

Stunning as it was, there was no time to admire the views



Ride Les Arcs

TrailAddiction co-founders Alistair Jamieson and Ash Smith set up the company so that they could share what they regard as some of the best riding around. The Les Arcs area is criss-crossed with hundreds of kilometres of singletrack, covering the full spectrum from fast and flowing to steep and ultra technical, and trailAddiction's guides know the area inside out and back to front. There's something here for every reasonably experienced rider, although beginners may struggle.

The best part of being based in Les Arcs is, of course, the network of lifts. You can ride some of the climbs if you really want to, but with nearly two vertical kilometres of prime singletrack on tap, frankly, why would you? We reckon you could ride every day for a week and not ride the same trail twice – it's that good. And there are vehicle-assisted 'backcountry' days for riders interested in exploring a bit further afield. The whole lot's topped off with comfortable accommodation, great food and a relaxed atmosphere.

Sound good? In that case, we recommend that you check out the company's website at www.trailaddiction.co.uk for more info.

Oh, and just in case you were thinking of trying the Everest Challenge for yourself, we should tell you that is was strictly a one-off ride and trailAddiction tell us that for logistical and safety reasons there are no plans to offer it as an option. Sorry.



We descended a total of 9317 metres over 97.7 kilometres

of around 830 metres. We still need around 2900 vertical metres to reach our target, and multiple funicular runs should make sure we achieve it. Provided there are no more mishaps of course.

Making the most of every free vertical metre we can grab, we grab a ride on the bus to Arc 1800. It's only an extra couple of hundred metres or so elevation, but we're hedging our bets. The plan's been revised so many times by now that we're relying on Ash's encyclopaedic trail knowledge to keep a running tally of our descent, and the wonders of GPS technology have been stymied by the dense tree canopy covering the forested singletrack sections of our route. It's nearly 5 o'clock now and we've been riding since 8:30 this morning. We're winging it now, cashing in as many gravity credits as we can before we run out of lifts, daylight or luck.

ON A WING AND A PRAYER

Trails interspersed with funicular rides come and go in a blur of names – Dutchies is fast, but Chicane is faster and steeper... Very fast and very steep. ➔

