

PRESS KIT WINTER

2025

Mont-Blanc and other great peaks

Skiing and roaming

Winter hiking

Frosty thrills

Lakes and relaxing pleasures

Villages and know-how

Culture and heritage

High-altitude flavours

Refuges and accommodation

Business and selected getaways

An eco-friendly winter



Lake Bénit

THIS WINTER, ENJOY

HAUTE-SAVOIE
MONT-BLANC

[hautesavoie-montblanc-tourisme.com](https://www.hautesavoie-montblanc-tourisme.com)



Key figures

- **4,806 M** : Mont-Blanc, the roof of Europe
 - **3,842 M** : Aiguille du Midi and its 360° panorama
 - **2** UNESCO Global Geoparks: Chablais & Bauges
 - **1** Regional Nature Park: Les Bauges
-
- **5,105 KM** of marked trails
 - **1,609 KM** of GR® and GRP® certified trails
 - **26** Natura 2000 areas
 - **9** regional and national nature reserves
-
- **3,000 KM** of marked cycle routes
 - **204 KM** of greenways
 - **419 KM** of marked mountain-biking trails
 - **49** mountain resorts, including several bike parks
-
- **31** referenced paragliding sites
 - **+100** launch spots throughout the region
-
- **2** large lakes: Geneva & Annecy
-
- **68** museums
 - **61** classified monuments, **142** listed
 - **279** municipalities including a host of picturesque villages
-
- **8 PDO-PGI (AOP-IGP) CHEESES** made in Savoie
 - **6 PDOS (AOP)**: Abondance, Beaufort, Chevrotin, Comté, Reblochon, Tome des Bauges
 - **2 PGIS (IGP)**: Emmental de Savoie, Tomme de Savoie
-
- **42** ski resorts
 - **279** municipalities (towns and villages)
 - **38** Tourist Offices
 - **14** golf courses



Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Aiguille du Midi cable car



Les Gets - Snow park, freestyle skiing

Destination must-knows

Pioneering spirit, the birthplace of French skiing

The **first Winter Olympic Games** were held in **Chamonix** in 1924. That same year, France's first-ever cable car, nicknamed "the Glaciers", was built. Then, in **1933**, the **first cable car** dedicated **exclusively to winter sports** opened in **Megève**.

The first French ski instructor, a legend from Megève, **Émile Allais**, was **the first-ever French Alpine ski medal winner** (triple World Champion in Chamonix in 1937). Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc, the heartland of skiing, is also a playground for champions of all disciplines.

A string of resort-villages

Haute-Savoie totals some **42 ski resorts**, **95% of which are resort-villages** inhabited all year round, boasting well-preserved traditions and unspoilt natural surroundings. **Good to know**: some are linked to the major ski areas such as the Portes du Soleil and the Grand Massif and feature Avoriaz and Flaine on their heights with their arty style.

Great virtuous, GREEN skiing

Whooshing through forests, "among the pines" is what all Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc resorts have in common. Whether they're small and neighbourly or large and trendy, **all Haute-Savoie resorts are inherently committed to protecting their nature through virtuous initiative**. 10 Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc resorts have also rolled out an ecological transition process (**Flocon Vert** (Green Snowflake) label).

A learning playground

Several resorts, perfect for the little ones through their infrastructure and their mindset, illustrate that Haute-Savoie pursues its route as a **mountain area for learning and for hosting school ski trips**, as well as holiday camps.

The closest Alps to Paris

4h45: is the time it takes to travel by train to reach the peaks of **the Aravis resorts** (Le Grand-Bornand, La Clusaz and Manigod) via Annecy (coach); **4h30** to get to **Combloux** and just a few minutes more to venture into the **Pays du Mont-Blanc** (Cordon, Saint-Gervais, Megève and Praz-sur-Arly). Count **5h** to journey to **Alpes du Léman and Chablais resorts**. A **Paris-Saint-Gervais, ski-in, ski-out?** The Alpin gondola lift, directly linked to the **Valléen** (departure from Saint-Gervais Le Fayet train station), provides direct access to the slopes at 1,400 m altitude in about ten minutes: **an innovation and the first of its kind in Europe**.



Praz-sur-Arly - Traditions and Alpine flights

Only in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc

- **Head for the heights**
Mont-Blanc, of course
- **Jump on the train** to get as close as possible to the glaciers: the Montanvers train and the Mont-Blanc Tramway
- **Ski with eagles**
Morzine / Portes du Soleil
- **Ski with a bird's-eye view over Lake Geneva**
Thollon-les-Mémises
- **Ski for 24h** with the Glisse en Cœur charity event in Le Grand-Bornand
- **Ski by night** across 10 Nordic areas and the largest night-time Alpine skiing area of the Alps (Manigod)
- **Ski through a nature reserve**
Sixt-Passy and Les Contamines-Montjoie
- **Meet Santa Claus**
the Grand Parc d'Andilly and Santa's Hamlet (Saint-Blaise)
- **Be wowed** by a forest show at night (Alta Lumina - Les Gets)
- **Take part** in the biggest hot-air balloon gathering in the mountains (Montgolfiades Internationales - Praz-sur-Arly)
- **Hike** across the highest nature reserve in France. Les Contamines-Montjoie et the 8 other reserves in Haute-Savoie.

Top 7 most visited wonders

1. The Aiguille du Midi cable car: 989,960*
2. Mer de Glace and the Montanvers train: 854,597*
3. The Brévent cable car: 527,987*
4. The Grand Parc d'Andilly: 212,958*
5. The Mont-Blanc Tramway: 193,382*
6. Santa's Hamlet: 190,716*
7. Annecy Castle-Museum: 138,388*

*visits, transits and admissions in 2024

Pure white pleasures

The ski areas

© J. Cathala - Le Grand-Bornand Tourisme

Le Grand-Bornand - Ski area

8 LINKED, SKI-IN, SKI-OUT ALPINE SKI AREAS

- **The Portes du Soleil:** France's 2nd largest ski area. From its charming little villages to its well-known pedestrian resort of Avoriaz, this area stands out with its cross-border aspect (12 resorts in France and Switzerland) and its 600 km made for roaming through snow-filled forests, Alpine peaks and breathtaking panoramas. On the French side: **Avoriaz, Châtel, Les Gets, Morzine-Avoriaz, La Chapelle d'Abondance** are all ski-in, ski-out linked the and Saint-Jean d'Aulps resort-village can be reached by shuttle.
▶ en.portesdusoleil.com/
- **The Grand Massif:** France's 5th largest ski area (365 km of slopes). With its 139 slopes covering all colour grading (25 green, 59 blue, 44 red and 11 black), this area connects several resorts and villages (**Les Carroz, Samoëns, Flaine, etc.**) and boasts an across-the-board range of activities (Alpine, freestyle, Nordic, ski touring, snowboarding, parasport).
▶ grand-massif.com/en/
- **Évasion Mont-Blanc:** 400 km shared between the resorts of **Megève, Saint-Gervais-les-Bains/Saint-Nicolas-de-Véroce**. The Évasion Mont-Blanc area invites to enjoy fantastic ski sensations in unspoilt natural surroundings with incredible scenescapes.
▶ evasionmontblanc.com
- **The Portes du Mont-Blanc:** 100 km of slopes overlooking Mont-Blanc. The Portes du Mont-Blanc area covers four resort-villages: **Combloux, Megève, La Giettaz** (neighbouring the Aravis mountains).
▶ lesportesdumontblanc.fr/hiver/en/home-2/
- **Espace Diamant:** On the Haute-Savoie side, the departure point for taking on easy and challenging slopes is **Praz-sur-Arly** (via the Crêt du Midi chairlift / free parking at Varins car park).
▶ espacediamant.com/en/espace-diamant-ski-area-2.html
- **Espace des Lys:** 60 km between mountain pastures and forests with a vista over Mont-Blanc. Espace des Lys, perched at a height of 1,500 metres, comprises the family-style **Praz de Lys** and **Sommand** resorts. A natural setting with panoramas over Mont-Blanc, just 15 minutes from Cluses.
▶ espacedeslys.com
- **Roc d'Enfer:** 51 km of slopes far from the maddening crowd for a relaxing, nature-filled ski outing between the **Alpes du Léman** and **Aulps Valley**.
▶ rocdenfer.com/en/
- **Hirmentaz-Les Habères:** 50 km of slopes running through the Vallée Verte ("Green Valley"). Hirmentaz and Les Habères are two resorts located close by, at just 30 minutes from Annemasse and Thonon-les-Bains. This is where local people learn to ski and holidaymakers enjoy the simplicity and naturalness. From the top of the **Hirmentaz** slopes:

a 360° panorama (Lake Geneva, the Jura mountains, neighbouring Switzerland, Aravis and Mont-Blanc).

▶ en.alpesduleman.com

SHUTTLE-LINKED ALPINE SKI AREAS

- **Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley:** five resorts (**Servoz, Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière and Vallorcine**) linked by train and shuttle: 146 km slopes overall. Sleek downhill-runs with a vista over the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.
▶ en.chamonix.com
- **Aravis Mountains:** just 30 minutes from Annecy. **La Clusaz, Le Grand-Bornand, Manigod and Saint-Jean-de-Sixt** create a one-of-a-kind playground with 220 km of linked slopes, perfect for all ski sport styles.
▶ annecymountains.com/en/

3 VILLAGES-1 SKI PASS

An exclusivity in Haute-Savoie: 3 resort-villages have joined together to offer a shared pass and create a "learner skier" space comprising these 3 local resorts located above Cluses Arve & montagnes. **Romme-Nancy-sur-Cluses, Le Reposoir and Mont-Saxonnex** are just 15 minutes apart by car.

▶ cluses-montagnes-tourisme.com/en/

NORDIC SKI AREAS

Over 800 km of marked Nordic trails and **25 Nordic areas** of different sizes and atmospheres, spread over all the mountain ranges: Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc is France's 2nd Nordic destination and tops the list for its night-time offer with 10 areas to ski in with your headlamp on.

▶ haute-savoie-nordic.com/#

Le Grand-Bornand - Downhill skiing



© T. SNU

Autumn vibrancy



WHAT'S ON

Time to explore

1. By the waterside

Peacefulness and pure bliss on and around Lake Geneva and Lake Annecy.

2. Discovering heritage treasures

68 museums, 61 classified monuments, 142 listed, 279 municipalities including a host of picturesque villages.

3. Free-wheeling

Mountain passes and bikeways are, of course, still open in the autumn.

4. Thermal bath & spa cocoons

Évian-les-Bains, Thonon-les-Bains and Saint-Gervais-les-Bains.

5. Autumn hiking & roaming ideas sure to delight

- **Giffre Valley** - the "Edge of the World" (Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval) and its waterfalls.
- **Abondance Valley**: from Plagnes Lake to the Refuge des Tinderets.
- **Thônes Valley**: Mount Sulens.
- **Vallée Verte ("Green Valley")/Alpes du Léman**: Mount Forchat (via Très-le-Mont).
- **Chamonix Valley**: Charousse mountain pastures and chalets.
- **Aulps Valley**: Montriond Lake.

Megève - Gourmet delights at Chalet Lupo



5 weekend ideas (for special features too)

1. At one with nature

Bellowing deer, forest immersion, high-altitude hiking and gastronomy, to enjoy the benefits of Haute-Savoie's natural beauty and epicurean lifestyle.

2. Star-studded weekend

A weekend in Annecy to indulge in the delicacies imagined by **starred chefs** and explore natural and heritage treasures.

3. Zen

Time to pamper yourself in **thermal waters with a 2/3-day mini treatment break on the shores of Lake Geneva at the Thermes d'Évian, Thonon or surrounded by mountains at Saint-Gervais Thermal Baths.**

4. Regional treasures & traditions

From **autumn festivities, apple-picking, strolls through forests peppered with mushrooms, grape harvesting** to gastronomic events, autumn unveils all its flavours.

5. A tour of nature's wonders

From the **9 national Alpine and lake-focused nature reserves**, to sensitive natural areas (including **Glères plateau**) and on to **UNESCO Global Geoparks (Chablais and Bauges).**

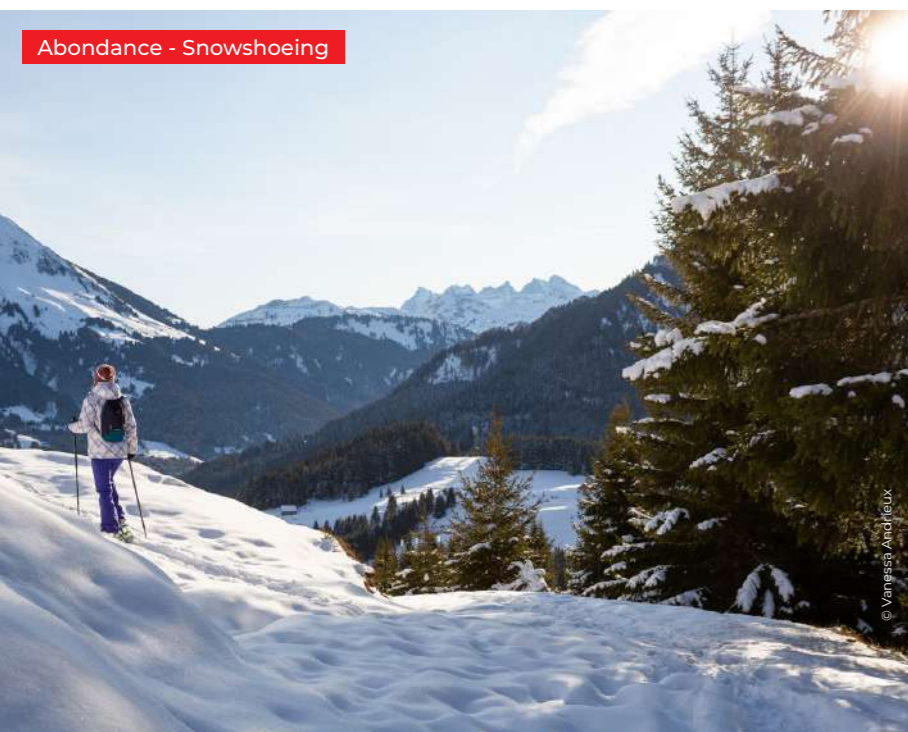


ENJOY AUTUMN TIME IN
HAUTE-SAVOIE

Here comes winter



Abondance - Snowshoeing



Avoriaz - Ski resort at the very heart of the Portes du Soleil

What's new Winter 2025/2026

© Mélanie Carnac



Ski areas

Safety on the slopes

There'll be 4 more ski patrollers, mixed patrols, drones to detect risk areas and AI to analyse accident statistics in Flaine this winter. A prevention campaign, higher-visibility clothing and adapted amenities complete this package.

► flaine.com/en/

A new slope in Praz de Lys Sommand

Inauguration of the "Jora" slope, for families to discover the local fauna through interactive activities.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

Grand Massif: the "Cascades" slope now graded red!

This legendary 14-km-long slope, which was blue until now, links the peak of the Grandes Platières (2,500 m) to the village of Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval (760 m), deep in the heart of the Sixt-Passy nature reserve.

► grand-massif.com/en/

A lounging space at the Ludo Park entrance in Les Contamines-Montjoie

To relax and be wowed by your surroundings, with a 360° vista over the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.

