

AUVERGNE  
RHÔNE-ALPES  
**2025**

**MOUNTAIN  
DIARY**

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French  
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Auvergne  
Rhône-Alpes  
Tourisme

# THE WORLD'S NR.1 REGION

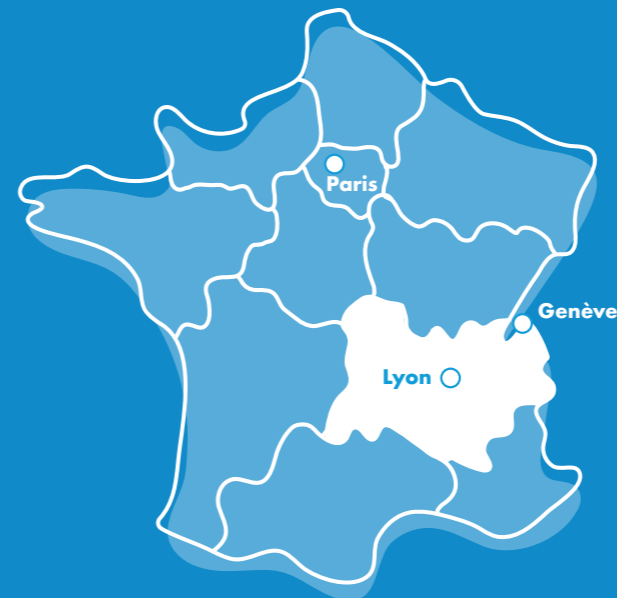
## for WINTER SPORTS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is the world's Nr.1 region for winter sports. It boasts 175 ski resorts and total c.40 million skier-days a year. More than 90,000 people work in jobs directly related to winter sports here, including over 12,000 ski instructors; they are dedicated to welcome visitors!

Providing wonderfully diverse tourist options, our ski resorts offer a whole range of charming choices, from stations-village (ski resorts based around traditional villages) to high-altitude ski resorts, to destinations particularly suited to families, young people or sporty types.

### OUR SKI RESORTS ARE EASY TO REACH

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, ideally located in the heart of Europe, is served by four international airports (Lyon, Geneva, Chambéry and Grenoble). Daily flights connect these with the world's major capitals and cities. Our ski resorts are then directly accessible via transfer services, buses, taxis or trains; count c.1hr to 1hr 30mins from the airports or main train stations.



#### BY PLANE

Over 300 destinations are directly connected with the international airports serving our region. New lines have opened in the course of 2024, including flights from Oslo, Budapest, Varsovie, Sofia et New-Castel



#### BY TRAIN

Paris TGV – London Eurostar – Brussels Thalys – Barcelona/Lyon Renfe – Paris/Lyon/Milan Frecciarossa by Trenitalia



#### BY ROAD

Time by road to our ski resorts:  
 Lyon Airport: between 1hr and 3hrs  
 Geneva Airport: between 1hr and 3hrs  
 Chambéry Airport: between 1hr and 1hr 30 mins  
 Grenoble Airport: between 1hr and 1hr 50 mins



ALPES FRANÇAISES 2030  
 Hôte des Jeux Olympiques  
 et Paralympiques d'hiver



JEUX OLYMPIQUES & PARALYMPIQUES D'HIVER 2030 :  
 LES ALPES FRANÇAISES AU SOMMET



## OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES 2030:

### THE FRENCH ALPS REACH NEW HEIGHTS!

On the occasion of the 142th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), on Monday 22 July 2024, in Paris, the IOC attributed the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030 to the French Alps, on condition of receiving the French State's financial guarantee. The IOC members' vote in favour of the French Alps crowns a major piece of team work; it can be viewed as a collective success and a mark of confidence honouring France. The Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030 will be sober, sustainable, inclusive... and largely delivered by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Southern French regions. They will contribute to defining the model for future Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

**Of note:**  
 95% of the sites planned for use in the Winter Olympics 2030 already exist, many from the Albertville 92 Games – a major asset to ensure environmentally friendly Olympics!

France has hosted three editions of the Winter Olympics, the very first one, in Chamonix in 1924, then those in Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992, as well as hosting the summer Olympics three times, including in Paris in 2024! The Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030 will be organized around four geographical clusters:

- **Haute-Savoie Cluster:** biathlon (Olympic and Paralympic); and cross-country skiing (Olympic and Paralympic);
- **Savoie Cluster:** downhill skiing (Olympic and Paralympic); ski-jumping; Nordic combined; bobsleigh; skeleton; and luge;
- **Briançonnais Cluster:** freestyle skiing (Olympic and Paralympic); snow-board cross (Olympic), para banked slalom;
- **Nice-Côte d'Azur Cluster:** ice hockey (Olympic and Paralympic), figure skating, short track speed skating, curling (Olympic and Paralympic); and ski and snowboard cross.

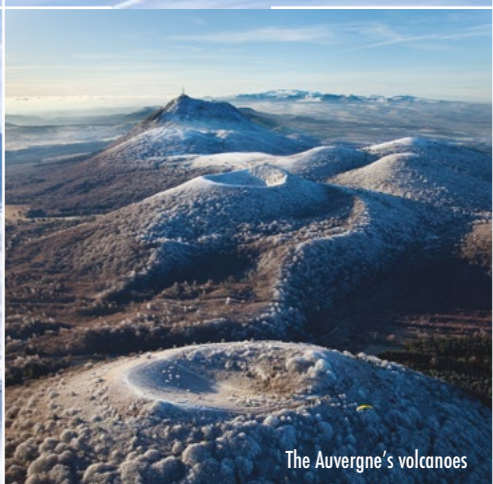
For further information: [auvergnerhonealpes.fr](http://auvergnerhonealpes.fr)

\*subject to receipt of the financial guarantee from the State.

# FROM EAST to WEST...

-  Station de sports d'hiver et d'été
-  Station thermale
-  Gare principale
-  Aéroport





The Auvergne's volcanoes



The joys of skiing, surrounded by iconic Alpine summits



## NORTHERN FRENCH ALPS A WORLD-FAMOUS SKI DESTINATION

Offering a stunning range of tourist destinations, the ski resorts of the Northern French Alps are recognized worldwide for setting the gold standard in winter sports! In fact, this region has already hosted the Winter Olympics three times, at Chamonix (in 1924), Grenoble (in 1968) and Albertville (in 1992). Plus, the Alpine World Ski Championships were held in Courchevel Méribel in 2023!

- Come and ski across the largest ski areas in the world:
- **Les 3 Vallées**, the world's largest ski area, boasting 600km of pistes
- **Les Portes du Soleil**, with 12 ski resorts on the Franco-Swiss border and 600km of pistes
- **Paradiski**, the ski area around La Plagne and Les Arcs, with 425km of pistes

- **Espace Tignes-Val d'Isère**, boasting 300km of high-altitude pistes

Our **stations-villages** (ski resorts based around historic villages), such as Chamonix, Megève, Saint-Gervais, La Clusaz or Morzine, appeal to skiers looking for traditional surrounds and unspoiled natural areas. Further stations-villages in the Massif des Aravis and Vanoise Ranges, or in the Maurienne Valley and Oisans area, prove idyllic for family stays and those who appreciate historic, lively settlements in grand surroundings. As to our **trendy, sporty ski resorts**, from Courchevel to Val Thorens, via Tignes, La Plagne, Val d'Isère, Les Arcs, L'Alpe d'Huez, Les 2 Alpes, Avoriaz and Flaine, they provide a great mix of excitement, partying and vast ski areas.

*From Alpes du Nord  
to Auvergne*

## AUVERGNE SKI ACROSS OUR VOLCANOES!

The **Auvergne region** out west boasts five mountain ranges and three ski resorts (Le Lioran, Le Mont-Dore and Super-Besse) as well as extensive areas for Nordic or cross-country skiing. It's a perfect destination for family holidays. Around the mountain of Le Sancy (1,886m in altitude), enjoy c.100km of downhill pistes. Across the Auvergne, its protected natural areas make it a veritable paradise for those into cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, with over 950km of secure, well-marked trails, across the Aubrac Plateau, the Sancy's slopes, or the Forez Mountains.

## OUR MELLOW MOUNTAIN RANGES

Looking for a **winter break in the midst of nature?** Picturing lakes, waterfalls, rivers, forests, hills and meadows? Our smaller, gentler mountains offer extraordinarily rich and varied landscapes. **The Jura, Vercors, Bauges and Chartreuse Ranges** count among the most iconic of these **peaceful, mellow mountain hideaways**. For visitors in search of nature and authentic mountain traditions, they provide the answer to your search. Enjoy snowy winter scenes in the many lively, active villages where character, tradition and charm stand out. These are perfect parts in which to get back to nature and find peace, in utterly beautiful, unspoiled countryside.



# A PARADISE for WINTER HOLIDAYS

Nowadays, coming to our snow-covered slopes, pick and choose how to enjoy our diverse Alpine ranges by going à la carte! Times have changed since the era of winter holidays exclusively devoted to skiing. Each new season brings further visitors keen to try out novel winter activities, such as airboarding, snow scooting, snowshoeing, husky riding, cross-country skiing, fun water sports, gastronomy, well-being pamperings, shopping, thermal spas, casinos... Such activities are now being enthusiastically added to many a wish list for people's winter holidays!



Airboarding, tackling the slopes in a novel way



Provide access to winter sports to all

## OUR MOUNTAINS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES



## MAKING OUR MOUNTAINS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL!

**Encouraging young people to discover skiing and other winter sports in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region:** partnerships, financing and innovative initiatives

The Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Tourisme Agency has been collaborating for the last four years with the ANCV (Agence Nationale pour les Chèques-Vacances) and its programme, Départ 18 : 15, as well as its website (<https://depart1825.com/nos-sejours/station-de-ski/>), to encourage young people to discover winter sports in our region via:

- Help from the ANCV to finance up to 80% of the price per day (up to a top limit of €250 per person per calendar year);
- An offers board (posting accommodation for these winter breaks)
- Advice on how to choose ski resort, activities, etc, wisely.

Adding an extra €50 by way of support – same criteria, via the Essentiem endowment fund – our Agency continues to spur on young people to try out winter sports in our mountains by helping them to take the plunge, financially (on average, covering 87% of the cost of a break).

This assistance is added to by our partner, Domaines Skiabiles de France, something which allowed for the launch, last winter (2023/24), of a successful pilot scheme, offering one introductory group skiing lesson for free. With six ESF ski schools as well as the partner ski areas supporting these

incentives to try out winter sports, many elements have been put in place to remove obstacles for youngsters to try out a break in the mountains.

Over 100 beginners came forward for the scheme, joining thousands who have benefited from an assisted winter break in our region, representing a further push to educate new generations to take up winter sports.

**Enabling access to winter sports for all: innovative initiatives and equipment for the handicapped.**

Making it possible for everyone to enjoy the pleasures of winter sports is a priority for our Agency, which promotes all manner of initiatives to enable handicapped people in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes to have access to winter sports: directly in ski resorts, with the provision of innovative equipment, but also at regional level, with the development of the Tourisme et Handicap accreditation scheme, which now guarantees suitable accessibility and accommodation in over 500 accredited sites, and in the context of the H+ initiative put in place by the Region along with our regional tourism agency.

A major aim is to encourage and support our tourism destinations (in the form of tourist offices, ski resorts, parks, etc) who are willing to set up more and more initiatives and facilities suitable for the handicapped, and beneficial to all.



