

*Keep active  
and*

**FEEL REBORN HERE**

Rochegude  
On the St James Way



**Auvergne  
Rhône-Alpes**  
Tourisme

  
France.fr

## KEY FIGURES

**52%** OF STAYS CHOSEN IN THE REGION BY FRENCH TOURIST CUSTOMERS LEAD TO INVOLVEMENT IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES, COMPARED WITH THE NATIONAL FIGURE OF JUST 41%

**24%** OF ELITE FRENCH ATHLETES FROM OUTDOOR SPORTS COME FROM AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES

### AUVERGNE-RHÔNE ALPES

#### TOP FRENCH REGION IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF SPORTS INSTRUCTORS



#### WALKING

The region is home to 33,050 km of marked trails including top routes such as the Tour du Mont-Blanc, St James' Way options, the Robert Louis Stevenson Trail, the Grande Traversée des Alpes and the Sentier des Huguenots. With such a range, **31% of stays** by French people within the region give rise to various forms of trekking, compared with 23% of stays in France. These indicators clearly show the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to be **France's TOP hiking destination** for tourists.



#### CYCLING

**12 green cycleways and greenways** registered nationwide. These include the ViaRhôna, 815 km in length, including 557 km in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, forming part of the Eurovélo network.



#### HORSE RIDING

With **22,000 km of marked bridleways** and **14,000 km with tourism certification**, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is **France's top region for horse riding** by tourists.

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## EDITORIAL

The destinations in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, from Savoie-Mont-Blanc to Auvergne, and including the Ardèche and the Drôme, comprise a fantastic playground for Outdoor activities!

The region is top of the leaderboard in various categories:

- Number 1 in terms of number of outdoor sports instructors,
- Number 1 destination region for keen hikers,
- Number 1 region in France in terms of the number of trail runs organised

Together with some wonderful areas for enjoying them all, the region has all the assets you could need for drawing enthusiastic outdoor activity customers.

People discover these areas slowly and take the time to make the most of them. The activity is a pretext for getting close to nature.

On top of this, 61% of prospective customers asked in our survey regarding customer profiles were «nature lovers».

The trend in society is also towards taking into account our impact on the environment: people are seeking adventure closer to home, getting away from it all without the impact.

To respond to these aspirations and new trends in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes we are looking to focus our attention on sustainable tourism which respects the environment, one which is attentive towards a redistributive economy harmoniously divided among areas, and which recreates links between inhabitants and tourists: with, for example, stays based around major routes or green cycleways which bring us back to nature using a slow tourism approach.

Enjoying lots of different activities at a holiday location also means you can make the most of the features in different ways.

People can stretch themselves and discover things about themselves by enjoying one or more activities or by taking part in one of the various events organised during their stays.

**Nicolas Daragon**  
President of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Tourism

**Lionel Flasseur**  
Managing Director of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Tourism



Europe's

LARGEST PLAYGROUND

**Pensive travellers,  
nature lovers,  
fans of light activities,  
adrenaline addicts or  
adventure enthusiasts,  
everyone has their place  
in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.**

From Mont Blanc, the top of the Alps at 4,810 m, to the volcanic craters of the Chaîne des Puys, by way of fields of lavender and forests of three-hundred-year-old oak trees, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes welcomes you for your outdoor activities.

With friends, as a family, on your own or alongside a guide, in discovery mode or on an intense expedition, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes' diverse outdoor activities are adapted to everyone: hiking trails or paths to discover with the family, cycling routes, breathtaking locations for hurling yourself into the water or taking to the skies!



## EUROPE'S LARGEST PLAYGROUND



### A CYCLING PARADISE

People often come from far away to cycle the routes of the Tour de France and climb the mountain passes. Road bikes rule supreme here, and the amazing views usually reward the effort. Cycling is a pleasure that is in fact enjoyed throughout the region, around lakes, alongside the Rhône, on the plateaux and the roads of Auvergne. Mountain biking fans will also be able to really make the most of things. All sorts of mountain biking centres and areas are set up throughout the region, featuring marked circuits and adapted services and equipment.