► lescontamines.com/winter

The 4-seasons toboggan opens in La Clusaz

A new leisure facility will be built in the Bossonnet area, at the foot of the slopes. It will be easily-accessible to non-skiers too and will offer a 360-metre climb and an 820-metre descent.

► laclusaz.com/en/

Like Megève, Bernex, Les Gets, Les Carroz and Chamonix, this Aravis resort enhances its 4-seasons activity package.

New amenity at the foot of Le Bettex slopes in Saint-Gervais

A family-style restaurant, accessible to everyone, with a dining area overlooking Mont-Blanc, along with ski lockers, to make life easier for skiers and visitors who come to Saint-Gervais via public transport (train + cable car).

► tourism.saintgervais.com

A new laid-out trail for Samoëns 1600

Samoëns 1600 innovates by creating a pedestrian trail that takes walkers to the top of the cable car. This secure, marked path invites visitors to enjoy a pleasant high-altitude stroll and is accessible to all.

► samoens.com/en/



© Soren Rickards

Ski lifts

Haute-Savoie resorts remain firmly committed to enhancing the visitor experience and to protecting the environment.

A new ski lift in Combloux

Beauregard's new ski lift is up and running this season: easier access, comfortable climb for everyone and optimal people traffic flow across the ski area.

► combloux.com/en/

A recycled chairlift in Le Grand-Bornand

The Taverne chairlift, the oldest one in the resort (1973), has been replaced with a reconditioned model. The Aravis resort is also launching dynamic ski pass rates (Magic Pass) for its 2025-2026 winter season.

► en.legrandbornand.com

A new 4-seasons chairlift

Operational as of the 2025-2026 winter season in the Passy Plaine-Joux ski area.

► passy-mont-blanc.com/en/

A new drag lift in Les Contamines-Montjoie

Les Foyères, located at a height of 1,500 metres, right at the heart of an area devoted to novices and next to the kids' snow club, will cover a green slope perfect for families.

► lescontamines.com/winter

A brand new detachable 8-seater chairlift for Les Gets

In the Rosta sector. Comfortable, faster, stylish... for optimal ski traffic in Les Gets! Thanks to a speed of 6 m/s, you'll reach the heights in less than 3 minutes. The Rosta's upcoming chairlift, equipped with a Direct Drive motor, offers several eco-friendly benefits.

► lesgets.com/en/



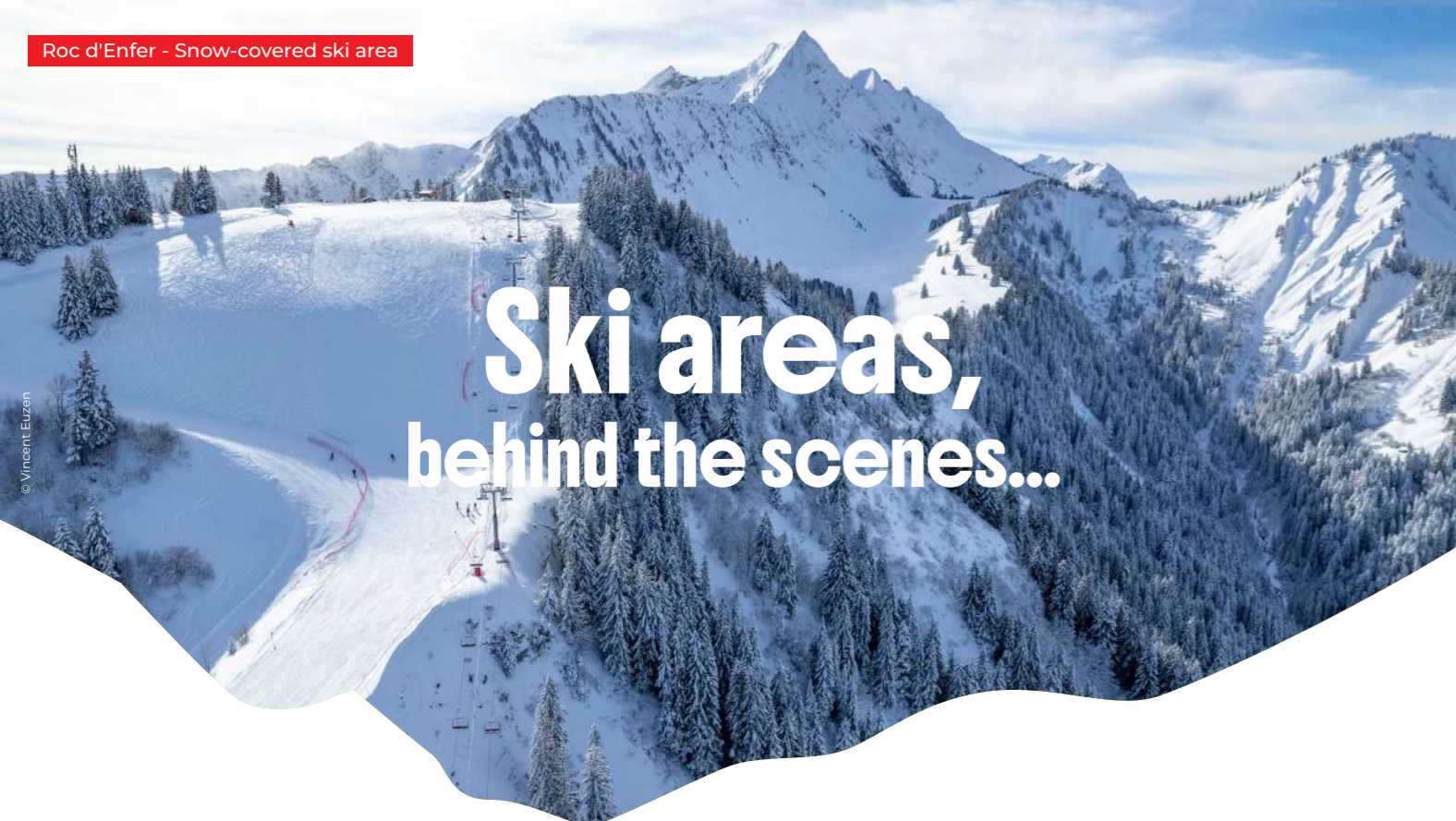
© Chasseurs de spots



© M. Weiss du Léman



© Manon Guenot



Ski areas, behind the scenes...

How does a ski resort operate?
How are the slopes prepared, groomed, made safe?

Ski patroller for a day

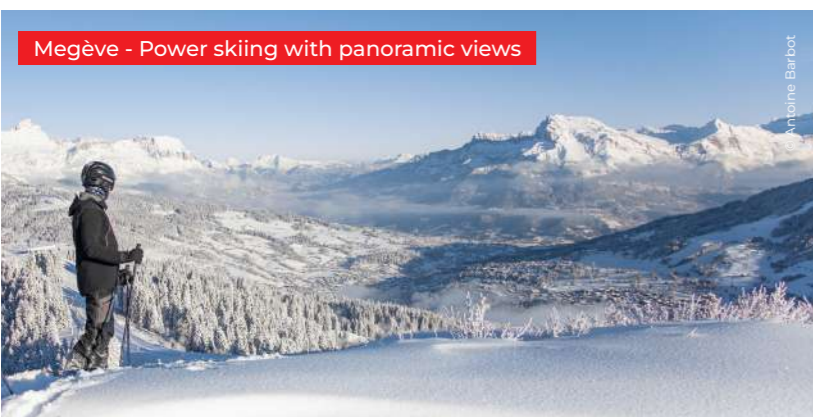
Haven't we all dreamt of being the first to ski down the slopes? Well, dream come true in **Manigod**, as well as in **Praz-sur-Arly** and **Morzine**. A meet-up before the slopes open where you can leave your 'ski tracks' along with the ski patrollers and find out all about their fascinating, highly-demanding job. On the agenda: a tour of the ski area with the patrollers and making a slope safe before giving the green light for a day's skiing. A chance of a lifetime.

"Jump on-board my snow groomer"

As night falls, when the skiers have left the ski areas, the snow groomers take to the stage to get the playground ready for the following day. **Habères**, **Passy** and **Manigod** ski areas invite you to jump on-board a snow groomer. An explanation of the ins and outs of the job, how the equipment works and hands-on experience are all on the agenda. A snow groomer is presented in **Les Carroz** once a week as part of the winter activities.

Let it snow...

And, while in **Manigod**: a trip to the snow factory, to become an expert in snowmaking and the snowmaker's job. The aim: to learn how this snow is created using only air and water.

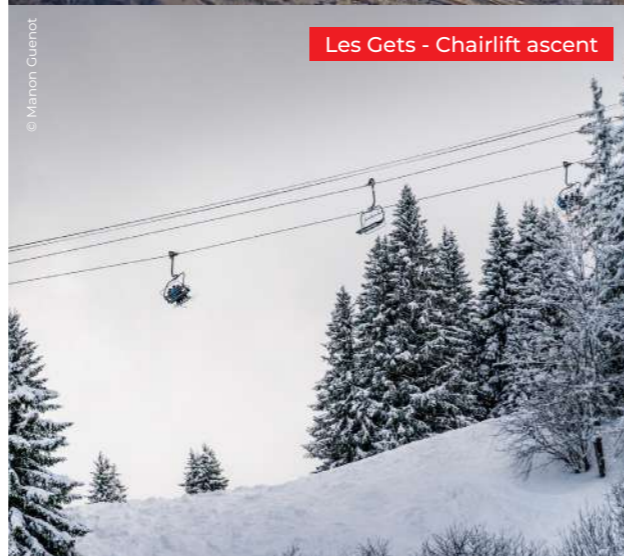


Megève - Power skiing with panoramic views

© Antoine Barbot



Les Habères - Snow groomer on the crests



Les Gets - Chairlift ascent

© Manon Guenet

Ski touring

With its pristine, wild, unspoilt nature, Haute-Savoie is the perfect place to enjoy ski touring and its proven benefits. Try it out in valleys like Môle, Arve, Sulens and Thônes.

The Gypaète Trail to begin with

The route in **Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval** is specifically designed with novices in mind and offers an initiation into ski touring (organized by the French Ski School (ESF) in Morillon, whose instructors are also authorized to supervise outings too).

Learn the bases of ski touring from the age of 8

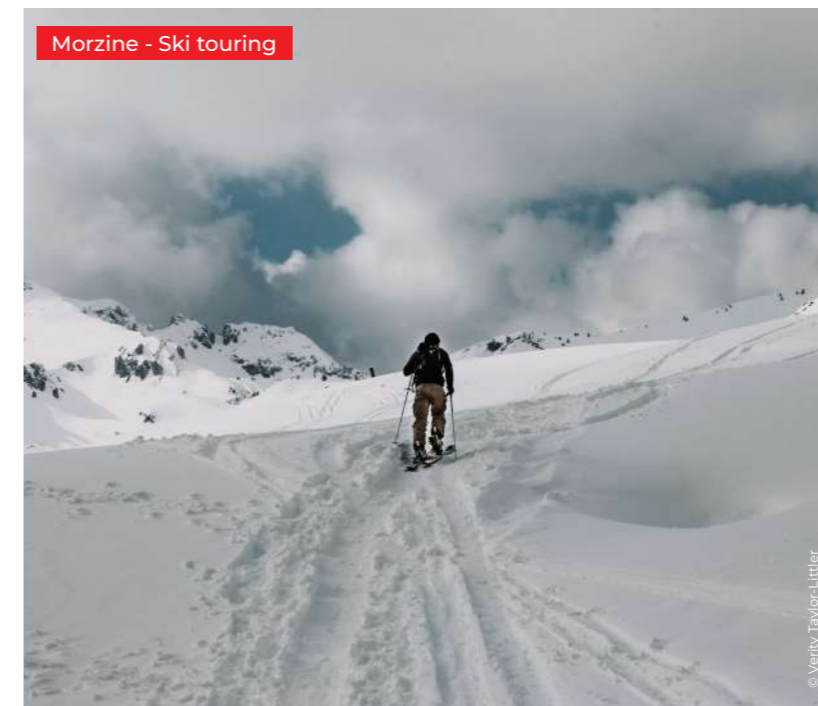
Le Grand-Bornand offers supervised 3-hour mountain discovery sessions along marked routes on the periphery of the ski area. The programme includes how to put seal skins on and learning about the mountain environment and its limitations from the instructor, followed by a demonstration of avalanche search techniques using a shovel, probe and avalanche transceiver.

Ski touring by night

The "**Échappée Rando**" (ski touring escapade) has been highly popular for some 6 years now in **Combloux**. Sessions organized during the end-of-year and February half-term holidays (and open to everyone) take participants from Le Cry to the top of Beaugerard, before heading back down via groomed slopes. Save the date for a Tuesday or Friday evening for a supervised ski touring outing in **Saint-Gervais**.

Ski touring and a night in a refuge

Climbing with skins on your skis is the (only) way to reach the refuges open during winter and to delight in an overnight stay that's like a moment out of time. Discover the **Cabane du Col de Coux in Morzine** (renovated), from the Manche Valley, **La Golèse refuge in Samoëns** and **La Pointe Percée refuge in Le Grand-Bornand**.



Morzine - Ski touring

© Verity Taylor-Littler

A 100% ski touring weekend

The **Alpes du Léman** Tourist Office has concocted an "all-inclusive" (with a night in a hotel) and two days to learn and improve ski touring skills in unspoilt landscapes.

A new dedicated festival

La Trace Festival (Thônes), is the 1st French ski touring film festival: 16 films in competition, 1 trade show, covering 300 m², devoted to ski touring, specialized stands, an Awards ceremony. This festival brings together sector professionals and is intended for aficionados and novices alike, as well as for anyone seeking wonder, thrills and adventure.

Ski touring events

- **Edelweiss** (mid-February in Megève): night-time ski touring race. 4 routes to choose from, ranging from 750 m D+ to 1,600 m D+.
- **La Crève-Cœur x Völk** (Combloux): night-time ski touring race. 2 steep climbing routes, one 5.8 km - 730 m D+, the other 3.9 km - 570 m D+.
- **Monstre Belle** (January in Cordon): night-time ski touring race. 2 routes (600 m D+ and 900 m D+), over the Frébouge ski area on top of the Herney mountain pasture. Worth noting: Monstre Belle and Raide (March 2026): a one-of-a-kind mountaineering "race" that combines cycling, skiing and mountaineering.
- **La Trace des Grands** (7 and 8 March 2026 - Chamonix): a choice of three trails, for beginners, avid ski tourers and competitive racers.
- **Assaut du Haut Fleury** (7 January 2026 - Praz de Lys Sommand): night-time ski-mountaineering race to reach the top of Haut Fleury (1,980 m).
- **Pointes Blanches** (8 February 2026 - Praz de Lys Sommand): day race at dawn (elite) along the peaks.

Where Christmas glitters

© Anthony Stephany

An atmosphere filled with wonder, incredible magic... every year, Santa Claus makes his rounds of all the resorts, towns and villages. And, that's only normal as his hamlet is to be found in Haute-Savoie...

The first snowflakes...

Haute-Savoie ski resorts traditionally open for the end-of-year holiday season. Some of them, the highest (**Flaine, Avoriaz, Chamonix** as well as **La Clusaz/Balme sector**) have surprises in store one or two weekends before Christmas, depending on the amount of snowflakes that fall.