Our ski areas are perfectly suited to children and adults alike.



**For young people**, our ski resorts have gone above and beyond to devise suitable options: making access to the resorts easier, with car-sharing and shuttles; creating exciting new activities, with tobogganing pistes, slalom time-trials, themed days, etc.; putting on festive events; offering novel accommodation; proposing all manner of sporting activities; and providing affordable prices.

**Families** have always been at the heart of the matter for our mountain destinations, with countless suitable facilities and services on offer, from kids' clubs and nurseries to areas for learners, plus many activities away from the slopes.

**The quality-label Famille Plus ski resorts already awarded this accreditation**, can greatly help families organize a highly successful winter holiday. As to novelties this winter, look out for: the Snow Dragon Boat, or how to get dragons skiing on Le Grand-Bornand's slopes; the Luge Park de la Colline des Bains in Villard-de-Lans; the Family Park at Courchevel, putting on easy snowboard cross competitions with an Inca touch, allowing little ones to learn and progress safely; and, for the over 12s, the Fantasticable giant zipwire at Super-Besse in the Sancy Range.

*Our mountain ranges aren't simply wonderful outdoor playgrounds but above all places that bring out the joy.*



## NEW FOR FAMILIES

### ■ ALPE D'HUEZ A NEW PLAY AREA FOR THE VERY YOUNG!

The recently inaugurated extension to the Palais des Sports et des Congrès includes an area for very young children, opened in summer 2024, operating in the afternoons, especially when the weather isn't playing ball! For children up to the age of 6, it offers a dozen suitable options, including games to practise motor skills, hand-eye coordination and climbing or involving giant bricks... plus there's a reading corner. Every child will find something to help develop his or her curiosity and capabilities, enjoying a sense of freedom in a safe space.

### ■ COMBLOUX A NEW EDITION OF THE LÉGENDES DE COMBLOUX

In summer as well as winter, the Légendes de Combloux propose a weekly theatrical walking tour packed full of anecdotes and humour, plus a novel sound and light show, and entertainment for the whole family. The event immerses you in the stories and traditions of the mountain resort of Combloux and the wider Pays du Mont-Blanc area. Every year, there's a new edition, based around a different theme. After five successful seasons, this winter, the sixth season will focus on a unique journey into regional Savoyard gastronomy!

### ■ HAUTE MAURIENNE VANOISE AN EXHILARATING RIDE WITH AUSSOIS TUBING

The new Aussois Tubing slope, right in the village resort, offers a sliding sport accessible to all. Even if snow tubing has already been possible for several years in Aussois, this is new, as visitors can now enjoy the activity in summer as well as winter thanks to a synthetic piste. It still provides the same exhilarating sensations! Children and adults sit in their individual snow tube (a rubber ring) to race down the slope – once launched, there's no way of braking, the decisions are no longer in your hands! Reaching the bottom, you're likely to wish for just one thing – to start all over again! No problem, simply hook your tube to the ski cable to be pulled back up to the starting point. And off you go again!

### ■ LES 7 LAUX TIKI THE SQUIRREL TRAIL

Make the most of a fine sunny day to head out on the Squirrel Trail. This takes the form of a fun itinerary with six specially laid-out zones. "Help Tiki the Squirrel find its nuts" – this 2-hour trail makes you ski across the resort's three different areas. Enjoy a feeling of freedom, a sense of the infinite even, and an impression that time doesn't stand still in this immaculate snowy world. **BONUS:** Plancha-grilled dishes are available along the trail, so enjoy the beauty of the resort's landscapes to the full while tucking in to some hot grub!



### ■ LE GRAND-BORNAND A SLEDGING THRILL!

On many a Thursday in December, January, February and March, the ESF du Grand-Bornand enables the fearless among you (from 10 years of age +) to enjoy a thrill at the helm of a tri-runner sledge, with an instructor, involving a unique 7km descent, with a 600m shift in altitude. Going from the Crêtes de Maroly, enjoy 180° views of the Aravis Range as you descend to the foot of the pistes at Le Grand-Bornand Chinailon.

### BUILD YOUR OWN IGLOO WITH THE FAMILY, INUIT-STYLE!

The ESF du Grand-Bornand puts on this igloo-building workshop, enabling children between 6 and 12 years of age to learn the unique techniques of the Inuit people, building an iconic igloo with the family. As an igloo-warming reward at the end, enjoy a tasty tea together! This activity is available in winter, on Wednesdays outside of main school holidays, Tuesdays for families during the holidays, and Thursdays during the holidays for children unaccompanied by adults.



■ **LES HOUCHES**  
**SKICAMP**

Les Houches is accredited as a Famille Plus ski resort, notably thanks to its Skicamp, a lovely, fun area laid out in the Prairon / Mélèzes ski area of the resort. This Skicamp has become a must for children holidaying here. A whole range of exciting activities is put on for children, from the youngest to the older ones, including snow tubing, sledging, a zipwire and a campsite village.

■ **MÉRIBEL**  
**FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT THE MAISON DE LA RÉSERVE**

The Maison de la Réserve, located beside the Lac de Tueda, in the nature reserve of the same name, is now managed by a partnership between Méribel Tourist Office, the parish of Les Allues and the Parc National de la Vanoise. This visitor centre, open throughout the winter season, is geared to teaching families about the local flora and fauna, with activities on offer too. Alongside the permanent exhibition that explains the nature reserve, its role and its ways of working, family activities are proposed throughout the day to help visitors discover the place in highly enjoyable manner.

■ **MONT-DORE / SUPER-BESSE**  
**A VIRÉE NOCTURNE TOUR BY LAMPLIGHT**

Guided tours led by expert guides trained in theatre, the Virées offer something quite different from your classic guided tour. Join in a dramatic adventure, the recipe for a successful tour combining good doses of humour and history that your guides concoct for you. This interactive visit of the town through the centuries makes old buildings speak! Learn about Besse, its stories, legends and most significant periods... as well as its hidden secrets. The highlight is the all-out attack on the belfry, recreating an event in the Middle Ages! In winter, the town's mysteries will be revealed to you by lamplight on a Virée Nocturne.

■ **PEISEY-VALLANDRY**  
**RIDING WITH REINDEER**

Places in France where you can enjoy an activity with reindeer are extremely rare, as there are only three reindeer breeders in the country. So, it's a great plus for Peisey-Vallandry that one of them has set up in the parish, offering rides on reindeer or on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. On an outing, experience magical moments in enchanting, unspoilt landscapes, providing you with unforgettable memories. The farmer will also take the opportunity to explain about reindeer, a species about which all too little is known, but that it's so worth getting to know!

■ **PRALOGNAN-LA-VANOISE**  
**SNOWSHOES & ZIPWIRES: BETWEEN SKY AND SNOW**

After a briefing from your guide Clément, head out in snowshoes from the foot of the pistes in Pralognan for a 30-minute walk along snowy tracks (with a 150m positive shift in altitude). Reaching an altitude of 1,560m, savour the magnificent views over a waterfall and stream, the village, and the Chavière Valley, with the glaciers of the Vanoise Range as majestic backdrop. Next, embark on a stunning descent of 1,400m, via four zipwires. Reaching the bottom, return to the village in your snowshoes, feet firmly in the snow, eyes raised to the skies. To do this activity, you need to weigh between 45kg and 90kg.

■ **ESCAPE GAME: THE SALT ROUTE**

To discover the village's history, and traces of its millennium-old salt route, as a family or among friends, put yourselves in the shoes of merchants who once crossed these mountainous parts. Undergoing many wild adventures, you need to find the precious cargo and deposit it in a place of safe-keeping to earn your reward. Playing as a team, demonstrating patience and determination, get a taste of life in different times around the village.



■ **VAL D'ISÈRE**  
**SOLAISE PACKAGE FOR SLOW SKIING**

In the Solaise area of Val d'Isère, you can opt for a gentle way to learn to ski or reacquire yourself with skiing. A special package allows you to make use of: 3 green pistes; 9 blue pistes; and 8 ski lifts. At the top of the Madeleine chairlift, there's also a "tranquil skiing" area for you to practise in calm surrounds.

For parents, the package also gives access to Valkids, an area set aside for children, with a fun piste, a sledging slope and a play area showing, in entertaining fashion, the different jobs involved in a ski resort. In the Solaise area, you'll also find Le Lounge, a heated picnic room, plus a terrace with panoramic views, as well as three high-altitude restaurants and splendid mountain vistas all around.

■ **VAL THORENS**  
**SKI PATROL EXPERIENCE DISCOVER VARIED MOUNTAIN PROFESSIONS**

Children between 6 and 14 years of age can now learn about the varied jobs available in the mountains via the Ski Patrol Experience. Four workshops are put on; they're educational and fun, devised and led by a professional. On the programme: snow-grooming with a mini snow-groomer; learning the rules for skiers and signage; using a mini-snowmobile and providing assistance with a stretcher and by towing.

to a  
**SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN**



*Major investments have been made to make our resorts even more environmentally sustainable while still providing high-quality services and wonderful skiing experiences.*

*Cross-country skiing is a pastime to enjoy across our region, notably in the Auvergne.*



Across our ski areas, innovations appear each season to surprise our visitors and meet their needs. Safety is always at the heart of developments, to ensure peace of mind for holiday-makers, as well as finding solutions that take account of environmental concerns. There are innovations aplenty, with new pistes and facilities offering a whole host of additional services, with new play areas and sporting and festive options, together with novel activities providing ever more challenges and immersive experiences, in the heart of nature. So, come and discover or rediscover our mountains from many different angles!

## OUR MAJOR VALLEY LIFTS

Our major valley lifts offer extremely efficient alternatives to the tricky roads up to our ski resorts. They also free up our high-altitude sites from too much traffic. Rather like aerial metro lines, they connect villages rapidly, bringing them closer together, allowing easy access from the valley bottoms to the ski resorts above.

All told, they provide a great solution to the problems caused by too many vehicles coming up to our ski resorts, as well as encouraging people to come by train. They offer a comfortable, safe way to access our mountains. And they help tackle environmental issues. Among our best-known major ski lifts are: L'Eau d'Olle Express, its gondola linking Allemond to Oz-en-Oisans; L'Alpe Express, connecting the village of Huez to l'Alpe d'Huez; the Venosc gondola to Les Deux-Alpes; the cable car linking Bourg-Saint-Maurice to Les Arcs; the connection between Orelle and Val Thorens; and the line between Brides-les-Bains and Méribel.

## AN ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN WINTER SKI RESORTS



The Flocon Vert (Green Snowflake) accreditation scheme has been developed by the association Mountain Riders

both to encourage ski areas to increase sustainable development initiatives and to enable anyone who cares about the mountains to see clearly which tourist destinations are acting responsibly. Achieving Flocon Vert accreditation incites ecological progress. The aim is to encourage and help plan the sustainable development of mountain destinations by engaging the various parties involved across specific areas. The underlying objective is to get the stakeholders on the ground (mayors, tourist offices, ski area managers, etc) to enter into dialogue and unite to build a long-term plan for their mountain areas, working closely together. Local inhabitants and social and occupational partners are also invited to play a role in this change and to commit to acting towards ecological transition. The requisite criteria to be met are based around four major themes: governance; the economy; social and cultural developments; and resource management.

According to how a destination is progressing, it can aim for one, two or three Flocon Vert accreditation.

