are unlikely to be any quicker between Geneva Airport and Sierre and are very expensive. Sit on the right hand side of the train in the direction of travel for the good views.

For train times and the connecting bus details to Grimentz visit Swiss Railways website: <https://www.sbb.ch> (there is an English language option on the site). It is very easy to buy the train ticket on arrival at the airport rail station – the ticket desk staff speak English! We have never found it necessary to reserve a seat. Note - Two singles on the trains are the same price as a return. You are required to buy a ticket before boarding the train (or you face a hefty fine). You can buy AND PRINT OFF your tickets in advance in the UK via the SBB website.

There are inclusive train / bus ticket deals - see <http://www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk/> see the Swiss Transfer Ticket and Saver Day Pass

The train and bus times are highly reliable for planning your return flights. **Check the timetables for your specific dates before you book, your flights.** . The last bus to Grimentz usually leaves Sierre Rail Station around 1900hrs. (Taxis are available from Sierre to Grimentz if you get delayed but are much more expensive than the bus.) See the next page 'Getting Around – Swiss Travel' for more details on how the local buses operate and where to catch the bus at Sierre Rail station..

Current information for Saturdays during 2018 is that the first bus leaves Grimentz at 07.40 hrs, connecting with a train that should get you to Geneva airport around 11.00 hrs.

Zurich Airport and **Basel Airport** are also viable options. However, the rail journeys are slightly longer and slightly more expensive, plus they involve a change of trains. (But if you get the inclusive rail / bus deal it is the same fixed price from any of the airports.)

By Car & Ferry/Channel Tunnel

It is viable to drive to Grimentz from South East England in a day. The most direct route is 565 miles from Calais to Grimentz and has an estimated drive time of 9 hours from Calais. This is a very direct route via Dijon, Besançon and Lausanne of which 500 miles are on the Autoroutes/Dual Carriageways. The French Autoroute tolls are around £40 each way. In addition, there is a Swiss motorway tax to pay on entering the country. Valid for a calendar year, in 2015 this cost 40 Swiss Francs, approx £32

There are many alternative routes avoiding the Autoroutes and the tolls, but these take longer. An excellent website for planning car travel is www.viamichelin.co.uk

The final section of the journey is about 15 miles on a spectacular mountain road and takes 30 - 45 minutes. Turn off the A9 motorway at Junction 29, the Sierre-East exit. Follow the signs to 'Val d'Anniviers'. This will take you to the village of Vissoie, where you bear right at the market place and onwards to Grimentz.

The Channel Tunnel (Eurotunnel) is by far the fastest option for crossing the Channel. If you want a more leisurely and, generally cheaper, option then take a look at the ferries to Calais or Dunkirk.

The en-route cities of Dijon and Besançon both offer hotels at a range of prices for overnight stays and are interesting places to explore, if you have the time. Of course, there are numerous accommodation options in the smaller towns and villages including the lower price Ibis and Relais de France hotels. Once you get beyond Besançon, the Jura region offers some road side family owned hotels and inns in rural settings.

By Train

It is possible to travel from Britain by train to Grimentz, apart from the last 15 miles for which you need to use the local bus. This journey is Eurostar from London to Paris, high speed train from Paris to Lausanne or Geneva, then a fast Swiss train to Sierre Rail station, from where you take the local bus to Grimentz. This journey can be achieved in approximately 10 hours.

For details contact Swiss Railways – <https://www.sbb.ch> or visit the specialist international rail travel site <http://www.seat61.com/Switzerland.htm> which gives tips such as how to get the cheapest fares by booking the trip in two parts.

Getting Around - Swiss Travel

Swiss Railways

For train and connecting bus details visit Swiss Railways website: <https://www.sbb.ch> To telephone Swiss Railways: 0041 900 300 300

This site is easy to use and is very comprehensive, particularly for train and local bus times. It has an English translation option. As well as the train times, the site also provides details of the connecting bus times from Sierre Railway Station to Grimentz and offers a facility to check a specific date (important in case there is a Public holiday!).

