

PRESS KIT

AUTUMN-WINTER

2026-2027

Mont-Blanc and other great peaks

What's new & highlights

Autumn vibrancy

Skiing and roaming

Winter hiking

Frosty thrills

Lakes and relaxing pleasures

Culture and heritage

High-altitude flavours

Refuges and accommodation

Business and selected getaways

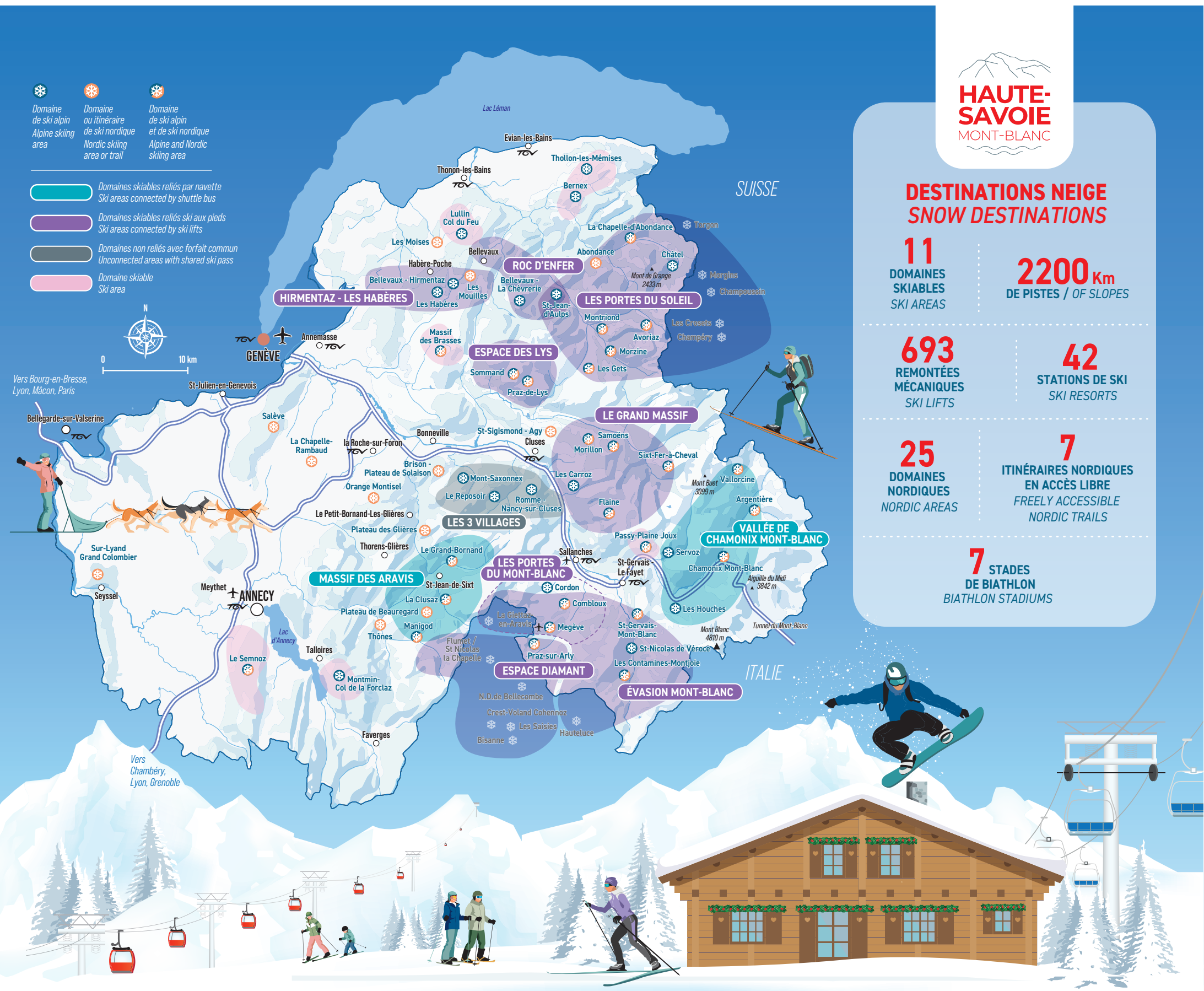
Avoriaz

THIS WINTER ENJOY

HAUTE-SAVOIE
MONT-BLANC

hautesavoie-montblanc-tourisme.com/en/





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Editorial



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There are places that we visit and others that we become deeply attached to. Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc, which I wholeheartedly like to describe as the "8th wonder of the world", is one of these.

This year, we've chosen **Avoriaz to get our autumn-winter season off the ground**. After La Clusaz which, as a resort-village, embodied Haute-Savoie's soul, Avoriaz, set deep in the heart of the Chablais, reveals another side of our region. As one of our iconic resorts, it epitomizes bold, innovative, vibrant mountains firmly focused on tomorrow. **Highly-inspiring mountain pleasures.**

I'm really fond of this period of the year when Haute-Savoie takes on another identity. **Here, in autumn time**, landscapes adorn flamboyant colours, villages enjoy a more intimate atmosphere and the first snowfalls gradually reshape the peaks. It's the perfect season for winding down, wandering around, discovering our heritage, relaxing at our thermal baths and spas, indulging in our gastronomy and, basically, reconnecting with what really matters.

Then **winter** comes around and gifts us with the magic of another realm. **Haute-Savoie, the birthplace of French skiing, with Mont-Blanc as its emblem**, unveils its incredible diversity: resort-villages, major interlinked ski areas, Nordic areas, snowshoeing trails, paragliding with vistas over Lake Geneva, spas and wellness and, of course, the enchantment of Christmas festivities to delight in with the family and friends... in other words **highly-magical pleasures**.

What's more, the figures illustrate this appeal wonderfully well.

After a record-breaking 2025, our overnight stays reached a new high last season. This is a great source of satisfaction but, above all, recognition of the extraordinary work carried out every day by professionals, local communities and all the players that keep Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc alive.

Our region will also continue to take centrestage through renowned events, such as the first **World Rescue & Protection Convention** in La Roche-sur-Foron this autumn, not to mention the **World Cycling Championships** in 2027 that are fast approaching.

A host of experiences that are, basically, unforgettable pleasures.



Martial SADDIER
President of the Haute-Savoie Departmental Tourism Committee and President of the Haute-Savoie Departmental Council



©CDT 74

Destination must-knows

Pioneering spirit, the birthplace of French skiing

The first **Winter Olympic Games** were held in **Chamonix** in 1924 and, at the same time, France's first-ever cable car, nicknamed "the glaciers", was built. This was followed by the **first-ever cable car specifically for skiers in Megève, in 1933**.

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, 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, the Grand Massif and Flaine.

Great virtuous, GREEN skiing

Whooshing through forests, "among the pines" is one of Haute-Savoie's iconic pursuits. Whether they're small and neighbourly or large and trendy, **all Haute-Savoie resorts are inherently committed to protecting their nature through virtuous initiative**.

8 Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc resorts have also rolled out an ecological transition process (**Flocon Vert (Green Snowflake)** label).

A learning playground

Most **resort-villages**, prime locations for **holiday camps** and **school ski trips**, thanks to their dedicated facilities, have also been **imagined with families in mind**.

Coming from Paris

4h45: is the time it takes to travel by train to reach **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** (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**.



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 Montenvers 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 Clisse en Cœur charity event in Le Grand-Bornand
- **Ski by night across 14 Nordic areas** and the largest night-time Alpine skiing area of the Alps (Manigod)
- **Ski through a nature reserve**
Sixt-Passay 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)

Top most visited wonders

1. Mer de Glace/Montenvers train: 1,084,358
2. The Brévent cable car: 450,640*
3. The Salève cable car : 303,763
4. The Aiguille du Midi cable car: 254,743*
5. Grand Parc d'Andilly: 245,045
6. Santa's Hamlet: 241,435
7. Mont-Blanc Tramway: 179,486
8. Annecy Castle-Museum: 172,519

visits, transits and admissions in 2025
*visits, transits and admissions in 2025-2026

WHAT'S NEW 2026/2027

Ski areas

Les Grands Montets in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

Les Grands Montets ski area reaches a key milestone in its transformation with the December 2026 opening of the first section of the new cable car linking Argentière to Lognan Plateau. This more modern, more comfortable equipment marks the beginning of the revival of one of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley's most iconic ski areas.

► en.chamonix.com

New cable car to reach Notre-Dame de la Gorge in Les Contamines-Montjoie

This winter, Les Contamines-Montjoie will inaugurate a new 10-seater cable car, fully-accessible to people with reduced mobility. It will improve access to Tappes Plateau.

► www.lescontamines.com/winter

The new snowtubing

Le Grand-Bornand adds to its fun & thrills options with a 160-metre-long snowtubing slope, accessible from the age of 3. Young and old alike hurtle down the slope, at a speed of almost 40 km/h, sitting in a large rubber ring.

► en.legrandbornand.com

Brésy chairlift replaces the historic Praz de Lys - Sommand drag lift

After more than 30 years of faithful service, Brésy drag lift is being replaced by a second-hand chairlift, from another resort. This new equipment modernizes access to the area and, at the same time, is part of a re-use initiative.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

New leisure spaces, to enjoy the mountains differently

Avoriaz is continuing to develop its activity area with a new lounging space on Brazy Plateau and is extending La Chapelle snowpark. New steps and a mini skate ramp, accessible in winter, are set to boost the experience for freestyle aficionados.

► www.avoriaz.com/en/

Accommodation

La Chapelle: a new 4-star establishment in the centre of Annecy

La Chapelle, located in a fully-renovated former church, invites to indulge in a hotel getaway where heritage and up-to-the-minute design reign. The hotel boasts 46 rooms, including 6 accessible to people with reduced mobility, and also has its own bar.

► en.lac-annecy.com

Two iconic hotels get a makeover

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley ramps up its premium offering with two totally-reimagined establishments. Le Morgane Hotel will reopen in December 2026 as 5-star accommodation following full renovation, whilst the former Excelsior will become the Lizzie Hotel, a 74-room establishment paying tribute to mountaineering pioneer Elizabeth "Lizzie" Le Blond.

► en.chamonix.com

Le Gai Soleil writes a new chapter in its history

Le Gai Soleil hotel, which has made its mark in Les Contamines-Montjoie for almost two hundred years, now joins the Aubergistes Lyonnais, led by Loïc Renart. This historic establishment, which remains true to its heritage yet has been given a new lease of life, continues to flourish in a warm, authentic spirit that's resolutely focused on tomorrow.

► www.lescontamines.com/winter

Two flagship hotels revamped

Morzine continues to ramp up its accommodation offering with the revival of two historic establishments. Le Tremplin centre stages 13 new premium suites at the foot of the Pléney slopes, whilst Garance (formerly known as Les Airelles) unveils a new 65-room, 4-star hotel that features a spacious wellness area and an Alpine brasserie, without compromising the building's architectural identity.

► en.morzine-avoriaz.com

Le Lodge Park celebrates a century of hospitality

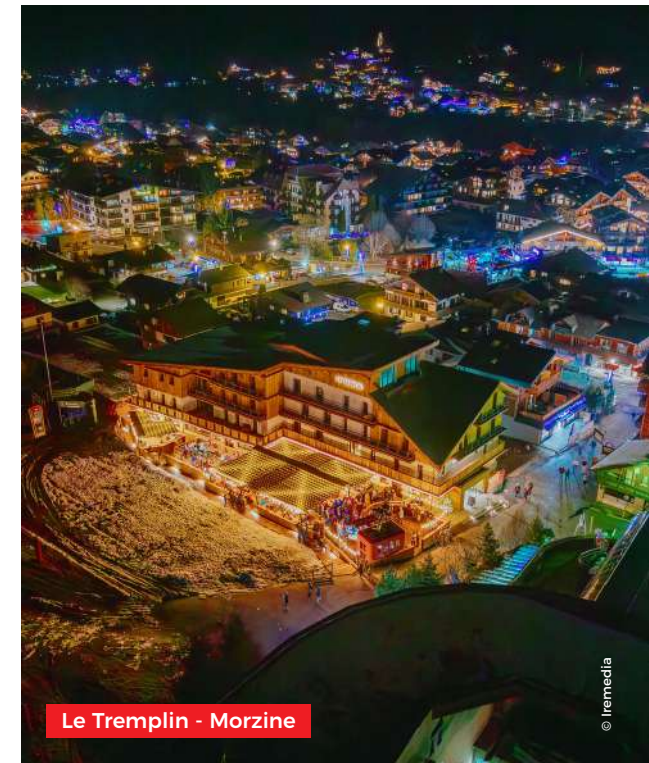
Le Lodge Park in Megève is celebrating its 100th anniversary. This iconic hotel, which was granted 5 stars two years ago, pursues its adventures with a blend of Alpine charm, contemporary elegance and mountain-style art of living.

► www.megeve-tourisme.fr/en/

The Pierre & Vacances Capella Residence in Avoriaz given a fresh, new boost

The residence has undergone extensive renovation to offer its guests optimal comfort. This modernization's in line with the resort's commitment to gradually renew its accommodation facilities without compromising Avoriaz's architectural identity.

► www.avoriaz.com/en/



Le Tremplin - Morzine



Lodge Park - Megève



Discover the
**accommodation
options** in Haute-Savoie

Restaurants

Chalet Flachaire awarded its first Michelin star

Chalet Flachaire, in **Abondance**, joins the highly-select club of starred restaurants following the award of its first **Michelin Guide** star in March 2026. An honour that acknowledges refined cuisine, inspired by local produce and driven by a modern-day vision of mountain-style gastronomy.

► www.leman-mountains-explore.com/en/

Le Serpolet, a new bistronomic place to be, at the heart of Les Contamines-Montjoie

After years of experience working in leading French and international establishments, Emeline and Rémi recently opened **Le Serpolet**, a bistronomic restaurant, where their contemporary French cuisine places the focus on seasonal produce. A select range of organic and biodynamic wines that pair perfectly with the dishes set off this new gourmet must-visit wonderfully.