A dazzling Advent

- Save the date for two highly-original light events that follow in the Christmas market spirit.
- **Turning on the Megève Christmas tree lights.** For 50 years now, a giant Christmas tree (20 metres high, comprising some 274 fir trees) has been reigning on the village square, adorned by a leading jewellery house. Save the date for 6 December at 7pm. megeve-tourisme.fr/en/
- **"Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc lights"** (23-31 December). Following in the footsteps of the well-known Festival of Lights in Lyon, when night sets in, Saint-Gervais centre stages its spectacular illuminations along a one-of-a-kind artistic winter route that hosts contemplative and acoustic installations. tourism.saintgervais.com

A dash of tradition

Christmas "r'zeules": Rissoles are THE must-eat Christmas pastry in Haute-Savoie! The first recipes date back to the 15th century; they've been hand down through the generations. In **Aviernoz** near Annecy, (village where they originated), rissoles are filled with dried plum paste. In **Cruseilles**, they're garnished with pear compote with grapes. In **Habère-Poche**, they're preferred with apples and/or pears. What's more, Martine Desbiolles, alias L'Irmande (her nickname), an iconic figure in the Alpes du Léman region, won the "13H fête Noël 2022" regional recipe competition.

When Christmas creates a buzz

On top of the traditional festivities, **Bonjour l'Hiver** ("Hello Winter" street arts festival, 6-24 December 2025 in Annemasse), **Christmas Celebrations** in Sallanches (6 December 2025-4 January 2026), **Le Big Barouf du Père Noël** ("Santa Claus's Big Bash" in Bonneville), **Les Pestacles du Père Noël** (Street art festival in La Clusaz - over the Christmas week), **Le Père Noël habite aux Gets** ("Santa Claus lives in Les Gets" 19-26 December).

The Fabulous Village or the Legend of the Flottins in Évian

The Flottins, a group of small imaginary people, have been taking over the town of Évian every winter for the past 18 years, transforming it with tons of driftwood carried to Lake Geneva. The only cultural event of its kind in France, organized by the Toupine Theatre (Au Bohneur des Mômes Festival).

Christmas in the mountains

- All Haute-Savoie resorts glitter with a thousand colours for Christmas.
- **In Flaine:** performances, choirs, torch-lit ski descents, visits from Santa Claus and drone shows.
- From Christmas to Epiphany, the festive spirit takes over **Le Grand-Bornand** square (fairground rides, performances, wooden games, craft market, Santa Claus, etc.).
- **In Passy**, Santa Claus even rides in a dog sled.

Animated cultural sites to visit

The Grand Parc d'Andilly and Santa's Hamlet (see opposite). Magic happens on the shores of Lake Annecy, where the **Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard** renamed Santa Claus Castle for the occasion is also a must-see, while the **Ecomuseum of Lake Annecy** invites to delight in a Savoie-style Christmas!



The Grand Parc d'Andilly and Santa's Hamlet: a world exclusive

Did you know? Santa Claus lives in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc! Santa has set up his Hamlet in Saint-Blaise, on the Mount Sion pass to be precise, between Annecy and Geneva. Here, in this little realm, deep in the heart of a 5-hectare forest, we also come across **Mrs Claus, the elves and Father Whipper!** The **Grand Parc d'Andilly, 4th most visited site in Haute-Savoie**, is the only place in the world where **the Nutcracker has a house** and where you can wander through the longest hanging maze in Europe that's accessible in winter and without a harness.

Key figures **400,000** visitors per year to the Grand Parc d'Andilly and Santa's Hamlet



Andilly - Saint-Blaise - Santa's Hamlet - Father Whipper's House



Andilly - Saint-Blaise
Santa's Hamlet - The Elves' Table

Highlights

What's new

1. Montgolfiades Internationales

(10-18 January 2026, Praz-sur-Arly)

7 days more! From the original 2-day event to 9 days for this 35th edition of the **largest and only gathering of hot air balloons in the French Alps**. More than twenty hot air balloons in flight, activities and flights open to the public.

► prazsurarly.com/en

2. La Grande Odyssée 2026

Avoriaz hosts the prologue and the official departure (9 and 10 January 2026) of "The Great Odyssey", one of the most prestigious international sled dog races. The 65 mushers and their 600 athletic dogs will cross the most exquisite mountain ranges in the Alps from 10 to 22 January 2026.

► grandeodysee.com

3. The Gautier Capuçon Foundation

Presents **3 evenings of classical concerts in Saint-Gervais** (7 to 9 January 2026) with its musicians, as well as round tables and workshops during the day. A must-not-miss event combining music, sharing and discovery in a friendly, artistic atmosphere.

► tourism.saintgervais.com

4. Praz de Lys Sommand

Hosts the Championnat de France de sports adaptés (French Adaptive Sports championship) (12-14 March 2026). Around sixty runners will compete over several distances: a first for the resort that illustrates its values of inclusion and openness.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

5. First Ski Festival

(21-28 March 2026, Les Gets) specially designed for complete beginners: a week of initiation into the pleasures of skiing in a really friendly atmosphere. A great deal pricewise too!

► lesgets.com/en/

6. First La Trace Festival

(10-12 April 2026 in Thônes): 1st festival devoted to ski touring (16 films in competition, 1 trade show, covering 300 m², specialized stands, an Awards ceremony).

► thonescoeurdesvallees.com

On the sporting agenda

BMW IBU Biathlon World Cup

Annecy-Le Grand-Bornand (15-21 December 2025): The French stage of the Biathlon World Cup will once again thrill the Sylvie Becaert International Stadium. 4 days of competition, 6 rounds, 300 biathletes, 30 nations.

► biathlon-annecy-legrandbornand.com/?lang=en

Kandahar Junior 2026

(9-11 January 2026, Les Houches): Kandahar Junior, organized by Les Houches Ski Club (France), brings together the best youngsters (120 girls/120 boys) in the U14 category from Europe's leading Alpine skiing nations for 3 events: giant pro, slalom and giant.

► kandaharjunior.com/en

Women's European Alpine Ski Cup

(23-24 January 2026, Chamonix): Chamonix's back centrestage for the continental agenda with two night-time slaloms in Les Planards.

► en.chamonix.com

European Slopestyle and Big Air Cup

(beginning of February 2026, La Clusaz): the best freestylers will gather at the resort of champions in this discipline for the "LCZ freestyle week".

► laclusaz.com/en/

UCI Snow Bike World Championships

(7 February 2026, Châtel): 3rd edition, around Linga Stadium with 2 disciplines, Super-G and Dual Slalom in knockout duels on parallel trails, face-to-face in two rounds.

► en.chatel.com/hiver

International Open-air Curling Tournament

(17 and 18 February 2026, Les Contamines-Montjoie)

Les Contamines tournament, the only one of its kind in France is one of the only ones held outdoors (ancestral tradition). Around twenty teams from all four corners of the world will gather here in January.

► lescontamines.com/winter

European Ski Cross Cup

(Les Contamines-Montjoie): women and men skiers will compete at the heart of the ski area in the François Bonlieu Stadium (800 metres of banked turns, whoops and jumps), a springboard for future stars of this Olympic discipline.

► lescontamines.com/winter

Paret Championship

(December 2025-March 2026, Manigod) The Aravis resort-village is home to the "paret", a wooden sled, with only one shoe, made in **Manigod** (in bygone days, children would use these to slide along to school). 180 participants, 5 timed runs on a parallel slalom course. Fun-filled and participative: the public is invited to take part in a run.

► en.manigod.com

Skimo/ski touring races

Monstre Belle et Raide in **Cordon** (adventure racing that comprises cycling, skiing and mountaineering), La Crève-Cœur x Völkl in **Combloux**, Assaut du Haut-Fleury in **Praz de Lys Sommand**, Edelweiss in **Megève**, La Trace des Grands in Les Grands-Montets (**Chamonix**), Pointes Blanches in **Sommand**, etc.

Trail running on snow

Spartan Winter Trail in **Morzine**, the Dragonale givrée in **Praz-sur-Arly**, Sully Ski Trail in **Thônes**, Béliet Blanc in **La Clusaz**, Les Mouilles Winter Trail in **the Alpes du Léman**, the Trail Blanc des Brasses, the Diagonale du Mont-Joly in **Saint-Gervais**, etc.

Nordic events

We love the Traversée de la Ramaz (**Praz de Lys Sommand**, 8 March 2026), which is a historical event and part of the Long Distance Challenge Haute-Savoie Nordic. In January, the Hivernales of **Haut-Giffre** is a free day for discovering Nordic activities at the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval with cross-country skiing, biathlon, snowshoeing, fat bike, ice sculptures and yoga, for young and old alike.

Waterside events!

The Glagla Race gathers together the world's best SUP professionals and enthusiasts on **Lake Annecy** (11th edition, 17 and 18 January, starting out from Talloires Bay). Mid-March in **Morillon**, it's time for the greatest, and perhaps a bit crazy, swimmers to dive into the icy waters at the foot of the Grand Massif slopes, for the Défi du Lac Bleu (Blue Lake Challenge, races and relays).

► en.lac-annecy.com



Portes du Soleil - Rock the Pistes Festival

FESTIVALS GALORE

Hivernal Festival (beginning of December, Annecy): "the little sibling of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival", with world premieres.

► hivernalfestival.com

Rock On Snow (12-14 December 2025, Avoriaz): free testing of the leading ski and snowboard brand products, competitions, games, initiations, concerts and discount-price passes.

► avoriaz.com/en/

Images & Neige Festival (31 January-1st February 2026, Cluses): 20 photographers from around the world showcase their snow & ice photos. An eco-friendly event.

► cluses.fr

Les Gets Comédie (29 January-4 February): a fun-filled interlude between two slopes with one-of-a-kind evenings where skiing and stand-up performances meet.

► tourism.saintgervais.com

Venetian Carnival (27 February-1st March 2026, Annecy): worldwide acclaim for "the little Venice of the Alps" carnival, 29th edition. 3 days of parades in the old town, along the Gardens of Europe, the Pâquier esplanade and the canals.

► en.lac-annecy.com

Rock The Pistes (15-22 March 2026, Portes du Soleil): this festival, a trailblazer when it comes to high-altitude festivals and the only one held on the slopes, offers a programme of French and international pop-rock concerts at the very heart of the ski area, in a different resort every day (Châtel, Les Gets, Morzine, Avoriaz).

► en.rockthepistes.com

Glisse en Cœur (20-22 March 2026, Le Grand-Bornand): 17th edition of this charity event held in the French mountains, which combines solidarity and 24-hour team relay skiing with concerts.

► glisse-en.coeur-fde.fr

Classiquicime Festival (26-29 March 2026, Megève): 4 days, 4 major concerts, 5 musical performances on the peaks, 8 educational and entertaining "Concerts de Poche" association concerts, 2 music lessons and 2,000 performers.

► classiquicime-megeve.com/en

Unlimited Festival (end March 2026, Chamonix): an international line-up of influential artists from the world of contemporary music and the electro scene, performing at the most beautiful sites in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley.

► unlimited-festival.com/en/

Radio Meuh Circus Festival (2-5 April 2026 in La Clusaz): 12th edition. 4 days filled with contemporary music at the foot of the peaks: evening concerts under the big top, free concerts in the village centre, and more...

► radiomeuh.com



Les Contamines-Montjoie - European Ski Cross Cup

The icon of Haute-Savoie

Mont-Blanc

Mont-Blanc - Heading for the heights

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Aiguille du Midi cable car



Ascending the Aiguille du Midi: France's highest cable car

The Aiguille du Midi (3,842 m) cable car, inaugurated in 1955, whisks visitors and mountaineers up to the gateway to the high peaks and to Mont-Blanc in less than 30 minutes. Some people enjoy the 360° panoramic views over the Mont-Blanc range of mountains and the Alps once there, while others put on their ice grippers, skis on their back, ready to whoosh down the White Valley...

► aiguilledumidi.montblancnaturalresort.com/en

Descending the White Valley: legendary off-piste skiing in Chamonix Valley

20 kilometres of spectacular descent on a glacier! The things that dreams are made of for many ski enthusiasts who just love a challenge. Not everyone can venture out on these slopes though, experience in skimo and knowledge of high mountain environments are a must. It's better to be accompanied by seasoned guides (Chamonix and Saint-Gervais/Les Contamines mountain guide offices).

► chamonix-guides.com/en ► guides-mont-blanc.com/en/

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Skiing with a vista over the Mer de Glace



Excursion to the Mer de Glace: France's largest glacier

The natural Mer de Glace site, 7 km long, covering 40 km², 200 m thick, at a height of 1,913 m, was formed by the Leschaux and Géant glaciers. In 1741, two Englishmen, Windham and Pocock, disregarded local superstitions and became the first to visit the famous Chamonix Valley "glaciers", believed back then to be dens for demons. Despite dire predictions, they came back down alive and described what they called the Mer de Glace (Sea of Ice) for the first time. The Mer de Glace, illustrating the changes in the Alpine climate, is a prime observation site for learning more about glacial dynamics and contemporary environmental challenges.

Journey to the Mer de Glace on-board the Montenvers Train

The Mer de Glace has been a must-do excursion in Chamonix Valley since 1741! This site, which was once accessible by mule, attracted well-known figures in their days: William Turner (1801), François-René de Chateaubriand (1805), Georges Byron (1816), Mary Shelley (1816), Victor Hugo (1825), Alexandre Dumas (1832), Charles Dickens (1846), Louis Pasteur (1860), to name but a few. Since 1909, a little rack-railway train takes visitors up to Montenvers (1913 m), overlooking the Mer de Glace: in other words, 20 minutes of a legendary journey. Once there, visitors continue their discovery on the panoramic terrace, in the ice grotto, Galciorium and interpretation spaces, which immerse them totally in the world of glaciers.

► montenverstrain.com/en/homepage/

► montblancnaturalresort.com/en

Take your experience to new heights: an overnight stay in the Refuge du Montenvers

The Refuge du Montenvers is an incomparable, unclassifiable, one-of-a-kind hotel. Stylish, elegant with wood and leather from the times, and steeped in history. When it first opened (1880), its guests were the first visitors to the Mer de Glace, mountaineers, adventurers and artists. Today, it is favoured by epicureans in search of the extraordinary. Nothing in the world compares to waking up with a vista over the Drus and the Mer de Glace and listening to the silence of an immaculate range of mountains. The 18 rooms and suites (and dormitory for 10) are named after illustrious figures, and add a dash of poetry to this moment out of time.

► en.refugedumontenvers.com

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Montenvers Train



Where can you ski with views over Mont-Blanc?

In the Pays du Mont-Blanc, of course

In **Saint-Gervais**, the Chateluy is a wonderful green slope (4 km) between forests and clearings, with an uninterrupted view of the peaks. In **Chamonix***, the most experienced skiers will glide down the slopes with ease while admiring Mont-Blanc at the same time, by heading off along the black Charles Bozon slope in the Brévent ski area. In **Cordon**, nicknamed "Mont-Blanc's balcony", by whooshing along the red Croix slope. In **Combloux**, the vista from the blue (Croix) slope is a must that's accessible to everyone and doesn't require any special technical skills. In **Megève**, the Gypaète (Christomet - the Portes du Mont-Blanc area) is recommended for the wow factor. The entire ski area of **Les Contamines-Montjoie** enjoys a breathtaking view over Mont-Blanc, apart from the Hauteluce sector with its two slopes in the village. The highest slope with a view is the red Aiguille slope, where descents start at an altitude of 2,487 metres. On the other side of the valley, in **Passy Plaine-Joux**: all the slopes offer a vista over Mont-Blanc!