A Committee composed of several national institutions working towards sustainable development in the tourism sector issues accreditation for three years to successful candidate destinations. Winning accreditation means becoming part of a network of mountain areas progressing together towards the same goals, each participant encouraging the others, sharing experiences with others, supporting others, and finding common solutions.

Today, 29 mountain destinations have received accreditation, committed as they are to taking concrete measures. In the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, 18 destinations have received one Flocon Vert accreditation: Chamrousse; Combloux; Cordon; Crest-Voland-Cohennoz; La Plagne; La Rosière; Les Belleville; Les Contamines-Montjoie; Le Grand-Bornand; Les Saisies; Megève; Morzine-Avoriaz; Passy; Saint-François-Longchamp; Tignes; Val-Cenis; Val-d'Isère; and Valloire... and six of our destinations have received two Flocons Verts accreditation: Arêches-Beaufort; Châtel; Lans-en-Vercors; Les Arcs; Saint-Gervais-Mont-Blanc; and the Vallée de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.

The Flocon Vert scheme embodies a new way of imagining and experiencing tourism and local life in the mountains, hand in hand with sustainable development.



### ■ LES 2 ALPES

#### A PRACTICAL, INTELLIGENT TOOL TO ORGANIZE YOUR TRIP

Les 2 Alpes has invested in a 360° Smart Mobility system developed by the company Antidots. Thanks to this, it's now much easier, greener and smarter to get to the ski resort. Customers from around the world can book, in a single purchase, their multi-modal "Door-to-Door" transport, from their home to Les 2 Alpes (e.g. plane+train+bus, or train+car hire). With the various packages available, you can view the carbon footprint involved, enabling you to choose the greener way to travel.

### ■ LES ARCS

#### B CORP™ CERTIFICATION

The company ADS, which manages the three ski areas of Les Arcs / Peisey-Vallandry / Villaroger in Savoie, has become the first such mountain enterprise in Europe to be awarded this certification. It recognizes the company's commitment to high standards re social and environmental impacts, and transparency and responsibility, as well as committing it to develop further its CSR efforts. The accreditation, judged on strict adherence to five criteria (governance; collaboration; collective actions; environment; and customers), is also the result of initiatives carried out hand in hand with local authorities and concrete measures taken by the parent company, the Compagnie des Alpes.

### 2 NEW SPACES TO RAISE AWARENESS

The Les Arcs ski area has as a stated aim to provide visitors with varied high-altitude experiences at the same time as increasing their awareness of the special environment here:

- Les Géants de Malgovert will be one of the new spaces dedicated to raising such public awareness, planned for the Piste Mont-Blanc (in Arc 1600). Both in summer and in winter, budding explorers will be invited to learn about the many facets of the mountain's forests and their fascinating ecosystem.
- Glacier du Varet exhibition: at the top of the Varet gondola ride, visitors will be able to learn about the issues facing the mountain environment and the way glaciers are evolving. In particular focusing on the Varet Glacier, skiers will be able to take in an exhibition making them aware of the existing stakes linked to it.

### ■ LES MENUIRES AND SAINT MARTIN DE BELLEVILLE

#### SKI RESORTS COMMITTED TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Conscious of the fact that all life forms a single unique ecosystem in which each living thing depends directly on other living things, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) plans being put into effect in these ski resorts rest on four pillars: the social; the societal; the natural; and the human. Here are some examples of actions being taken here:
- Societal: 700 rooms / accommodation places reserved for seasonal workers;
  - Nature: 100% of snow groomers functioning on biofuel, accredited green Flocon Vert status;
  - Social: a medical centre open 7/7, 365 days a year, with doctors paid by the local authorities and representing seven specialisms;
  - Human: 17 ski instructors trained in Handiski (adaptive skiing) and Handi Biathlon.

## NEW IN 2024 AROUND SAINT-GERVAIS-MONT-BLANC

The Ascenseur Le Valléen: a lift inaugurated and put into service in September 2024.

This new mode of transport links Le Fayet train station (terminus or departure point for major train services – SNCF, TGV, TER, Léman Epress, Mont-Blanc Express...) to the centre of the resort in just five minutes, making Saint-Gervais-Mont-Blanc the only French ski resort with a direct gondola lift serving major French and European train arrivals and departures, year-round.

In addition, with the opening of a second stage (in winter 2024/25) linking the centre of Saint-Gervais to Le Bettex, it'll be possible to reach the ski slopes on foot, without having to use a car at all – think a direct Paris-St-Gervais journey, wearing your skis from the start! What an achievement!

The Ascenseur des Thermes: the parish of Saint-Gervais in Haute-Savoie took a further step into the future in August 2024, opening the first inclined lift in France to operate using waste water, and only the second such lift in the world. This innovative link enables users to be transported from Le Fayet's thermal spa area up to the centre of town with ease, in a unique, sustainable way that respects mountain traditions.



### ■ HAUTE MAURIENNE VANOISE

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> CARBON ACCOUNTING STUDY

The Haute Maurienne Vanoise Tourist Office is carrying out its first-ever Bilan Carbone® (carbon accounting) exercise as part of its "tourism vision", to prepare a long-term strategy up to 2030, focusing on environmental themes (climate change, biodiversity, etc). The aim? To then come up with a plan of action to reduce the green-house gas emissions of its activities in the medium to long term, putting in place concrete, impactful measures. The report will provide analysis and be a tool to steer future technical and strategic choices in the best directions, both inhouse and with partners and customers. This initiative is worth underlining, as it contributes to a collective building of awareness and sends out a strong message both for the destination and local partners.

*To ensure our mountains remain both healthy and welcoming, more and more initiatives and commitments are being undertaken.*



## INCLUSIVE TOURISM

### ■ VAUJANY

#### HANDISKI WITH THE ESF (ECOLE DU SKI FRANÇAIS)

The ESF de Vaujany has put handiski (adaptive skiing for the handicapped) at the heart of its training and projects going forwards. With two dualskis, one uniski, one kartski, one GMS (a ski-chair similar to a dualski), a ski tandem and six ski-chairs adaptable to all forms of handicap, the ESF here has trained eight ski instructors in how to use all these, and further instructors will be trained in the near future. The aim is to make Vaujany an inclusive ski resort for the handicapped to have access to and enjoy the pleasures of snow and sliding sports. Family outings can be organized, as well as outings to learn to ski independently, teaching the handicapped to steer their own machine. Lessons include specialist equipment rental.

### ■ PRALOGNAN-LA-VANOISE

#### RESPIRE STAYS

As a family, a couple, or as a pair (so, accompanied by a carer), organize your next stay à la carte. It's not an outside organization that will arrange your stay, but YOU, expressing your individual needs and seeing how they might be met!

-For carers: make the most of some respite time;  
 -For people requiring care: choose activities that fit your situation and abilities. Stays include: daily care services (help getting up and to bed, washing and eating); accompanied tours (walks and local tours) and suitable activities (hiking, snowshoe outings, skiing either sitting or standing, riding with huskies, board-games, manual activities, etc). All told, ways to make the most of holidays together, adapting to the widest range of requirements.

### ■ OZ 3300

#### INITIATIVE TO ACHIEVE ZERO LITTER IN THE MOUNTAINS BY 2030

The OZ 3300 Tourist Office and its partners (ESF OZ 3300, Ski Club d'OZ-Allemond and SATA AEON) are taking part in the initiative Montagne Zéro Déchet Sauvage by 2030, another project initiated by Mountain Riders. As part of its efforts, OZ 3300 is once again organizing a O'Zéro Déchet day. This second edition will focus on collecting litter around the whole resort, its village and hamlets. It's scheduled to take place in spring 2025 (date to be announced). Anyone can join in; it's free to take part- just put your name down via the platform "J'agis pour la nature". Last year, operation O'Zéro Déchet saw 77 participants collect 281kg and 2,750 litres of litter.

### ■ VALMEINIER

#### 8 SNOW GROOMERS USING BIOFUEL FROM THIS WINTER

Semval (the Société d'Exploitation du Domaine Skiable de Valmeinier) will make all its fleet of snow groomers operate on synthetic fuel produced from vegetable oil (HVO biofuel / synthetic HVO biofuel) from this winter on.  
 -100% renewable fuel, made from waste grease and vegetable oil, avoiding palm oil, HVO biofuel is "compatible with the machines produced by all our manufacturing partners". This substitute for diesel reduces by 90% the CO2, and by 65% the micro particles emitted. The company is also considering acquiring a new hybrid Kässbohrer snow groomer, actually in development, for 2025/26.



## GREAT DEALS!



## THINKING OF OUR MOUNTAINS IN WINTER?

### Make the most of exceptional offers in April!

The month of April offers some great opportunities for those after a good deal. In fact, the weeks at the end of the winter ski season are perfect for making the most of a break in our mountains. Here's why:

- Unbeatable prices: the best bargains of the ski season mean potential reductions of up to 35%, or even 40%, on accommodation;
- Exceptional snow cover, thanks to excellent maintenance work on the pistes from the start of the season (preparing the snow underlayers, grooming, etc), plus good weather much of the time (just April showers perhaps!);
- The relaxed, often festive atmosphere;
- Numerous events: Tomorrowland; Winter à l'Alpe d'Huez, Rock the Pistes in the Portes du Soleil ski area; Jazz à Megève; Radio Meuh in La Clusaz; Festi Val Tho; Glisse en Coeur at Le Grand Bornand; Snowbox in La Clusaz; Electronic Peak Festival in Les Arcs...

- Breathtaking scenery for photography enthusiasts and instagrammers, with more sunshine and longer days;
- Pleasant temperatures, great for older skiers and beginners;
- High-quality skiing, particularly appreciated by snowboarders for the quite different spring snow.

**So, coming to our mountains in spring proves the great tip for a winter break! Enjoy the excellent conditions, the high-quality snow, the many festivals, the good vibes... Seize the opportunity to try out this unique and memorable season in the Northern French Alps!**

Innovative pricing deals are also to be had in the ski resorts, from timed, hourly passes, set off the first time you go on a chair lift, to intelligent payment booths, plus flexible packages, depending on whether you opt for small ski areas, major ski areas or multiple

ski areas, or then a deal you can top up online - there are just so many options now! The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes boasting 175 ski resorts, seek out your ideal package from around the region, skiing smart, making the most of what adds up to the largest ski area in the world.

*There are so many options to ski smart!*



## THE MOST MAGICAL CHRISTMAS!

Spending Christmas in our snowy mountains is a simply magical experience! With snowflakes, Christmas lights, mulled wine, torchlit ski descents and of course the arrival of Father Christmas, plus a roaring fire back at the chalet... such an enchanting Christmas makes for a lifetime of memories!

To ensure families enjoy this time of year to the full, our ski resorts outdo each other in inventiveness, featuring special events and activities for all to enjoy.

With all these resorts competing to create a magical atmosphere, let's single out a few of special note: in **Megève**, the iconic Christmas tree is dazzling; the Alta Lumina after night falls at **Les Gets** is enchanting; and Christmas proves sparkling at **Saint-Martin-de-Belleville** in the midst of **Les 3 Vallées**, with special shows and ice sculptures.

At Les 2 Alpes, enjoy both a ski show, a concert and a parade. In Val-Thorens, Father Christmas awaits in his igloo, plus there's a Christmas treasure hunt through the icy land.