► www.lescontamines.com/winter

A new establishment overlooking Mont-Blanc in Cordon

Le Refuge, now known as **Le Refuge de la Truffe Blanche**, rolls out its new identity promoting heartfelt, generous home-style cuisine. This recently-revamped restaurant, open all year round and overlooking **Mont-Blanc**, also heralds the inauguration of a new hotel, set to open for this year's Christmas holidays.

► www.cordon.fr/en/

La Grange Society: a new vibrant hub in the Monts du Genevois

La Grange Society, in **Allonzier-la-Caille**, which opened in spring 2026, offers a restaurant, bar and rooftop in a fabulously-friendly atmosphere. This new must-visit invites to delight in an experience mixing gastronomy, after-work and get-togethers in an up-to-the-minute setting.

► www.montsdugenevois.com/en/

Two new addresses to meet up in Thônes

Two new eating-out options to add to your list. **La Caserne** rolls out its one-of-a-kind concept combining dining, tenpin bowling, snooker, French pétanque and events in a really-friendly place to be. Chez Justin, on the other hand, places the focus on traditional, home-style cuisine, creative cocktails and a year-round festive agenda.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/



La Grange Society - Monts du Genevois



Chalet Flachaire - Abondance



Berthoud

New gastronomic experiences in Megève

The restaurant **Le Saint-Nicolas**, located in the **Au Coin du Feu Hotel**, welcomes a new chef, who now works hand-in-hand with **starred chef Julien Gatillon**; an opportunity to indulge in some exquisite, inspirational cuisine. When it comes to mixology, **CALM - Cocktail à la Maison** now offers a premium home cocktail service for those who wish to extend the gastronomic experience to their own abode.

► www.megeve-tourisme.fr/en/

Activities & events

Swing House: indoor golf venue at the foot of Mont-Blanc

A new activity has hit the scene in the centre of Chamonix in **Swing House**, the valley's first indoor golf facility. With its three state-of-the-art simulators, novices and enthusiasts alike can tee off, practise and challenge their family and friends on more than 400 virtual courses, before pursuing their adventure with a drink and snacks at the bar.

► en.chamonix.com

"Vignobles en Scène" celebrates Haute-Savoie's wine tourism

From 16 to 18 October 2026, destinations labelled as **Faucigny-Glières, Destination Léman and Haut-Rhône** will take part in **"Vignobles en Scène"**, the major French wine tourism event. Tasting sessions, strolls through vines, entertainment, get-togethers with winemakers and activities invite the public to discover vineyards differently.

► www.vignobles-decouvertes.com

The Cheese Party: a new gourmet festival

From 14 to 17 January 2027, **Samoëns** will launch the first edition of the **Cheese Party**, a festive event for cheese and street food fans. Food trucks, culinary creations based on Savoie cheeses, local producers, concerts and an après-ski atmosphere will set the pace for this new wintertime get-together.

► www.samoens.com/en/

The Haras in Annecy is now a must-not-miss place to be

The totally-refurbished **Haras in Annecy** begins a new chapter in its history by bringing heritage, culture, gastronomy and nature together. **The Cité Internationale du Cinéma d'Animation (International Centre for Animated Film)**, the gourmet food court and a spacious 2.7-hectare landscaped park create a vibrant public hub in the town centre.

► en.lac-annecy.com



Évian-les-Bains
Buvette Cachat

Évian revamps its heritage & culture must-visit offering

After several years of restoration, the **Buvette Cachat** now hosts an architecture and heritage visitor centre dedicated to the **Pays d'Évian** and **Vallée d'Abondance community of municipalities**. The Palais Lumière invites visitors to discover the **"Sarah Bernhardt, the Living Legend"** exhibition until **3 January 2027**, followed by a new exhibition focusing on Asian art, launching in **spring 2027**.

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/



The Haras - Annecy

AUTUMN-WINTER HIGHLIGHTS



Anniversaries

90 years of history for one of France's first drag lifts

Les Gets celebrates the 90th anniversary of its ski area with an event dedicated to its first-ever drag lift, known as the "Boule de Gomme" (Gum Ball), set up in 1936 and still operational today. On 27 March 2027, the resort will showcase its heritage, its local area and its history through events, a treasure hunt and a get-together over a meal.

► www.lesgets.com/en/

Avoriaz celebrates its 60th anniversary

The visionary resort of Avoriaz, created back in 1967, celebrates six decades of architectural innovation and mountain-focused breaks. This anniversary will offer an opportunity to dive into the history of this well-known pedestrian resort that has become a **global destination for winter sports**.

► www.avoriaz.com/en/

120 years of identity for Praz-sur-Arly

In 2027, Praz-sur-Arly celebrates the 120th anniversary of its **official change of name**. This anniversary will put this authentic village's history, heritage and identity in the spotlight, through a special programme of events running throughout the year.

► www.prazsurarly.com/en/



On the sports front

Gran Fondos get the show on the road for the autumn season

On 6 September 2026, **Sallanches** hosts two Gran Fondo events, which start and finish in the town. An opportunity for bike enthusiasts to head off on the mountain routes that have forged the destination's cycling reputation.

► www.sallanchesmontblanc.com

The Giffre Run & Fun: a festive version of trail running

From 11 to 13 September 2026, the **Giffre Run & Fun** will bring runners, families and lovers of the great outdoors together around several types of races, Nordic walking and entertainment. A really enjoyable event that invites to discover **Giffre** landscapes in a truly festive spirit.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com - www.samoens.com/en/

A sports-focused weekend in Évian-les-Bains

From 11 to 13 September, **Guy Forget** will host a tennis retreat at Hotel Royal, whilst on 12 and 13 September, **Évian Triathlon** will gather swimmers, cyclists and runners together in the outstanding setting of the shores of Lake Geneva. Two events that confirm the destination's sporting pedigree.

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/

The KMV Nantaux challenges climbers

The **KMV Nantaux** invites mountain-running enthusiasts on 12 September 2026 for an uphill race that's highly-demanding and spectacular. A vertical kilometre that promises to be intense, deep in the heart of the landscapes of **Aulps Valley**.

► en.valleedaulps.com

Two sporting challenges overlooking Mont-Blanc

Passy hosts two must-not-miss autumn events. The **Grimpée Chedde-Ayères** sets the pace on 13 September, followed by the **T24 XTreme Mont-Blanc**, on 26 and 27 September, an endurance race that combines swimming, cycling and running against an incredible backdrop.

► passy-mont-blanc.com/en/

Mont Salève hosts the Sambhava Trail

The **Sambhava Trail** invites runners to explore **Mont Salève** trails during a day where sporting performance and enjoying the great outdoors reign. Save the date for 20 September 2026 to take in the panoramas over **Geneva and Mont-Blanc**.

► www.montsdugenevois.com/en/

The Ultra Trail Grand Colombier pushes back limits.

On 26 September, the **Ultra Trail Grand Colombier** will see trail runners gather on the terrain of **Haut-Rhône**. Several races offer the opportunity to discover the unspoilt landscapes of the Grand Colombier, a mix of sporting challenge and being at one with nature.

► www.hautrhone-tourisme.fr/en/

Haute-Savoie Nordic Opening 2027

(19 December 2026)

The event that gets the Nordic season underway in Haute-Savoie, with entertainment, initiations and discovery of Nordic activities.

The Trail des Aiguilles Rouges

The **Trail des Aiguilles Rouges** marks the final major trail running event of the season on 27 September 2026. Three formats, including a 50 km race at the very heart of the **Aiguilles Rouges** nature reserve, offering breathtaking vistas over the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.

► en.chamonix.com

The Trail de Faverges

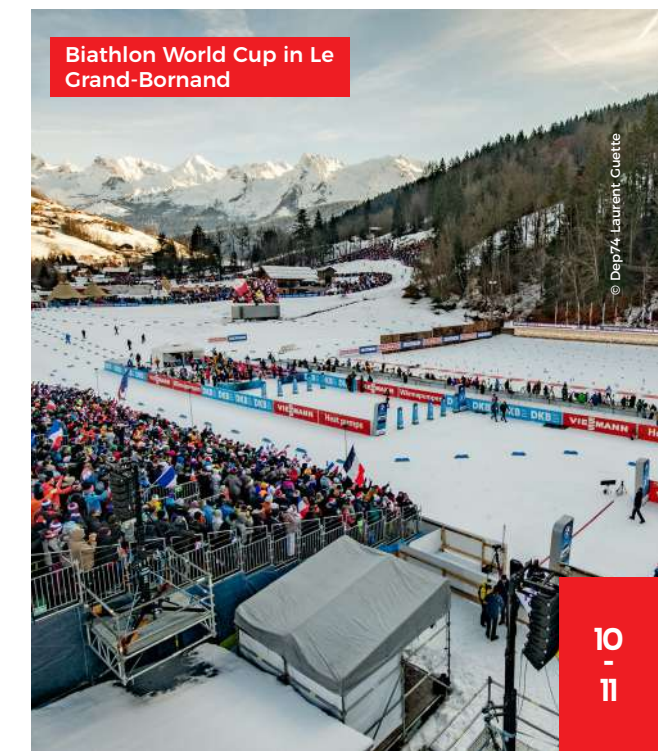
On 9 and 10 October, the **Trail de Faverges** features several races tailored to all levels, starting out from the **Sources du Lac d'Annecy**.

► www.sources-lac-annecy.com/en/

Biathlon World Cup in Le Grand-Bornand

From 7 to 13 December 2026 in **Le Grand-Bornand**, the planet's greatest biathletes will gather at the **Sylvie Becaert** international stadium for the French leg of the World Cup. An event that has become a must-do thanks to its one-of-a-kind atmosphere.

► en.legrandbornand.com



Praz de Lys Sommand: Nordic pleasures

The **Fest'Hiv** kicks off the events season on the weekend of **12 December** with a programme mixing ski touring, Nordic skiing and local traditions.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

The Spartan Winter Trail is back in Morzine

The **Spartan Winter Trail**, which will take place on **13 December 2026**, rolls out a winter version of the well-known series of trail races. Competitors take on a highly-demanding, spectacular challenge where snow, steep slopes and Alpine landscapes reign.

► en.morzine-avoriaz.com

The Béliér Blanc in La Clusaz

On **15 and 16 January 2027**, the **Béliér Blanc** invites trail runners to weave their way across the snow-covered trails of La Clusaz. Different formats offer the opportunity to discover a winter wonderland in a fabulously-friendly atmosphere.

► www.laclusaz.com/en/

The Trail d'hiver des Gets

On **16 January 2027**, **Les Gets** hosts a new edition of its winter trail event. A race open to different levels and that invites to discover the area from another angle.

► www.lesgets.com/en/

The Hivernales of Haut-Giffre - Samoëns

On **23 and 24 January 2027**, the **Hivernales of Haut-Giffre** invite young and old alike to discover Nordic activities and mountain-related know-how for free. Biathlon, cross-country skiing, fat bike, yooner, paret, snowshoeing, workshops and a local producers' market call the tune over this weekend, where fun and togetherness reign.

► www.samoens.com/en/

The Kandahar is back on the legendary Verte des Houches

On **30 January 2027**, **Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley** will host a leg of the Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup as the Kandahar is back on the world-famous Verte des Houches black ski run. A must-not-miss date on the international calendar.

► en.chamonix.com

Morzine - Spartan Winter Trail



A white trail running event lit by headlamps

On **30 January 2027**, **Samoëns** organizes a night-time trail race on snow that's open to all. This race, with its technical sections, smooth stretches and great atmosphere, offers a one-of-a-kind experience deep in the heart of **Haut-Giffre's winter scenescapes**.

► www.samoens.com/en/

Glisse en Cœur: the major charity get-together in the mountains

From **19 to 21 March 2027**, **Glisse en Cœur** is back again in Le Grand-Bornand for an 18th edition marked by optimism and dreams. Against an extraordinary mountain backdrop, relay skiing, concerts and entertainment will once again rally for charity, for the benefit of the "Petits Princes" and "Rêves" associations.

► en.legrandbornand.com

"Ça Joux plage pour moi"!

On **20 March 2027**, the Nordic area in Haut-Giffre will celebrate the end of the winter season with a festive day combining sports initiation, entertainment, snow volley, paret, biathlon and great food for all. A date for young and old alike, an opportunity to enjoy the mountains differently.

► www.samoens.com/en/

Les Gets: a "first-time skiing" week

From **20 to 27 March 2027**, the 1st Ski Festival places the focus on the joys of winter sports with a programme that combines initiations, entertainment, activities and snow experiences. An event imagined to discover or rediscover skiing in a really friendly way.

► www.lesgets.com/en/

Monstre Belle and Raide: the multi-sports adventure

In **March every year**, **Cordon** hosts "Monstre Belle and Raide", a highly-original event that mixes cycling, ski touring and mountaineering. A highly-demanding challenge that showcases the competitors' array of skills in a breathtaking setting overlooking **Mont-Blanc**.

► www.cordon.fr/en/

Défi Foly: the most spectacular waterslide in the Alps

An end-of-season must-not-miss date in **La Clusaz**, **Défi Foly** sees hundreds of participants ready to cross a lake by sliding along on their skis or their snowboard congregate. Fancy dress, unforgettable falls and a festive atmosphere make this competition the world's biggest waterslide event.

► www.laclusaz.com/en/

The Paret Yaute Tour in Haut-Giffre

Throughout winter, the **Paret Yaute Tour** puts the paret (the well-known traditional wooden sled, with only one runner) back in the spotlight. Several rounds are held in the valley before the big final in **Morillon 1100 Les Esserts**, during the Yooopa event!

► www.haut-giffre.co.uk

Go for white trail running and hot-air ballooning

Praz-sur-Arly is getting ready for two flagship winter-season events: on **31 January 2027**, the **Dragonale Givrée**, a white trail running race in the middle of snowy scenescapes and, a few days before, the **Montgolfiades Internationales**. Come along and discover an incomparable air show with dozens of hot-air balloons colouring the sky from 9 to 17 January 2027.

► www.prazsurarly.com/en/

Paragliding Test'ival in Samoëns

From **3 to 5 April**, the **Test'ival** brings enthusiasts and those curious about free flying together for 3 days of equipment testing, first flights, film screenings, family entertainment and concerts deep in the heart of the mountains.