If you are going to use the trains during your holiday check out the various Travel Pass deals including one "Easy Pass" <https://www.postauto.ch/en/easy-card> which gives 2 or 3 days travel in Valais within a 7 day period or 5 days within 14 days. See the 'By Air' section of our 'Getting there from the UK' information above for some more rail hints.

Local Buses – how they operate

There are very reliable local Postal Buses which provide an integrated transport system between the main villages of Val D'Anniviers and Swiss Railways in Sierre. **To go to Grimentz from Sierre by bus you normally have to change at Vissoie** – but this is very straightforward. You buy a through ticket from the driver as you board the bus in Sierre – you do not need this if you have bought a Transfer or Saver DayTicket.

The bus timetables for Val D'Anniviers are scheduled so that buses from the four main villages in Val d'Anniviers and Sierre Railway Station arrive in the market square of Vissoie at the same time. This is an inter-change hub. – the buses going to the villages line up in the 'market square', the Grimentz bus is normally nearest to the church and the bus to Sierre faces down the hill on the road. Approximately 5 minutes later the buses then all depart back to the 4 villages (including Grimentz) and Sierre Rail station.

In summer, the buses have racks that take 6 bikes. There is a small charge for the bike (about CHF5 or 6). It is recommended by the bus company that you book this in advance. Generally, we have found there tends to be plenty of space for the bikes.

Please note, the Anniviers Liberte (summer Freedom passes) do not cover journeys between Grimentz and Sierre, they are valid only if your journey is within the valley

Sierre Railway Station – finding the bus to Grimentz

Sierre is a simple station to navigate with only three platforms and the bus station is an open air arrangement on the opposite side of the platform to the main station building. (NOTE THIS IS NEW FACILITY FROM DEC 2017). It is slightly higher than the railway platforms and you can see it from the platform. (If arriving from Geneva it is on the righthand side of the train, if arriving from Visp / Brig it is on the left side of the train)

You can get to the bus station either by going down from the platform into the subway below the platforms (steps or ramp) or going upwards and across the concrete pedestrian overbridge that spans the rail tracks (steps or lift). If it is reasonable weather I recommend using the overbridge option as you can then see where you are heading and what is going on with the buses, but if it is raining or there is snow around, the subway route may be easier.

If you find yourself next to the station newsagents shop and coffee bar and facing the post office and café and taxi rank in front of the station you have gone the wrong way for the bus and need to retrace your steps and head off in the other direction.

BRIDGE – from the platform either go up the concrete stairs or use the lift that is next to the stairs to go up to the bridge level. Walk along the bridge heading away from the main station building towards a big new office block and go down the stairs or take the lift to the open air bus station.

SUBWAY - from the platform take the ramp or steps going down from the platform. As of January 2018 there are temporary signs at the bottom of the ramps and steps telling you which way to go for the buses - you need to head away from the town. At the end of this very short subway you will find an underground carpark and a "glass box" lobby containing a lift and stairs that take you up to the bus station level.

The Yellow buses to Val d'Anniviers should leave from Bay "D". There is an electronic departure board in the bus station that will provide this information. The departure destination will probably say Vissoie and Bus Route 451.

However, you need to keep a look out for the big yellow coaches labelled  on their sides. Any bus saying Vissoie, Grimentz, Zinal or Chandolin will get you to Vissoie. Check with the driver that it is going to Vissoie (pronounced Vissoy) as that is where you need to change for Grimentz or ask for Grimentz.

If you have time to spare between your train arriving and the bus departure time the "Buffet de la Gare" opposite the front of the Station is a very good traditional café where you can get a coffee for a reasonable price. There is also a late opening small Coop supermarket in the Station that sells essential groceries.

The buses have large luggage compartments along their sides. The driver will help you to put any large items of luggage in these spaces. You will need to get your own luggage out at Vissoie and take it across to the bus to Grimentz, which will be only a few feet away. Bus time tables <https://www.postauto.ch/en/timetable> or use the Swiss Rail site to check bus times.

Our apartment, is just 100 yards from the 'Grimentz Telecabine' stop. This is usually the final destination on the bus route but in the summer a few buses continue to Moiry Lake. Tell the driver you want the 'Grimentz Telecabine' stop. Your stop is the next stop after the Post Office stop. It is located just before the Coop. Once you get off the bus, turn sharp right towards the Telecabine (cable car). The Alpina Hotel will be on your right and Tarcianne B is the next block.