### WATERSPORTS

Mesmerised by lakes? Travel along their shores and dive into the blue water! With its four large Alpine lakes (Geneva, Le Bourget, Annecy and Aiguebelette) and the volcanic lakes of Auvergne, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is the number one region for bathing locations away from the coast.



### GET THOSE TRAINERS ON

Our region is criss-crossed by a very dense network of marked trails. From strolling through the vineyards with the family to trekking in the mountains, depending on the duration and difficulty level required, it's up to you to decide. And for trail running enthusiasts, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is a hotspot. This means that any trail is a good reason for getting those trainers on to get away, run and reach those summits!



# Outdoor TOURING

**Touring holidays are a growing economic phenomenon. Whether it's on foot, by bike or on horseback, it is drawing new customers from France and elsewhere.**

With theme-based trails and sports-based routes, everything is possible in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes!

**- A spiritual aspect?**

Set off on St James' Way or in the footsteps of the Huguenots.

**- Getting back to basics?**

Cross the Cévennes with a donkey, à la Robert Louis Stevenson!

**- A lighter touch?**

Head for the Routes de la Lavande and find out all there is to know about this extraordinary plant.

**- Keen on more energetic alternatives?**

Some of our exclusive major routes are perfect for a spot of adventure, and these include the Tour du Mont-Blanc, the Grande Traversée des Alpes via the GR®5, the Grande Traversée du Jura, the Grande Traversée du Massif Central, the Chemins du Soleil and the Route des Grandes Alpes.

Thousands of kilometres, gorgeous views, a huge range of landscapes to travel through over 3 days or 3 weeks on foot, by bike or by electric-assist mountain bike!



## OUTDOOR TOURING



### ST JAME'S WAY

The Via Gebennensis (Geneva route) takes you from the east to the Puy-en-Velay Way (Via Podiensis). From the peaks here, the path affords fantastic views towards the Alps, the Jura, the Rhone Valley and the Parc Naturel Régional du Pilat, before ending at Mont Meygal and the high plateaux of the Haute-Loire. Leaving from Le Puy-en-Velay, the Haute-Loire stages are some of the most astonishing of the route. An irresistible invitation to embark on the legendary Via Podiensis.

If you don't have much time, a few nice weekends will give you a quick taste of some symbolic locations that are steeped in history. Discover the Via Arverna, which few people follow. Leaving from Clermont-Ferrand, its wild route crosses southern Auvergne with its Romanesque churches, before criss-crossing through Haute-Auvergne, with a section passing through the mountains of Cantal at an altitude of 1700 metres, with amazing views. [www.via-compostela.com](http://www.via-compostela.com)

#### Holiday suggestions

##### **Santiago de Compostela in your sights**

Walking the Via Gebennensis at your own pace from Lake Geneva

Hike of 7 days / 6 nights and upwards

[www.lapelerine.com](http://www.lapelerine.com)

### LA GRANDE TRAVERSEE DU MASSIF CENTRAL (GTMC)

In 2018, the Grande Traversée du Massif Central (or GTMC for those in the know) has a new look to the delight of mountain biking experts and novices alike, not to mention the increasing numbers of people turning to electric-assist mountain bikes.

This new version, 1,380 km in length and marked throughout, as well as accredited by the Fédération Française de Cyclisme (FFC), stretches along the whole of the Massif Central from north to south, and is ranked as one of the longest mountain biking routes in France.

Linking the major lakes of Morvan in Burgundy to the warm sands of the Mediterranean, this route is suitable for both athletic types as well as people who just enjoy discovering new places.