In Courchevel, an enthralling week includes concerts, events, ski shows and, to cap it all, a magnificent fireworks show on New Year's Eve. In Val d'Isère, the spirit of Christmas transforms the village into an enchanted place, with the Hutte des Lutins to look out for, an Elves' Hut where you can create your own seasonal decorations, plus there's a big parade to welcome Father Christmas.

In each of our ski resorts, Christmas means festivities to make your winter holidays truly unforgettable.



## GREAT DEALS! (continued) Different ways for a smart skiing

### ■ HAUTE MAURIENNE VANOISE

#### WEATHER GUARANTEE AT VAL CENIS: A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

Too much rain, snow or hail? No worries! With its weather guarantee scheme, the ski resort of Val Cenis reimburses skiers for the cost of a day's skiing lost due to bad weather, under condition that there have been more than three hours of precipitation between 9am and 5pm... even if you have been able to ski a bit on such a day! This weather guarantee, a unique innovation for Europe and launched last season by the Haute Maurienne Vanoise ski resort, has already seen many takers: 7% of purchasers of packages online took up this guarantee, rising to 11% over the Christmas holiday period. So, you won't be out of pocket here when you're not skiing in the rain!

### ■ LES 2 ALPES 1 SKI RESORT, 4 SEASONS!

The winter season in Les 2 Alpes will go up to 4 May 2025. Then, high-altitude spring skiing kicks off on 5 May, lasting to July. Mountain-bikers can start their descents from mid-April, in the first weeks just with access to the lower slopes (in the Venosc area, 1,650m – 960m). Then the bike park, with up to 120km of accessible trails, continues into September. Note also the re-starting of mountain biking on snow in May 2025 (on the lower part of the glacier, under 3,200m). On foot, you can also make the most of the resort's high summits thanks to the Jandri 3S, a gondola lift for everyone, whether a skier, mountain-biker, trail runner or simple walker.

### ■ LES MENUIRES

#### 1 DAY OF FREE SKIING... ACROSS THE LARGEST SKI AREA IN THE WORLD!

The kids' maths teacher isn't going to understand their calculations when they get back to school from their skiing holidays! This winter, in Les Menuires, 5=6, 6=7, 7=8, 8=9...! With the new Family Flex package, you get one extra day of skiing for free for every five consecutive days bought to ski across the world's largest ski area – Les 3 Vallées has reconfigured its skiing deals to make access easier for all manner of family groups; with a minimum 7% reduction on last year, this new package applies to both children (7-17 years of age) and adults, making it possible to extend the joys of the slopes for a free extra day, for example for parents and their child(ren), or grandparents and their grandchild(ren).

### ■ LES SAISIES

#### 2 SPECIAL DEALS: A BEGINNERS' OFFER AND A FAMILY OFFER

The beginners' offer comprises a specific ski package, using specially laid-out areas with fun modules and new button lifts with winder mechanisms, this all-inclusive stay including skiing lessons.

The "offre tribu" is a package for families in the widest sense, simplifying matters for a wider range, so grandparents or aunts and uncles travelling with grandchildren, blended families and more...

## WHAT'S NEW IN OUR SKI AREAS

### ■ ALPE D'HUEZ

#### MAJOR WORKS ON THE DOUBLE-MONOCABLE AT LES GRANDES ROUSSES

Works will last through winter and on through 2025/26 and will include: renovating the station (improving access, the route for customers, and their flow); replacing the gondolas (54 cabins with a capacity each of 20 people, 10 of which seated, larger openings, plus improvements at the boarding point and a slightly faster service); and changing the name from "DMC GRANDES ROUSSES" to "TELECABINES DU PIC BLANC".

### ■ COURCHEVEL

#### REOPENING OF LA SAULIRE'S CABLE CAR

Closed for two winter seasons, the new cable car will be officially inaugurated on 6 December 2024. Working with POMA, the Société des 3 Vallées will provide an iconic new service with this third edition of the LA SAULIRE cable car, offering customers a unique experience – an exceptional trip, 70m above the ground, in a completely glass-sided cabin offering 360° panoramic views as you're carried up, between the Vanoise glaciers and the Mont-Blanc Range, to the finest summits of the Les 3 Vallées ski area. The service will be able to transport 1,500 people an hour.

### ■ LA ROSIÈRE

#### EMERALD ANNIVERSARY FOR THE FRANCO-ITALIAN LINK: 40 YEARS WORTH CELEBRATING!

In 1985, La Rosière became an international ski area, connected to its Italian neighbour, La Thuile, in the Val d'Aosta Region. Since then, those who love great mountain experiences have been able to enjoy the delights of skiing without frontiers around these parts! This is the only Franco-Italian ski area in the Northern Alps. On 4 January 2025, exactly 40 years after its inauguration, La Rosière's 40-year link with Italy will be celebrated in style.

### ■ LES ARCS/PEISEY-VALLANDRY THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE TRANSARC LINK

The project's first phase aimed to facilitate access to the ski area. It's been a success, thanks to a reception, advice and sales area at the foot of the pistes. The gondola cabins have been redesigned and are much more efficient, with more space and faster speeds as well as being energy-saving. At the summit, visitors can make the most of the panoramic space with 360° views, while at the mid-level, there's also a gallery of splendid specimens of mineral rocks. This metamorphosis of the Transarc marks the start of a new era for the whole ski area of Les Arcs / Peisey-Vallandry, combining modernity and efficiency for an unrivalled visitor experience.

### ■ LES 2 ALPES

#### LE JANDRI (3S)

The Jandri Express sadly no longer suiting requirements, the giant new gondola lift will double the rate of transporting people (from 1,700 to 3,000 people per hour) and improve customer comfort. It'll also enable usage across all four seasons, transporting both skiers, mountain bikers and hikers, all benefiting from 17 rather than 40 minutes of journey time. The new gondola will also be more resistant to changing climate conditions, while still whisking visitors up to the high summits at 3,200m, with a mid-level stop at 2,600m, having started at 1,650m.

#### CABLE CAR RENOVATION

As part of the programme of constantly modernizing the ski area, the renovation of the cable car represents another major step forward. This cable system takes the form of an underground lift enabling skiers, hikers and other visitors to reach an altitude of 3,400m. The main building is being restored both inside and out, the engine room being put to the fore, while a new lighting system will guide users more clearly to the exit up top.

*Performance, innovation and sustainability – major new investments aim to increase mobility, fluidity and the variety of options for our visitors.*





## WHAT'S NEW ACROSS OUR SKI AREAS (continued)

### ■ LES ARCS/PEISEY-VALLANDRY

#### THE PISTE DES CABANES

This educationally landscaped piste linking the Villards gondola to the connection for the Arc 1800 area allows beginners of all ages to start learning the joys of sliding on snow at the same time as awakening their interest in the surrounding nature, discovering about the life of the local insects, lepidoptera, arachnids and more! This enjoyable presentation helps widen the understanding of the need to protect and preserve this precious ecosystem.

### ■ MÉRIBEL

#### BEGINNERS' AREA AND SLEDGING IN MÉRIBEL CENTRE

The foot of the pistes at La Chaudanne in central Méribel is being transformed for winter 2025. The ongoing changes follow on from the considerable efforts made while hosting the Alpine World Ski Championships in 2023. Now it's the turn of beginners and children to make the most of a secure, free area dedicated to sledging! The Lounge de la Chaudanne picnic area is being redesigned to give it a warmer, more cosy, cocooning feel.

#### RENOVATION OF THE ICONIC PISTE DU ROC DE FER

This summit, located at one of the farthest corners of the Méribel ski area, offers sublime 360° views over Les 3 Vallées. By this winter, it'll be embellished with three special features. A swing suspended from the middle of a giant Heart of Méribel logo will be equipped with a high-quality camera; scan your pass to receive an instant photo to share. A bit further on, a terrace will be given over to observing the summits, plus there'll be an observation system with holographic capabilities.

#### THE FAMILY PASS

This Family Pass allowing the whole family to ski for the price of a child's pass is becoming more flexible. Now, it's available for any family group of three, including at least one child with two adults. And it's possible to buy this pass from the moment you book 5 days of skiing, instead of 6, as was the case in the past.

#### THE TUNNEL DU ROC DE FER TRANSFORMED INTO AN ART WORK BY FRANCK BLÉRIOT

This tunnel built under the Roc du Fer competition piste and enabling users to reach the Olympic gondola is being transformed into a work of street art thanks to Franck Blériot. The decorations will cover both the tunnel's front and interior. Drawing and painting begin at the end of the summer, so skiers will be able to admire the results from the very start of the winter season.

### ■ VAL D'ISÈRE

#### LE VALLON GONDOLA: A NEW LIFT TO IMPROVE LINKS

Faster, more comfortable, more secure, its environmental impact reduced... this new gondola was a necessary development, given the high standards Val d'Isère sets itself in terms of satisfying clients and sustainable development. The new Télécabine du Vallon will bring up-to-date access from the Vallon de l'Isèran to the resort's high-altitude area, notable features being: 10 seated places; following already existing tracks, so as not to disturb wild flora and fauna; a high-speed connection to the summits, reaching an altitude of 3,185m at rapid speed, in just 6 mins 30 secs from the start of the 2024-2025 season.



### ■ VAL THORENS

#### A NEW BUILDING, CARON 3200

The iconic Cime Caron summit has been undergoing transformations in the last few years. From winter 2024-2025, a new building, Caron 3200, will open here, using cutting-edge technology, at an altitude of 3,200m! The challenge has been met by regional development specialist SETAM to provide new facilities up high and improve the visitor experience. The complex will include a 130-seat restaurant, a wine bar, a rooftop and a panoramic terrace as well as a space for events and seminars. This building represents the final piece in the various stages to transform the Cime Caron.

## NEW ACTIVITIES WINTER 2024/2025

Be they on snow, ice or earth, or even high in the air, the new activities on offer appear ever more inventive and original, providing visitors with more thrills, and, above all, a wider range of experiences to enjoy besides skiing.

### ■ AVORIAZ

#### HURTLE DOWN THE SLOPES JUST LIKE IN MARIO KART!

Avokarting is an exciting activity to discover at this ski resort. It's been on offer for a year and is fully up and running now. If you like thrills, get on board one of these three-wheeled vehicles, designed to give you a very low centre of gravity to help stick to the tracks, and equipped with hydraulic brakes. Comfortably installed in your bucket seat, firmly gripping the handlebars, hurtle down a long descent of 3.5km, with a 600m shift in altitude.

### ■ CHAMROUSSE

#### L'ADRENALINE PARK, BOASTING THE WORLD'S LONGEST PYLON ZIPWIRE

Zip along to experience thrilling sensations on a 2km ride with breath-taking views. Pedestrians and skiers, make your way to the top of La Croix gondola link to then take to the skies, either solo or as a pair. It's not something you'll forget in a flash, as you reach a top speed of 80kph, flying over 60m above the ground! Thanks to this activity, Chamrousse can offer something besides skiing in winter, and a novel experience for the summer.

### ■ CHARTREUSE

#### NEW ACTIVITY WINTER CYCLING

Opt either for a morning on an electric mountain bike + picnic, or for an afternoon on electric mountain bike + snack, featuring local produce. Discover local heritage and crafts around St-Pierre-de-Chartreuse and St-Pierre-d'Entremont. Also visit a local brewery, learning about typical local heritage and mountain architecture along the way. Depending on snow conditions, you'll most likely ride along minor roads, or a mix of paths and minor roads. Your trail will take you along part of the circuit Sous la Dent de l'Ours.