Grand Massif ski area

For the view when starting out from **Morillon**, **Samoëns** or **Les Carroz**, you need to go to the top of the Coulouvrier chairlift and to the Tête des Saix. In **Flaine**, the Méphisto offers a vista over the entire Mont-Blanc range: the slope begins at Les Platières and runs through a wild mountain pass to reach the Aup de Véran ski area. The arrival at the top of the Grandes Platières cable car is incredible: Mont-Blanc is within reach of your ski tips!

Portes du Soleil ski areas

Two outstanding spots on the **Morzine-Les Gets** ski area offer a vista over Mont-Blanc: Ranfoilly platform and Pointe de Nyon with the spectacular Pas de l'Aigle glass footbridge. From this viewpoint at 2,019 metres, ski down the Aigle slope to the Nyon plateau. In **Les Gets**, on the Super Morzine sector, novices have the opportunity to learn how to ski with a panorama over Mont-Blanc. In the **Super Châtel** sector, a descent from the Morclan on the red Chermillon slope with panoramic views over Chalet Neuf at the top of the drag lifts, then down to Morgins (Switzerland).

In the Aravis

In **La Clusaz**, the black Balme slope wins hands down for its technical level and its wow-inspiring views. For a 360° panorama over the Alps and Mont-Blanc, head for the top of Mont Lachat, the highest point of the ski area, when in **Le Grand-Bornand**.

IN PRAZ DE LYS SOMMAND

The view is uninterrupted from the Roy chairlift, as well as when skiing down the Haut-Fleury Lac slope.

Above Lake Annecy

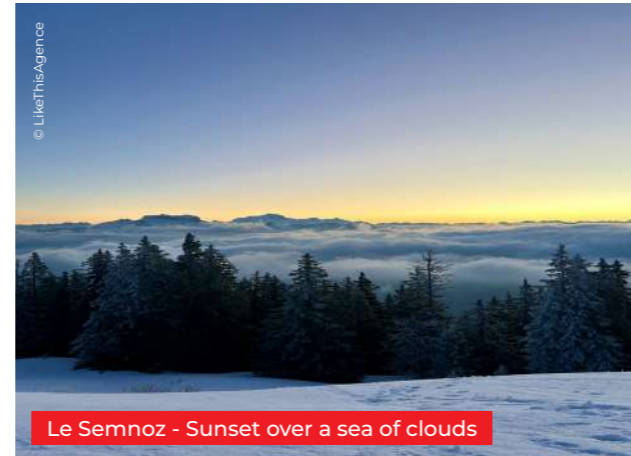
The resort of **Le Semnoz** boasts two slopes with vistas over Mont-Blanc: Bucherons and Canyon. The three Nordic skiing loops in the area also offer panoramic views; an unexpected spot, just 20 minutes from the capital of the Haute-Savoie department.

In the Alpes du Léman

In the **Hirmentaz** sector along the red Airelles slope.

In Bernex

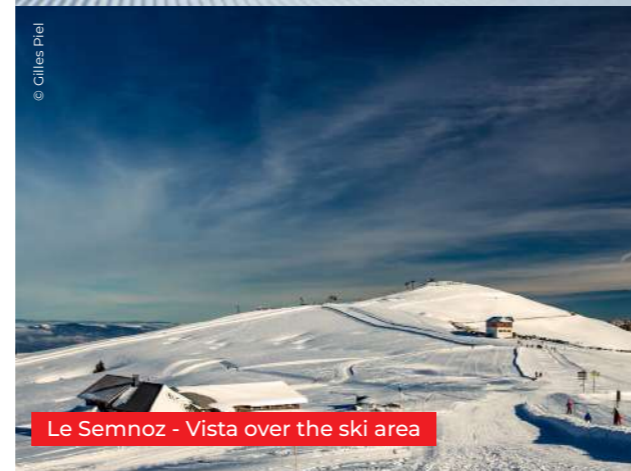
In the **Léman Mountains Explore** area resort, you have to earn your reward up there! At the top of the ski area, at the Pointe de Peluaz (1,912 metres). Descent with a view over Lake Geneva, with a choice of a red slope and two black ones. Magical and totally one of a kind.



Le Semnoz - Sunset over a sea of clouds



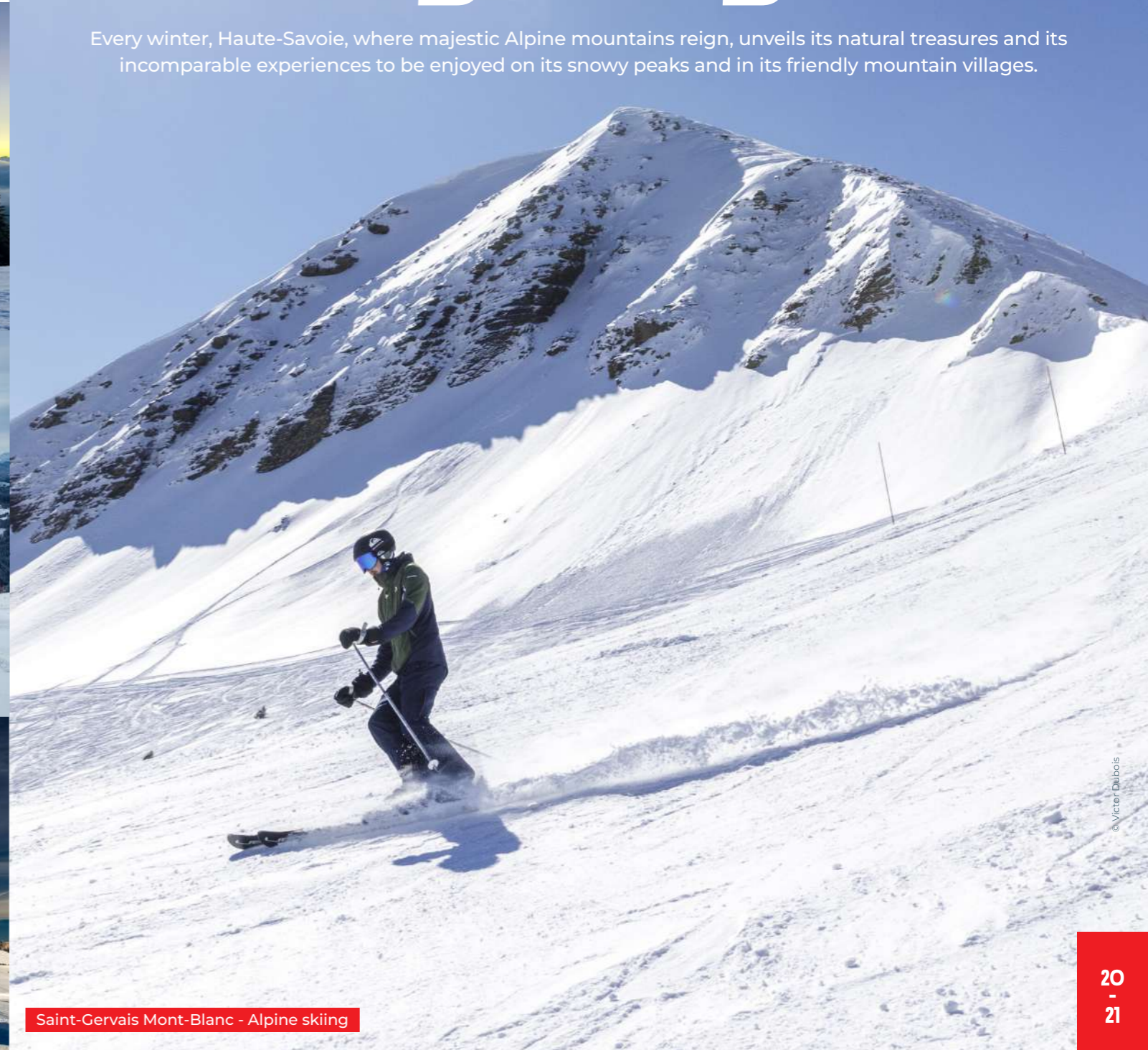
Les Gets - Downhill skiing



Le Semnoz - Vista over the ski area

Where skiing reigns...

Every winter, Haute-Savoie, where majestic Alpine mountains reign, unveils its natural treasures and its incomparable experiences to be enjoyed on its snowy peaks and in its friendly mountain villages.



Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc - Alpine skiing



Morzine - Alpine skiing with an instructor

Skiing for everyone

40% of Haute-Savoie's territory is covered by forests. Skiing takes place in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc in unspoilt natural environments, even at the very heart of nature reserves, no matter the size of the resort. As such, everyone can fulfil their dream of skiing among the fir trees, just like on a picture postcard. Every resort has its signature slope that weaves its way through the forest.

It's here that everyone learns to ski

As the region's rooted in traditions, skiing for children is made easier in specially-designed ski areas. With its many dedicated kids' snow clubs and ski schools, Haute-Savoie invites children to take their first steps on skis and improve while having fun over the years.

The French Ski School organization (ESF) is celebrating its 80th anniversary! Haute-Savoie boasts 37 French Ski Schools, from the smallest in Mont-Saxonnex (5 instructors) to the largest in Megève with 352 coaches.

Haute-Savoie is also a historic destination for **school ski trips and holiday camps**. Holiday centres that perpetuate the tradition of community learning, hand-in-hand with specialist associations such as "**La montagne des Juniors**" (Mountains for the kids), cater for groups of children.

► www.savoie-haute-savoie-juniors.com

Save the date: the first edition of the **Ski Festival (21-28 March 2026, Les Gets)**, a ski festival exclusively for novices.

Ski safari

A day's skiing in Haute-Savoie is like a gentle stroll in the fresh air where you can delight in two major interlinked ski areas. To explore the **Grand Massif**, the ski area app offers two suggested routes (adventurers and explorers) starting out from **Samoëns**. To do a round trip of the Portes du Soleil, you can start off from **Les Gets** with the **Chavanne Express** chairlift, then continue your adventure across the **Nyon (Morzine)** sector, followed by **Avoriaz** before heading for the Mosettes Express chairlift and touching down in Switzerland. The return journey includes a trip through **Châtel** with its natural vistas over **Lake Geneva** and **Abondance Valley**, etc.

Home of adaptive skiing

Morillon is a benchmark for winter parasports (since 2003) and access to winter sports for all is top priority. The Tatu Handi Sport association works to ensure the resort becomes even more accessible, particularly for **sit-skiing and adaptive skiing**. It manages the adaptive sport equipment and works hand-in-hand with the French Ski School (ESF) in Morillon to promote these practices. Last winter, the association purchased a **Gotoski** to offer people with disabilities a "**standing skiing**" experience. Every year, a winter parasport day (in January) enables people with disabilities and able-bodied skiers to discover the range of possibilities offered at the resort, in a friendly, inclusive atmosphere.

The neighbouring resort, **Samoëns**, also promotes adaptive skiing. The Samoëns Handi Glisse association provides equipment free of charge (**tandemski, dualski and uniski**) and offers supervision by trained French Ski School (ESF) instructors. The **ski taxi** also enables grandparents who don't ski to accompany their grandchildren on the slopes.

In Le Grand-Bornand, piloted dualski outings are on the agenda – equipment is included and the instructors are specifically trained in adaptive skiing. Nearly all the ski area is accessible to **wheelchair skis**: most of the ski lifts can be used.



Morzine - Children's ski lesson



Combloux - Adaptive skiing

In Combloux (Portes du Mont-Blanc ski area), special facilities provide access to ski lifts specially designed for **uniskis and dualskis**. The Loisirs Assis Évasion association lends most of its equipment (such as **uniskis, dualskis, Snow'Karts, Tandemskis**, etc.) free of charge (with a deposit), in addition to offering pilot training courses.

Starting this winter, French Ski School (ESF) instructors in **Passy** will offer adaptive skiing (**sit skiing, standing skiing and tandem**) thanks to the opening of a new **specially-designed chairlift in Plaine-Joux**.

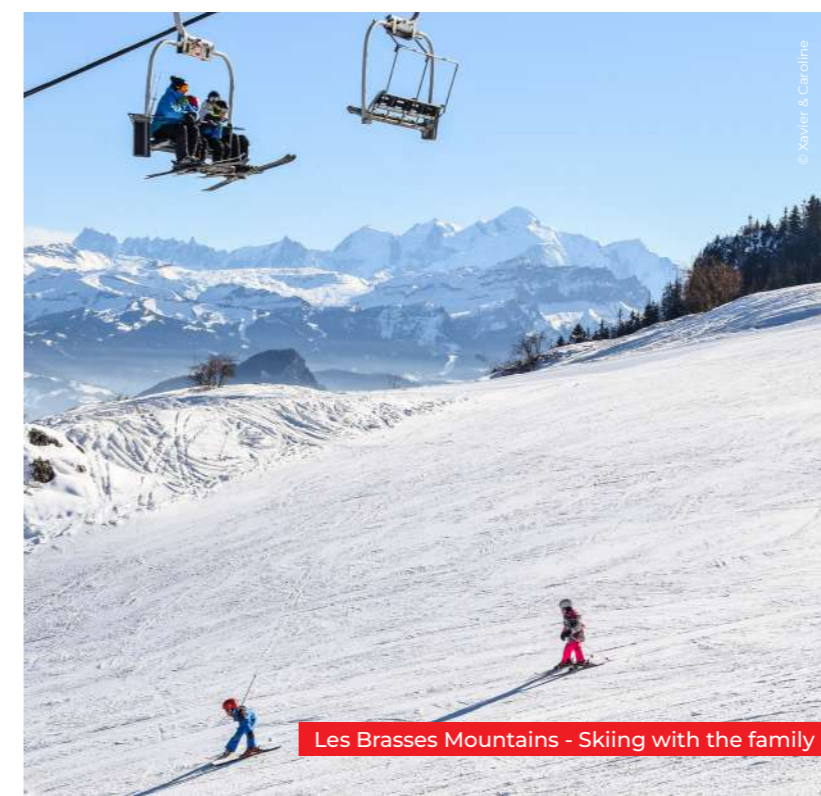
An "Adaptive Skiing Day" is organized every year in **Bellevaux** (Hirmentaz-Les Habères ski area) in January, hand-in-hand with the French Ski School (ESF).

This winter, **Praz de Lys Sommand** will host the **French Adaptive Sports Championship**. This first-time event illustrates the resort's values of inclusion and openness and promises to be an occasion full of thrills and sharing.

Adaptive cross-country skiing

The Nordic Pass 74 Handiski offers unlimited access to 25 Nordic areas, in particular **Samoëns, La Clusaz, Le Grand-Bornand, Morzine Avoriaz**, etc. Some areas also offer special services.

► haute-savoie-nordic.com/#



Les Brasses Mountains - Skiing with the family



Manigod - Ski by night

5 one-of-a-kind ski experiences

Ski by night across France's largest ski area

The **Manigod** ski area throws open its slopes to you from 4:30pm. 8 floodlit slopes and 4 ski lifts are open on Fridays and Saturdays (from 14 December), then every day, apart from Sundays, during the school holidays, with theme-focused evenings, 2 sledging evenings, Mountain Kart and free hot apple juice distributed by the ski patrollers, entertainment, marshmallow party and more. During the February half-term holidays, **Les Habères** ski area is also floodlit: "Les Habères sous les réverbères" (Les Habères under the lights).