[www.la-gtmc.com](http://www.la-gtmc.com)

#### Holiday suggestions

##### **From the volcanoes of Auvergne to la Margeride by electric-assist mountain bike**

Electric-assist mountain biking at your own pace

5 days / 4 nights

[www.languedoc-nature.com/fr/](http://www.languedoc-nature.com/fr/)



### WALKING THE GRANDE TRAVERSEE DES ALPES (GR®5)

The Grande Traversée des Alpes via the GR® 5 from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean is one of the loveliest hiking trails in the world. From the lush shorelines beside Lake Geneva to the snow-capped peaks, from the mountain pastures of Savoie to the hilltop villages of the Alpes Maritimes, you have 620 km of routes in which to acquaint yourself with the varied landscape of the Alps. (3 to 4 weeks of walking required to do the whole thing).

#### Holiday suggestions

##### **La Grande Traversée des Alpes: from Evian to Chamonix**

Walking at your own pace

7 days / 6 nights

[www.arcanson.com](http://www.arcanson.com)



## OUTDOOR TOURING



### LES GRANDES TRAVERSEES DU JURA

Les Grandes Traversées du Jura (GTJ) include various treks via the pastureland, valleys, ridges and forests of the mountains of the Jura, in the heart of the Parc Naturel du Haut-Jura.

These GTJ are divided into 6 types, meaning people can choose from 6 different means of travel: in summer, this means on foot, by mountain bike, by bicycle or on horseback, while in winter it's cross-country skiing, snow shoeing or backcountry skiing through the mountains of the Jura.

These GTJ are open to all, and are a great way to try hikes lasting several days, with all sorts of options:

a «mini-break» package lasting 2 or 3 days, a station-to-station package, different difficulty levels by sector etc.

More than 150 hosts have joined the GTJ network to provide high-quality accommodation and pleasant stays along the Grandes Traversées du Jura.



### SUR LES PAS DES HUGUENOTS

"Sur les pas des Huguenots" is a European cultural hiking route which closely follows the historic exile route of the Huguenots, after the Edict of Nantes (1685-1690) was revoked. The French section of this circuit begins at the Musée du Protestantisme Dauphinois in Poët-Laval, and continues through various valleys before reaching Isère. Between Grenoble and Chambéry, it winds through a section of the Chartreuse massif for a total distance of 374 km.

#### Holiday suggestions

##### Hiking with a pack donkey from Dieulefit to Die (Drôme)

Walking at your own pace - Touring Stay

7 days / 6 nights

[www.vercors-escapade.com](http://www.vercors-escapade.com)

#### Holiday suggestions

##### Hiking on the Grande Traversée du Jura

6 days / 5 nights / 5 days of hiking

[www.gite-jura-inuits.com](http://www.gite-jura-inuits.com)



### LES CHEMINS DU SOLEIL

When the snow disappears, the Chemins du Soleil provide 2 countryside options for crossing the Prealps by mountain bike: from the Rhône Valley to the Southern Alps and from the Vercors to Provence. Recognised by the Fédération Française de Cyclisme (FFC), this lovely, long-distance mountain biking trail usually takes 5 to 7 days. But its challenging features shouldn't put off people who prefer a gentler pace, as the various accommodation options you'll find along the route mean it can be done in several stages, so you can take the time to discover a region, its inhabitants and some amazing landscapes.

#### Holiday suggestions

##### Mountain biking from Grenoble to Sisteron

45 to 70 km of cycling per day

Electric-assist bikes available to book

[www.velorizons.com](http://www.velorizons.com)

## OUTDOOR TOURING

### CYCLEWAYS - GREENWAYS

Calling all lovers of the two-wheeler: prepare to explore a "condensed corner of France". With Alpine panoramas, picturesque villages, riverbanks, vineyards, volcanoes and lavender fields, stretching across some 2480 km of itineraries, you will be spoilt for choice. There is something for everyone, whether it's cycleways via mostly quiet secondary roads shared with vehicles, or greenways dedicated exclusively to cyclists and non-motorised means of transport.