### ■ FLUMET, VAL D'ARLY

#### LE TOI DU MONDE

In this family farm dating back to 1886, but recently renovated, you'll find all the ingredients you need to enjoy unique, unforgettable times in the heart of the Val d'Arly mountains. In the restaurant, your tastebuds will relish recipes using produce from the kitchen garden. Then enjoy peace and relaxation at the gîte. And on evenings featuring live music, soak up the atmosphere over a glass of wine.

### ■ HAUTE MAURIENNE VANOISE

#### WINTER VIA FERRATA IN AUSSOIS

Suspended about a sheer drop, your heart beating fast, enjoy such thrills taking on the ski resort of Aussois's winter via ferrata. Specially developed along Europe's longest via route (with its seven interconnecting sections), the Via Ferrata des Diablotins makes you tackle several footbridges and a rope bridge, going along the western side of the Forts de l'Esseillon. It's a spine-tingling crossing of 500m via a listed historic monument, a remnant of the border defences built for the House of Savoy. While this activity may seem very challenging, it can be undertaken by children from the age of 10 upwards, and safety is ensured by a specialist mountain guide.

*As an alternative to the classic skiing, these new experiences guarantee emotion and sensations.*



## ■ LA PLAGNE

### AÉROLIVE, FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY, EXCLUSIVE HIGH-ALTITUDE EXPERIENCE

Two unique cable cars are now in service on the new Glaciers gondola line, whisking you up to the newly accessible Live 3000 summit – actually at an altitude of 3,080m! They're minimalist, in that they're open to the elements, so feel the wind in your hair as you ascend! Harnessed and attached to a safety cable, you'll feel very close to the great outdoors, whether riding in summer or winter, and in prime position to admire the majestic landscapes. You arrive up top at a striking Alpine rooftop terrace with panoramic views. Booking essential.

### RÊVE DE BLOCS INDOOR CLIMBING WALL

Rêve de Blocs is a space covering c.600m<sup>2</sup>, with an area for children, completely devoted to teaching the rudiments of climbing, plus a training area to help improve your abilities with suitable physical exercises and helpful advice. Regular competitions and events are put on. There's also a chill-out area, with snack-bar.

### LIVING THE DREAM, AS A BOBSLEIGH PILOT FOR A DAY

Maybe you've dreamt of following in the tracks of the Jamaican bobsleigh team immortalized in the film comedy, Cool Runnings? La Plagne's Olympic piste is now offering a world exclusive – an introduction to bobsleigh driving for members of the public! This totally novel, exceptionally exciting experience, learning to be an apprentice pilot, lasts a whole day. Your adventure includes a track walk, like the professionals, to check out the piste, two descents per person, in a two-person competition bobsleigh (once as passenger, once as driver) and a debrief on technical matters and how the rides felt. The course is run by professional pilots, some of whom are qualified federal instructors.

## ■ LES MENUIRES

### YOGISKI 9TH EDITION FROM 5 TO 12 APRIL 2025

For a truly fulfilling week of yoga and well-being, good for the mind, as well as gently firming up the body. Under the guidance of kindly "ambassadors", keen yoga students of varying levels meet every day at Les Menuires or St-Martin-de-Belleville for yoga workshops that prove out of the ordinary. The programme for this edition includes: a yoga wake-up session at an altitude of 2,800m; a snowshoe and yoga outing from the Refuge du Lou; and a whole-day retreat. For a mountain stay where mind and body are in harmony.

## ■ MÉRIBEL

### MISSION BLACK FOREST

THE sledge run to plunge you into a fantastical world as you race down through a magical forest on a 3.4km trail involving 28 bends and 470m of descent in altitude. Starts from Tournette gondola. Minimum height requirement: 140cm.



## ■ MÉRIBEL

### HIMALAYA BY NIGHT

From 5.30pm, as night falls, Himalaya by Night enables you to ride your sledge down the Petit Himalaya green run for 2km. It's a great activity to bond over after dark.

### ■ MONT-DORE / SUPER-BESSE L'XTREM AVENTURE DE LA BICHE AT SUPER-BESSE

Tackle a trail involving zipwires, footbridges, via ferrata, a rope bridge, underground sledging and jumps into the void... in summer or winter! This original, unique activity takes place in the Cirque de la Biche, in the heart of the Sancy Range. There are 20 zipwires in all, one 300m long, taking you flying over the Biche Waterfall, plus there are practical sessions to help you tackle: the footbridges; two via ferrata; a rope bridge; 10 bridges in the air; and four quick jumps. Each participant is kitted out with a helmet and a harness connected to a safety cable all the way around, so that you can enjoy the whole trail safely. There are zones to rest, or to let others pass, places where families might like to stop for a photo opportunity!

## ■ MORZINE

### LE PAS DE L'AIGLE

From a glass footbridge sticking out from the mountain at an altitude of 2,019m, at Nyon, in the Morzine ski area, enjoy exceptional views, Lake Geneva to one side, Mont Blanc to the other!

### SKI WITH AN EAGLE!

A truly amazing activity at Morzine, allowing visitors the unique experience of skiing downhill accompanied by an eagle!

## ■ OZ 3300

### INDOOR CLIMBING WALLS & PADEL TENNIS

OZ 3300 invites you to try out its new activities. Its indoor climbing centre enables users to tackle 14 paths of varying levels of difficulty. Children from as young as three can have a go, each person tackling a suitable stretch. Plus, padel tennis courts can be booked by the hour by experienced players, or those who want to try out the game. It's fun and easy, good for building team spirit in a sporting but friendly atmosphere. It's great for entertaining family or friends.

## ■ SKI SUNSET/SUNRISE

Given the Dôme des Rousse's elevated altitude, at 2,800m, and its privileged location, it's the perfect spot from which to admire sunsets or sunrises in this ski area. Two unforgettable experiences are proposed: ski coucher de soleil; and ski "1ère trace". With the first, sunset option, skiers enjoy an aperitif made from local ingredients at 2,800m, also learning about going on ski patrol as they ski down to the resort of OZ 3300 in the day's last rays of sunlight. In similar vein, the ski "1ère trace" option invites holiday-makers to travel up to 2,800m, but in this case to enjoy a breakfast, consisting entirely of local produce, learning about the job of the ski patrol there and then, starting the day with the first rays of the rising sun, feeling part of a very special group, skiing through freshly groomed snow in such an exceptional setting.

## ■ PRALOGNAN-LA-VANOISE

### MY 1<sup>ST</sup> SKI TREKKING OUTING TO A SUMMIT

To get up close to the Vanoise glaciers, head for this accredited Terre d'Alpinisme area to be led by Pralognan guides, showing you how to make for the Vanoise summits by trekking in skis. You take two ski lifts up towards the moraine of the Col de la Grande Casse (the highest summit in Savoie), getting you to the Refuge des Barmettes. From there, on your skiing trek, you pass through exceptional, varied landscapes, your guide offering fascinating insights along the way. You stop for a bite to eat, admiring the high-altitude peaks, before an unforgettable, supervised descent.

## ■ VILLARD-DE-LANS ET CORRENÇON EN VERCORS

### NORDIC ADVENTURES WITH THE ESF

The Nordic skiing branch of the Ecole de Ski Française now offers supervised activities year-round, in summer as in winter. So, come and experience a truly exceptional adventure in these mountains. The instructors can put on bonding or team-building activities for groups of 10, or for individuals making up a group of at least five people.

On offer: night-skiing; orienteering skiing; cycling on snow; a biathlon challenge... The atmosphere is friendly and fun. Exhilaration and pleasure guaranteed!

### RACING DOWN THE SLOPES IN A MOUNTAINKART

Overseen by an ESF ski instructor, enjoy mountain karting down snow-covered, dedicated ski slopes on a 3km trail, involving a 400m shift in altitude. Whether doing it competitively or for fun, it makes for a joyous, thrilling time. You can try out this novel activity from the summit of the Corrençon hybrid lift.

## ICE CLIMBING

### ■ ALPE D'HUEZ AN INTRODUCTION TO CLIMBING A FROZEN WATERFALL

Set out on an introduction to ice climbing, on a frozen waterfall! This activity is organized by the Bureau des Guides de l'Alpe d'Huez, enabling you to try out a new sport safely, discovering that it's not just skiing that can provide thrills. You don't need to be a high-altitude expert or especially sporty to do such mountain sports, as long as, whatever the season, you're taught and supervised by a qualified instructor.

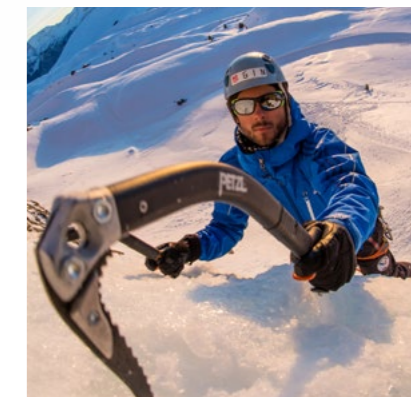
## ■ LA PLAGNE

### CLIMBING AN ICE TOWER!

Unique in Europe, the Tour de Glace, or Ice Tower, is an artificial structure rising 24m into the air, at an altitude of 1,450m, in the Champagny-le-Haut Valley. It allows for different levels of climbing: introductory; autonomously; for experienced climbers, members of the FFCAM. International competitions are regularly staged here, and the Ice Tower is aiming to become the French team's official training ground.

### ■ MONT-DORE / SUPER-BESSE CLIMBING A FROZEN WATERFALL

The Sancy Range, given its location, altitude and climate, makes possible many activities associated with high-altitude mountains, including, at certain times, climbing frozen waterfalls, as there are odd occasions where cold temperatures freeze the waterfalls up in these parts. If you happen to be on the Sancy Mountain at the right occasion, make the most of the opportunity. Pleasure and originality are guaranteed. There are certain waterfalls that are suitable for beginners, but also more challenging ones, up to 80m in height, requiring technical expertise.



# OUR MOUNTAINS IN SUMMER

a source of

# WELL-BEING

and

# GOOD HEALTH

From the Alpine lakes at the foot of our mountains to Mont Blanc, the roof of Western Europe, our Alpine ranges offer exhilarating exploring, perhaps on foot or by bike, while you can seek out cooling spots in the heart of nature at our high-altitude lakes, in our Alpine meadows, or in our forests. Our traditional mountain villages are enchanting, with their stone-slate roofs, onion-bulb belfries and baroque churches. By their very essence, our mountains are a source of well-being, for a pampering break, as a place to leave behind modern life, or then to indulge in total relaxation, enjoying unforgettable holidays. The fact that time in the mountains has a beneficial effect on one's health has long been known, but now it's been scientifically proven! Then there's the endless range of activities now on offer in this immense natural playground...



## SO MANY ACTIVITIES FOR EXHILARATING EXPERIENCES

A paradise for cyclists (14 major cycle routes; iconic Alpine passes featured on the Tour de France; six major mountain-bike trails...), our region is also ideal for keen walkers, with over 33,000km of waymarked trails and such famed hiking paths as the Tour du Mont Blanc, Santiago-de-Compostela pilgrimage routes, the Stevenson Trail or the Grande Traversée des Alpes. Down in our Alpine valleys, those keen to try white-water rafting, hydrospeed (riverboarding) or canyoning flock to try such raging torrents as the Giffre or the Arve. The most daring visitors might shoot down a zipwire, say, over the Lac de Hauteville or 100m above the Anse Valley in the Livradois-Forez area, or then jump into the void in the Aravis, dangling from an elastic cord, feeling the full force of gravity. Even more removed from solid ground, paragliders drift skywards on their multicoloured wings above such places as Saint-Hilaire du Touvet and Lac d'Annecy and may be seen brushing past the rounded summits of the Auvergne's great volcanic range, the Chaîne des Puys.