And, when it comes to Nordic areas, they've also got their night-time fans.

During the week, there are countless night-time cross-country skiing opportunities in Haute-Savoie, the department that offers the best selection in France (10 areas). These evening outings are a real hit with lovers of inspirational after-work events. Skiing with a headlamp on, in touch with nature, indulging in the silence and bliss of the night, boosts the senses and the thrills of skiing.

Jump on the train to ski next to a glacier

To treat yourself to this other one-of-a-kind experience just waiting for you in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc: get on-board with your ski boots on in the **Saint-Gervais/Le Fayet train station**. **Mont-Blanc Tramway**, France's highest rack-railway train, whisks skiers up to the Nid d'Aigle (2,372 m high), overlooking Bionnassay Glacier and the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.

Ski with eagles

An unforgettable experience to enjoy in **Morzine** on the Nyon Plateau. The falconer takes you skiing accompanied by his bald eagle; now, it's up to you to challenge the speed of this bird of prey...

Ski with vistas over Lake Geneva

The "Fées" slope in **Thollon-les-Mémises** offers a breathtaking panorama over Lake Geneva.



Solaison Plateau - Nordic area

The Nordic realm

Haute-Savoie's 25 Nordic areas invite to delight in cross-country skiing (alternative / skate skiing) and a variety of activities (snowshoeing, dog sledding, biathlon) in their unspoilt spaces. Accessibility, diversity and easy-to-reach: 3 key attractions of Nordic areas in Haute-Savoie. Read on.

Direct access from the valleys

The great thing about Haute-Savoie's Nordic areas is that they're located less than 30 minutes from residential areas. Nordic fans in **Annecy** head for **Le Semnoz** during their lunch break. From **Thônes**, **Beauregard Plateau** extends its 25 km of sportive trails among fir trees, with the Aravis Mountains and Mont-Blanc as a backdrop. 20 minutes is all it takes to travel from **Cluses** to **Agy Plateau**.

From **Bonneville**: **Solaison Plateau** invites to discover its 38 km of trails of all colours and to enjoy a great breath of fresh air (1,500 m high). The **Sur Lyand/Grand Colombier** Nordic area, just 15 minutes from **Seysssel**, hosts 26 km of marked trails, with a 360° vista. For those who wish to indulge near **Annemasse**,

Salève Nordic Area with its 360° panorama (Geneva, Mont-Blanc, Aravis, Bauges) is the place to be. At 20 to 30 minutes from **Thonon**: the **Alpes du Léman**'s two areas (Les Mouilles-Bellevaux and Les Moises-Habère-Poche) are the main Nordic skiing destinations in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc.

Key figures

25 nordic areas

+800 km of marked trails

A kingdom of plateaux, forests... and rivers

In addition to the pleasure of skiing in a 100% unspoilt setting, you'll be amazed by the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval (Haut-Giffre Nordic area), along the Dranse River (**Chapelle d'Abondance Nordic area**), around Montriond Lake (**Aulps Valley**), in the immaculate **Bouchet Valley** in **Le Grand-Bornand**, and deep in the heart of **Les Contamines-Montjoie nature reserve**.

With the little ones?

Plaine-Joux Nordic area in the Vallée Verte (Green Valley) hosts a Nordic kids' snow club (run by the French Ski School (ESF)): one of the only ones in Haute-Savoie. Bumps, jumps and banked turns make the **Livraz Nordic area** (Megève) a paradise for thrill-seeking teenagers.

For a fitness boost?

Head for **Les Confins Nordic area** in **La Clusaz** and tackle the black trail like the young people in the Haute-Savoie Nordic Team and, who knows... while you're at it, perhaps you'll bump into a champion.

© OT Annecy

Le Semnoz - Winter panorama over the Nordic area



Good to know

Nordic Pass 74 gives you unlimited ski access over Haute-Savoie's 25 Nordic areas, where you'll discover a wide array of landscapes and atmospheres, as you please. New: skiing by night is included as of this winter.

Event

"**Haute-Savoie Nordic Opening**", the new date to kick off the season! To kick off the 2026 season, head for a Haute-Savoie Nordic area in December 2025 (initiations, activities, testing, etc.).

► haute-savoie-nordic.com/#

Glières Nordic area: skiing through history

Glières Plateau, a French Resistance heartland during the Second World War, is an iconic Nordic area: the busiest (5,000 visitors some Saturdays), the Number One for night-time skiing and the favourite place for Haute-Savoie schools, budding talent and great champions alike.

When biathlon rhymes with passion

This discipline (cross-country skiing and rifle shooting) is now offered in all Haute-Savoie Nordic areas. Two resorts host international competitions in their stadiums: **Les Contamines-Montjoie** and **Le Grand-Bornand**.



DISCOVER ALL THE NORDIC RESORTS

Out of the ordinary

Ski by night: with 10 areas opening at night 1 to 2 days/week, Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc is France's most developed Nordic destination for night-time skiing. Skiing at 7:30am is another exclusivity, to enjoy in **Agy** and **Glières**.

Adaptive Nordic skiing

Haute-Savoie Nordic and its members ensure access to cross-country skiing is easy for persons with disabilities, with special facilities & equipment and the Nordic Pass 74 Handiski.



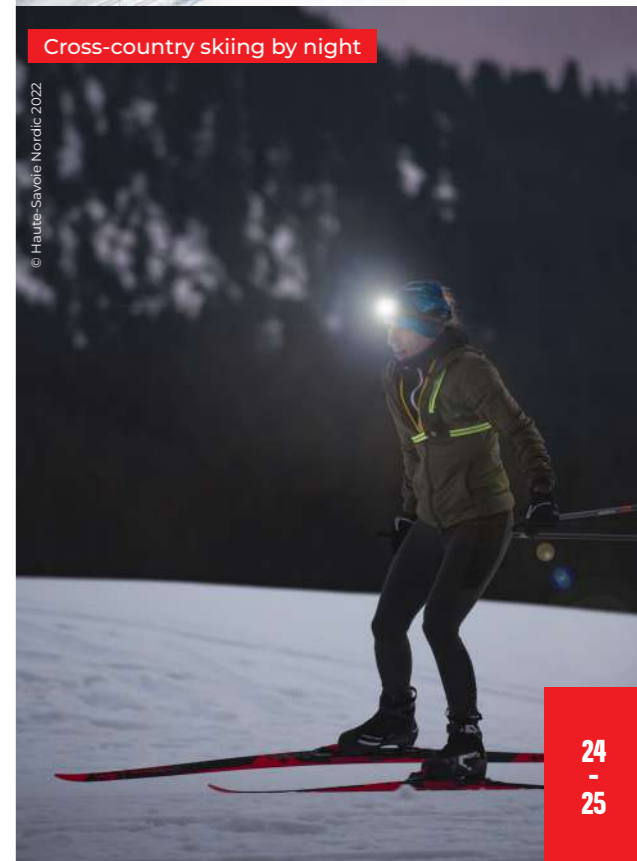
Le Grand-Bornand - Skate skiing



La Clusaz - Les Confins - Nordic skiing



Glières Plateau Nordic area and heartland of remembrance



Cross-country skiing by night

Fun with children



Skiing and fun galore!

Having fun on the slopes is the key to enjoying skiing and improving skills! **The mysterious forest of Zizipanpan, Opoualand, "Ze Quartz Park", Pinguin Park, the Cowboys & Indians slope, Môm'Park, Défi'Môm'**: these themed slopes and spaces, dotted with gongs, tunnels, bends and games have been imagined to have fun while skiing. Children head off in search of life-size animal shapes hidden along the slope of the Enchanted Marvel educational trail (**Morillon**).

Head for the playgrounds. Right at the heart of **Les Houches-Saint-Gervais** ski area, children take a **zip-line break** and go **snowtubing at the Ski Camp. The Village des Lutins** (Elf Village), in **Megève**, is a must-not-miss for families, as is the **foot of the slopes with installations** for the little ones in **Praz-sur-Arly**.

Favourite non-skiing activities

Dog sledding is still the No.1 activity booked by families on winter sports holidays, in both riding and introduction to mushing a pack of dogs. Alternatively, **pulka** is a one-of-a-kind activity to try out in **Bellevaux**. Another greatly-acclaimed tow-focused past-time is **skijoring** and a **horse-drawn carriage ride** in **Avoriaz** and **Megève**.

Rail tobogganing, also known as "4-seasons", is also very popular and shows the diversity of activities on offer, rail tobogganing is also enjoyed as an après-ski activity. To be discovered in **Bernex, Les Carroz, Les Gets, Megève** and **Chamonix**.

In a trapper's shoes: animal tracks, toasted marshmallows and wood fires are all on the agenda for a Davy Crockett-style snowshoe outing, organized by Haute-Savoie mountain guides.

In a falconer's shoes: a one-of-a-kind experience in **Morzine** with **Lake Geneva Eagles**.

Tubing or snowtubing: hurtling down a dedicated slope sitting in a large rubber ring is a must-try in **Praz-sur-Arly, Passy Mont-Blanc, Megève** and at the **Ski Camp** in the **Les Houches-Saint-Gervais** ski area.

Orienteering course: children set off in the snow to look for clues and discover the villages of **Cluses Arve & montagnes**.

New: a **new Orienteering Leisure Space** is launched this winter in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**! This course, starting out at Pontet leisure park and finishing off at Notre-Dame de la Gorge, includes riddles, puzzles and observation games.

"Special moments" with the family

- **Christmas in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc**, of course, in the purest tradition of Christmases past. With a chance to meet **Santa Claus in his Hamlet** (Santa Claus lives in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc...)
- **Immersive sound and light shows Alta Lumina (Les Gets)** in the forest and **Beau Regard (La Clusaz)** beneath Beaugregard train station.
- **The Grand Parc d'Andilly maze:** the longest in Europe, accessible without equipment.
- **Torch-lit ski descent** which brings a fabulous week of skiing to a close. Children take part in the light parade.
- **An igloo fondue evening** with little trappers.
- **The 200 drones show** on Wednesdays during the Christmas and February half-term holidays in **Flaine**.
- **An outdoor skating session**, just like in the cinema, in the centre of **Les Gets** and **Les Contamines** villages.
- **A lively vitamin-boost swim**, (Vitam, Aquariaz and Le Palais Sports Complex Megève) and outdoors in winter in **La Clusaz** for example.
- **A winter vigil**, by candlelight as in bygone days, at **l'Irmande's place (Habère-Poche)** and at the heritage centre in **Le Grand-Bornand**.
- **Hot chocolate** after the thrills and spills. Every resort has its special "kid-friendly" address.
- **A sled descent by night** on a dedicated slope (**Praz de Lys Sommand, Morillon**).
- **A snowball fight...** of course!

Museum fun!

Haute-Savoie's museums and cultural centres are buzzing with activity all year round and are open during winter. They all offer tours and activity sessions for children. The **Wildlife Museum in Bellevaux**, the **Alpine Museum** (reopening this winter) and **Château des Rubins - Alps Observatory** invite you to learn more about the mountains. The **ecomuseums** (Lake Annecy, the wood and the forest, fishing and the lake), the **Mountain Museum in Les Houches** and the **Hameau des Alpes** (Hamlet of the Alps) take you on a discovery of Haute-Savoie heritage. Another must-visit is the **Musée de l'Horlogerie et du Décolletage** (Clockmaking, Watchmaking and Screw-machining Museum) in **Cluses**.

Famille Plus label

The Famille Plus label and the municipalities awarded this label are committed to families and children and will do everything possible to **ensure they receive a tailored welcome and services** and have a great holiday! In Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc: **Combloux, Évian-les-Bains, La Clusaz, Le Grand-Bornand, Les Contamines Montjoie, Les Houches, Sciez-sur-Léman, Thônes, Thonon-les-Bains** are committed to delivering a bespoke welcome and services, to planning events and activities suitable **for all ages**, to offering **tailored rates** and to ensuring that professionals are aware of children's expectations.



Avoriaz - Fondue in an igloo



Les Gets - Torch-lit ski descent



Les Gets - Alta Lumina

Soft mobility leads the way



Players in Haute-Savoie, aware of the richness of the region's mountains, lakes, forests and picturesque villages, are taking practical initiatives to protect the environment.

A first in France

Saint-Gervais has taken a decisive step forward in its commitment to eco-mobility with **the opening of the Valléen (2024), an innovative, eco-friendly urban cable car.** It links Le Fayet train station directly to the town of Saint-Gervais, providing a **sustainable transport** solution open all year round, every day from 7am to 8.30pm. This new alternative to the car aims to reduce road traffic by 25% to the foot of the slopes (Bettex), accessible by the Chatelet cable car (from the centre), at the Valléen arrival point. This system improves accessibility to tourist activities and the ski area. The **Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc ski area is once again combining skiing with ecology** by offering a **10% discount on day passes** for all visitors arriving at Le Fayet by regional train (TER) or by the Léman Express train.

Better transport and great deals in Chamonix Valley

The Mont-Blanc Express train serves all the villages: on the French side, it goes to Saint-Gervais-les-Bains - Le Fayet via Les Bossons, Les Houches and Servoz; on the Swiss side, it goes to Martigny via Les Praz, Argentière and Vallorcine. The SNCF line from Servoz to Vallorcine is free for holders of the Guest Card, which is issued on arrival by the accommodation provider. **The Guest Card** also entitles you to discounts on Chamonix Mobilité bus tickets, museums, sports facilities, etc.

Car-sharing across the Léman Mountains Explore area

The Karos app can be used to organize car-sharing for Léman resorts. Seasonal shuttle buses also operate between **Abondance Valley** and, on the Lake Geneva side, between Évian and the resorts of **Bernex** and **Thollon-les-Mémises**.



Les Gets - Free shuttle in the village centre

Shared soft mobility

Since April 2025, **Combloux** has had a **self-service car** from the Citiz network, parked in the Cristaux car park. This service, launched hand-in-hand with the Pays du Mont-Blanc Community of Municipalities, allows you to rent an electric vehicle for a few hours, a day or more, with ease.

Find the route that's the most eco-friendly

... the quickest, the cheapest and even a customized one..., this is what the new **GO LES CARROZ** platform, the new mobility companion, promises. This innovative solution combines all modes of transport (air, bus, train, taxi, etc.) on a single website.

golescarroz.com/en

New, more eco-friendly ski lifts

In **Châtel**, the TC10 is replaced by a chairlift that meets environmental conditions: cable traction by a **clean, silent motor**, reduced energy consumption and no hydrocarbon consumption.