#### **ViaRhôna, from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean:**

The Via Rhôna is a 815 km greenway, most of which follows the path of the Rhône, offering cyclists the chance to explore diverse landscapes and exceptional cities such as Lyon, Valence and Avignon, before finally reaching Port-Saint-Louis (Bouches du Rhône) or Sète, depending on the itinerary chosen [www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)



#### **Le Guide du Routard**

In March 2019 the ViaRhôna Guide du Routard is being published as an addition to the collection of guides devoted to bike touring in France by Le Routard, in association with France Vélo Tourisme.

This guide comes in response to a strong interest among the public in touring and increases the visibility of ViaRhôna throughout France



#### **Via Fluvia, V73 cycleway from the Loire to the Rhône:**

a route that covers a distance of 120 km linking the Loire to the Rhône. [www.viafluvia.fr](http://www.viafluvia.fr)

#### **The V70 in Auvergne, along the River Allier:**

this route, which will eventually connect the Eurovélo 6 (southern Nevers) to the Mediterranean, passes through Auvergne from north to south for a distance of 230 km.

#### **The V50 - l'Echappée Bleue Moselle-Saône by bike**

links the border with Luxembourg to Lyon over a distance of over 700 kilometres along the Moselle, the Canal des Vosges and the Saône. It will eventually connect with the ViaRhôna in Lyon.

#### **The V62/V63:**

This runs along the Sillon Alpin before passing through the Isère and the Drôme for a distance of 112 km. This provides an alternative, in the heart of the Alpes Dauphinoises, to the ViaRhôna route.

[www.isere-tourisme.com/veloroute-voie-verte-vallee-de-lisere](http://www.isere-tourisme.com/veloroute-voie-verte-vallee-de-lisere)

**The V61** passes through the Mont-Blanc region.

#### **La Dolce Via**

90 km of gentle, safe and landscaped pathways through huge areas of nature in the Ardèche. Accessible from the ViaRhôna, this option is specially suitable for trekking.

[www.dolce-via.com/fr/](http://www.dolce-via.com/fr/)

### Suggestions for your Stay

#### **With the family on ViaRhôna between Vienne and Montélimar**

Select one of the loveliest sections of the route between the ancient city of Vienne and Montélimar, at the gateway to Provence.

**5 days / 4 nights**

[www.safrantours.com](http://www.safrantours.com)

#### **Getaway with the family on Via Fluvia**

Set sail for the Via Fluvia and a wonderful variation on your return, via the GR long-distance footpaths and pretty roads.

**6 days / 5 nights**

[www.viafluvia.fr](http://www.viafluvia.fr)

#### **On the northern section of ViaRhôna, leaving from Seyssel**

This circuit snakes its way between the Rhône, the mountains of the Savoie foreland, the Bugey and Dauphiné, and the Dombes, before reaching Lyon, capital city of the Gauls and also the city of two rivers, the Saône and the Rhône.

**7 days / 6 nights**

[www.grandangle.fr](http://www.grandangle.fr)





*Outdoor*

**VERSION SPORTS ADDICTS**

From the Northern Alps to the eastern section of the Massif Central, to the foothills of the Jura, the region offers an unrivalled diversity when it comes to mountain scenery, for people looking for activities that are lively in all directions! Brave that rock, enjoy that water and take to the skies above the Alpine lakes: your adventures await you!

## **VERTICAL AND AERIAL ADVENTURES**

Alpine climbing could find no better home than at the foot of Western Europe's highest summit. Dominated by Mont Blanc and its dizzying belt of rocky behemoths, Chamonix has become the world capital for a discipline largely made popular in the Alps, where sheer faces, icefalls and summits to be conquered abound. For those who want to go even further, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes offers astonishing subterranean excursions in the Fier and Loire gorges, or deep within the Choranche and Balme caves. Thrill seekers can enjoy hanging on a zip line over Lac de Hauteville, 100 m above Anse valley in Livradois-Forez, or simply staring into the void at Les Aravis at the end of an elastic cord, defying the laws of gravity. Even higher above terra firma, paragliders can be seen unfurling their multi-coloured sails to fly above Saint-Hilaire du Touvet and Lac d'Annecy or soaring close to the rounded summits of the Chaîne des Puys, in the vain hope of getting closer to the sun, like the passengers of a hot air balloon floating in the sky above the volcanoes of Auvergne.