## AN UNMATCHED VARIETY OF MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES

From the Northern French Alps, west to the Massif Central mountain chain and north to the Jura Mountains, our region displays an unmatched variety of mountain landscapes. Our Alps are dominated by Mont Blanc (4,809m), but in our world of the gods, as classical authors might put it, our peaks, passes, high pastures and deep valleys extend from the Chablais area to the Beaufortain, from the Tarentaise to the Belledonne, from the Maurienne to l'Oisans. Colossal summits sculpted by time and the elements, from the Aiguille du Midi in the

north to La Meije in the south, incite the bold to conquer them, getting closer to the sun and the eternal snows. As to protecting the natural environment and our mountains' biodiversity, this major priority has been put into action by the extraordinary number of natural parks created in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. Our two national parks, plus our ten regional natural parks scattered right across the region, are helping ensure the preservation of our lower-altitude and high mountain ranges.

**Our magnificent mountains, the perfect playground for all the outdoor activities you could dream of.**

More than 1,000 lakes are scattered across our mountain ranges. As well as our three great lakes, others that stand out include Lac d'Aiguebelette near Chambéry and Lac de Paladru in Isère, but don't forget our many high-altitude Alpine lakes, or our lakes set in old volcanoes in the Massif Central's eastern foothills, or then the lakes of the Bugey area and the Jura Mountains.

## OUR LARGEST ALPINE LAKES FROM THE PUREST TO THE LARGEST!

Lac d'Annecy is one of the region's most popular destinations and is considered one of the purest lakes in Europe today. The town of Annecy, nicknamed the Little Venice of the Alps, is crisscrossed by pretty waterways. Beside the waters, historic Annecy boasts splendid streets and arcaded houses, the Alps in the background. Here, visitors often enjoy a cruise with lunch, or as a night-time treat. [www.lac-annecy.com](http://www.lac-annecy.com)

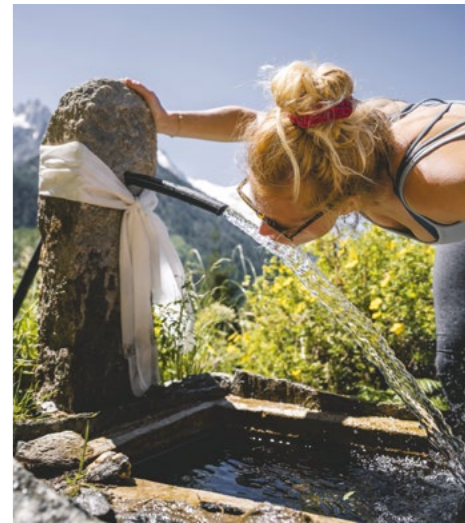
In the 19th century, Lac du Bourget, France's largest and deepest natural lake, inspired the great Romantic Lamartine to pen his poem, "Le Lac", while Queen Victoria counted among prestigious visitors, staying at the thermal spa resort of Aix-les-Bains. Today, visitors still appreciate the calming effects of the thermal waters used in treatments, as well as activities on the lake, such as sailing, swimming and angling. [www.aixlesbains-rivieradesalpes.com](http://www.aixlesbains-rivieradesalpes.com)

Lac Léman, better known internationally as Geneva Lake, forms a natural frontier between France and Switzerland. The southern, French side, bordered by the refined thermal spa resorts of Thonon-les-Bains and Evian-les-Bains and by such picturesque old fishing villages as Yvoire, is referred to as another French Riviera. [www.thononlesbains.com](http://www.thononlesbains.com)  
[www.evian-tourisme.com](http://www.evian-tourisme.com)



## OUR WATERS... BE THEY MINERAL, SPRING OR THERMAL... BOASTING MANY BENEFICIAL EFFECTS

Across Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, water – be it mineral, spring or thermal water – is a vital element present here in so many forms and useful for our well-being in so many ways no fewer than 24 thermal spa resorts in our region, mostly in the mountains: Brides-les-Bains, Saint-Gervais, Le Mont-Dore, Allevard-les-Bains... Whether taking the waters at a thermal spa, enjoying thermal spa treatments or using ointments incorporating our waters, the beneficial aspects of these waters are well recognized. Hydrotherapy relieves stress, reduces pain and counters exhaustion. It can offer a relaxing break that soothes the mind, reduces anxiety and improves sleep and mood. Plus, it can be consumed without moderation! Because of all these factors, our mountain resorts all boast spas and well-being centres that compete in attractiveness, from Le Palais in Megève to Tignes Espaces, from Aquavoriaz in Avoriaz to the Espace Aquatique in L'Alpe d'Huez, and of course spa facilities in most of our resorts' major hotels.



## TAKING HOLIDAYS IN THE MOUNTAINS: WHAT MIGHT THE HEALTH BENEFITS BE?

Beyond wonderful moments of switching off, recharging your batteries and finding yourself among family and friends again, a mountain break offers further specific benefits, both in psychological and in physiological terms. Simply walking in the mountains can prove calming. The sight of so many forests helps release endorphins in the brain, notably because trees, and firs in particular, emit phytoncides and calming molecules. One can often sleep well in the mountains, as they can bring peace to both body and mind. And, of course, being in the mountains means being at high altitude, which encourages the production of red blood cells. Without having to climb to almost 5,000m, in ski resorts, our

organism, lacking in normal oxygen levels, secretes erythropoietin (EPO), a much-valued hormone that increases production of red blood cells. This helps explain why, so often, returning home from the mountains, even after just a week's holiday, you feel in good shape and better at sports! On which, mountains encourage sporting activities, with skiing and sliding, in all its forms, in winter, and hiking, biking, even mountain-biking, etc, in summer. Such activities can enhance endurance, muscle strength and cardio-respiratory function, boosting the immune system and contributing to ageing in good health. So, holidays in the mountains can have many positive health benefits and help reset our bodies.

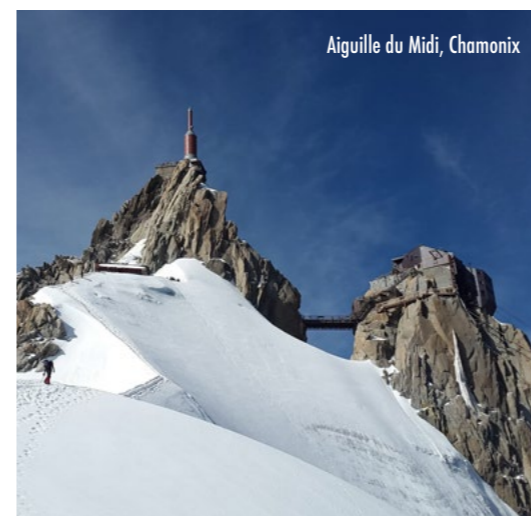


## CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

This lively mountain town is the gateway to many unmissable sites, such as the Mer de Glace, a glacier reached via the Montenvers rack-and-pinion train, or the Aiguille du Midi and Brévent cable cars, whisking you up close to the very highest peaks in the region. On the Aiguille du Midi's highest terrace, at an altitude of 3,842, step out into the glass box, Le Pas dans le Vide, named the highest tourist attraction in Europe, giving you a uniquely heady experience – below your feet, look down on 1,000m of void; around you, take in views of many of Western Europe's highest peaks. [www.chamonix.com](http://www.chamonix.com)

**A new cable car of note**  
The new Télécabine du Montenvers at Chamonix Mont-Blanc  
Le Montenvers is a tourist spot offering quite unique views down on the Mer de Glace glacier and up to the Drus and Grandes Jorasses peaks. It's accessible via rack-and-pinion train leaving from Chamonix, open mainly in summer. This new cable car will make visits to the site much easier, notably ridding tourists of the need to negotiate 530 steps. It should open at the start of this winter season.

*At the foot of Mont-Blanc, Chamonix Mont-Blanc is a magnet for mountain-climbers and those into mountain sports.*



Aiguille du Midi, Chamonix

## ST-MARTIN DE BELLEVILLE

**La Belle Vie. A wellness retreat in harmony with nature**

Located on a natural promontory overlooking the village, Saint-Martin-de-Belleville's new wellness centre can crow about its real environmental assets. Its environmentally responsible construction and facilities, in step with the ski resort's commitments, aim for as low a carbon footprint as possible. For example, 80% of the place's need for heat is produced using biomass. Built around a panoramic aqualudic space in harmony with the surrounding countryside, La Belle Vie has 3 pools: a fun interior pool with waterfalls

and jets; an 20m outdoor pool (for summer); and an indoor / outdoor pool at 34°C, accessible whatever the season. Choose from several themed trails to suit your wellness needs, making the most of the likes of salt or herbal saunas, hammams, massage, and the relaxation room. Particularly special features include the panoramic Finnish sauna with its glass walls and the well of icy water brought from below the mountains. All told, so many features to make you leave your cares behind, whatever the season.

# ACCOMMODATION

## EXCITING

# NEW OPTIONS

One particular strength of the French Alps is that they offer an extraordinarily varied range of accommodation possibilities, from cosy to luxurious chalets, hotels to apartments, clubs to tourism residences and youth hostels to group accommodation plus plenty of trendy options too, whether staying as a couple, with the family, among friends or by yourself. Every year, the opening of a new establishment competing with the latest announces another step in terms of innovation, design and comfort. And why not consider trying out a night up in a mountain refuge, or in a cosy little chalet on a campsite, or even sleeping in an igloo?

For further information on accommodation across the region, go to: [inauvergnerhonealpes.com](http://inauvergnerhonealpes.com)



## HOTEL OPTIONS

### ■ Chamonix Renovation of the Hôtel la Couronne in Argentière

Built in the 1860s, La Couronne is the oldest hotel in the Chamonix Valley still in operation. Following major renovation and extension works, it reopened in June 2024. The establishment can now offer 69 rooms with all modern comforts, a spa with sauna & hammam, and a restaurant. The interior decoration is the work of German-Danish designer Gesa Hansen, who took inspiration from the simplicity of mountain refuges, the changing colours of the seasons and traditional Alpine materials to create a subtle balance between modernity and tradition.

### ■ Chartreuse Le Domaine de Rozan, at the Col de Porte (Sappey en Chartreuse/Sarcenas)

At the Col de Porte, a ski resort close to Grenoble, and in the heart of the Parc Naturel Régional de Chartreuse, the Domaine de Rozan really incites you to get away from it all. The hotel, freshly renovated using organically sourced materials, boasts nine upmarket bedrooms, and would make an ideal holiday spot for couples, families or as a small group in search of a place in total harmony with nature and the mountains.

### ■ Les Ménuires L'Alpeen ★★★

This friendly hotel, which you can ski in and out of, is THE new address to head to in the heart of Les Ménuires. Previously the hotel Le Piolet, it was bought up by the management of the neighbouring hotel, Ho36, and has been fully renovated. The idea is to merge both addresses in the future to create a larger hotel complex. For the time being, try out the new Hotel L'Alpeen.