► www.samoens.com/en/

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley - The Kandahar



Praz-sur-Arly - Montgolfiades Internationales



On the music stage

Renaud Capuçon and the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne in Évian-les-Bains

On 28 November 2026, La Grange au Lac will host an exceptional concert bringing together violinist **Renaud Capuçon** and the **Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne**. A prestigious date in one of Europe's most exquisite concert venues, in the centre of Évian.

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/

Avoriaz gets the season off to a musical start

From 11 to 16 December 2026, **Rock On Snow** kicks off the winter season with a festival mixing concerts, equipment testing, activities, entertainment and a festive spirit. A must-not-miss event that celebrates the return of winter sports in a wonderfully-friendly atmosphere.

► www.avoriaz.com/en/

Flutissimo celebrates the transverse flute in Évian-les-Bains

From 8 to 10 January 2027, **Flutissimo** gives pride of place to the transverse flute during a weekend of masterclasses, concerts, exhibitions and workshops. An event that brings musicians, enthusiasts and those curious together, around a highly-versatile instrument.

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/

Snowboxx gets the peaks moving

From 13 to 20 March 2027, the British festival **Snowboxx** turns **Avoriaz** into an open-air electro-house stage. Concerts, DJ sets, entertainment and mountain-focused activities attract a global audience every year that comes to enjoy skiing and music.

► www.avoriaz.com/en/

Rock the Pistes: high-altitude concerts

From 14 to 20 March 2027, **Rock the Pistes** takes over the **Portes du Soleil** ski area with its free pop-rock concerts live and direct on the slopes. French and international performers (Superbus, Nèg' Marrons, etc.) take to pop-up stages that can only be reached on skis.

► en.portesdusoleil.com

Radio Meuh Circus Festival

From 25 to 28 March 2027, **Radio Meuh Circus Festival** showcases emerging performers and headliners in an amazing atmosphere where concerts, DJ sets and friendliness reign. A can't-miss event that gets **La Clusaz** dancing.

► www.laclusaz.com/en/

Chamonix Unlimited

Chamonix Unlimited's back early April 2027 with an international programme devoted to electronic music. Concerts and DJ sets take over enchanting high-altitude and deep-valley places, and offer a one-of-a-kind musical experience overlooking **Mont-Blanc**.

► en.chamonix.com

Piano Marathon

From 27 to 29 March 2027, the **Piano Marathon** brings renowned pianists and young talent together for a series of concerts in some of the town's most iconic places. A weekend marked by musical excellence and sharing.

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/



Portes du Soleil - Rock the Pistes



Chamonix - Unlimited Festival



© LucasStamu

Dare to indulge

The Gourmet Guingette celebrates local flavours

From 4 to 6 September 2026, the **Gourmet Guingette** will be back to spice up the centre of **Thônes**. Producers, artisans, caterers and musicians get together for a weekend and invite the public to discover their local specialities in a friendly, festive atmosphere that combines tasting experiences, concerts and shows.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/

The Gourmet Hike mixes walking and gastronomy

On 13 September 2026, **Combloux** invites epicureans to discover its region during a hike peppered with tasting stop-offs. This event, where scenescapes with vistas over **Mont-Blanc** and local produce reign, offers an experience that combines nature, togetherness and culinary delights.

► www.combloux.com/en/

The yummiest fondue in Praz de Lys - Sommand

On Saturday 20 February 2027, the village will host the **Sommand Fondue World Championship**, where local associations compete in teams to win the trophy for the year's best fondue-makers.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

Toques en Chablais in Thonon-les-Bains

From October 2 to 4, 2026, **Toques en Chablais** brings together chefs, producers, and artisans for a gourmet weekend. Workshops, demonstrations, and unique experiences showcase local expertise and regional products.

► www.toquesenchablais.com

Apple Festival in Saint-Ferréol

On October 16, 2026, **Saint-Ferréol** celebrates the apple with a day dedicated to producers, local craftsmanship, and rural traditions.

► www.sources-lac-annecy.com

Farmers' Fair in Châtel

On February 9, 2027, **Châtel** celebrates its agricultural heritage with demonstrations of Abundance AOP cheese-making, competitions, tastings, and entertainment.

► www.chatel.com

Culture and traditions

Crête Fair: 548 years of tradition in Thonon

On Thursday 3 September 2026, the **Crête Fair** will celebrate its 548th edition in Thonon-les-Bains. Local specialities and a host of entertainment will set the tone for this festive day around the Place de Crête and the Place des Arts.

► www.thononlesbains.com/en/

The Fête du Mulet celebrates Alpine traditions

On 5 September 2026, Les Contamines-Montjoie will give pride of place to mules, historic companions for people living in the mountains. This family-focused day, which promotes know-how and rural heritage, is marked by demonstrations, entertainment, crafts and encounters with mule drivers.

► www.lescontamines.com/winter

The Combat des Reines brings pastoral heritage back

The traditional cow fighting event, organized every 4 years, called the **Combat des Reines** is back on 27 September 2026 in Les Contamines-Montjoie. Hérens breed of cattle naturally compete with each other to establish their hierarchy, in an age-old tradition that celebrates mountain livestock farming and pastoral know-how.

► www.lescontamines.com/winter

Saint-Maurice Fair perpetuates Aravis traditions

On 27 September 2026, Thônes celebrates one of its oldest traditions with **Saint-Maurice Fair**. Livestock farmers, artisans, producers and visitors get together to enjoy entertainment, demonstrations, animal displays and taste experiences in a festive atmosphere.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/

Avully Medieval Festival whisks the castle back to the Middle Ages

On 3 and 4 October 2026, the Château d'Avully, in Brenthonne in the **Alpes du Léman** hosts a medieval weekend. Campsites, shows, demonstrations, crafts and entertainment bring the medieval era to life in an extraordinary historic setting.

► en.alpesduleman.com

The Retour des Alpes invites to discover regional traditions

On 10 October 2026, Annecy celebrates the return of the herds with a major community event that focuses on animal parades, artisans, local producers, folk groups and entertainment. A must-not-miss celebration, in the centre of the old town, that places the spotlight on Alpine traditions.

► en.lac-annecy.com



Annecy - Retour des Alpes

Artists' books centre staged at the Archipel Butor in the Monts du Genevois

On 10 and 11 October 2026, the **Artists' Book Fair** gathers creators, publishers and book lovers at the **Archipel Butor** in Lucinges. Exhibitions, encounters and workshops highlight the diversity of contemporary creativity in the realm of books.

► www.montsdugenevois.com/en/

Chamonix Photo Festival celebrates nature through pictures

From 23 to 25 October 2026, **Chamonix Photo Festival** brings photographers, aficionados and the general public together around exhibitions, film screenings, encounters and workshops. This edition places the spotlight on "baby animals" and offers a thoughtful glimpse into wildlife.

► en.chamonix.com

The great St. Martin's Fair

More than 750 years after its 1st edition, St. Martin's Fair is back in Bonneville with 400 stallholders. On the agenda: gastronomy, catering services and a funfair for this must-not-miss autumn event.

► tourism.tourisme-faucigny-glieres.fr

"Rencontres du Film des Résistances" invites to join in the debate

Every autumn, Thônes hosts a socially-aware film festival dedicated to leading figures and contemporary forms of resistance. Film screenings, encounters and moments for sharing with directors, researchers and eyewitnesses offer the public a forum for considering key social concerns.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/

Festive events for young and old alike

Passy sets the stage for families with **Arts en Piste (Arts on the slopes)**, on 10 January 2027, a day mixing shows and performance arts, followed by the 30th **Fête des Lutins (Elves Celebration)**, on 7 February 2027, a must-visit winter event dedicated to children and to the enchantment of the mountains.

► passy-mont-blanc.com/en/

Annecy's Venetian Carnival

From 19 to 21 February 2027, the **Venetian Carnival** turns Annecy into a magical setting. Hundreds of people in fancy dress parade through the streets and along the lake, creating a poetic procession inspired by Venetian tradition.

► en.lac-annecy.com

When humour echoes through the mountains

In March 2027, Les Gets will host a new edition of **"Les Gets Comédie"**, a comedy festival bringing together renowned performers and budding talent (Nino Ariel, Élodie Arnould, etc.) in a fun-filled atmosphere.

► www.lesgets.com/en/

Editorial cartoons takes up residence in the Aravis

On 27 and 28 March 2027, Saint-Jean-de-Sixt hosts the Caricature, Editorial Cartoons and Comedy Festival. Exhibitions, encounters and entertainment celebrate the satirical slant and freedom of expression.

► www.saintjeandesixt.com/en/

"Couleurs d'Enfance" Festival celebrates kids

In March, **"Couleurs d'Enfance" (Childhood Colours) Festival** rolls out a programme dedicated to the little ones in Saint-Julien-en-Genevois. Performances, workshops and entertainment invite families to enjoy discovery and creative moments.

► www.montsdugenevois.com/en/

European Heritage Days

The Old Customs' House and the history of smuggling in Châtel

To mark European Heritage Days, the **Old Customs' House** offers free tours to discover the little-known history of smuggling in the mountains. Audio guide, period objects, games and anecdotes immerse visitors in the daily lives of the smugglers and customs officers who kept the French-Swiss border busy in bygone days.

► www.chatel.com/en/

The 130th anniversary of the Chedde factory

In Passy, **European Heritage Days** will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Chedde factory, hand-in-hand with the "Chedde en Fête" event. A programme focusing on industrial history and local memory will enable visitors to (re)discover one of the area's most iconic sites.

► passy-mont-blanc.com/en/

Discovering Mont-Blanc's balcony differently

During **European Heritage Days**, Cordon invites young and old alike to explore its heritage through one-of-a-kind activities: an investigation in the Baroque-style church, an exhibition devoted to depictions of the village and a guided tour covering the key points of history and local anecdotes.

► www.cordon.fr/en/



Saint-Jean-de-Sixt
Caricature Festival

© Tilby Vattard

The piano through all its notes

From 26 to 28 March 2027, the Piano Marathon will turn Évian into a real musical stage, showcasing amateur and professional pianists. This 11th edition will place the focus on cinema with the catchphrase "Roll out the red carpet!".

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/

"Des Livres ... et Moi !" Festival

The **"Des Livres ... et Moi !" Festival**, in Samoëns on 24 and 25 April 2027, promotes children's literature in a setting blending lake and mountains with a programme that includes encounters with authors, a book fair, creative workshops and performances designed to pass on the love of reading.

► www.samoens.com/en/

Community clean-up of heritage sites!

European Heritage Days in Praz-sur-Arly whisk you back on a journey through history and local know-how. Community clean-up of natural heritage sites, dramatized tour, bread making in an old oven, discovering a traditional forge, exhibition of postcards and a performance focusing on genealogy.

► www.prazsurarly.com/en



Châtel - Old Customs' House Museum

© Luke This

Ski touring

Edelweiss - Megève (mid-February)

A night-time ski touring race with four different trails (from 750 to 1,600 m of elevation gain) to discover the mountains differently under the stars.

► www.megeve-tourisme.fr/en/

Monstre Belle - Cordon (January)

A night-time ski touring race on the Frébouge ski area comprising two trails (600 and 900 m of elevation gain).

► www.cordon.fr/en/

La Trace des Grands - Chamonix (7 and 8 March)

A choice of three trails to explore all the aspects of ski touring, deep in the heart of the **Mont-Blanc range of mountains**.

► en.chamonix.com

Assaut du Haut-Fleury - Praz de Lys - Sommand (7 January)

A night-time ski-mountaineering race to reach the top of **Haut Fleury**, 1,980 m high.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com

Ski touring invites to be discovered at night

In **Combloux**, during the school holidays, "**Échappée Rando**" (ski touring escapade) sessions offer night-time initiations to discover the sport in a friendly way. More sporty skiers can then take on "**La Crève-Cœur**" challenge, a night-time ski touring race on **8 January 2027**.

► www.combloux.com/en/

Ski touring in Sommand

On **Sunday 7 February 2027**, the legendary "**Les Pointes Blanches**" ski touring race will gather mountain enthusiasts for a friendly, ski-mountaineering event at the very heart of Sommand.

► en.prazdelys-sommand.com



La Trace, the international ski touring festival

From **2 to 4 April 2027**, **Thônes** hosts **La Trace**, a festival totally dedicated to ski touring. Film screenings, a trade show, encounters with professionals and entertaining activities are the focus of this event.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/



Learn while having fun

History comes to life in Môle & Brasses

In **Viuz-en-Sallaz**, the **Musée Paysan (Rural Museum)** whisks visitors back through time via dramatized guided tours offered by the **PAYSALP** cultural association. In **Peillonex**, the 12th-century priory is also to be discovered through an immersive sound and light show.

► www.mole-brasses.com/en

Focus on Abondance cheese

The **Abondance Cheese House** offers an fun-filled journey into the world of this iconic **AOP (PDO)** cheese. An interactive tour, discovering traditional know-how, cheesemaking and tasting workshops provide great insight into one of Haute-Savoie's gastronomic delights.

► www.leman-mountains-explore.com/en/

Explore the Alps at Château des Rubins

Château des Rubins in Sallanches invites you on an interactive discovery of the mountains through exhibitions, hands-on activities and workshops. A living museum where young and old alike find out more about Alpine landscapes, biodiversity and natural phenomena.

► www.sallanchesmontblanc.com

The largest organ in Haute-Savoie reveals its secrets in Le Grand-Bornand

Every week, organist **Sébastien Dupont** invites visitors to discover the largest organ in the department through a demonstration. A one-of-a-kind interlude that combines heritage, music and anecdotes, with a repertoire specially created for children.

► en.legrandbornand.com

Street art and educational farm in the Monts du Genevois!

From the gigantic frescoes of the **Annemasse Street Art** urban trail to the **Chosal** educational farm in **Copponex**, the **Monts du Genevois** roll out two highly-original experiences to discover contemporary art and the agricultural realm in a fun-filled way.