Photovoltaic panels installed The resort of **Avoriaz** has equipped its ski lifts with these panels to make them more energy self-sufficient. This eco-friendly initiative **reduces external electricity consumption** and helps move towards a more sustainable, more environmentally-aware process. In **Les Carroz**, the departure station for the Kédeuze cable car and the building housing the rail tobogganing are equipped with **photovoltaic panels** that supply energy for the rail tobogganing, the Figaro moving walkway and the two moving walkways in the French Ski School (ESF) kids' snow club. **This innovation, installed on the Tête des Saix chairlift, captures the hot air generated by the motor** and will fulfil a remarkable feat: **it will heat the chairlift's control and emergency rooms.**

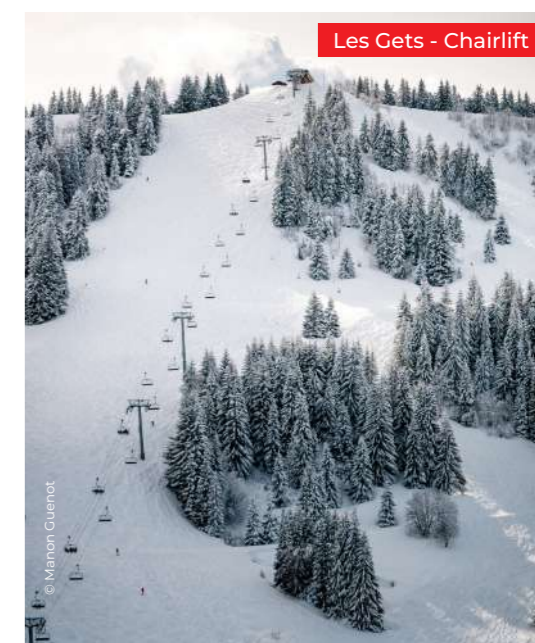
Clean ski areas

In **Megève**, 3 initiatives show that the **ecological transition** is underway: the electricity used for ski lifts, **heating and lighting is 100% renewable.** Grooming: new fuel made from **recycled vegetable oils** (80% lower emissions), including 1 hybrid fuel, adjustment of grooming (where appropriate) and ski lift speeds based on visitor numbers.

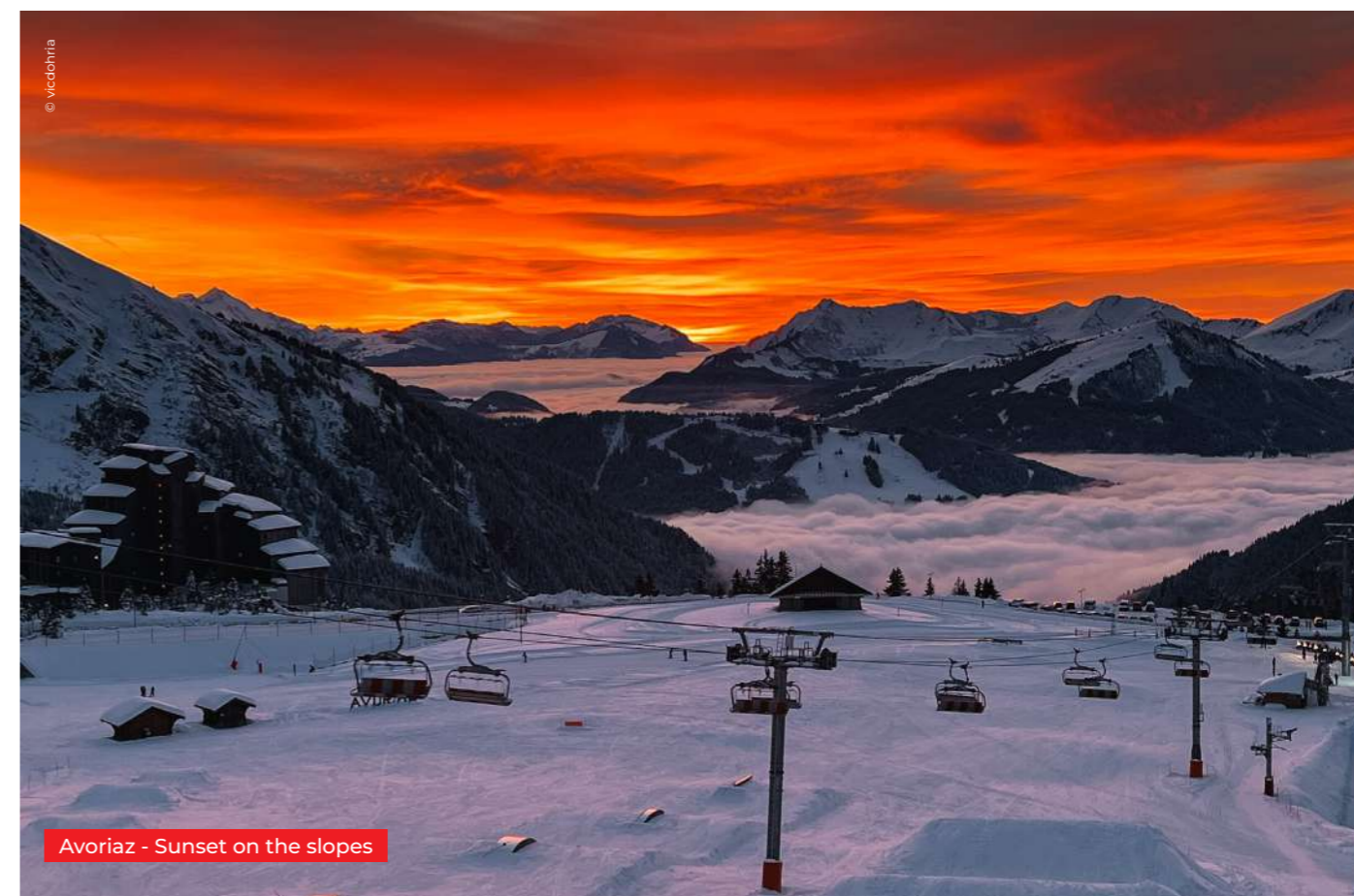
Praz de Lys Sommand organizes **2 waste collections** per year in the area, in partnership with Mountain Riders. **Saint-Gervais**, involved in the collaborative science initiative "Adopt'1 spot", approved by the French Ministry for Ecological Transition, is committed to carrying out **2 collections a year for 3 years** in the same area (the top of the Mont d'Arbois cable car).

11 Flocon Vert (Green Snowflake) resorts

Châtel, Combloux, Cordon, Le Grand Bornand, Les Contamines-Montjoie, Megève, Morzine-Avoriaz, Passy, Vallée de Chamonix, Saint-Gervais have been awarded the label for their approach to progress and structuring of the ecological transition.



Les Gets - Chairlift



Avoriaz - Sunset on the slopes

Hiking & snowshoeing



Flaine - Off-piste freestyle skiing

Hiking ranks 2nd among winter activities in Haute-Savoie, be it heading off on your own along marked trails or accompanied by aficionados. An opportunity for non-skiers to experience the joys of snow and for skiers to vary their winter pleasures.

Sunrise over Mont-Blanc in Cordon

To be the first on Mont-Blanc's balcony, the rendezvous is set for 6am to weave your way through the snow and watch the sunrise with snowshoes on your feet!

Bénés Plateau offers a 360° panoramic vista over **Pointe Percée**, the **Fiz mountains**, **Aiguille Verte** and the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.

At dusk in the Alpes du Léman

Accompanied by a mountain guide, this hike will take you to the Hirmentaz crests, where you can admire the sunset between Mont-Blanc and **Lake Geneva**. Another experience, a trend: light-painting hiking.

Under a full moon in Salève

A 2-hour stroll through snow-covered mountain pastures and glades with uninterrupted views, returning under the stars.

Encountering Alpine ibex in Le Grand-Bornand

An early morning excursion of around 3 hours on the slopes of the **Colombière Pass**, observing the animal through a field-glass, with explanations from the guide about its way of life. Informative and invigorating.

Birds'-eye view over Lake Geneva from the crests

The Mémises crest route is the iconic marked trail through **Léman Mountains Explore** territory, between Mémises Peak and the vast Lake Geneva.

Bout du Monde (Edge of the World) in the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval

This charming 7 km walk, deep in the heart of the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval, France's second largest cirque, is captivating.

With your dog: snowshoe-hiking with dogs

A one-of-a-kind experience in the **Môle & Brassés** area, awarded the Toutourisme label (pet-friendly areas), with a guide and a photographer to capture the memories.

Snowshoes + fondue: it gets you going!

Your steps get lighter when there's a treat waiting at the end. Most Haute-Savoie resorts invite you to enjoy this après-ski that combines initiatory discoveries and gourmet delights, for example, in **an igloo on the Plaine-Joux Plateau (Môle & Brassés)**, in **a yurt in Morillon**, **inside the trapper's Teepee in La Clusaz (new)**, in the **Caban'igloo in Bernex**, **Teepee in Cordon** and in **Les Carroz**, etc.

100% snowshoe break

- **L'Escapade blanche** (the white getaway) in the Alpes du Léman: 2 days/2 nights of discovery across white realms in the Chablais Global Geopark.
- **L'appel de la forêt** (the call of the forest) on the Plaine-Joux Plateau, 2 days/1 night in an igloo (built by participants).

Worth noting: the Snowshoeing Festival (all over France) in January - TSL Outdoor, leader in making snowshoes is based in Haute-Savoie (Annecy).

Thollon-les-Mémises - Ski area



Cordon - Snowshoeing



Monts du Genevois
Snowshoeing in Les Voirons with a vista over Mont-Blanc



Frosty pleasures



Far North atmosphere

Two amazing experience: a fondue and/or a **night in an igloo** in the **Alpes du Léman** or above **Lake Annecy**, in a **yurt in Morillon** or in a **teepee in Cordon, La Clusaz** or **Les Carroz** (with the legendary "log-splitter" deep in the forest. **Snowshoeing** with a mountain guide following **animal tracks** is a must to spice up your sports holiday, in particular with children (an outing made even better with marshmallows toasted on a wood fire, lit by little trappers).

Micro-adventures

Bivouacking in winter: a one-of-a-kind experience, but you need to be well prepared and well accompanied. This is the frosty thrill that a mountain guide offers in the Chablais: 2 days of snowshoeing, a night in a tent and a vista over Mont-Blanc when you wake up.

Winter adventure racing: an out-of-the-ordinary 3-day getaway, like a moment out of time, in Samoëns, that combines adventure, basic comfort and total immersion in the mountains. A survival adventure course and a night in an igloo that you build yourself or a night in an expedition teepee.

White trail running

With its mountain ranges and its never-ending high-altitude routes, Haute-Savoie is perfect for trail running. Areas that have been awarded the "Espaces Trail"* label (Trail Spaces) illustrate the great quality on offer locally. This is also seen through the host of events dedicated to this outdoor sporting discipline in its winter version.

Flaine, Les Carroz, Cluses Arve & montagnes, Morzine, Avoriaz, Praz de Lys Sommand.

Hitting the ice with style

Indulge in a "first time" that definitely won't leave you cold: quad-bike initiations on ice in **Flaine**, 600 m of thrilling, safe rides, ice climbing in the **Chablais** and **Haut-Giffre**, **dry tooling** in **Les Habères** (a new trendy discipline - a mix of ice climbing and climbing) and **ruisseling** in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.

Fly high above the ski area

Another activity that's a must in winter: paragliding. In **Thollon-les-Mémises**, you'll cruise the skies between Lake Geneva and the mountains with the inventor of this discipline in France. In **Passy**, the resort founders will teach you how to spread your wings. In **Les Contamines**, the **two-seater flight** offers a **breathtaking vista** over Mont-Blanc. Worth noting: **the Paragliding Test'ival in Samoëns**, 4th edition from 4 to 6 April 2026. In **Châtel**, fly off along the **Fantasticable**, and, if ever you're in the **Alpes du Léman**, (Haute-Savoie's only **gliding platform area**), enjoy your first flight in a **glider** with a 360° vista over Lake Geneva, the Chablais Mountains and the Mont-Blanc range. For the real thrill-seekers among you, why not dare a **parachute jump** from a helicopter in **Viuz-en-Sallaz**.

Free-wheeling on the snow

Fat bike, mountain-biking on snow is a popular activity in **Les Gets**, across **Salève** and in **Combloux**.



Châtel - Fantasticable

Winter by the waterside

Avoriaz - Ice diving



Cold water swimming: all the rage

Cold water swimming, inspired by Scandinavian traditions, is enjoying spectacular growth in France, particularly in **Morillon**, where a community of swimmers now exists. Cold water swimming, once considered as an extreme activity, is now one of the hottest **new sporting trends** and has many followers looking to boost their wellness and push their limits.

It has **many benefits**: it stimulates **blood circulation**, **strengthens the immune system**, increases **calorie burning** and **releases endorphins**.

In response to this trend, the **Cluses** Regional Scouts Swimming Club (CNSR Cluses) has launched a section devoted to this discipline and, for the past 2 years, has been organizing the **Défi du Lac Bleu** (Blue Lake Challenge), which takes place in a protected site at a height of 700 metres. The Blue Lake is special as it is supplied by a natural spring that gifts it with its **translucent water**. It is now their "daily training centre"!

Mid-March in **Morillon**, over 200 swimmers will swim in the cold waters of the Blue Lake: a thrilling scene! And for those who'd like to join in the adventure, everything is provided for, with **initiation sessions supervised** by professionals in the discipline.

SUP, even in winter

SUP also glides along icy waters in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. Worth noting: **The Glagla Race** (17-18/01/2026), an extraordinary event that gathers together 900 sportive SUP fans on Lake Annecy.

Ice freediving, to wind down

This activity, open to anyone aged 18 and over, combines pushing your limits, serenity and sharing in a magical setting. **Montriond Lake** is an excellent place to take on this challenge, which is good for winding down and calming the mind day and night, as is **ice floating** for those who prefer to stay on the surface. **Ice freediving** is also available at **Confins Lake** from 5pm as a relaxing après-ski activity.

Morillon - Samoëns - Alpine lake



Zen moments in high-altitude lakes

Vallon Lake (Bellevaux), **Plagnes Lake** (Bernex), **Green Lake** (Passy), **Vonnes Lake** (Châtel), **Lake Bénit** (Mont-Saxonnex) are magnificent spots for strolling with your feet in the snow.



Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval - Frozen forest lake

The après-ski appeal



Exquisite après-ski

Après-ski is an integral part of skiing holidays and part of the DNA of Haute-Savoie residents, who are as attached to thrills as they are to traditions: gathering to "baboler*" by the fireside during an evening get-together, feet in the snow, enjoying a hot drink that smells of cinnamon or bubbles brewed by a local craft beer maker, or a piece of local PDO-PGI (AOP-IGP) cheese from a neighbouring producer. **chit-chat*

To indulge in a deliciously "creamy" treat, nothing beats a visit to a farm at the end of the day, especially since in winter the second milking takes place around 5pm. A special moment to meet with farmers, some of whom are instructors during the day and, as such, foster their dual "naturalness" of sport and local produce. Later on, when it's time for the evening meal, all eyes are on regional specialities. And, while you're here, why not go for an aperitif suspended in the air on-board a ski lift (Grand Massif) or a fondue evening in an igloo or a teepee.

Festive après-ski

After-ski in Avoriaz, Megève and Chamonix often glides towards La Folie Douce, renowned for its great atmosphere and exclusive shows. The centre of La Clusaz village buzzes at night with its festive places to be. In Les Gets, night owls gather at L'Igloo Chalet Club, France's oldest nightclub (opened in 1938). For 3 years now, Samoëns has been hosting "Les Vignerons font du ski" (Winemakers go skiing) (save the date from 9 to 12 January 2026). A new vintage-style hangout is opening this winter in Chamonix as, at 11pm, the kitchen in the Pêle-mêle becomes a dance floor.

Seasonal events take centre stage across all the mountain ranges in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. Arts on the slopes (Passy), Electro Snow (Les Carroz), Rock on Snow (Avoriaz), Radio Meuh Circus Festival (La Clusaz), Rock the Pistes (Portes du Soleil), Unlimited festival (Chamonix), etc.