In terms of further facilities, there's a 110-seat restaurant, with terrace, that focuses on quality local ingredients in its modern dishes, some with exotic touches, such as the chef's Thai salad or the trendy Bo Bun, but there are Savoie specialities on the menu too, of course. Vegetarians are well-catered to, with specific dishes. Everyone will find something to please them. The hotel also has a games room, with snooker table, and a ski rental shop exclusively for customers. As a family, or among friends, you'll feel really at home at L'Alpeen.

### ■ Megève Le Lodge Park, a new hotel in the heart of the resort ★★★★★

Delight in the unique charm of the Lodge Park, where sophisticated elegance meets the wild spirit of the Alps! Located in the heart of the old village, a stone's throw from the ski slopes, the Hotel Lodge Park is a luxurious refuge that has been entirely renovated to reopen in December 2024. Suites measure 50m<sup>2</sup> while the wellness centre covers 800m<sup>2</sup>. Special areas include the Beef Lounge, for tasting exceptional meats, and the Bar du Lodge, the place to be at aperitif time.

### ■ Méribel Le Kaïla ★★★★★

Méribel's five-star hotel has also been awarded a Michelin Key, a new distinction given in the Guide Rouge, rewarding establishments that propose remarkable guest experiences. Plus, since winter 2023, both Le Kaïla 5\* and La Chaudanne 4\*, iconic historic addresses to stay at in Méribel, have teamed up with the famed brand Lego to completely reimagine their kids' club, so that visitors can wholly immerse themselves in the world of Lego, with an instructor to hand. Children (and big children!) can give free rein to their imaginations here! In addition, a skier made of Lego, representing Méribel, counts among 100 figurines on display.

*The establishments compete in design and comfort.*

## HOTEL OPTIONS (continued)

### ■ Orelle Le Hob

Orelle, a village in the heart of Savoie, attracts visitors both because of its enchanting traditional side and its proximity to the ski resort of Val Thorens – Les 3 Vallées. Just 50m from the chair lifts, Le Hob Orelle enables you to reach the latter in just over 10 minutes. Set in the heart of the wider Maurienne area, just one hour from Chambéry, Orelle is in fact a gateway to Les 3 Vallées. Yet, well away from that nearby resort's hustle and bustle, Le Hob offers a world of its own. You can book double, family or even larger rooms, or then the spaces you need in a dormitory. For young people, and older people too, it's a great place to come for a drink, to eat, to play boardgames, to work with colleagues... or even to sleep!

### ■ Saint-Pierre-d'Entremont Le Grand Som

Having changed ownership and been entirely renovated, Le Grand Som has many facets, combining a hotel, a restaurant, a cocktail bar and spaces for private events. The owners wish to make their quality facilities accessible to all, without ever compromising on excellence, their watchword. Come and savour the generous, tasty cooking, made using local ingredients, and respecting nature. Then relax in the comfort of one of eight bedrooms that prove both modern and warm. In all, make the most of an invigorating stay in the midst of the Chartreuse countryside.

**New 4-star hotel from  
Experimental Group**

### ■ Val d'Isère Experimental Chalet

★★★★

In the heart of the village, Experimental Chalet Val d'Isère is an exceptional haven, standing just a few steps from the foot of the pistes. This 4-star establishment has 113 rooms, of which 21 are suites, benefiting from views over village and surrounding summits. That there are also two restaurants, a wellness centre and an indoor pool makes this the perfect place to return to after a hard day's skiing. The hotel also has meeting rooms and can put on tailor-made events.



## EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATION

### ■ Champagny-en-Vanoise 8 wooden chalets, and the atmosphere of the Far North

The Chalet Montana, at Huttopia's Champagny-en-Vanoise site, presents a typical picture of mountain architecture, with its simple structure, two outsized sloping roofs almost reaching to the ground, and its short sides. Adapted from one of the brand's iconic models, these eight new wooden Huttopia chalets were made-to-measure by the company's planning team. It was also a bold choice by the municipality too, one that had to fit in with the listed natural site of the Vallon de Champagny-le-Haut. The architecture also pays its respects to the Parc National de la Vanoise, this type of construction fitting in historically and symbolically with the architecture employed for mountain refuges, being quick to build and to warm, robust, rustic and convivial. The chalets blend in naturally with the rest of the campsite at Champagny-en-Vanoise, adding to the summer options of classic pitches and canvas tents, and of woods ready for campers, put in place during summer 2023.

Having these chalets to rent means the campsite can open, quite exclusively, in winter, with long stays possible. The location is exceptional, in the midst of the cross-country skiing area, with an ice tower, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, sledging with huskies and skijoring all potential activities.

### ■ Chartreuse Cabanes insolites chartreuse

At St-Pierre-de-Chartreuse, select from various options providing novel experiences with a minimal impact on the environment. Not far from their unusual Cabanes Insolites Chartreuse tree houses, Cécile and Thérèse Lasio have put in place further extraordinary options to enjoy unforgettable experiences in the midst of the countryside:

*\* Le Bivouac – a nature evening and extraordinary night in an adapted pick-up truck, in one of three possible spots, either cosy / looking onto the landscapes of Le Grand Som / in a forest.*

### ■ Combloux A night in an igloo

(Dependent on the weather being suitable for the construction of the igloos.) Led by Rémy, a trained mid-mountain guide, participants head off in snowshoes, and in darkness, up to the village of igloos, plus its tepee. After c.1hr 15mins, they encounter an enchanting setting, where they can sample a traditional fondue inside the tepee. The night should then be comfortable, sleeping in one of the igloos, with tranquil nature for company. The following morning, participants share their experiences over a convivial breakfast before walking back down to the resort in snowshoes, completing this memorable Nordic-style outing.

## IN A TOURISM RESIDENCE / CLUB GÎTE OR CHALET



### ■ Chartreuse L'Evasion au Naturel

At the Col de Marcieu (Plateau des Petites Roches) - Chartreuse.

A new wellness and eco-tourism centre is reopening here after the place has undergone a major renovation. Evasion au Naturel includes seven mountain-style chalets, built from Chartreuse Range timber and perfectly kitted out to provide cosy comfort for between 5 and 15 people to sleep. Every detail has been considered to reduce the place's environmental impact. Set in forest at an altitude of 1,100m, these chalets are also just 75m from the ski resort of the Col de Marcieu at Saint-Bernard, with magical views over the Belledonne Range. As to the centre, it puts on entertaining, educational activities that fit in with the theme of nature conservation: fun discovery hikes, perhaps by moonlight, or with donkeys; or tracking wild animals; or then seeking out culinary and medicinal plants in the centre's own garden. To add to the magic of the place, customers can enjoy the sauna and hammam, the hot-tub with views, or a massage. Another plus, the meals served here are designed around local produce, again in an effort to be environmentally responsible.

**Reopening a place  
is a human, socially  
supportive adventure!**

### ■ Haute Maurienne Vanoise Les Terrasses de Termignon

At Val Cenis – Haute Maurienne Vanoise Shut for six years, the tourism residence Les Terrasses de Termignon, so perfectly located at the foot of the pistes at Val-Cenis, reopened its doors this summer, offering some 600 beds. This is helping to reinvigorate the village's tourism scene and the local economy. It's an uplifting tale, a rare success story of a project coming good in a zone de revitalisation rurale, so a rural zone officially designated to be in need of such revitalization.

### ■ Les Arcs Pierre & Vacances Clef Verte accreditation

Clef Verte accreditation reflects the commitment of tourism villages and residences company Pierre & Vacances to limiting its impact on the environment and to promoting the natural diversity of its destinations. Today, 72% of its sites have received Clef Verte certification, including the Pierre & Vacances complex at Arc 1950 and its two tourism residences, Le Belmont and Les Alpages du Chantel, at Arc 1800. The group's aim – for 100% of its tourism residences to be accredited by 2025.

**Unusual, cozy, sustainable, collective or luxurious,  
the range of accommodation is diversifying to  
meet expectations.**



### ■ Les Menuires A family chalet packed with character

La Ferme d'Édouard is a home packed with history, located just a stone's throw from the centre of the village of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville. Within its 460m2, and across its five levels, it offers six en-suite rooms and its very own well-equipped wellness area, including an indoor pool, overseen by a herd of local Tarine cows... depicted in a wall painting and reflecting the place's past! This restful chalet lets you get back to nature in style in the Alps.

### Chalet Snow Fall with its organic design

Perched on the heights above Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, this chalet can accommodate 12 across its 280m2. It combines contemporary comfort and a cosy luxurious feel. It has spacious rooms and imparts a feeling of openness, elegance and luminosity. Plus, it benefits from clear views of the village and surrounding summits. The palette of greens, blues, whites and greys used in the decoration, along with the organic, contemporary design, reflect well the local landscapes, creating a harmonious atmosphere. The five bedrooms (including a master suite and a lovely cosy children's room), plus the sumptuous indoor pool, make this an exceptional property in which to stay.

### ■ Val d'Arly Gite la tête de mule

Crest-Voland Cohennoz – Val d'Arly ski resort  
The gite La Tête de Mule boasts a stunning location, at an altitude of 1,490m, in exceptional surrounds, and offers facilities that combine Savoie traditions and the contemporary. You'll be enchanted by its unbroken, sensational vistas of the four surrounding mountain ranges, the Vercors, Chartreuse, Bauges and Aravis. This magnificent farm is set out on three levels, and can accommodate up to 25 people, given there are two buildings, one for up to 15, the other up to 10. In total, there are 9 high-quality suites. It's all been very recently renovated, the facilities are fabulous, and the place stands beside the pistes of the Espace Diamant ski area, in a very sunny spot.



# RESTAURANTS

Across the region's Alpine ranges, over 50 restaurants have achieved at least one star in the Michelin Guide, several even awarded three coveted stars. Amidst all the variety on offer, relish our high-altitude restaurants, our traditional French restaurants and our range offering the whole gamut of world cuisines.

Our appellation-accredited cheeses (Beaufort, Comté, Reblochon...), Savoie's fine wines, exceptional spring waters (such as Evian), lake trout and Alpine charcuterie, all derive their exceptional flavour from their Alpine surrounds and add a delicious touch to so many menus here. After a day's skiing, our regional specialities prove a delight, raclette, tartiflette and fondue well known. For pudding, try a tart featuring red fruit picked in our mountains.



## ■ Au Col de Porte Sappey en Chartreuse/Sarcenas Le Domaine de Rozan

At the café, the Guinguette de Rozan, you're welcomed either on the terrace or in the functions room. Depending on weather and season, it's lovely making the most of the outdoor space away from the road. As to the interior, it's been redone, but still boasts an iconic formica bar. Outside on the terrace, a former ski pass sales booth has been transformed into a food truck; in summer, it serves drinks and snacks, in the style of an old-fashioned outdoor guinguette, here set at the foot of the iconic local mountain, Chamechaude. There are big tables, perched stools and Fermob chairs for seating, and bowls, darts and mölkky (a Finnish throwing game) to play. Inside, the Salle Tourtet room has been done up with panache, with repurposed sofas, a bar transposed from the former Hôtel Garin, and high-quality video screen and sound system, showing major sports events live. The place also stages an eclectic range of musical evenings.