► www.montsdugenevois.com/en/

Explore Reblochon traditions

In the **Hameau des Alpes** (Hamlet of the Alps), visitors can discover everything about making **Reblochon**, the history of skiing in **La Clusaz**, and also tour several heritage buildings, including a communal oven and a traditional sawmill.

► www.laclusaz.com/en/

Discover the mountains using your 5 senses

In **Châtel**, an array of tours invites young and old alike to explore local heritage differently. "**Châtel au son des cloches**" (Châtel to the sound of bells) invites to awaken your senses to the sound of different types of bells during a stroll, whilst "**Les P'tiots à la montagne**" (Kids in the mountains) introduces little ones to nature through outdoor workshops.

► www.chatel.com/en/

A fantastic science playground!

With its interactive exhibitions, workshops and hands-on activities, **La Turbine in Annecy** invites children and teens to discover science in a fun-filled way.

► en.lac-annecy.com

Traditional crafts passed on in Thônes

Several craftspeople open their pottery, clay modelling and leatherwork studios to the public. Children can discover ceramics at **Atelier Ryokan**, whilst **Audrey**, at **Ô Cœur Dez'Alpes** initiates young and old alike in traditional saddlery techniques.

► www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com/en/



A treasure hunt where Baroque-style heritage reigns

With its "**Petites Boucles Baroques**" (Little Baroque-themed loops), **Cordon** offers two treasure hunt itineraries that invite families to solve enigmas and discover the Baroque-style church and heritage of the Pays du Mont-Blanc.

► www.cordon.fr/en/

Experience nature differently at the Sources du Lac d'Annecy

All year round, **O Cap Nature** organizes workshops dedicated to the region's fauna, flora, geology and its natural resources.

► www.sources-lac-annecy.com/en/

A stroll on a solar system scale in Les Gets

The **Planets Trail**, open **all year round**, invites to enjoy an informative hike where every planet is depicted on a scale of one billionth. Accessible on foot or with snowshoes depending on snow cover, this itinerary offers an opportunity to discover astronomy in the great outdoors in a highly-original way.

► www.lesgets.com/en/

When a hike turns into luminous work

The "**Light Painting**" hike in **Habère-Poche** combines a night-time stroll and artistic creation. Participants discover Alpine landscapes and, at the same time, gain insight into photography and light painting techniques.

► en.alpesduleman.com



AUTUMN VIBRANCY

Colombière mountain pass

© Boulevarde photos

4 weekend ideas (and special features)

1. A wild adventure into the Alpes du Léman

From 15 September to 15 October 2026

The "Bellowing stag" getaway includes a **lookout** trip at dawn to enjoy the thrilling experience of being in a hide and listening to the voice of the king of the forests.

► en.alpesduleman.com

2. Wellness weekend in Samoëns

€550 for 2 people

A relaxing interlude in the mountains comprising 2 nights in an apartment, a nature-wellness activity of your choice (yoga-hike, sensory stroll or Afghan walking) and a wellness treatment (yoga or sensory massage).

► www.samoens.com/en/

3. Family & wellness experiences at Hotel Royal

Hotel Royal in Évian-les-Bains offers experiences for families, including a 3-day mum & baby break and "The Little Explorers' Escapade", a togetherness getaway with Bonpoint care treatments.

From €1,607 for 2 nights (2 adults and 1 child, breakfast included).

► www.evian-tourisme.com/en/

4. Thermal bath & spa cocoons

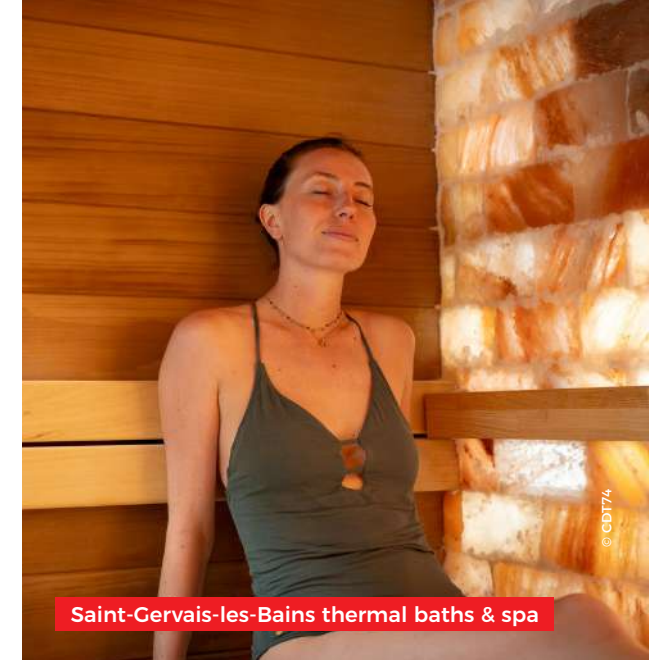
Évian-les-Bains, Thonon-les-Bains and Saint-Gervais-les-Bains.

Great autumn vibrancy hiking ideas

- **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.



ENJOY AUTUMN TIME IN
HAUTE-SAVOIE



Saint-Gervais-les-Bains thermal baths & spa

© CDT74



Lovagny - Château de Montrottier

© Vincent Euzen



Reposoir Carthusian monastery

© Magalie LECROS

HALLOWEEN WITH THE FAMILY

Megève

Toquicimes (the great mountain cuisine festival) – **from 16 to 18 October 2026.**

Les Petits Princes de l'automne (The Little Princes of Autumn) - A family-focused events programme.

Thônes Cœur des Vallées

The biennial "Au Fil du Bois" (Through the Woods) / Forest Celebration – **from 16 to 18 October 2026.**

Pays du Mont-Blanc

Les Petits Asticots Festival (performances and artistic get-togethers for children) – **21 October 2026.**

Alpes du Léman

Happy Halloween Party – **31 October 2026 in Bellevaux.**

A tour of the Mourian Farm, followed by snacks – **until 4 November 2026.**

Dog-karting ride – **in Vailly, until end October 2026.**

"Lutin des Alpagnes" (Mountain-pasture Elves) themed hike – **in Saxel, until 31 October 2026.**

Châtel

Halloween painting workshop, Halloween show with face painting at the end of the show.

Praz de Lys Sommand

The Autumn Fair celebrates its 40th edition in Mieussy on **17 and 18 October 2026.**

Samoëns

Automne des Petits Monstres – **a spooky autumn for little monsters from 18 October to 2 November 2026.**

Les Gets

Special Halloween week (creative workshops, live performances and free sweets handed out) – **from 26 to 31 October 2026.**

Combloux

The Ascent, Halloween Night – **31 October 2026.**

Aulps Valley

Halloween in Montriond (at the Domaine du Baron venue with workshops, magic show and food truck) – **end October 2026.**

Évian-les-Bains

"Sculpt like Sarah" course – **22 and 23 October 2026.**

Halloween workshop at the Palais Lumière – **Saturday 31 October 2026.**

Saint-Jean-de-Sixt

Halloween and entertainment – **30 October 2026.**

Cordon

"Au fond des mers" (At the Bottom of the Sea) performance – **Sunday 18 October 2026.**
The Werewolves of Cordon – **Saturday 31 October 2026.**

Lake Annecy

Halloween at the Château de Montrottier (creative Halloween origami workshops, storytelling by Elaera and giant Cluedo) – **from 17 to 31 October 2026.**

Haut-Giffre

Halloween at the Blue Lake (Lac Bleu) with escape games for young and old alike, creative and face-painting workshops – **end October 2026.**



WHAT'S ON

Museums, castles & activities to discover

Château de Montrottier

The castle rolls out an array of Halloween-themed events: creative workshops, storytelling, giant Cluedo, creating masks, night-time castle visits and an immersive evening on 31 October. **From 16 to 31 October 2026.**

Château de Ripaille

Out-of-the-ordinary, night-time and Halloween evening tours invite visitors to discover the castle differently during the holidays. **From 20 to 31 October 2026.**

Château de Clermont

Step into the realm of Halloween with a family-theme programme: roaming around the decorated castle and the immersive art installation, enigmas to solve, interactive tours and sound experiences. **From 17 October to 1st November 2026.**

Mélan Carthusian monastery

Head off and discover the "Quoi de neuf au Moyen Âge ?" (What's new in the Middle Ages?) exhibition and enjoy a special Halloween events programme **at the end of October. Until 1st November 2026.**

Morette site

During the holidays, the museum offers workshops to discover the history of the Resistance in a fun way: drawings, coded messages and tours-workshops. **From 17 October to 1st November 2026.**

Mont-Blanc Museum

Mont-Blanc Museum, which was closed for the last five years, reopened in July 2026 and now boasts a totally-reimagined tour. Its permanent spaces chronicle the history and landscapes of the range of mountains, and, as of October, are complemented by the exhibition **"Métamorphoses du regard : les Alpes magnifiées" (Changing Perspectives: the Alps in all their Splendour).**

Château de Clermont



Annecy's Treasure - Palais de l'Île

A family-friendly treasure hunt to explore Old Annecy's alleyways and discover the city's secrets. **From 22 to 29 October 2026.**

The Great Christmas Park - Andilly

Head off to meet Santa Claus' family and enjoy the host of attractions in this enchanting world. **Starting on 17 October 2026.**



Châtel

© L. Meyer

Samoëns - Automne des petits monstres



© M. B. / Les Petits Monstres

Mélan Carthusian monastery



© Dep074_Y Serutti

HERE COMES WINTER

Events for Christmas

Sallanches

From 5 December 2026 to 3 January 2027, Sallanches celebrates Christmas with a month full of events: concerts, market, tasting experiences, shows and more.

Saint-Jean-de-Sixt

Christmas Market (**5-6 December 2026**) and show followed by the arrival of Santa Claus on **23 December 2026**.

Samoëns

The Christmas Village (**4 December 2026 to 1st January 2027**) whisks young and old alike off through an enchanting world with craft market, shows, workshops and family-themed entertainment.

Les Gets

Christmas Market in the Old Village (**12 December 2026**) and "Le Père Noël habite aux Gets" (Santa Claus lives in Les Gets) (**20 to 24 December 2026**), with shows and entertainment.

Châtel

The Magic of Christmas and New Year (**19 December 2026 to 3 January 2027**) include Santa's house, parades, shows, workshops, Christmas market, fireworks displays and Christmas lights.

Lake Annecy

Christmas in the Alps (**21 November 2026 to 10 January 2027**) and Santa Claus Castle in Menthon-Saint-Bernard centre stages workshops, shows and encounters with elves.

Flaine

Spectacular light shows powered by 250 drones, **every Wednesday during the Christmas and February half-term holidays**.

Aulps Valley

On 24 December 2026, Montriond celebrates "En attendant Noël" (Waiting for Christmas) with music, mulled wine and a gigantic dessert log!



WHAT'S ON

Thonon-les-Bains

"Les Féériques" Christmas market lights up the town centre during the festive season from **28 November 2026 to 3 January 2027**.

Morzine

The Enchanted Village (**20 December 2026 to 3 January 2027**) jazzes up the resort with shows, workshops, parades, fireworks displays and entertainment.

Praz-sur-Arly

"Festive Season Magic" includes a Christmas market, ice sculptures, light shows, lantern tours, workshops and the arrival of Santa Claus.

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley

From Thursday 17 December 2026 to 3 January 2027, the valley celebrates "the Magic of Christmas" with a Christmas village, Christmas lights and enchanting walkabouts.

Cordon

Turning on the Christmas tree lights (**12 December 2026**) and the arrival of Santa Claus (**24 December 2026**), plus entertainment, hot chocolate and dog sledding.

Passy Mont-Blanc

On 12 December 2026, the resort celebrates the festive season with its Christmas market and the "Noël sur un Plateau" (Christmas on a Plateau) event.

Haut-Giffre

Starting on **6 December 2026**, the valley gets into the festive season mood with creative workshops, Christmas markets, storytelling tours, concerts and the arrival of Santa Claus in Morillon and Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval.



Annecy - Christmas in the Alps

WHERE CHRISTMAS GLITTERS

From 11 December to 2 January: The Fabulous Village or the Legend of the Flottins in Évian-les-Bains

Since 2007, the whole of Évian is transformed in the middle of winter, during end-of-year celebrations. Little drifters wander about at their leisure, amidst a backdrop filled with driftwood. The "Fabulous Village" is an extraordinary cultural event that takes a firm stand against commercially-driven Christmas celebrations.

Christmas in the mountains

Haute-Savoie resorts glitter with a thousand colours for Christmas.

- **In Flaine:** performances, choirs, torch-lit ski descents, a visit from Santa Claus and a drone show.
- **In Le Grand-Bornand:** from Christmas to Epiphany, the festive spirit reigns in the village (fairground rides, performances, wooden games, craft market, Santa Claus, etc.).
- **In Passy:** Santa Claus rides along in a dog sled.
- **In Praz de Lys - Sommand:** Santa Claus weaves his way through the chalets, but there's also torch-lit ski descents, fireworks displays, entertainment and Christmas lights on the slopes of the Espace des Lys ski area.
- **In Thonon-les-Bains,** there's "Les Féériques" Christmas market around the shores of Lake Geneva, an ice rink and light shows.

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.

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 **the sector from Balme to La Clusaz**) have surprises in store one or two weekends before Christmas, depending on the amount of snowflakes that fall.

Turning on the Megève Christmas tree lights

For over 50 years now, a giant Christmas tree that sparkles thanks to a collaboration with a leading jewellery firm, has reigned on the village square.

► www.megeve-tourisme.fr/en/

Gourmet traditions

Christmas "r'zeules": Rissoles are THE must-eat Christmas pastry in Haute-Savoie! The first recipes date back to the 15th century; their recipe has been handed down through the generations. In **Aviernoz** near Annecy, (village where they originated), rissoles are filled with dried plum paste. In **Cruseilles**, they're eaten 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.



Megève

© Antoine Barbot



© Willo Morawski

Key figures **198,409**
admissions to the Grand Parc d'Andilly and Santa's Hamlet over winter 2025-2026



FIND OUT MORE



Thonon-les-Bains - Les Féériques



Christmas holidays: great ideas for all the family!

Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc (23 to 30 December 2026)

Saint-Gervais' Festival of Lights dazzles throughout the village and offers a sound-and-light-installation tour across the resort.



Annecy (4 December 2026)

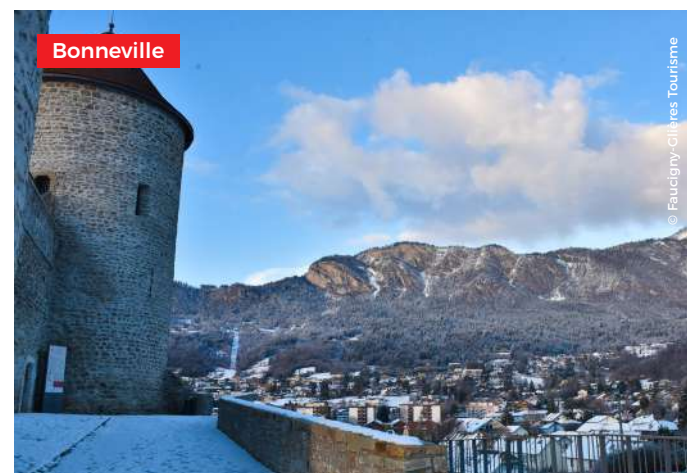
The world-famous Nutcracker ballet is back on stage for an evening filled with Christmas magic.

Montriond (24 December 2026)

A great get-together evening event mixing traditional music, mulled wine and a gigantic dessert log to keep you going until Christmas.

Santa Claus Castle - Menthon-Saint-Bernard (13 November 2026 to 13 January 2027)

A delightful journey into the world of Santa Claus with entertainment and surprises galore for all the family.



Bonneville (12 to 24 December 2026)

Le Big Barouf du Père Noël ("Santa Claus's Big Bash", a magical family-themed show to keep the kids happy until Christmas.

Le Grand-Bornand celebrates the Kings in giant-style!

For Epiphany, Le Grand-Bornand will offer a giant galette des rois (king cake) with **300 slices and a diameter of 1.70 meters** (making it larger than the one in Paris). Made in the workshops of Maison Bétemps, the only artisanal bakery with an oven capable of baking a cake of this size, it requires 20 kilos of puff pastry, the same amount of frangipane, and numerous fèves (small trinkets hidden inside), all baked for **two hours at over 170°C**. For each slice sold at €3, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Children's Endowment Fund.

PURE WHITE PLEASURES THE SKI AREAS



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 France-Switzerland resorts) and its 600 km of trails 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, 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, etc.).
► www.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 landscapes.
► www.evasionmontblanc.com
- **The Portes du Mont-Blanc**: 100 km of slopes overlooking Mont-Blanc. The area covers four resort-villages: **Combloux, Megève, La Giettaz** (adjacent to the Aravis Mountains) and **Cordon**.
► www.lesportesdumontblanc.fr/hiver/en/home-2/
- **Espace Diamant**: On the Haute-Savoie side, the departure point for taking on the slopes is **Praz-sur-Arly** (via the Crêt du Midi chairlift / free parking at Varins car park).
► www.espacediamant.com/en/
- **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.
► www.espacedeslys.com/en/
- **Roc d'Enfer**: 51 km of slopes far from the maddening crowd for a relaxing, nature-filled, contemplative ski outing between the **Alpes du Léman** and **Aulps Valley**.
► www.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. 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 styles of winter sport.
► www.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 Arve Valley. **Romme-Nancy-sur-Cluses, Le Reposoir and Mont-Saxonnex** are just 15 minutes apart by car.
► cluses-montagnes-tourisme.com/en/

Nordic areas

Over 800 km of Nordic trails and **25 people-friendly Nordic areas**, 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 14 areas to ski in.
► www.haute-savoie-nordic.com/#



Les Carroz

© T. SH



© Marine Martin

BEHIND THE SCENES...

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.

LA CLUSAZ

The "Backstage: Crêt du Merle chairlift and groomer" event.

► www.laclusaz.com/en/

LE GRAND-BORNAND

Training in avalanche rescue techniques... under real-life conditions

15 minutes is the time you can survive under the snow: you can't wait for the rescue team, you need to react... but how? This service, **highly-recommended for freestyle skiers, snowshoers and ski tourers**, offered on Thursday and Sunday afternoons by Le Grand-Bornand mountain guide office, provides training in techniques for the independent search and rescue of avalanche victims (3 hours of training).

► en.legrandbornand.com

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 **Morillon** (First Track), **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.

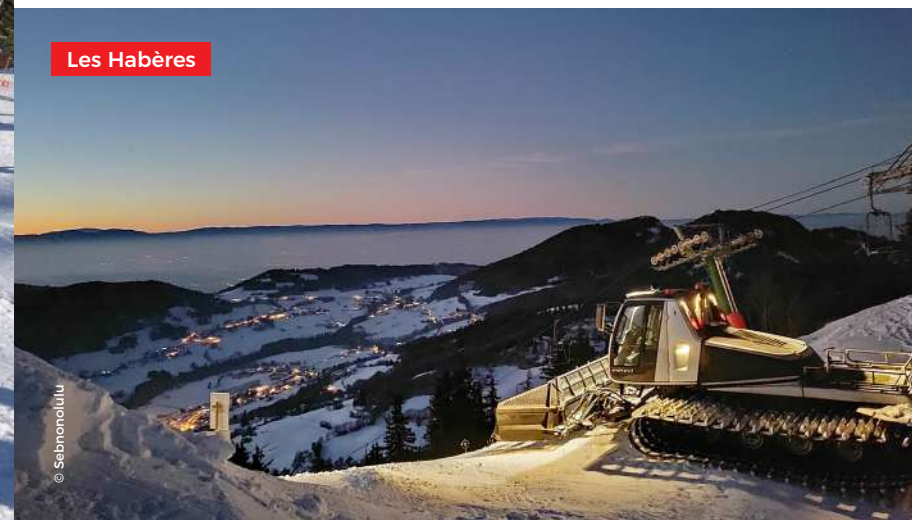
"Jump on-board my snow groomer"

When the slopes close at the end of the day, several Haute-Savoie resorts invite you to get on-board a snow groomer in **Les Habères, Passy** and **Manigod** to experience snow grooming first-hand with the pros. In **Les Carroz**, the equipment itself is presented in detail once a week for those who wish to find out more.

LE GRAND-BORNAND

Discover ski-related jobs on Mondays in winter:

At 6:30pm, on Monday evenings during the winter season, the ski lift operators organize a friendly welcome drink at the foot of the slopes. While enjoying a free hot chocolate or mulled wine, young and old alike discover the different jobs carried out in the ski area and can even jump on-board a snow groomer.



Les Habères

© Sebnonolulu

OUR ICON MONT-BLANC

Mont-Blanc - Heading for the heights

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Aiguille du Midi cable car

© Tony Harrington

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 of the high peaks and of 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.

► <https://aiguilledumidi.montblancnaturalresort.com/en>

Legendary skiing - Whooshing down the White Valley in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

The White Valley, accessible from the Aiguille du Midi (3,842 m), is one of Europe's the greatest glacier descents. This unmarked, 20-km-long, off-piste route, with over 2,000 metres of vertical drop, for which it is highly advisable to go accompanied by a mountain guide, offers seasoned skiers the opportunity to whoosh along in a breathtaking setting, surrounded by legendary peaks, before finishing their descent with the famous Mer de Glace...

► en.chamonix.com

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

© OT Chamonix

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-Mont-Blanc 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 (1,913 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, and can enjoy total immersion in the realm of glaciers.

► www.montenverstrain.com/en/homepage/

► www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en

The Refuge du Montenvers

This legendary hotel, dating back to 1880, nestling at an altitude of 1,913 m, and offering a magnificent backdrop high above the Mer de Glace and overlooking the majestic Drus, is the perfect setting for unwinding and recharging your batteries. The site, accessible from Chamonix in just 20 minutes via the little red Montenvers rack-railway train, becomes a real haven of peace in the late afternoon.

► en.refugedumontenvers.com

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - Montenvers Train

© Mairie de Chamonix - Morgane Raylat

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. From Mont-Blanc's balconies, i.e. **Cordon** and **Combloux**, the vista from La Croix slopes is a must: red for seasoned skiers in Cordon, and blue that's accessible to everyone in Combloux. In **Megève**, the Cypaète (Christomet - the Portes du Mont-Blanc area) is recommended for the wow factor. Virtually all **Les Contamines-Montjoie** ski area enjoys panoramas over Mont-Blanc. 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. **Between Morzine and Avoriaz**, 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.

In the Alpes du Léman

A vista over Mont-Blanc on the **Hirmentaz** side, on the Airelles red 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.



Above Lake Annecy

The resort of **Le Semnoz** boasts two slopes with vistas over Mont-Blanc: Bucherons and Canyon. The 3 Nordic skiing loops in the area also offer panoramic views; an unexpected spot, just 20 minutes from the capital of the Haute-Savoie department.





Skiing for everyone

In Haute-Savoie, forests cover 40% of the territory. From the smallest to the largest resort, skiing in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc takes place in unspoiled natural settings—even within nature reserves. Everyone can fulfill their dream of skiing among the fir trees, just like in a picture-postcard scene. Each resort boasts its own signature run winding through the forest. Among Haute-Savoie's "secret spots," **Môle & Brasses** is a must-visit.

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. 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 second edition of the 1er Ski Festival (20-27 March 2027, 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**.

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 sports 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.

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.

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

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**. Some areas also offer special services.

► www.haute-savoie-nordic.com/#

6 one-of-a-kind ski experiences

Full awareness skiing (Samoëns)

In Samoëns, skiing takes on a whole new meaning with an approach that combines whooshing along, wellness and breathing. Through body visualisation, grounding and mindfulness exercises, this experience encourages you to slow down, regain confidence and enjoy every twist & turn to the full.

A full day, from €120 per person.

Ski by night (Manigod and Le Grand-Bornand)

Whizz down the floodlit slopes in Manigod in the evening to the pace of theme-based entertainment. Nordic Evenings in Le Grand-Bornand invite to ski under the stars and to have a go at alternative winter sports (yooner, parat, fatbike, snooc) in a fun-filled atmosphere.

The ski & dine combo (Cordon)

January ski-dine offer: a package combining skiing and delicious food.

On the agenda: a one-day ski pass for the Cordon-Portes du Mont-Blanc ski area and a meal in a partner restaurant at a great price throughout January.

Jump on the train to ski overlooking a glacier (Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc)

Get on-board with your ski boots on, as the Mont-Blanc Tramway, the highest rack-railway train in France, whisks you up to the Nid d'Aigle (2,372 m). An unforgettable experience with a vista over Bionnassay Glacier and the Mont-Blanc range of mountains.

Ski with an eagle (Morzine)

An experience unlike any other in the world, on the Nyon Plateau, where Lake Geneva Eagles invite you to discover falconry in winter and to whoosh down the slopes accompanied by an eagle. An incredible opportunity.

From €25 per person (45 min, 3rd-star skiing level at least).

Ski with vistas over Lake Geneva (Thollon-les-Mémises)

The "Fées" slope offers a breathtaking panorama over Lake Geneva for a day's skiing that combines snow and wow-inspiring landscapes.



THE NORDIC REALM

© Bouilleur de photo

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 **Seyssel**, 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.

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**.

Plaine-Joux - Les Brasses
1^{er} site nordique scolaire de Haute-Savoie

©CDT 74

What about the kids?

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.

Nordic getaway

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.

In the **Morzine** sector, far from the hustle and bustle of the slopes, **Erigné Nordic site**, located in **La Manche Valley**, offers a space totally devoted to outdoor activities. This site, easy to reach from the village, in particular thanks to free shuttle buses, combines cross-country skiing trails, pedestrian and snowshoeing routes, play areas in the snow with a giant igloo, a picnic area and more... It's also the starting point for a host of wintertime hikes, including those leading to **La Golèse**, **Bostan** and the **Cou mountain pass**.

Key figures

25 Nordic areas

+800 km marked trails

Event

50th edition of the department's flagship cross-country skiing event: the Haute-Savoie "**Finale des Foyers de ski de fond**" (Cross-country Skiing Club Final). This event for young people, which began in 1974, is the only one of its kind in France and brings together some 800 young skiers and 1,000 people.

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.

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: **Le Grand-Bornand** and **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.



DISCOVER ALL THE NORDIC RESORTS

Cross-country skiing by night

14 Nordic areas, the only region in France to offer this. On the agenda: from Tuesday to Saturday in winter - cross-country skiing under the stars, events and theme-based night-time skiing.

► www.haute-savoie-nordic.com/#

Haut-Giffre: across the Nordic area, four night-time cross-country skiing evenings are available during the February half-term holidays on the various Haut-Giffre Nordic ski area sites (**Joux Plane**, **Cirque du Fer à Cheval**, etc.) to discover Nordic skiing under the stars through free initiation sessions.

Alpes du Léman: night-time cross-country skiing on the **Plateau des Mouilles** in **Bellevaux** (night-time biathlon initiation every Thursday during the school holidays) and on the **Plateau des Moises** in **Habère-Poche**.

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 Semnoz

La Clusaz - Les Confins



Haute-Savoie Nordic

Glières Plateau
Nordic area and heartland of remembrance



Haute-Savoie Nordic

Manigod



M. Thide Sauvage

Le Salève



Haute-Savoie Nordic

SKI TOURING & SNOWSHOEING

Châtel – The Ski-touring Park

With its five marked routes across the **Super Châtel** and **Pré-la-Joux/Plaine Dranse** sectors, **Châtel's Ski-touring Park** is made for novices and seasoned ski-touring aficionados alike with its safe trails tailored to different levels.

Praz-sur-Arly – Ski touring initiation

The **Compagnie des Guides (mountain guide association)** and the **French Ski School (ESF)** offer guided outings and initiation sessions to discover ski touring and off-piste routes safely.

Morzine – Three refuges to experience wintertime roaming

La Golèse refuge, **Bostan mountain refuge** and the **Cabane du Col de Cou**: **Morzine** offers several ski-touring and snowshoeing routes, with the opportunity to spend one or more nights in a refuge at the very heart of the **Portes du Soleil**.