Cultural après-ski

Why choose between two things that appeal: skiing and cultural? In Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc, you can have them both! Take Saint-Gervais for example, the Alpine resort that nurtures its cultural appeal with 4 museums and Baroque-style churches, considered as jewels.

In the Valley, and because Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc is not just a skiing destination, enthusiasts and connoisseurs are spoiled for choice with 10 performance venues, including a national theatre, 68 museums, 61 classified monuments and 142 listed monuments, open to visitors all year round.



Cordon - Snow-covered church

© Cordon Tourisme - JM Barey

Revitalizing pleasures

Thermal bath & spa therapy: age-old tradition

For centuries, Haute-Savoie has drawn on its natural springs as a source of health benefits. From Thonon-les-Bains to Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, and on to Évian-les-Bains, the region's thermal centres offer their virtue-giving pure waters to spa guests and hedonists staying over (mini treatment breaks and spa packages). We love: Saint-Gervais Thermal Baths' ski and spa package: 4h skiing and 3h in the spa.

► hautesavoie-montblanc-tourisme.com/en/

Head to the spa for a revitalizing après-ski

If you wish to take pamper your body and/or wind down, Haute-Savoie overflows with places where balance and harmony take centre stage: secluded spas nestling in a mountain village, cosy hammams and jacuzzis facing the peaks, outdoor Nordic baths under the stars, treatments inspired by local resources (Alpine plants, spring water, essential oils, etc.) covering 4,000 m²: the QC Spa of Wonders is the largest in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. In addition to 4 and 5* hotel spas, a host of resorts have their own wellness centres: Le Palais (Megève), Aquacime (Les Carroz), Forme d'O (Châtel), Aquariaz (Avoriaz), Les Sources du Chéry (Les Gets). In the Valley, Vitam (Neydens) and the Sallanches wellness centre also offer regenerating amenities.

New: Ski & Spa and Aperitif Spa packages in Les Contamines-Montjoie, at the gateway to the nature reserve, a stone's throw from the Nordic area and snowshoeing trails.

Wellness in the great outdoors

In Haute-Savoie, wellness is also to be enjoyed in the great outdoors and nature inspires gentle yet intense approaches: "toumo" cold yoga (Le Grand-Bornand, Samoëns, Saint-Sigismond), and full awareness skiing in Samoëns, cold water swimming and sauna combo in Morillon, meditation in the forest, snowshoeing and yoga in the Chablais, outdoor yoga course in Flaine, winter retreat at the heart of the Alpes du Léman, etc.



Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc - Thermal Baths

© Marlon Guenet

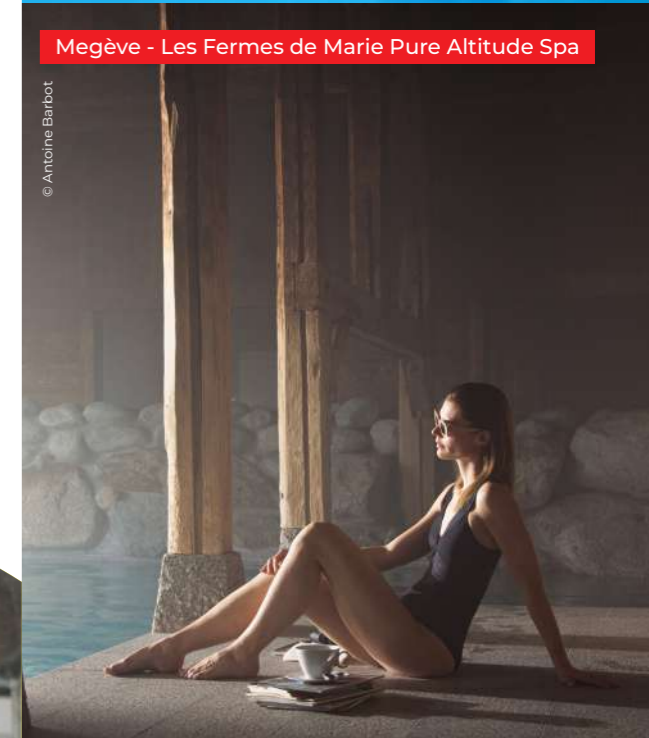
Flaine - Nuxe Spa

© Bouilleur de photo



Megève - Les Fermes de Marie Pure Altitude Spa

© Antoine Barbot



Cultural pleasures



The cultural appeal of ski resorts

With its **4 museums**, **Saint-Gervais**, the Alpine resort proves that its beautiful and culturally rich. The **old Maison Forte de Hautetour** hosts **renowned temporary exhibitions and a permanent exhibition dedicated to mountaineering** and the history of the Compagnie des Guides (mountain guide association), founded 161 years ago. **La Cure** is a cultural centre offering visitors the opportunity to discover the heritage of the municipality through a programme of **temporary exhibitions**, guided tours and workshops. **Pile Pont Expo**, **dedicated to contemporary art**. The **Sacred Art Museum** is a jewel that nestles in **Saint-Nicolas de Véroce**, a picturesque little village at the foot of Mont-Blanc. It houses the **Treasure of Saint Nicolas** and tells the story of the village and its famous peddlers.

New: in Les Contamines-Montjoie, close to the natural and cultural site of **Notre-Dame de la Gorge**, an old inn is getting ready to write another chapter in its history this winter. This new space will blend **gastronomy, history and culture**, and will place the spotlight on Baroque art.

Traditional and architectural design

Architecture is at the forefront in **Flaine**. Acclaimed as France's most iconic avant-garde ski resort when it opened (1968) and classified as a 20th-century heritage site, **Flaine** stands out for its one-of-a-kind architecture imagined by Marcel Breuer, Bauhaus professor. The resort is listed under French "Historic Monuments" for its ecumenical chapel. **Flaine** is an open-air museum, the only resort in the world to exhibit permanent monumental and architectural works (**Dubuffet's "Le Boqueteau des 7 Arbres" (The Copse of 7 Trees)**, **Picasso's "Tête de Femme" (Head of a Woman)**, **Vasarely's "Les Trois Hexagones" (The Three Hexagons)**, etc.).

Churches: sacred art treasures

Every Haute-Savoie village and town has its own steeple, style and era. **Ancey** boasts 27 religious buildings, including the **Cathedral** and a **basilica** (La Visitation). Baroque churches, real **decorative treasures**, bear witness to **ancestral know-how** and mountain art. The Baroque Getaway in the Alps is more than just an adventure, it's a journey through time and artistic aesthetics. **The Church of Saint Nicolas in Véroce** is a real gem, with its interior dazzling with "Saint Nicolas blue" colours, gilding and cherubs. The **Church of Cordon**, also in the Pays du Mont-Blanc, deserves attention as sensory tours have become a sensation. The **Church of Saint-Maurice in Thônes** and its listed Savoyard Baroque altarpiece dating from the 17-18th century. **Worth noting: the largest organ in Haute-Savoie** reigns in the **Le Grand-Bornand Church** (11 tons, with 40 stops and 3,500 pipes, created by organ builder Michel Giroud, who worked on it from 1986 to 1988).

68 interactive museums

Haute-Savoie's museums and themed establishments showcase local art, crafts and history through collections illustrating Alpine life, traditional know-how and the creativity of the department's artists. The **new Mont-Blanc Museum** is expected to open in March 2026. The expansion (600 to 1,800 m²) and total renovation of the **old Alpine Museum**, set up in 1926 in the historic former "**Chamonix Palace**", has enabled the creation of three permanent and temporary exhibition spaces, a room dedicated to educational workshops, a gift shop adjacent to the reception area, unpacking spaces, a workshop and/or storage space for the works. The scenography has been entirely revamped to make it more attractive (new museography, new mediation tools, etc.) and showcase the **15,000 works and objects depicting the historical and artistic heritage of the Mont-Blanc region**.

The **Hameau des Alpes (La Clusaz)** (Hamlet of the Alps) and the **Musée du Ski Ancien (La Chapelle d'Abondance)** (Museum of Skiing in the Past) are great places to learn about the history of skiing, which is a key part of Haute-Savoie's identity.

Medieval heritage

Medieval heritage can be felt everywhere, between places of remembrance and buildings steeped in history. The Middle Ages saw the emergence and development of **abbeys** (Abondance, Sixt, Entremont, Saint-Jean-d'Aulps) and **Carthusian monasteries** (Mélan and Le Reposoir). These listed monuments bear witness to Haute-Savoie's thousand-year-old sacred history; busy places (except for Le Carmel in Le Reposoir) with a programme of activities, tours and workshops.

Here are **3 medieval villages** to discover that bear witness to the Middle Ages: **Yvoire** on the shores of Lake Geneva (Most Beautiful Village in France), **Alby-sur-Chéran** nestling in its haven on the banks of the Chéran between Annecy and Rumilly, and **La Roche-sur-Foron**, at the heart and intersection of all the "routes" of Haute-Savoie.

Castle life

From the banks of Lake Geneva to the foothills of the Alps, Haute-Savoie unveils its collection of castles. Each visit becomes a journey through history and time. **Château de Ripaille (Thonon)** enchants with its glorious past and its noble vineyard. **Château de Thorens (Fillière)**, birthplace of Saint Francis de Sales, embodies the region's spiritual memory. **Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard**, proudly reigning on the hillside over Lake Annecy, looks like it has come straight out of a fairy tale (Walt Disney was inspired by it for Sleeping Beauty's castle and, during the festive season, it becomes Santa Claus's home). **Château de Montrottier**, perched on its hilltop, with its dungeon and its round towers, is the epitome of a medieval castle and houses the intriguing cabinets of curiosities of its last owner. **Château d'Annecy**, which is visible from the old town, is now a museum: it hosts temporary and permanent exhibitions (contemporary art, Observatory of Alpine Lakes). **Clermont, Avully, Sires du Faucigny** are three other must-visit treasures. As for the **Château des Rubins** and **Château de Sonnaz**, which have been converted into cultural spaces, they are perfect for pursuing your immersion in Alpine culture.

Flaine - Le Boqueteau des 7 Arbres (The Copse of 7 Trees)



Key figures

68 museums

61 classified monuments
142 listed

279 municipalities
including a host of
picturesque villages

The tradition of moments from days gone by!

Ecomuseums and heritage centres give pride of place to skills and techniques of yesteryear. In the **Ecomuseum of Lake Annecy (Sevrier)**, **Musée Paysan (Rural Museum) (Viuz-en-Sallaz)** and the **Musée Montagnard (Mountain Museum) (Les Houches)**, **village life** is centre staged.

Le Grand-Bornand's Heritage Centre, an authentic listed farmhouse from 1830, you'll be immersed in the daily lives of locals from days of yore.

Aulps Valley - Abbey



Le Grand-Bornand - Snow-covered chapel

Château de Ripaille

One of the grandest residences on the French shore of Lake Geneva. The site, which dates back to medieval times, is now a **rare portrayal of life in 1900**. October half-term holidays: special tours from Tuesday to Friday (tours of areas that are usually closed, with different themes) and the castle will be decorated in **Halloween** style throughout the holidays, with on the agenda: **Escape Game** >> how to escape from the castle (24 and 25 October - 6.30pm to 10pm). Special **Haunted House** for Halloween, 31 October. **Murder Party** - 1st November from 2pm to 5pm.
► ripaille.fr

Santa's Hamlet/Grand Parc d'Andilly

In Santa Claus's house (open all year round), the atmosphere is totally green and red, and the scent of wood fills the air, right down to the toy-making workshop. The big man is very busy, but he sometimes lets himself be seen by curious little ones who wander through the rooms and corridors of this enchanted house where magic awaits behind every door. To be swept away by the enchantment of the moment, **Mrs. Claus's den** is a true haven of delight. All day long, Santa's sisters tell **stories** and whisper in the ears of young and old dreamers alike. Five minutes from the Hamlet, the **enchantment continues deep in the heart of the Grand Parc d'Andilly forest**, where you can visit the **Kingdom of the Nutcrackers, Father Whipper's House, Father Gourmet's Palace**, as well as carousels and tree-top adventure courses, etc.

► en.grandparc-andilly.com

Montenvers Train

An immersion that invites you to delight in **outstanding vistas over the prestigious peaks of the Drus and the Grandes Jorasses from Chamonix-Mont-Blanc station**. Twenty minutes and 870 metres of elevation gain later, you'll discover the **Mer de Glace**, the largest glacier in France.

► montenverstrain.com/en/homepage/

The Mechanical Music Museum

This place, at the heart of Les Gets resort and the only one of its kind in Europe, showcases 900 instruments, including some that date back to the 17th century, all in working order. The museum's prestigious collection also includes the **Aeolian Philharmonic Organ**, listed as a historic monument, the **automatons** of the famous **perfumer Roger & Gallet** and, an exceptional new addition, **Pablo Picasso's mechanical piano**, which joined the collection this summer after being restored.

► musicmecalesgets.org

Musée de l'Horlogerie et du Décolletage (Clockmaking, Watchmaking and Screw-machining Museum)

The museum features a unique collection of timekeeping instruments and recounts the quest for clockmaking and watchmaking accuracy. Its collections also bear witness to the **Arve Valley's industrial heritage, which spans 3 centuries of history**. Whether you choose a **dramatized tour** or themed tour, or head off alone on a **self-guided tour**, you'll definitely discover some surprises too during the **"watchmakers' secrets"**

► musee.2ccam.fr/english/

Mont-Blanc Tramway

Mont-Blanc Tramway, or TMB as it's known here, leaves from Le Fayet (580 m) and arrives at the Nid d'Aigle (2,372 m) after covering a distance of 12.4 km. It takes mountaineers to the start of the Mont-Blanc ascent via the Royal Route, and offers those who enjoy contemplation and families the opportunity to experience the majestic scenery of the high mountains safely.

On board, breathtaking landscapes pass before your eyes and the highest peak in Western Europe appears more spectacular than ever. Discover below the fabulous destiny of France's highest legendary rack-railway train.

► <https://tourism.saintgervais.com/my-inspiration/mont-blanc-tramway/>



Les Gets - Mechanical Music Museum

© Valentin Ducretet

Gourmet pleasures



© Lucas Stanus

Les Gets - Fondue with friends

Focus on specialities



Designation cheeses, traditional savoury and sweet delicacies... These products from Haute-Savoie are signatures of the region and real values cherished by those that live there. These typical dishes are "the spice of the journey" and warm up winter!

In the land of PDO (AOP) cheeses

6 designations of excellence in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc: AOP Abondance, AOP Chevrotin, AOP Beaufort, AOP Raclette de Savoie, AOP Reblochon, AOP Tome des Bauges.

Thônes and the Aravis, home of farmhouse Reblochon

Probably the best known Alpine cheese, to be enjoyed on a cheese platter or melted in a **Reblochonnade** version. It can be found in all the restaurants in the villages and on the heights in the Aravis, from **Thônes** to **Le Grand-Bornand**, from **La Clusaz** to **Saint-Jean-de-Sixt**, as well as in **Manigod**.



Aravis - Visit to a cheese dairy

Abondance Valley, home of AOP Abondance and the "Berthoud"

To really enjoy this signature cheese, you need to try several different maturities, and also try it melted, as in Berthoud TSG, a typical dish from the Chablais area, created in the early 20th century at the Cercle Republicain (a bistro in Thonon-les-Bains, run by the Berthoud family). It is cooked with garlic, white wine, pepper and nutmeg and was the 1st recipe in France to be protected by the official quality label: "Spécialité Traditionnelle Garantie (STG)" (Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG)).