### **Holiday suggestions** **Climb Mont Blanc with a guide**

**2 days of acclimatisation and 3 days' climbing,  
2 nights in a mountain refuge**  
[www.chamonix-guides.com](http://www.chamonix-guides.com)



## OUTDOOR VERSION SPORTS ADDICTS

### TRAIL RUNNING

Whether on the shores of a lake, deep within the mountains, in the heart of the countryside or even in a city, every trail provides a good reason to slip on your running shoes, get away from it all and discover new scenery! Enthusiasts of this ever-more popular discipline can now enjoy a wide variety of dedicated routes whatever their ability or aspirations. The Espace Trail du Puy Mary in the Cantal region proposes 23 itineraries and 364 km of trails in the vicinity of Europe's highest volcano. In Saint-Pierre de Chartreuse, home of the first Trail Raidlight destination, and in Haut-Bugey, Haute-Ardèche and Beaujolais, you will find many trails and services tailored for trail runners (showers, maps, changing rooms, etc.).

#### Holiday suggestions

##### Stage Trail & Yoga in Aix-Les-Bains

4 days of sport and wellbeing in the mountains  
[www.antecimes.fr](http://www.antecimes.fr)



### WHITE WATER

For people who just love white water, the Gorges de l'Ardèche and Pont d'Arc are among the top destinations for white-water sports, boasting an astonishing 30 km downstream route for canoes and kayaks in an environment that is particularly well preserved.

In Auvergne, the Gorges de l'Allier await: in these deep ravines between Le Velay and Margeride lies one of Europe's last truly wild rivers. And if it's Alpine valleys you're after, enthusiasts of rafting, riverboarding and canyoning can enjoy the turbulent currents of the Giffre or Arve rivers.

#### Holiday suggestions

##### Multi-activity weekend (canyoning and Via Corda) in the superb Vercors Massif

2 days / 1 night  
[www.espace-evasion.fr](http://www.espace-evasion.fr)

### THE PASSES OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Fancy the idea of fascinating cycling holidays, outdoing yourself and climbing to the heart of some wonderful scenery? Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is home to legendary passes which are regularly visited by the Tour de France peloton!

#### Holiday suggestions

##### La Route des Grandes Alpes, from Thonon to Menton

8 days / 7 nights by bike  
[www.velorizons.com](http://www.velorizons.com)





THE TERRITOIRES D'EXCELLENCE  
*de pleine nature*



Various areas are turning their tourist development towards outdoor activities. Alongside our own region, they are developing the alternatives on offer and promising revitalising yet active stays: that is the Territoires d'Excellence de Pleine Nature.

New clients are looking for fun activities that are easy and accessible but nonetheless thrilling and sensational. Outdoor activities should be seen as an experience but without any notion of commitment or progress. Holidays take on meaning when they involve sharing emotions, experiences and excitement.



## THE TERRITOIRES D'EXCELLENCE DE PLEINE NATURE

### ALLIER

In the region of the **Vallée de Montluçon et du Cher** the three hundred-year-old oak trees of the Tronçais forest make for the perfect backdrop for some yoga.

The **Val de Sioule** is renowned by enthusiasts for its fly fishing.

### ARDECHE/ DRÔME

In the northern Ardèche, **Ardèche Hermitage, Porte de Dromardèche** and la **Montagne Ardéchoise** have been hosting a festive sports event for 28 years: the Ardéchoise. Holidaymakers are free to have a go on its circuits as they choose. Between the river and the mountains, **Valence Romans** lies alongside the Rhône, and forms a highlight of the ViaRhôna. A wide range of paths looking out over the river, tributary and canals make it a place to explore on foot or by bike.