## ■ Courchevel Restaurant Alpage

Restaurant Alpage evokes the mountains and their meadows, the summits and the valleys, the grandeur of nature amidst the soaring peaks. You'll find it in the heart of the Hotel Annapurna; it was awarded one star at the Guide Michelin ceremonies in 2024. Chef Jean-Rémi Caillon, inspired by his heritage of country cooking, knows how to play on seasonal variations, the produce coming from local fishing, hunting and rearing partners, along with vegetables from the valley's gardens. He's also regularly inspired by local crafts, traditions and produce from Savoie. Through his cooking, he manages to reveal unexpected sides to mountain cuisine and always adds a generous touch of fresh vegetables and herbs, aiming at sustainable gastronomy.



Eating out on the terrace of a high-altitude restaurant

## ■ Les 2 Alpes Les Copain's

Here are the new kids on the culinary block for the resort of Les 2 Alpes – Les Copain's! Four friends from diverse career backgrounds, but sharing a passion for gastronomy, have set this place up, to serve generous, tasty food. It's a great story, of a quartet of close mates getting together to pool their talents and propose to visitors and locals alike a new culinary adventure not to be missed!

## Monsieur K

And now for a festive culinary revolution in Les 2 Alpes! This new establishment has created quite a sensation in the resort. Both a restaurant and a caterer, the enterprise has broken traditional codes with its unique hybrid concept. Here, gastronomy combines with a loud, rock'n'roll atmosphere! Monsieur K does mix the contemporary with the traditional in its refined cuisine and top-notch service, but all in an electric atmosphere. So, come and enjoy a novel experience, where originality and excellence hold sway. It's a great place to come after a day on the slopes, and to enjoy a memorable evening.



## Restaurant Sylvestre Wahid Les Grandes Alpes 1850

Here, the cuisine evokes a voyage across the European Alps, from France to Switzerland and on to Italy, with nods to Provence and the Mediterranean, regions close to Mr Wahid's heart. The restaurant is an elegant cocoon, with just four tables, set under an atmospheric textured ceiling that recalls the nearby summits. This really is a hidden gem in which to relish exceptional produce transformed using precise, complex techniques.

## ■ Megève Marc Veyrat's new restaurant

"High-definition cuisine", "Institute of culinary wild plants", "Foraging and rooms"... our famed behatted Alpine chef is returning to his first love and recalling his childhood country roots. Here, he orchestrates an immersive dinner, for a select group of diners (maximum of 18 people), in a cosy setting in which he's able to provide the sincere, generous atmosphere of a family home, just a short walk from the village. The supreme exponent of cooking with wild herbs can even set up table in his own woods, in the midst of a forest, for his guests. Marc Veyrat alternates with his wife, Christine Heckler Veyrat, also a chef; she specializes in cooking over a hearth, an art that she has mastered so well. Expect flames, embers, smoke and cinders, her expertise in cooking with these elements revealed before the dessert trolley is wheeled out! Savour the festive atmosphere.

## ■ St Pierre de Chartreuse A meal in a Berber tent

Share a meal and a timeless-seeming few hours in a Berber tent that creates a sophisticated rural atmosphere. This novel option certainly minimizes any environmental impact, as everything can be taken down without leaving a mark behind!

## ■ Val d'Arly Auberge des Eglantiers

Nestling in the heart of the village resort of Flumet, this friendly, hearty restaurant makes a welcoming place in which to hold a festive gathering, among friends and family, but it's also lovely to come to on your own. The dining room looks down on the Gorges de l'Arly and has splendid views onto the back of Flumet.

## ■ Val d'Isère L'Art des Mets

Opening L'Art des Mets in the unspoilt Le Manchet Valley, Caroline and Emmanuel had their hearts set on creating an ecologically minded restaurant serving produce prepared on their own property. Sourcing focuses on short supply chains and good sense. The vast majority of their ingredients are from the region (Val d'Isère, Savoie, Isère and Hautes-Alpes). Down the line, all waste is sorted and recycled. Vegetable peelings are fed to animals in a nearby farm, pigs consuming many of the leftovers. As to the building itself, it has been renovated and reconfigured to optimize sustainable energy efficiency. The next objective? A greenhouse, planned for summer 2025, to grow herbs and maybe even a few vegetables... at an altitude of 1,900m! The restaurant is located at a crossroads of safe hiking and Nordic skiing trails and of off-piste descents through Le Mancher Valley and beside the Calabourdane River, frozen in mid-winter. The restaurant is open during the day, for both lunch and tea, and can put on dinner in a large yurt, if booked in advance.

*From Savoie  
fondues to world  
cuisines, there's  
something to please  
every palate here!*

# EVENTS

## EVENTS TO ADD MAGIC TO YOUR HOLIDAYS



### FOLIE DOUCE

First staged in Val d'Isère, then in Val Thorens, Courchevel Méribel, l'Alpe d'Huez, Saint-Gervais Megève, Chamonix, Avoriaz and Les Arcs, the recipe for La Folie Douce's success resides in a fine combination of bold local cuisine made for sharing and a love of shows! The joys of families and friends, of sharing good times, traditions and goodwill, of living together in harmony, are the values brought out here, and that move young and old alike... all to the rhythm of the music!

In Avoriaz, La Folie Douce is the place to be for the young. It's a kind of unique nightclub, staged outside, where you can turn up dressed to the nines, or in ski boots! The fun kicks off after a day's skiing, around 4pm, and finishes at 6pm. Young people end up dancing on the terrace tables. Every day, a different music show creates a different atmosphere. As the sun goes down, many participants turn into keen instagrammers, capturing the scene against the orange glow illuminating the ski resort.

As to La Folie Douce Les Arcs, it consists of a series of themed events during the day, transporting visitors to varied, captivating other worlds: "People", to relive the nostalgia of the 2000s; "WTF", to go wild with outlandish costumes, with treats generously served up; "Virtual", to imagine future universes thanks to all our new technologies; and, in the evening, the Moonlight Dinners, featuring cabaret, comedy and magic as well as music, providing wonderful moments to share with family or friends.

The French Alps are renowned for providing visitors with a warm welcome and offering plenty of surprises! A whole host of events, festivals and exhibitions bring a great atmosphere to our ski resorts through summer and winter alike.

Of particular note in winter 2024/2025 are: **Les Arcs Film Festival**, where cinema meets the mountains, the 16th edition taking place 14 – 21 December 2024; **Valloire International Ice Sculpture Competition**, 7 – 10 January 2025; 28th edition of the **Alpe d'Huez Comedy Film Festival**, 13 – 19 January; the **Méribel Franglish Comedy Festival**, putting British and French comedians to the fore; the 2nd edition of the **Festival of Street Art in the Mountains at Val d'Arly**, 2 – 6 March; the 14th edition of the **Pralognan-la-Vanoise Humour Festival**, 11 – 13 March; the 28th edition of the **Val d'Isère Festival International du Film d'Aventure & Découverte**, 14 – 17 April.

Pop, rock and electronic music also bring joyous sounds to our mountains, notably in spring. **Tomorrowland Winter at**

**l'Alpe d'Huez**, 15 – 22 March, provides a mix of skiing and electronic music, at an altitude of over 2,000m. **Rock the Pistes, across the Portes du Soleil** ski area (Chatel, Avoriaz, Morzine) proposes daily live concerts by international artists on the pistes, in mountain settings; come along 17 - 23 March to experience this unique festival. The **Electronic Peak Festival in Les Arcs**, 23 – 28 March, is a house, disco and techno music festival, the theme for this 7th edition "La Montagne Aquatique"!

Things don't stop in summer either, as further major celebrations take place then: the **Festival International du Film d'Animation in Annecy**, 8 – 14 June; the **Chamonix Cosmo Jazz Festival** in July; **Musilac at Aix-les-Bains**, 9 – 12 July; the festival **Au Bonheur des Mômes at Le Grand-Bornand**, end August, dedicated to shows for young audiences; and, closing the season, the **Coupe Icure at Saint-Hilaire-du-Touvet**, in September, the world's largest free-flight and ultra-light air sports event, pilots turning into actors for the fancy-dress flying competition and giving stunning aerial demonstrations.

Find more information on winter events on: [inauvergnerhonealpes.com](http://inauvergnerhonealpes.com)



## ICONIC SPORTING EVENTS

The staging of three Winter Olympics in the Northern French Alps, around Chamonix in 1924, Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992, plus, in five years' time, the hosting of much of the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, reflects the fact that our region is one vast, world-renowned outdoor playground for winter sports in general. That fact is also underlined by the world championships in the likes of skiing and snowboarding, and major events in figure skating and ice hockey, that are held in these parts.

Notable upcoming events include: the **Cratérium de la Première Neige in Val d'Isère**; the **Biathlon World Cup Annecy-Le Grand Bornand**; the **Ski Cross World Cup in Val Thorens**; a stage in the **Women's Alpine Ski World Cup in Courchevel**; the renowned **Pierra Menta**, an iconic race in French ski mountaineering; and **matches in the ice hockey Ligue Magnus (the top men's league in France) in Chamonix and Grenoble...**

Thrills are guaranteed watching the **Freeride World Tour, in Val Thorens** and at its iconic Cime Caron summit, in a stunning location at an altitude of 2,300m, hosting a stage of the 2025 edition. In the same vein, the **4th edition of Mountain Shaker** will bring together the finest freestylers in Tignes in March. Tignes also spoils those passionate snowboard culture by once again hosting a stage in the Ski Big Air World Cup, after dark, followed by a Ski Slopestyle World Cup! As if that weren't enough, the high-altitude resort will also stage the **French Freeride Series**. Crossing spectacular mountain scenery on truly unique trails, look out for: the **Grande Odyssée VVF**, the most important husky sleigh race in the Alps, involving some 65 international mushers and 600 dogs, setting off on a 400km trail involving 12,000m in overall shift in altitude, from 11 to 23 January 2025; the **47th edition of La Foulée Blanche**, a Nordic skiing event through the heart of the Vercors Range, in January 2025; and the **Transjurassienne**, a cross-country skiing race across the Jura Range (8 and 9 February 2025).

And bringing together sports and social solidarity via 24 hours of winter sports combined with concerts in support of good causes, from 21 to 23 March, Le Grand-Bornand will be hosting the 16th edition of what has become THE charity fundraising event of the French mountains, **Glisse en Coeur au Grand-Bornand**. Its



success derives from the unique concept of associating fund-raising with skiing team relay races. The aim, for the teams taking part, is not just to hurtle down the pistes, but also to raise hundreds of thousands of euros before and during the competition weekend in support of registered children's charities. In summer, our mountains, with their vast natural spaces, are obvious territories for hosting major sporting events in trail running, Alpine trekking, mountain-biking and cycling. An unmissable rendez-vous for trail runners from around the globe is the **HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc**, every year attracting the world's elite trail runners to Chamonix, along with over 10,000 dedicated runners, come to participate in one of the eight races included in this event, including the finals of the UTMB World Series. An iconic race, the first of kind back in the day, the **6000D in La Plagne** remains a challenge that most trail runners want to take on, just like the **Ultra Trail des Montagnes du Jura**. Let's not forget the importance of mountain-biking in these parts, with La **Transmaurienne** or the **Vélo Vert**

**Festival**, the latter drawing some 30,000 festival goers. Still on cycling, the world-renowned **Tour de France** remains an irresistible draw, with so many stages crisscrossing both the French Alps and the Auvergne, the broadcast coverage transmitting some of the most splendid mountain and sporting images to be seen anywhere. Further events to mention, among many others: regarding water sports, the **rowing competitions on Lac d'Aiguebelette**; and in golf, the **Amundi Evian Championship**, bringing together the finest women golfers on the planet.

*The Northern Alps are the favorite territories for sporting events.*

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