Other tempting delights: at **Les Sources du Lac d'Annecy**, you can taste "**matouille**" (Tome des Bauges cheese, white wine, garlic and potatoes), and in **Megève** you can enjoy a fondue with fruit prepared by **an expert cheesemaker** or while riding in a horse-drawn carriage (totally one of a kind).

Behind the production scenes

Farming runs through the veins in Haute-Savoie. A tour during milking time: an activity with an added bonus, meeting passionate producers, who embody the spirit of Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc.

Sweet treats

Glaçons de Megève®. When Barthélémy Vigliengo created this meringue praline bite in 1910, he was far from imagining that Megève would still be enjoying it 110 years later.

BearClaws. In Mont-Saxonnex this cream-filled Viennese pastry has been a signature sweet treat for almost 40 years.

The unbeatable wild blueberry tart (harvested/picked in the mountain pastures in summer) to indulge in on the slopes with your feet in the snow.

Savoury dishes & delights

"Farcement" or "farçon (Chamonix Valley), also known as **"rabolet" (Mont-Saxonnex)**: halfway between savoury and sweet, made with potatoes, prunes (or dried fruit) and smoked bacon (or lard). This must-do, traditional Sunday lunch dish was cooked on the hearth and eaten by all the family when they came home from church.

Potato fritters: these grated potatoes, iconic in the region, can be topped with a variety of ingredients, herbs, cheeses, mushrooms, as wished; the ones served on **Glières Plateau** are highly-acclaimed as are the ones from **Morillon** and those from **Les Gets**, known as **"rapins"**.

"Bescoïn": this golden-yellow brioche bread is a speciality from the **Arve Valley**, traditionally made for summer village celebrations called "vogues" and, in bygone days, was made and blessed by the local priest every 15 August.

"Soupe Châtérée" ("chastened" soup) from Haut-Giffre: a hearty, rural speciality based on bread, Tomme de Savoie cheese and onions, gratinated with broth.

But, there's more...

Ravioles in **Les Carroz d'Arâches**, while **fish** reigns on the table on the shores of Lake Annecy and Lake Geneva and **"Contaminard"** (bread) in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.

"Diot"-polenta ("polente"): a "diot" (local dialect word for a sausage) is much more than just a sausage, it's a symbol of hospitality and Alpine culinary tradition. Whether plain, smoked or with Beaufort cheese, "diots" are a must on every table in the mountains.



Morzine - Chalet fondue

Les Gets - Blueberry tart - As des Neiges



Le Grand-Bornand Gourmet break on a terrace



Le Grand-Bornand - Le Grand-Bornand Tourisme

Find your haven

Cordon - Fondue in a teepee

What's new

First winter for these cocoons

The Refuge du Mont d'Arbois is opening in Saint-Gervais

A new, secluded address on the slopes. Le Refuge du Mont d'Arbois, perched at a height of 1,800 metres, is located at the very heart of the ski area. This refuge (20 rooms), only accessible by ski lift, has been totally revamped and blends mountain-style charm, peacefulness and luxury comfort (high-altitude restaurant focusing on charcoal grill, cosy bar and wellness area with indoor pool, sauna and hammam).

► tourism.saintgervais.com

In Annecy

The Venice of the Alps has added a new 3-star establishment to its hotel portfolio: La Cour, at the heart of the town, also hosts a Parisian bistro.

► en.lac-annecy.com

L'Écrin des Anges (Vacheresse), in Abondance Valley.

Two guest rooms and two gîte-chalets wooden interiors, warmth and comfort, and premium services. Chalet Flachaire (Abondance) offers 2 elegant 45 m² suites and a gastronomic restaurant.

► leman-mountains-explore.com/en/

In Manigod: a new MGM holiday residence

The Hameau de l'Ours ski-in, ski-out residence invites guests to delight in unforgettable moments in the mountains.

► en.manigod.com



Megève - Lodge Park



Les Contamines-Montjoie - Chalets Laska

Renovations, reopenings and new classifications

In La Clusaz: Hotel Beauregard**** renovation and reopening

Equipped with a new wellness centre and seminar space.

► laclusaz.com/en/

In Samoëns: sleep in La Golèse refuge in winter

La Golèse refuge, at the very heart of the mountains, at 1,660 m altitude, between the Manche and Giffre Valleys, is one of the only refuges open nearly all year round, including winter.

► samoens.com/en/

Portes du Soleil: the renovated Cabane du Col de Coux reopens.

The Cabane du Col de Coux, nestling at a height of 1,920 m, the former customs post on the French-Swiss border, is accessible via cross-country skiing or snowshoeing via a 7 km route from Morzine.

► en.morzine-avoriaz.com

In Megève, a 5th star and a new spa for Lodge Park.

A fifth star for Lodge Park! It now features brand new, fully-redecorated, 50 m² suites following its lavish renovation. At the same time, this ultrachic refuge has added a new 800 m² extension, a real temple of wellness with indoor pool, saunas, hammam, fitness space, ice room and Himalayan salt room, not to mention a wide array of Pure Altitude treatments.

► megeve-tourisme.fr/en/



Discover the accommodation options in Haute-Savoie

Out-of-the-ordinary interludes



My cabin in Haute-Savoie

Cabanes du Salève: a cluster of luxury spa cabins built with large logs, just 30 min from Geneva Airport.
Ecotagnes (Les Villards-sur-Thônes): tree houses, chalet or teepee, choose where you'd like to spend the night in this guest house nestling in the Aravis.
Cabanes du Mont-Blanc (Passy Plaine-Joux): wake up perched high overlooking Mont-Blanc (with your skis on)!

In an igloo

An out-of-the-ordinary, must-do interlude! Where in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc can you sleep in an igloo? In **Le Semnoz**, just 20 minutes from Annecy, in the **Eco-Bivouac Village d'igloos**, in the **Alpes du Léman**.

Under a dome

Here are two addresses sure to please in the Portes du Soleil sector. The **Bulles des Mines d'Or** in **Morzine**, transparent 'bubbles' perched at the heart of an unspoiled scenescape in the Manche Valley, invite to delight in a one-of-a-kind cocoon of wellness (private whirlpool bath, jacuzzi, panoramic terrace); they can only be accessed on foot, snowshoes, cross-country skiing or via an off-piste route. In Les Gets, **Chéry Dôme** promises an exquisite night under the stars for the family; each of its two geodesic domes can accommodate up to 7 people.

Stay with locals in Gîtes de France Haute-Savoie gîtes

Haute-Savoie boasts **1,648 gîte-labelled accommodation options** spread over **180 municipalities: towns, countryside, lake shores and mountains.** The department **ranks 3rd** nationwide.



DISCOVER ALL ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Teepee at a height

Altipik in Mont-Saxonnex is an extraordinary place in both design and spirit.

In a refuge

All refuges are open over summer and some continue through winter, with the same watchwords: warmth and friendliness. Winter refuges are accessible on snowshoes or cross-country skiing. A few worth mentioning are **La Golèse refuge (Samoëns), La Pointe Percée refuge (Le Grand-Bornand), Cabane du Col de Coux, Mont Joly refuge (Saint-Gervais), Refuge des Prés (Contamines-Montjoie).** On the **Glières Plateau, Notre-Dame des Neiges** is an institution; a refuge/gîte that's popular for groups of friends and families wishing to get together and relax, like in the good old times...

Shelter Experience

Try out a night as a Polar explorer, here in Haute-Savoie, at the Refuge là-Haut, on the heights of the **Sources du Lac d'Annecy.**

Morzine - Bulles des Mines d'Or



A "business" destination at the heart of the French Alps

Vistas over mountains/lakes/countryside and towns, and an incredible array of relaxing activities and thrilling adventures are what make the region stand out as a must for professional events.

First attraction: its location and easy access

Its cross-Alpine location on the border between Switzerland and Italy, along with the whole area's excellent accessibility thanks to its proximity to **Geneva International Airport** (great connections with most airlines), make its lake & mountain offering, dedicated to various types of events, highly appealing.

Haute-Savoie also has a premium-quality **motorway network** (A40/A41/A 43), a **"Business Aviation"** airport (Annecy Meythet), several **high-speed train (TGV) stations** (Annecy, Annemasse, Bellegarde/Valserine and Geneva, Saint-Gervais Le Fayet, Thonon) with connections to the **Léman Express and to the Valléen cable car in Saint-Gervais-les-Bains** (for a Paris/Saint-Gervais ski-in, ski-out).

Second attraction: its hospitality

Haute-Savoie prides itself on its **portfolio of prestigious hotels**, reception areas and workspaces located in key economic hubs, close to Geneva International Airport, near Lake Annecy **and at the foot of iconic Mont-Blanc.**

Haute-Savoie is **equipped with tailored facilities and amenities** whether you wish to host **XXL events** (Rochexpo, Congress Centre by ArchParc, Le Palais Sports Complex Megève, Le Majestic Congress Centre Chamonix, the Imperial Palace Hotel Annecy, the Royal in Évian, etc.) or **bespoke meeting formats** in Premium, offbeat spaces, season-in, season-out.

Third attraction: its great diversity of activities

Several companies are involved in organizing **sports, fun-filled, contemplative and gastronomic activities**, and offer comprehensive, eco-friendly packages.

The region, with its iconic and secret destinations, offers an **incomparably one-of-a-kind environment**, conducive to creativity, quality exchanges, cohesion, motivation and to taking on new challenges, strategies, stakes... So much so that Haute-Savoie has become a **bleisure destination**; once the business event's over, it's time to enjoy the region on your own...

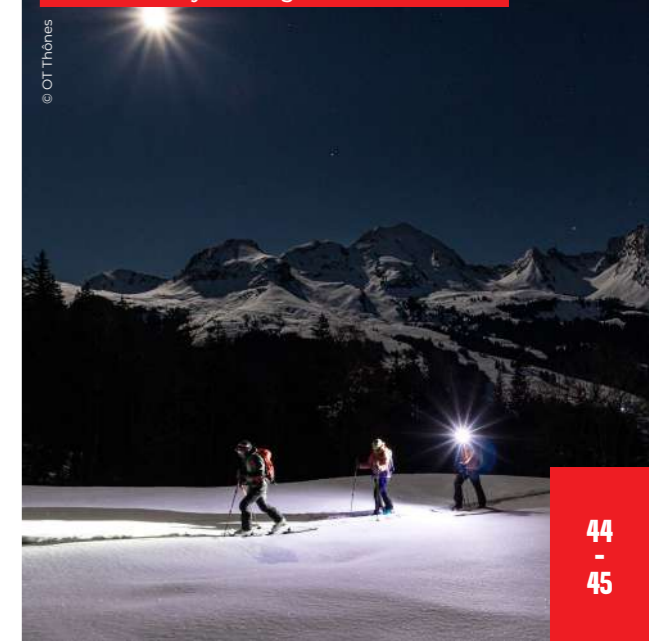
Praz sur Arly - Hot-air balloon gather in the sky



Megève - Terrésens Residence



Thônes Valley - Hiking under a full moon



FIND OUT MORE

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Les Gets - Snowshoeing with friends



Les Gets - Hiking with seal skins on



DISCOVER ALL THE HIKING TRAILS IN HAUTE-SAVOIE (WITH OUTDOORACTIVE)



Flaine - Snowshoeing descent



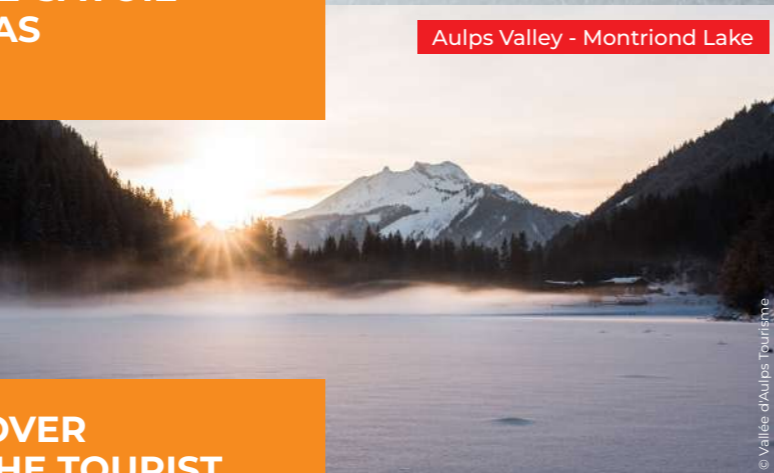
Semnoz - Ski outing



Morzine - Ski touring



HAUTE-SAVOIE MEDIAS



Aulps Valley - Montriond Lake



DISCOVER ALL THE TOURIST OFFICES IN HAUTE-SAVOIE



La Clusaz - Traditional village



Saint-Gervais - Church

Highly ingenious

Cluses

Musée de l'Horlogerie et du Décolletage (Clockmaking, Watchmaking and Screw-machining Museum)

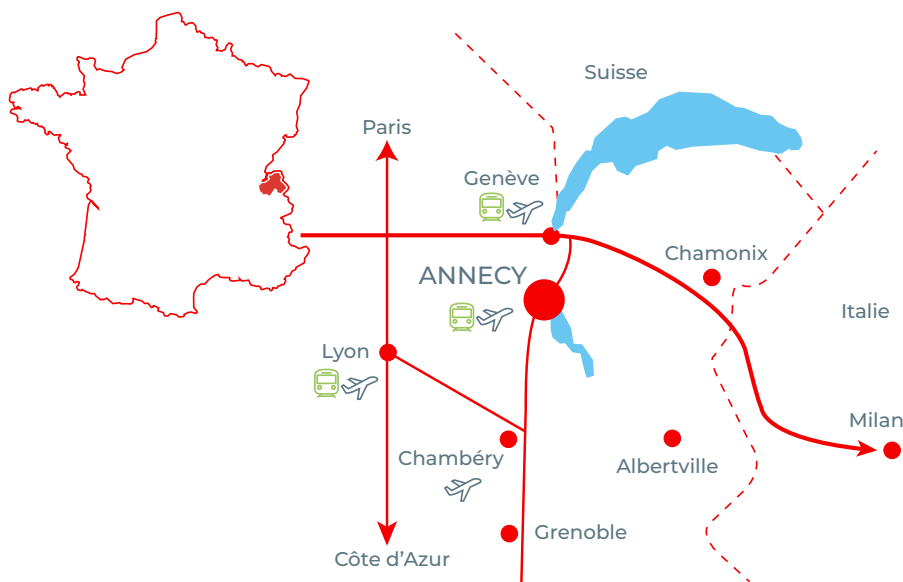


THIS AUTUMN, ENJOY





© Pierre Gûbaud



Félix Agency

By plane

- **Geneva Airport:** 40 min from Annecy, 1h from Chamonix.
- **Lyon-Saint-Exupéry Airport:** 2h from Annecy.
- **Annecy Mont-Blanc Airport:** private flights.

By train

- **Direct high-speed trains** from Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Brussels, Geneva.
- **Main stations:** Annecy, Thonon, Évian, Saint-Gervais – Le Fayet, Cluses, Annemasse.
- **Léman Express:** modern cross-border rail network (240 km of lines).

By road

- A40 and A41 motorways.
- Valleys directly accessible via national roads.
- Long-distance coach network and season-based shuttle service.

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