### ISERE

The Lac de Paladru is home to 5 beaches with turquoise water between Lyon and Grenoble. **The Pays Voironnais** also has 350 km of mountain biking routes, a trail running area and a greenway along the shores of the lake for active holidays.

### CANTAL

Awarded regional nature reserve status in 2018, the **Aubrac** is a region of vast open spaces stretching away into the distance, and is the perfect place for a bit of ruminative hiking.

**Le puy Mary - Volcan du Cantal** is listed as a Grand Site de France®, reaching a height of 1758 metres, and forms the heart of one of the largest trail running areas in France.

### LOIRE

Mountain bikes, bicycles, long-distance routes and greenways; whether you're being energetic or just relaxing, you can enjoy all versions of cycling in the **Pilat**.

In the **Roannais** region, fine food is a major feature, but it also offers outdoor leisure activities whatever the time of year.

In close conjunction with the Ambert - Crêtes-du-Forez region, the **Monts du Forez** also has activities available throughout the year, especially around the resort of Chalmazel.

### HAUTE-LOIRE

In the heart of **Le Velay**, the town of Le Puy-en-Velay is famed as the departure point for St James' Way, as well as the epicentre of a wild area of countryside bordered by the **Gorges de la Loire** and the **Haut-Allier**. Its two rivers mean whitewater sports are an option within a protected area of nature.

### PUY-DE-DÔME

Close to **Ambert-Crêtes-du-Forez** lie some little towns and villages that have retained all their authenticity. This is why the resort of Prabouré has fitted an amazing zip line in the heart of this multi-activity resort.

Reaching a height of 1886 m, the Puy de Sancy is the highest point of the Massif Central. With 650 km of marked trails, all sorts of hikes and a wide range of summer and winter activities can be enjoyed in the Massif du **Sancy**, including trail running, climbing, Via Ferrata, bathing, cyclotourism and mountain biking, downhill and Nordic skiing etc.

Recognised by UNESCO as an exceptional geological location, the volcanoes of Auvergne offer all hikers gorgeous views as far as the eye can see. The Puy de Dôme, which is the most famous of these sleeping giants, and with official Grand Site de France® status, is 1465 metres high. At the gateway to the Massif du Sancy and the Chaîne des Puys, **Aydat - Pessade** has watersports activities available and is positioned as a genuine playground for the urban area of Clermont-Ferrand.

**Terra Volcana**, bordered to the east by the mountains of Le Forez and to the west by the Chaîne des Puys, offers a multitude of amazing panoramas, perfect for discovering it all on foot, by bike or trail running.

### RHÔNE

The **Monts du Lyonnais** are a real oasis of greenery in the heart of the triangle formed by Lyon, Saint-Etienne and Roanne. And the **Beaujolais Vert** is home to Europe's largest natural swimming pool at the Lac des Sapins activity area.



### Holiday suggestions

#### Along the Ardéchoise circuit

From 2 to 7 days

[www.ardeche-hermitage.com](http://www.ardeche-hermitage.com)



#### A family trip amongst the volcanoes

Guided hikes with a donkey

6 days / 5 nights

[www.chamina-voyages.com](http://www.chamina-voyages.com)



## REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO HELP DEVELOP OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**Each year, the Regional Council invests €37.5 million in tourism.  
Its objective: to promote our holiday destinations**

These initiatives relate, among other things, to outdoor activities and mountainous areas.  
Here are some examples of projects that have received support:

### **MULTI-DAY TRIPS: PLANS FOR CYCLE ROUTES AND GREENWAYS**

The Regional Council set an objective of 200 km covering 6 priority routes in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. 62 km have been completed since 2016 with regional support worth €2.2 million. 70 km are due to be completed in 2019, with €6.1 million in regional funding. A further objective is to work on 200 km of green cycleways of local interest via contracts with local authorities, making a total of around 120 km to have received support since 2016, representing €4.87 million in regional support.