Samoëns – Ski touring and a night in a refuge

Head off from the **Allamands** for a tour with a guide that will take you to **Bostan mountain refuge** where you will spend a night in the mountains and enjoy a Savoie-style evening meal, the sun rising over the peaks and skiing down into the valley.

Cordon – Snowshoeing Festival

Every year in January, **Cordon** sets aside a day for discovering snowshoeing and offers guided outings, igloo-building and mountain safety awareness sessions.

Alpes du Léman – "Raquettes en fête" (Snowshoe Celebration)

In Bellevaux, the **"Raquettes en fête"** (Snowshoe Celebration), offers snowshoeing outings, avalanche transceiver workshops, igloo-building, orienteering and discovering winter wildlife.

Alpes du Léman – "Escapade blanche" (White roaming)

This getaway invites to delight in total immersion in the mountains with snowshoeing, unspoilt nature and nights deep in the heart of the **Chablais**.

Flaine – Snowshoeing and fondue in an igloo

A snowshoeing outing leads to an igloo where participants enjoy a fondue together in an extraordinary setting deep in the heart of the mountains.

Châtel – Gourmet hike to the heights

A snowshoeing hike takes you to the **Mouët chalet** (1,800 m), where you can indulge in a delicious meal of local specialities overlooking the peaks of **Abondance Valley** and the **Dents du Midi**.

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley – Glacier snowshoeing

Chamonix mountain guide association offers glacier snowshoe hiking, including a day on the **Géant glacier**, to discover the high-altitude scenscapes of the **Mont-Blanc range of mountains**.

Lake Annecy – Snowshoeing, bivouacking and an out-of-the-ordinary night

In **Le Semnoz**, **Alpes Bivouac** combines snowshoe hikes, meals around the fire and an overnight stay in an alti-dome (innovative tent concept with a transparent star-gazing top) or an igloo, just a stone's throw from **Annecy**.

Monts du Genevois – Fondue in Les Voirons

The **Maison de la Montagne des Voirons** invites you to head out for a snowshoeing trip, then a fondue in the chalet, a great way to enjoy an evening in a magnificent unspoilt setting.

Môle & Brasses – Fondue in an igloo

In **Plaine Joux**, a snowshoeing hike finishes with a fondue served in a igloo, a wintertime experience that's gourmet and totally one of a kind.

From the crests – Birds'-eye view over Lake Geneva

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

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

This charming 7 km walk, deep in the heart of the **Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval**, France's 2nd largest cirque, is captivating.

Samöens

Praz-sur-Arly

Cordon – Snowshoeing

100% snowshoe break

"Escapade blanche" (White roaming) getaway - all winter, on request - Bellevaux

► www.alpesduleman.com/l-escapade-blanche.html

Alpes du Léman

"L'appel de la forêt" (the call of the forest) getaway - a night in an igloo - all winter, on request - Habère-Poche

► www.alpesduleman.com/l-appel-de-la-foret-nuitee-en-igloo.html

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

MOUNTAINS FOR THE KIDS



Agence-Verticale for LAMDJ

Community culture

Haute-Savoie, a region that has been welcoming groups for over a century, has developed a real culture of community-focused breaks.

Holiday camps, mountain guides, sports instructors, mountain-pasture farms, horse-riding centres, water-based leisure centres, etc. a whole network of professionals enabling 3-17 year-olds to discover the mountains differently.

The "La Montagne des Juniors" (Mountains for the Kids) association coordinates and manages this ecosystem and ensures organizing breaks is made easy.

Haute-Savoie is one of the leading regions for school discovery trips and holiday camps.

This ranking is supported by the density and quality of its host centres, the rich diversity of its natural environments, its accessibility and its acknowledged educational, sporting and environmental reputation.

► www.la-montagne-des-juniors.com

Overview

Winter holiday camp offering: February half-term holidays – New Year

Duration: between less than 7 days and more than 10 days

Discovering winter sports: skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, dog sledding

For 3 to 17 year-olds (stay tailored to every age)

Discovering Haute-Savoie resorts

Sector figures

According to a 2025 study carried out by Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Tourism with G2A Consulting:

- Shared accommodation for minors totals **4.5 million overnight stays** on a regional scale
- Haute-Savoie is the region's top-ranking department for shared accommodation for groups, with **185 establishments, 18,736 beds and 2.3 million overnight stays**, i.e. **51% of region-wide overnight stays**, confirming the significance of this segment

The "La Montagne des Juniors" (Mountains for the Kids) association totals:

- **75 members**
- **743,000 tourist overnight stays**
- **€49 m to €64 m** turnover and economic benefits for the Haute-Savoie region
- **8,450 beds** with our 75 Haute-Savoie member accommodation hosts
- Every bed generates an average **€5,000** in economic benefits

Key figures **185** host establishments

743,000 overnight stays

APRÈS-SKI FOR EVERYONE



Saint-Gervais-les-Bains thermal baths & spa

© P. Deloche



Frosty pleasures

One-of-a-kind thrilling snow experiences

Haute-Savoie invites to delight in new ways of enjoying the snow: **night-time sledding** on the legendary **Marvel slope** in **Morillon**, **Mountain Kart** at **Roc d'Enfer**, **snowtubing** in **Praz-sur-Arly**, as well as **Family Run** in **La Clusaz**. Fun-filled activities to vary your mountain pleasures.

Enjoy the mountains differently

To make the most of breathtaking snow-covered landscapes, it's time for experience that are way off the beaten track: **trapper-style getaways** in **Bellevaux**, **wintertime bivouacking**, **a night in a teepee** or in an **igloo** around **Praz de Lys - Sommand**. In **La Clusaz**, the "Bascule" (a giant outdoor swing) and **Beauregard Immersive Space** invite reverie in with incredible vistas over the Aravis.

Adventure and self-sufficiency in the great outdoors

Entre 2 mondes (Between 2 Worlds) in **Passy** and trips offered by **Ambiance Montagne** (Mountain Atmosphere) invite to discover the mountains in winter differently: **bushcraft**, **dining in mountain-pasture chalets**, roaming with a **pulk** and igloo-building in **Praz de Lys - Sommand**. Experiences for reconnecting with nature and learning about mountain know-how.

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 et 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 and a hundred-year-old natural ice rink in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.

Fly high above the ski area

Paragliding's another activity that's a must in winter. 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**, 5th edition from 3 to 5 April 2027. 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**.

Winter by the waterside

Cold water swimming: all the rage

Cold water swimming, inspired by Scandinavian traditions, is really taking off in France and attracting more and more people. It boasts great benefits: it stimulates circulation, boosts resistance to cold and helps you reconnect with your body.

The **Cluses** Regional Scouts Swimming Club (CNSR **Cluses**) has launched a section devoted to this and, for several years now, has been organizing the **Défi du Lac Bleu** (Blue Lake Challenge), which has become a can't-miss date for the discipline. The **Blue Lake** (Lac Bleu) in **Morillon**, nestling at an altitude of 700 m and supplied by a natural spring, welcomes hundreds of swimmers every winter who come to take up the challenge in an outstanding setting.

This experience is also on offer in **Saint-Jean-de-Sixt**, with cold-water swimming in the **Nom River**, supervised by a professional, and in **Samoëns**, where those who dare dive into icy water in the depths of winter. An iconic wintertime experience in **Haut-Giffre**: the "Sauna & Plouf" (Sauna & Splash) session with Bastu 74, which alternates between cold-water swimming in **Morillon's Blue Lake** (Lac Bleu) and warm interludes in the sauna. In **Sciez**, switching between the sauna by the lakeside and diving into cold water offers a different approach to this practice.

SUP, even in winter

SUPs also glide along icy waters in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. Worth noting: **The Glagla Race** will take place on 16 and 17 January 2027.

At the Sources du Lac d'Annecy, **winter SUP is available at SkiWake74** (booking required, in Doussard).

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 great for winding down and calming the mind, day and night alike, 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.



Zen moments in high-altitude lakes

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



FESTIVE PLEASURES



Exquisite après-ski

Après-ski is an integral part of holidays... in the mountains, and part of the DNA of Haute-Savoie residents who are just as much attached to thrills as to traditions. You can gather around to "baboler" (chat) by the fire with your feet in the snow, while enjoying a hot drink or a slice of local PDO-PGI (AOP-IGP) cheese from a neighbouring producer.

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 talk to 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 a **floating aperitif** high in the air on-board a cable car or a fondue evening in an igloo or a teepee.

Festive après-ski

After-ski in **Avoriaz**, **Megève** and **Chamonix** often slides along 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). **Samoëns** has been hosting "Les Vignerons font du ski" (Winemakers go skiing) for 4 years now (save the date from 8 to 11 January 2027).

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

SAMOËNS Floating aperitif

Indulge in a one-of-a-kind experience in Samoëns with the Apéro Suspendu (floating aperitif), a gourmet, get-together interlude that lasts 50 minutes, perched high in one of Vercland's cable cars.

*Price: €200 the cable car (for up to 6 people).
Places limited, booking recommended.*

TRAFOLE IN MORZINE"Trafole" comes from the local dialect word "trafoler", which refers to the tracks left in fresh snow as people (and equipment, vehicles, animals) have passed through, and this new festive venue brings together people of all ages. The bar offers a programme mixing DJ sets, live concerts and theme-based evenings and is open until late at night.



Wellness & thermal bath & spa therapy

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).

► hautesavoie-montblanc-tourisme.com/en/

Après-ski wellness

Spas overlooking the peaks, Nordic baths, hammams, treatments with Alpine plants and wellness spaces... a rich, varied range of revitalizing pleasures. The **QC Spa of Wonders** is the largest in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. A host of facilities and sites also welcome visitors: **Le Palais in Megève**, **Aquacime in Les Carroz**, **Forme d'O in Châtel**, **Aquariaz in Avoriaz**, **Les Sources du Chéry in Les Gets**, **Vitam in Neydens**, as well as **Sallanches wellness centre**.

Wellness in the great outdoors

• Monts du Genevois

Château des Avenières in Cruseilles inaugurated a new wellness space in 2026.

► www.chateau-des-avenieres.com/en/

• Les Contamines-Montjoie

The **Eaux Ma Biche Spa**, at the gateway to the nature reserve, features a relaxation area with pool, sauna, hamman and herbal tea lounge in an unspoilt setting.

► www.ideosens.fr/biche-lescontamines/rayons

• Morzine

The spa in the **Hotel & Spa Le Dahu by Avril** features a heated, indoor pool, sauna, hammam, jacuzzi and treatments with a panoramic view over the mountains.

► www.dahu.com/en/

• Lemman Mountains Explore

Several hotel spas invite you to unwind, namely the **Terra Beka Lodge**, the **Cornettes** and the **Gentianettes**.

► www.leman-mountains-explore.com/en/

• Saint-Jean-de-Sixt

The **Bubble Chalet Spa in the Beau Site Hotel** invites to delight in a wellness interlude with jacuzzi, hammam and sauna overlooking the Aravis.

► www.hotel-spa-beausite.com

• Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley

The **Lykke Slow Hotel & Spa** invites non-staying visitors to make the most of its wellness space, which comprises a pool, sauna, hammam, jacuzzi and relaxation areas in a Scandinavian-style atmosphere.

► en.lykkechamonix.com/the-spa

• Les Gets

Three spas are accessible during winter (**Hotel La Marmotte spa**, **Kinabalu** and **Les Sources du Chéry**) to recharge your batteries after your mountain activities.

• Cordon

Relaxing Tuesday at **Le Chamois d'Or Hotel - Vertigo Spa**:

4 hours of wellness at Le Chamois d'Or Hotel.

► www.hotel-chamoisdor.com/en/spa



HAUT-GIFFRE

Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval Wellness Getaways, organized on 21 and 22 November 2026, invite you for two days devoted to wellness with Giffre Valley practitioners.

► www.haut-giffre.co.uk





© Les Contamines Tourisme

Cultural pleasures

The cultural appeal of ski resorts

The mountains are also to be discovered through their heritage. In **Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc**, four cultural centres chronicle the area's history: the **Maison forte de Hautetour** dedicated to mountaineering, **La Cure et Pile Pont Expo**, devoted to contemporary art, along with the **Sacred Art Museum in Saint-Nicolas de Véroce**. In **les Contamines-Montjoie**, the iconic **Notre-Dame de la Gorge** site combines heritage, spirituality and Alpine landscapes. What's more, the "Baroque Hike" invites you to head off and discover the churches and villages around the **Pays du Mont-Blanc**.

Architecture blending tradition and modernity

In **Flaine**, architecture is key to the experience. The resort, created by Marcel Breuer in 1968 and classified as a 20th-century heritage site, is a real open-air museum with monumental works by Dubuffet, Picasso and Vasarely.

French National Architecture Days

Discover "Passy, administrative centre of the department and its development", on 1st October 2026.

► passy-mont-blanc.com/en/

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



© OT Flaine

Churches: sacred art treasures

Haute-Savoie boasts outstanding religious heritage that can be admired, in particular, by following the "Escapade Baroque" (Baroque Getaway) through the Alps. These buildings, from the church in **Saint-Nicolas de Véroce** to the one in **Cordon**, as well as the Church of Saint-Maurice in **Thônes** and its listed Savoyard Baroque altarpiece, illustrate Alpine history and know-how. In **Le Grand-Bornand**, the church also houses the largest organ in Haute-Savoie.

Notre-Dame de la Gorge

Notre-Dame de la Gorge is one of the most iconic sites in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**. As a place of spirituality and contemplation, as well as a gateway to the major mountain routes, it holds a unique place in local heritage. It was rebuilt in 1699 and, for centuries, has been an **important pilgrimage site** and a landmark for travellers crossing through the valley.

BAROQUE HIKE, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Baroque Trail whisks hikers and walkers back through the history of the valley's villages and churches. This hike, taking in religious heritage, architecture and Alpine landscapes, offers a highly-original perspective of the cultural heritage of Pays du Mont-Blanc, where baroque-style church steeples compete with the surrounding peaks.

