

> ST. MORITZ 1948 VENUES



OVERVIEW

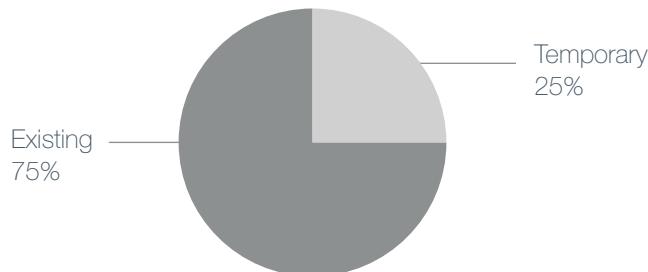
Eight competition and ceremonies venues were used for the Olympic Winter Games St. Moritz 1948.

Six of them continue to be used today by high-performance athletes, the general public and visitors to the resort.

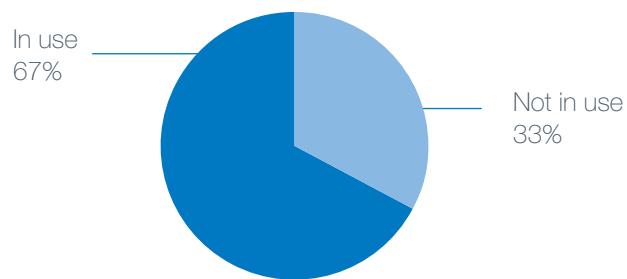
All the venues were existing sites, and all are in the resort of St. Moritz. Five of them had been used at the resort's first Olympic Winter Games 20 years earlier. The St. Moritz Olympia Bob Run also hosted events at the Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020.

There was no official Olympic Village.

VENUE CLASSIFICATION



CURRENT USE (PERMANENT VENUES)





ST. MORITZ 1948 VENUES AT A GLANCE

Venue name at Games time	Venue classification at Games time	Use at Games time	Current status
St .Moritz Olympic Stadium	Existing	Figure skating, speed skating, ice hockey, Opening and Closing Ceremonies	In use
Olympiaschanze St. Moritz	Existing	Ski jumping, Nordic combined	Not in use (demolished)
Skistadion	Existing	Cross-country skiing, Nordic combined	Not in use (demolished)
Kulm Palace Hotel Skating Rink	Existing	Ice hockey	In use
Suvretta House Ice Rink	Existing	Ice hockey	In use
Corviglia/Piz Nair	Existing	Alpine skiing	In use
St. Moritz Olympia Bob Run	Temporary (seasonal)	Bobsleigh	In use (seasonal)
Cresta Run	Temporary (seasonal)	Cresta (which later evolved into skeleton)	In use (seasonal)

> THE VENUES UP CLOSE

VENUES IN USE

ST. MORITZ OLYMPIC STADIUM

Built in 1927 for the II Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic Stadium is now a private house. It lay empty after the 1948 Games and fell into disrepair, before being refurbished by its current owner, a celebrated Swiss designer. Many of its original features have been restored, while the former ice rink in front of the building is now used as a driving range by a local golf club and also hosts occasional charity cricket matches.

ST. MORITZ OLYMPIA BOB RUN

First constructed in 1903, the Olympia Bob Run is one of the oldest bobsleigh tracks in the world and is rebuilt with natural ice and snow every winter, though it does have some permanent curves made from stone and concrete. It is a regular on the BMW IBSF World Cup circuit and has hosted 23 IBSF World Championships. It will stage the competition again in 2023.

Among other major international competitions, it has hosted the IBSF European Bobsleigh Championships 11 times (most recently in 2016), as well as the 2017 IBSF Para Sport World Championships, and the bobsleigh, luge and skeleton competitions at the Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020.

The run also hosts Switzerland's national bobsleigh, skeleton and toboggan championships and several local events, including the Hornschlitten – a traditional toboggan race. It is open from the end of December to the beginning of March and is used for training by amateur and high-performance athletes and by the Sankt Moritz Bobsleigh Club, founded in 1897. Visitors can ride the run with a professional driver and brakeman.

CRESTA RUN

Owned and maintained by the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club, the world-famous Cresta Run has been rebuilt with natural ice and snow every winter since 1884/85. It is still used extensively today and staged 30 competitions in 2019.

The run has been playing host to the annual Grand National race since 16 February 1885. It is the most prestigious of the four major classic races held at the venue, the others being the Curzon Cup (first held in 1910), the Morgan Cup (1935) and the Brabazon Trophy (1966).

The track welcomes both experienced athletes and the public. Around 12,500 rides are completed on it every year, adding up to an estimated half a million rides since it opened.

KULM PALACE HOTEL SKATING RINK

This open-air venue, which also hosted an event in the winter pentathlon competition, is used by the Saint Moritz Skating Club, which offers lessons to beginners and coaching for more proficient skaters. It is situated in the grounds of Kulm Country Club, a name synonymous with winter sports in St. Moritz and the setting for the opening ceremony and the medal ceremonies at the 2017 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships. The roots of winter sports tourism can be traced back to the nearby Kulm Hotel, which remains the home of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club and Cresta Club.

SUVRETTE HOUSE ICE RINK

This open-air rink sits in front of the Suvretta Haus Hotel, with lessons offered by experienced coaches. The hotel also has its own open-air curling rink and lies within easy reach of the nearby pistes.

CORVIGLIA/PIZ NAIR

The venue for the six Alpine skiing events at the 1948 Olympic Winter Games (women's and men's downhill, slalom and combined). Boasting 155 kilometres of runs and 23 lifts, its slopes have hosted the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships five times in all.

VENUES NOT IN USE

OLYMPIASCHANZE ST. MORITZ

This ski jumping hill closed in 2006 because of safety concerns. A local ski club used the venue prior to its closure, and though plans were in place for the construction of a new hill, they were not implemented due to cost issues. A 90m hill was built next to the existing 70m hill for the 1948 Games.

SKISTADION

Though its stands and shooting ranges were dismantled a few years ago, the Skistadion's trails now form part of a 230-kilometre cross-country skiing network catering for both the classic and skating styles. The Skistadion hosted two demonstration events at the 1948 Games: the military patrol competition (military patrol is a team sport in which athletes compete in ski mountaineering, rifle shooting and cross-country skiing), and the cross-country skiing round of the winter pentathlon competition.

> DID YOU KNOW?

The Olympic Stadium was the focal point of both the 1928 and 1948 Games, and its interior has many reminders of the two events, including black and white photographs and an original gold medal from 1948.

The Olympia Bob Run is an integral part of the landscape of St. Moritz. The 180-degree Horseshoe turn wraps around a road running through the resort, while the end of the run passes underneath a railway line.

It takes the Bob Run's expert builders three weeks to construct the 1,700m track. By contrast, construction of the first Cresta Run in 1885 took nearly nine weeks.

The most famous corner of the Cresta Run is Shuttlecock. Situated halfway down the run, it provides riders who have lost control of their toboggan with a safe landing on a specially prepared area of straw and snow. Fallers at the corner become automatic members of the Shuttlecock Club, which has its own tie.

Winter pentathlon was a demonstration event at St. Moritz 1948. Aside from the Skistadion and Kulm Olympic Ice Rink, three other venues were used to host the competition: the Französische Kirche, Kurhaus and Salastrains, all of which are still standing today. Winter pentathlon comprises cross-country skiing, shooting, downhill skiing, fencing and horse riding.