45 projects are also being supported to make green cycleways available to tourists with the total amount of subsidies worth €1,975,512, generating €9,104,589 in investment.

### **MONTAGNE 4 SAISONS**

**Since the beginning of its mandate, the Regional Council has supported mountainous areas in developing the Montagne 4 Saisons project, worth a total of €5.3 million in subsidies for €20.3 million of investment.**

#### **Destination Pilat**

#### **Construction of a white water leisure activity centre in Saint-Pierre-de-Bœuf**

This leisure centre at the foot of the Parc Naturel Régional du Pilat and near the ViaRhôna is dedicated to white water sports: rafting, kayaking, white water swimming, paddle boarding, etc. With the longest artificial river in France (700 m), this facility offers beginners and pros alike an opportunity for adventure.

**Project cost: €139,100; regional subsidy: €41,730**

#### **Construction of enduro and cross-country trails in the Haute-Maurienne-Vanoise region**

With the aim of diversifying, the Haute-Maurienne-Vanoise region intends to develop its mountain biking activities to compensate for the fact that only one seasonal activity is currently on offer (skiing or hiking). This initiative also contributes to the objective of La Maurienne to develop cycling throughout the valley, in particular by promoting the "Maurienne, plus grand domaine cyclable du Monde" brand.

**Project cost: €303,000; regional subsidy: €71,200**

#### **Creation of a 4-seasons outdoor activity centre at the Col de la Faucille, a mid-altitude ski resort in the Ain department.**

From recreational facilities on the ski slopes and individual sleds for hire to scooters and a zip line specially designed for children, the 4-seasons outdoor activity centre at the Col de la Faucille promises fun times for everyone.

**Project cost: €1,000,175; regional subsidy: €115,000**

#### **Design, construction and implementation of a tourist hiking trail in the Bourne valley – Vercors**

The Route des Gorges de la Bourne, a spectacular and dizzyingly high itinerary, awarded 3 stars by the Michelin guide, is the longest of the typical trails found in the Vercors region. It is 24 km long and links Pont-en-Royans to Villard-de-Lans. A trail requiring several days' walking has been opened, running along the River Bourne from Saint Just de-Claix to Rencurel to create a link between the Isère Valley (Saint-Nazaire en Royans) and the Vercors Plateau (Méaudre). The objective was to enable operators in the sector to develop a new and innovative offer for tourists.

**Project cost: €600,000; regional subsidy: €234,000**



## REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO HELP DEVELOP OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

### PLEINE NATURE

Since 2017, 58 "Pleine Nature" projects have received support worth a total of €2.1 million in subsidies for €8.9 million of investment.

#### Construction of a zip line with turns at Mont-Dore

The Société des Remontées Mécaniques du Mont-Dore, which manages the Mont-Dore resort as a delegated public service in cooperation with the Mont-Dore municipality, wanted to diversify its offer and continue to operate throughout all four seasons, following three successive winters with low levels of snowfall. The project involved building a 700 m long zip line complete with turns, offering visitors a fun and thrilling activity over the River Dordogne. It is expected to open in June 2019 for the summer season.

**Project cost: €650,000; regional subsidy: €50,000.**

#### Tronçais Aventures: electric fat tyre scooters in the Tronçais forest

The Tronçais forest is an exceptional location and has been awarded national "Forêt d'exception" certification. The acquisition of a fleet of 17 fat tyre scooters enables visitors to explore the forest in all seasons, with guided tours and the possibility of covering significant distances over hilly terrain without the need for any practice or athletic ability. This activity is therefore suitable for a wide range of visitors, from age 10 upwards.