68 interactive museums

In July 2026, **Mont-Blanc Museum** opened its doors following the total refurbishment of the old **Alpine Museum of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc**.

The museum, set up in the former **Chamonix Palace** in 1926, now centre stages three permanent exhibition spaces (Adaptations, Exploits and Landscapes) and another devoted to temporary exhibitions across a surface area of 1,800 m².

The scenography has been entirely revamped to make it more attractive (new museography, new mediation tools) and to 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; vibrant places that offer 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.

Key figures

68 museums,
61 classified monuments
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.

In **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.

Paccard Museum in Sevrier

The Paccard Museum in **Sevrier**, invites to discover the history of the renowned Savoie bell foundry, which is "Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant" (Living Heritage Company) certified. It unveils secrets of ancestral know-how through collections, tours and demonstrations.

► musee-paccard.com/en/

Vallée d'Aulps



© JordonTourisme - JM Barey

La Clusaz



© JM LUGNIERY

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 **Halloween** style throughout the holidays with, on the agenda,: **Ripaille Night-time Tours** (23 and 24 October 2026 - 8pm/10pm). **Halloween at Ripaille** (31 October)

► www.ripaille.fr

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 **Pablo Picasso's mechanical piano**.

► musicmecalesgets.org/en/

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" workshops**.

► www.musee.2ccam.fr/english/

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.

► www.montenverstrain.com/en/homepage/

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 the fabulous destiny of France's highest legendary rack-railway train here below.

► www.tramwaydumontblanc.fr/en/



© De Beaux Len - mmains

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, turns and games have been imagined to have fun while skiing. On the Enchanted Marvel educational trail (**Morillon**), children head off in search of life-size animal shapes hidden along the slope.

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**.

Right at the heart of **Les Houches-Saint-Gervais** ski area, children take a **zip-line break** and go **snowtubing (hurtling down a dedicated slope sitting in a large rubber ring)** at the **Ski Camp**. Also to be discovered in Praz-sur-Arly, Passy Mont-Blanc, Megève and Le Grand-Bornand.

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, **pulk** 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**, and **pony-sledding** in **Samoëns**.

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, Chamonix and La Clusaz**.

The French Ski School (ESF) trains budding trappers!

The "trapper outing" in **Le Grand-Bornand** offers children of 6 years-old and over an opportunity to enjoy the mountains to the full. On the agenda: tracks in the snow, forest life in winter, signs of life... campfire and marshmallow party!

► www.ski-school-legrandbornand.co.uk

But, there's more...

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

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

Paret in **Manigod**, the birthplace of the activity.

Snakegliss (a snow-snake articulated sled) in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.



Sciez - Lake Geneva Eagles

© Sylvain Cechet

"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.
- **Immersive sound and light shows Alta Lumina (Les Gets)** in the forest and **Beau Regard (La Clusaz)** beneath Beauregard 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 like 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**).

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 great rates and to ensuring that professionals are aware of children's expectations.

Avoriaz - Fondue in an igloo



© Avoriaz

GOURMET PLEASURES



© AntoineBarbot

© Les Gets



Fondue in Chamonix

© Sami Sauri

Our specialities

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**.



© Lucie Tanguy

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 Républicain (a bistro in Thonon-les-Bains, run by the Berthoud family). It's 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 try out 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 more than 110 years later.

Bear Claws. 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.

Rissole Festival in Saint Paul en Chablais on 13 December.

Savoury dishes & delights

"Farcement" or "farçon (Chamonix Valley), also known as **"rabolet" (Mont-Saxonnex)**: somewhere 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 Châtée" ("chastened" soup) from Haut-Giffre: a hearty, rural speciality based on bread, Tomme de Savoie cheese and onions, gratinéed with broth.

But, there's more...

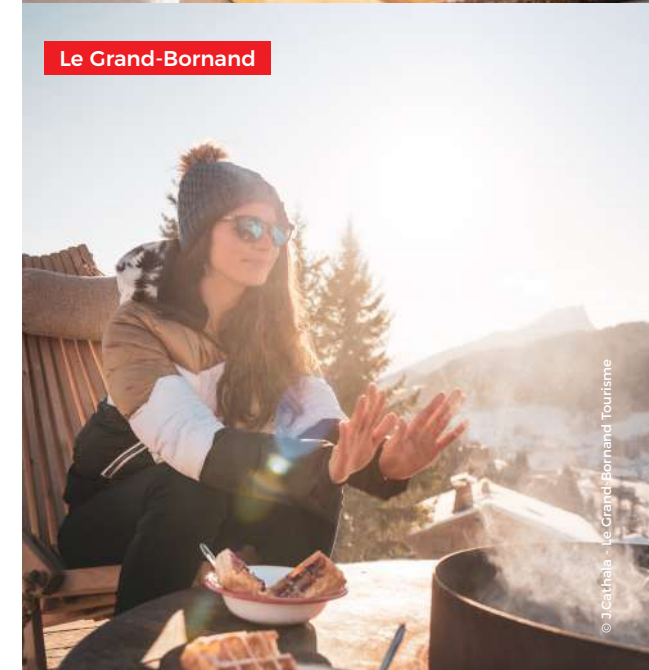
Ravioles in Les Carroz d'Arâches, while **fish** reigns on the table on the shores of Lake Annecy and Lake Geneva and **"Contaminard"** (bread) in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**.

"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.



© Mel Curié

Le Grand-Bornand



© J. Cathelin - Le Grand-Bornand Tourisme



© T. Viatard

Saint-Jean-de-Sixt - Reblochon



Par Monts et par Vins



In Haute-Savoie, the **Faucigny-Glières** area, **Destination Léman** and the **Haut-Rhône Tourisme** area are fully focused on this approach, offering a cohesive, high-quality experience inviting to discover their wines.

All three, **Vignobles & Découvertes** (Vineyards & Discoveries)-labelled since March 2026, meet French national requirements in the way their wine tourism options are organized. This label, issued by **Atout France**, honours destinations that are able to offer an across-the-board experience, combining wine production, tourist hospitality, dining, accommodation, activities and events.

Faucigny-Glières: where vines mingle with mountains

The Faucigny-Glières destination is characterized by its distinctive position, at the crossroads of the wine-growing and mountain realms. Here, vineyards lie in a **distinctive natural environment, in particular around Glières Plateau, and offer an ideal setting for small-scale, discovery tourism**. The wine tourism offering focuses on **promoting encounters with producers, organizing meaningful traditional events** and developing soft activities, contributing to an authentic, immersive experience. This position meets the expectations of customers seeking meaning, proximity and immersion in the area.

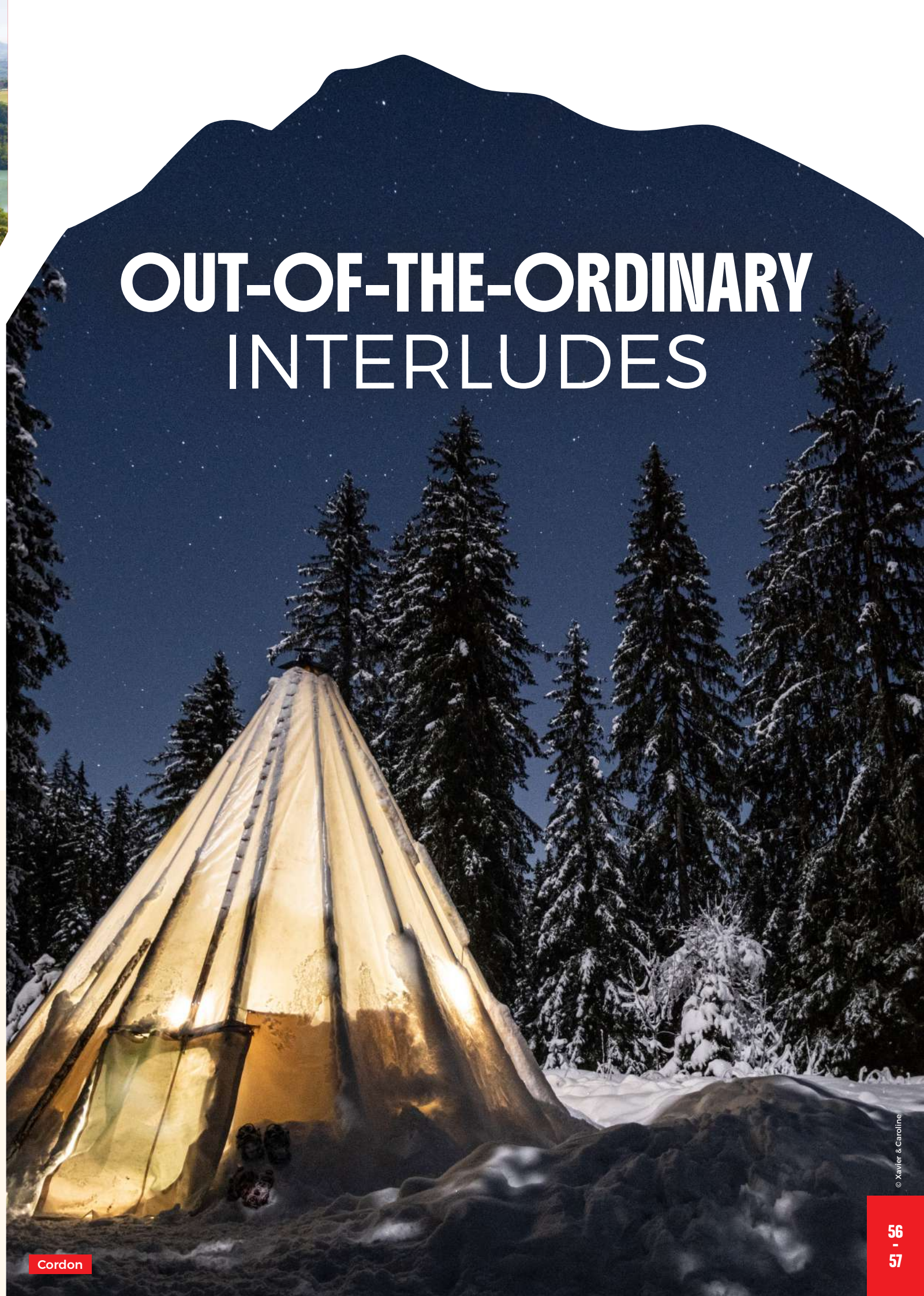
Destination Léman: where lake, vines and heritage meet

Across the Destination Léman area, wine tourism **reigns in a highly appealing setting, combining vineyards, a lake and heritage**. The vineyard landscapes overlooking Lake Geneva, **along with iconic sites** such as the medieval village of Yvoire, are key to creating an image of a distinctive, high-quality destination. The offering focuses on **visits to wine estates, gastronomy and wine experiences, discovery trails and community events**. It enhances the area's appeal by offering a wider range of reasons to come and stay and by encouraging visits to be spread over the year.

A getaway deep in the heart of Haut-Rhône vineyards

Haut-Rhône vineyards, set among hillsides, villages and rivers, invite to delight in an authentic immersion where **nature, heritage and local treasures** hold sway. Tasting sessions on the estates, strolling through the vineyards and discovering local know-how set the tempo for this interlude. **Seyssel vineyards**, straddling the Ain and Haute-Savoie departments, are renowned for their **iconic grape varieties**, Altesse (Roussette) and Molette, which produce elegant wines that pair perfectly with Savoie specialities. **Frangy vineyard**, reigning at the foot of the Vuache Mountains, delights with its Roussette, its rolling landscapes and its wine-tourism experiences featuring encounters, tasting sessions and routes through the vines.

OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY INTERLUDES





Unusual accommodation

My cabin in Haute-Savoie

Fancy sleeping somewhere extraordinary? Haute-Savoie offers a host of one-of-a-kind cabins, from **Mount Salève** to the **Aravis mountains: luxury spa cabins** built with large logs, tree-houses, chalets and teepees at Les Ecotagnes (Les Villards-sur-Thônes), not to mention the Cabanes du Mont-Blanc in **Passy-Plaine-Joux** to wake up overlooking Mont-Blanc with your skis on. In **Thônes Cœur des Vallées**, the Tiny Houses at Trejeux camp site also offer a highly-original experience in unspoilt natural surroundings.

Sleep in an igloo

A night in an igloo, the ultimate Nordic experience, invites you to delight in a timeless interlude. Enjoy the warmth of a cosy cocoon right at the heart of an unspoilt natural environment, at the **Ecobivouac in Le Semnoz**, just a stone's throw from **Annecy**, or in other out-of-the-ordinary types of mountain accommodation in **Avoriaz**.

A night under the stars in a dome

Transparent accommodation offers a one-of-a-kind immersion where you're totally at one with your Alpine landscapes. Spend a night at the Bulles des Mines d'Or, overlooking the snow-covered Manche Valley peaks, in **Morzine**. In **Les Gets**, the Chéry Dômes blend comfort, authenticity and stargazing, whilst **Combloux** and **Aulps Valley** also offer incomparable nights in domes.

Dream differently: teepees, yurts and refuges

For a total change of scenery, head for Altipik in **Mont-Saxonnex** for a night in a teepee or in a yurt at Yourte Olachat in **Faverge-Seythenex**. Mountain refuges also offer an authentic winter getaway: La Golèse refuge in **Samoëns**, La Pointe Percée refuge in **Le Grand-Bornand**, Mont Joly refuge in **Saint-Gervais**, as well as Refuge des Prés in **Les Contamines-Montjoie**. The Refuge là-Haut, on the heights of the **Sources du Lac d'Annecy**, even offers an immersive experience, the "Shelter Experience", inspired by polar expeditions.



Accommodation with a mountain touch

Samoëns - Chalet Mont Plaisir

Chalet Mont Plaisir, located at an altitude of 1,400 metres, invites to delight in an eco-friendly interlude in the midst of mountain pastures, where unspoilt nature, ski touring and a cosy atmosphere reign.

Haut-Giffre - La Cabiote

La Cabiote, in Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, offers a wintertime cocoon featuring contemporary architecture, warm materials and an eco-friendly approach.

