

New Airport Raises Andorra Ski Holiday Prospects



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Press Release Summary: The Andorra government has unveiled plans for a new airport fifteen minutes from Andorra's border that could boost the number of ski tourists significantly.

With a current drive time of two and a half hours from Barcelona, the airport could impact on both the holiday and property markets.

More people are set to experience a ski holiday in Andorra.

Press Release Body: Just after the second world war Andorra was still a poor European country with no real economy, but Andorra has been transformed in the past fifty years to a vibrant independent State, sought after by the wealthy for her tax haven status, and skiers for her ski runs that match the best in Europe for facilities and ski holidays infrastructure.

The one drawback that Andorra has had is the distance from a major airport, two and a half hours drive to Barcelona in Spain or Toulouse in France, with some ski holidays starting with a night in one of the [Barcelona hotels](#) before setting off for Andorra.

But that is set to change with agreement for an airport to be built just fifteen minutes drive from the Spanish / Andorra border.

As well as the extra ski tourists the new airport will impact Andorra as a tax haven. [Andorra](#) and the more famous Monaco are Europe's leading tax havens, with residents enjoying the benefit of no income tax. Property prices in Andorra are less than a third of the price of Monaco's.

Commenting on the new airport, one Andorra estate agent who specialises in Andorra property for sale thinks that the prices of Andorra properties will rise.

'At the moment Monaco has the advantage of being ten minutes away from an international airport by helicopter, while Andorra is over two hours. With that advantage gone we anticipate more people considering a tax haven will consider Andorra, with a resulting appreciation in [Andorra property](#) prices.'

Property in Andorra has risen an average of ten per cent a year in recent years, with three streams of buyers - the local market, buyers for ski holiday homes who are often on a [Crystal ski](#) holiday and like Andorra enough to buy a holiday home, plus those looking for a tax haven.

The airport is to be located in **Seu d'Urgell**, and the first flights are anticipated to be in 2010 or 2011, with a runway of 4,500 feet - not long enough for some medium range aircraft, and it is likely that most commercial airlines using the airport will be 60 to 80 seaters, plus private jets much favoured by the wealthy who might now consider Andorra as a viable tax haven.

As well as being welcomed by the property business in Andorra, a new airport has been greeted enthusiastically by the skiing industry.

The country has upgraded facilities in recent years, and often competes as a top ski destination in Europe, with well known ski companies like **Crystal Ski** operating holidays for the British market.

In recent years the number of tourists for the [Andorra ski holiday](#) season has topped ten million visitors, and the ski industry is an important part of the country's economy, with the government investing in new infrastructure to help tempt visitors back for skiing for repeat visits.

But last year was the worst season for decades as the snow, which normally falls from end October, didn't arrive until mid March, and the first drop in the number of ski holidays in Andorra being sold by British and other European travel agents dropped from the previous ski season for some years.

The new airport cutting travelling time from the UK, one of the Andorra ski holiday's main markets, could boost the occupancy levels of [hotels in Andorra](#) significantly.

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