Local Taxis

Taxis are available at Sierre Railway Station. Also, there is a taxi firm based in Vissoie, the owner, Michel, speaks some English. <http://www.taxianniviers.ch/> Tel 0041 79 628 6111

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For details about our apartment, visit:

www.grimentzswitzerland.co.uk

Or call us on 0044 7887 824762

From £380/week, sleeps 5

Great location only 50 m from the ski lift and 100m from the bus stop (no car required), shops and old village

Well equipped for families

Mountain views and basement parking

Trains and connecting bus times for 2018 from Geneva airport to Grimentz (and return) FOR GUIDANCE ONLY

Note, trains from Geneva Airport to Sierre where you change for the Grimentz bus) will have the destination Brig or Visp... Sierre may not be shown as a stopping point on the electronic sign at Geneva Airport or even announced on the train, but all trains to Brig and Visp stop at Sierre.

Screen prints from the SBB website SATURDAY 7 JULY 2018 are given below (the search use 'Geneve Aeroport' and 'Grimentz TGB')

CHECK THE TRAINS / CONNECTING BUSES FOR YOUR SPECIFIC DATES AS THERE WILL BE CHANGES FOR RELIGIOUS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND WEEKDAYS ARE DIFFERENT. Also, **There are more buses during the ski season and on weekdays and fewer on Sundays,**

The stop before Sierre (which is called Siders in German), is Sion and this is about 10 minutes before you get to Sierre.

There are two trains an hour to Sierre from Geneva Airport. However, the timetable below shows only the latest train that connects with the Grimentz bus. But rather than wait in Geneva Airport you may want to catch an earlier train and get a coffee in the café opposite the Station. Some of these trains give only 4 minutes to get from the train to the bus stop. This is sufficient without having to run if you know where to go, so I recommend you read my instructions in advance on how to get from the train to the bus stop so you go the right way. However, if you have time catch an earlier train to Sierre and wait in the café opposite the station so you don't have to rush!

This shows 2 changes but those are the change from train to bus and the bus change in Vissoie – you should not have to change trains

Standard view	Duration	Change	Capacity	Platform	Search earlier connections
Direction Brig 09:02 ●————●●● 12:21 † 2'	3 h 21 min	2		4	purchase
Direction Brig 10:20 ●————●●● 13:36 † 2'	3 h 18 min	2		1	purchase
Direction Brig 13:20 ●————●●● 16:36 † 2'	3 h 18 min	2		1	purchase
Direction Brig 15:20 ●————●●● 18:36 † 2'	3 h 18 min	2		1	purchase
Direction Brig 17:02 ●————●●● 20:08 † 2'	3 h 8 min	2		4	purchase

Search later connections

For the return trip:

- the Buses generally give you at least 5 minutes to change in Sierre onto the next train TO GENEVA AIRPORT, (but there are generally two trains an hour to Geneva airport)

The screenshot shows the SBB website interface for a bus timetable. The browser address bar indicates the URL: <https://www.sbb.ch/en/buying/pages/fahrplan/fahrplan.xhtml>. The page header includes a search bar, 'Buy' and 'Login' buttons, and the SBB CFF FFS logo. The main content area displays a list of bus routes for BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste. Each route entry includes a bus icon, the route name, a departure time (e.g., 07:40), a duration (e.g., 3 h 19 min), and a 'purchase' button. A progress indicator shows the bus's position along its route. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system time as 15:30 on 28/01/2018.

Route	Departure Time	Duration	Buttons
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	07:40	3 h 19 min	purchase
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	09:43	3 h 16 min	purchase
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	11:28	3 h 31 min	purchase
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	12:28	3 h 31 min	purchase
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	15:43	3 h 16 min	purchase
BUS 452 Direction Vissoie, poste	17:43	3 h 16 min	purchase

This travel information is for guidance only and you should check your specific dates using the SBB.CH website. If you expand your selected journey you will see the arrival and departure times for your train/bus change in Sierre.