Saint-Jean-de-Sixt - Chalet Sixtine

Chalet Sixtine, installed in a renovated old farmhouse, invites to discover mountain-style art of living deep in the heart of the Aravis.

Lake Annecy - Les Trésoms

Les Trésoms, nestling high above Lake Annecy, offers a getaway that combines wellness, gastronomy and a breathtaking panorama.

Châtel - 1861 Châtel Hostel

The 1861, the first youth hostel in the mountains, offers a friendly, up-to-the-minute-style stay at the very heart of the Portes du Soleil.

Passy - Les Greniers du Mont-Blanc

Welcoming chalets overlooking Mont-Blanc, mixing Alpine authenticity and modern-day comfort.

Cordon - Les Roches Fleuries

Les Roches Fleuries Hotel, in Cordon, entices with its Alpine charm and its history, as it in particular welcomed Brigitte Bardot, who was seeking privacy.

Môle & Brasses - Gîte du Jorat

One-of-a-kind accommodation combining art, heritage and mountain-style atmosphere.

Leman Mountains Explore Le Petit Chalet du Pré Richard

A welcoming chalet at the heart of the Chablais region, perfect for making the most of an authentic break in the great outdoors.

Megève - Hôtel Saint-Georges

Hôtel Saint-George, in the centre of the village, offers an elegant experience that blends Alpine charm and contemporary comfort.

Praz-sur-Arly - Les Chalets de La Griyotire

Chalets combining Savoie tradition and modern comforts to enjoy a mountain-style getaway.

Praz de Lys Sommand - Chalet Grand Père

This premium chalet, located in Bonnavaz Valley, boasts a spa, Nordic bath, sauna and fun-filled experience as it included its own escape game.

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

Samoëns - La Golèse Refuge



Môle & Brasses - Le Jorat



1861 Châtel - Hostel



Soft mobility leads the way

A first in France

Saint-Gervais has taken a decisive step forward in its commitment to eco-mobility with **the opening of the Vallée** (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 Vallée 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**.

Events made for imagining tomorrow's mountains

The mountain region is exploring and innovating through events dedicated to major environmental and societal concerns.

In the **Alpes du Léman**, the Festival Montagne en Vallée Verte (Green Valley Mountain Festival - 2 to 4 October 2026) offers a weekend of gatherings focusing on changes in the mountains as a result of climate change. Conferences, films, exhibitions, shows and guided hikes invite to better understand how the region is changing.

In **Combloux**, Combloux Perspectives (**15 to 17 January 2027**) will bring together experts, scientists and people working in the field on future challenges facing Alpine areas. An event mixing conferences, discussions and think-tanks to imagine a more sustainable mountain region.

In the **Monts du Genevois**, the TEC Festival (TEC for "Transition Environnementale Citoyenne" in French, "Community-Led Environmental Transition") in **Saint-Julien-en-Genevois** also features a special agenda on transitions, culture and contemporary challenges.



Les Gets - Free shuttle in the village centre

A destination at the heart of the French Alps

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 Vallée 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 **extensive 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** perfect for **large-scale events** (Rochexpo, Congress Centre by ArchParc, the Imperial Palace Hotel Annecy Congress Centre, Le Majestic in Chamonix, Le Palais Sports Complex Megève, as well as La Grange au Lac venue and the Source Vive in the Evian Resort, the new Cité Internationale du Cinéma d'Animation (International Centre for Animated Film) in the Haras in Annecy, and for **bespoke meeting formats** in Premium and offbeat spaces.

Third attraction: an inspirational hub for team-building events

Haute-Savoie is an ideal inspirational hub for **team-building activities**, overlooking lake and mountains, season-in, season-out.

Thanks to local businesses that are deeply committed to organizing **sporting, recreational, contemplative and gastronomic** activities, the destinations offer local experiences that are **friendly and authentic**, as well as collaborative events that **stand out and leave a lasting impression**.

Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc is the ultimate "Bleisure" destination: once the business event's over, you should **pursue the regional experience for your own pleasure**, and it's definitely recommended!

Annecy
International City of Animated Film



Megève - Terrézens Residence



Saint-Gervais - The Vallée



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Combloux



Les Contamines-Montjoie



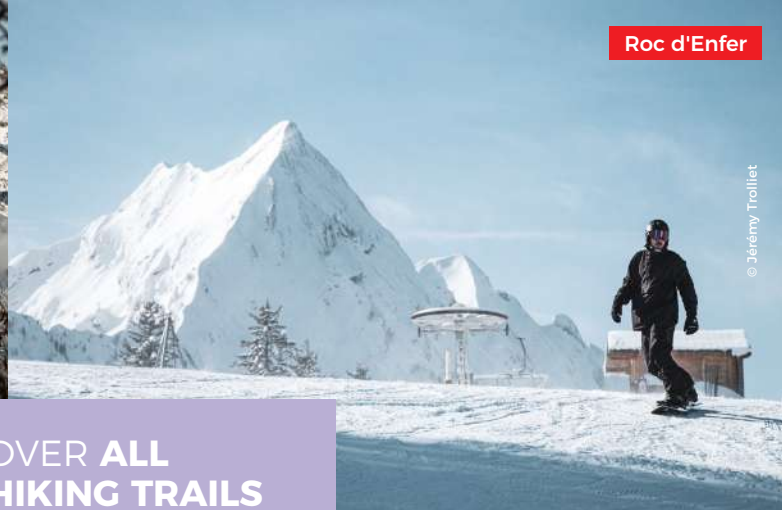
Flaine - Ski Freeride



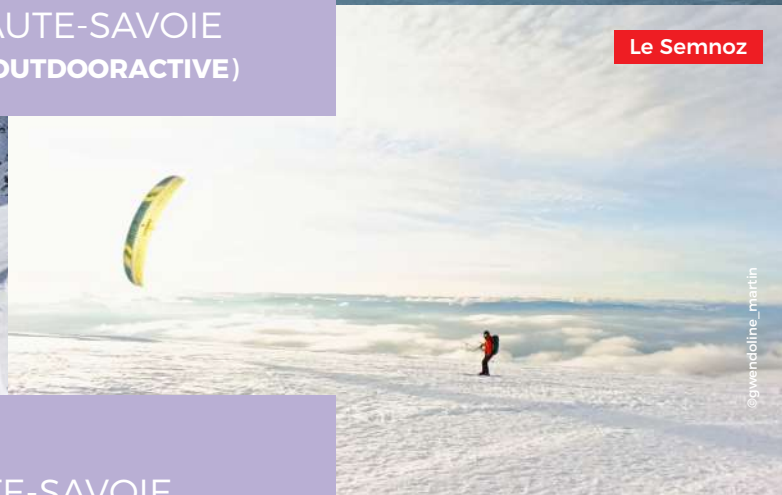
Morzine



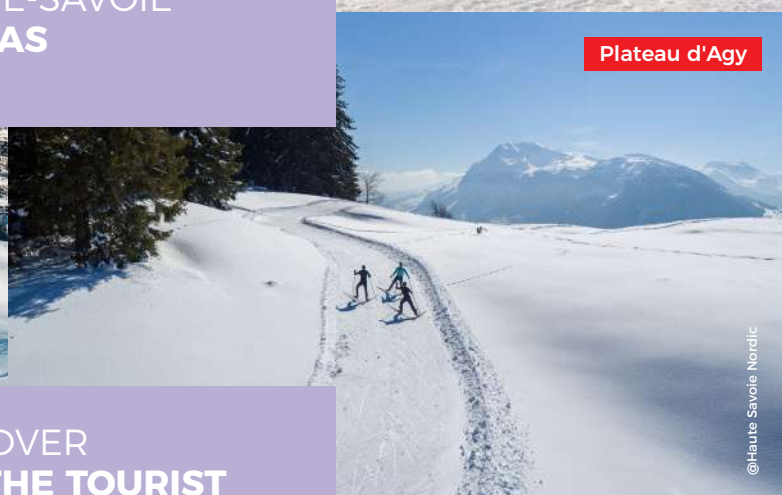
Roc d'Enfer



Le Semnoz



Plateau d'Agy



Hirmentaz



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



HAUTE-SAVOIE **MEDIAS**



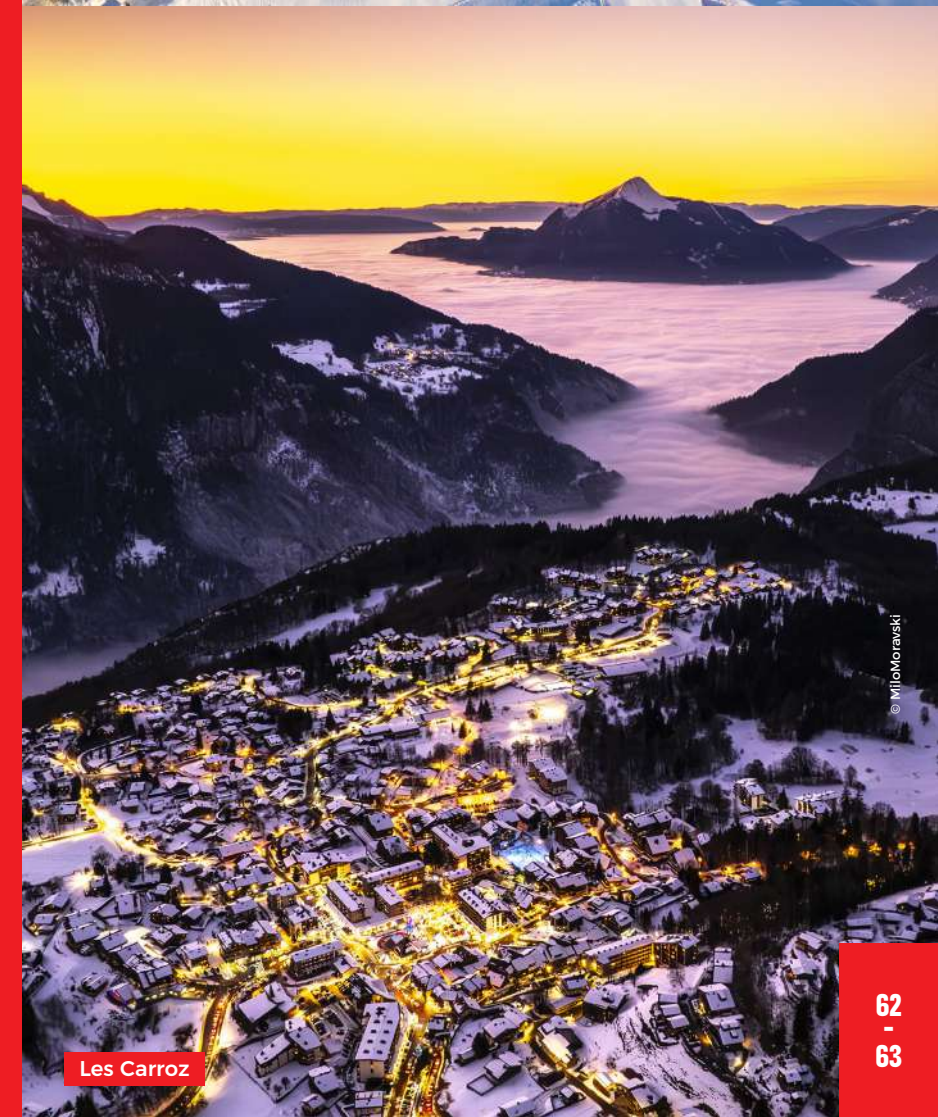
DISCOVER **ALL THE TOURIST OFFICES** IN HAUTE-SAVOIE

Key figures

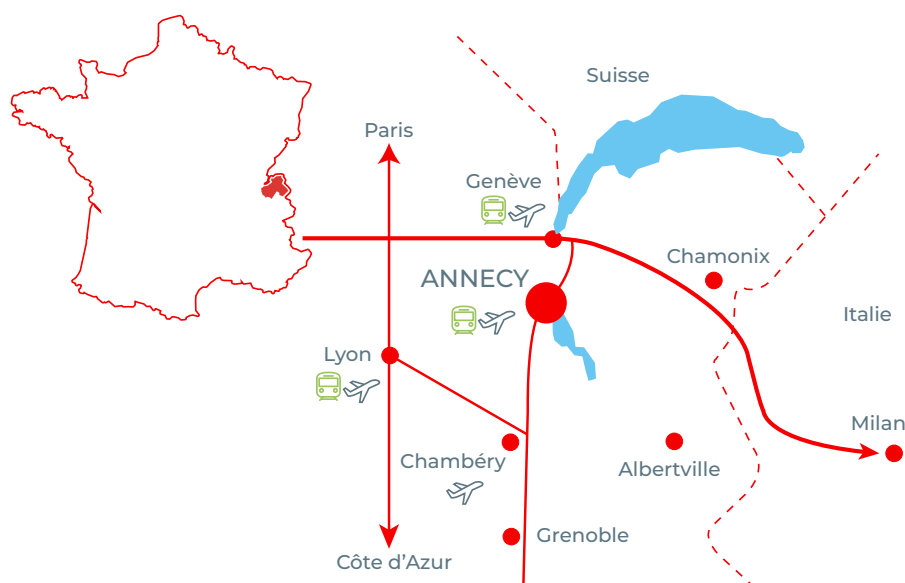
- **4,806 M: MONT-BLANC, THE ROOF OF EUROPE**
- **3,842 M:** Aiguille du Midi and its 360° panorama
- **2 UNESCO Global Geoparks:** Chablais & Bauges
- **1 Regional Nature Park:** Les Bauges
- **5,200 KM** of trails listed in the PDIPR (Departmental Plan of Walking and Hiking Routes)
- **1,400 KM** of GR® and GRP® certified trails
- **36** Natura 2000 sites
- **9** regional and national nature reserves
- **8 Flocon Vert (Green Snowflake)** resorts
- **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
- **34** free-flying 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
- **5 PDOS (AOP):** Abondance, Beaufort, Chevroton, Reblochon, Tome des Bauges
- **42** ski resorts
- **279** municipalities (towns and villages)
- **38** Tourist Offices
- **14** golf courses



Les Brasses



Les Carroz



By plane

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



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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