**Project cost: €51,509; regional subsidy: €10,301**

#### construction of a walkway and path at Le Saut du Chien in Aurec-sur-Loire

Near the Gorges de la Loire leisure activity centre, this project involves building a walkway overhanging the River Loire at Le Saut du Chien, running along the rocky cliff face between Aurec-sur-Loire and Malvalette. The aim of this initiative is to offer an easy yet spectacular walk in close proximity to the River Loire and its tributaries.

**Project cost: €229,029; regional subsidy: €68,709**

#### Creation of a permanent trail running resort on the site of le Puy Mary

This project was proposed by the Syndicat Mixte du Puy Mary and was based on the desire to develop and structure the practice of trail running by providing enthusiasts with a safe and adapted environment. The proposed itineraries will be made available via a mobile app.

**Project cost: €51,977; regional subsidy: €15,593**

[www.puymary.fr](http://www.puymary.fr)

## EVENTS DIARY



### RAID VTT LES CHEMINS DU SOLEIL 30 MAY - 2 JUNE

This mountain biking route from the Drôme to Gap is intended to promote the permanent Chemins du Soleil route. As well as a sporty option (a climb of 7500 metres), there is also an option for exploring the route over a period of 3 days.  
[www.raid-vtt.fr](http://www.raid-vtt.fr)

### O'BIVWAK ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL 8 JUNE

Whether in endurance or trail running mode, O'Bivwak, start in La Chapelle-en-Vercors, guarantees 2 days of an adventure like no other with one night spent beneath the stars!  
<https://obivwak.net/>



### ULTRA TRAIL DU PUY MARY (CANTAL) 15 JUNE

Between 16 and 105 km in length, 2000 keen runners will be racing along the ridges of some of the loveliest landscapes in Cantal!

[www.utpma.fr](http://www.utpma.fr)



### L'ARDECHOISE 19-22 JUNE

L'Ardéchoise is the world's biggest mountain cyclo sportive. Several options are available to suit all abilities: from racers to touring riders and daytrippers to young or disabled participants, with packages ranging from 1 to 4 days.

[www.ardechoise.com](http://www.ardechoise.com)

### 2019 TOUR DE FRANCE JULY

This year 6 stages of the Tour will take place in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes:

- 13 July: Mâcon - Saint-Etienne 199 km
- 14 July: Saint-Etienne - Brioude 170 km
- 15 July: Saint-Flour - Albi 218 km
- 25 July: Embrun - Valloire 207 km
- 26 July: Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne - Tignes 123 km
- 27 July: Albertville - Val-Thorens 131 km.

The three Alpine stages will involve a gruelling succession of mountain passes and summits: Vars, Izoard, Galibier, Madeleine, Iseran, Tignes, Cormet de Roselend, Notre-Dame-du-Pré and Val Thorens.

[www.letour.fr](http://www.letour.fr)

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Tourisme - 2019

### TOUR DU MONT-BLANC CYCLO 20 JULY 2019

This event is a reference in the world of ultra-distance races. Participants must endure 330 km, climb 8,000 m and test their limits to the extreme. The course runs along high mountain roads, travelling over passes at an altitude of more than 2,000 m. It is more of a test than a race, meaning there is no final classification.

[www.letourdumontblanc.com](http://www.letourdumontblanc.com)

### IRONMAN DE VICHY 25 AUGUST

Attracting the largest number of long-distance triathletes in the region, in the heart of Vichy, known as the "Queen of the spa resorts".

[www.ironman.com](http://www.ironman.com)

### ULTRA TRAIL DU MONT BLANC - CHAMONIX 26 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER

The UTMB® is the ultimate trail running event!

An unmissable occasion for trail runners from all over the world. Every year, the world's trail running elite gather at Chamonix together with around 8,000 of the keenest runners, to take part in one of the 5 races of the event.

[utmbmontblanc.com](http://utmbmontblanc.com)



## AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE REGION



### BY PLANE:

- Lyon-Saint-Exupéry international airport: [www.lyonaeroports.com](http://www.lyonaeroports.com)
  - Geneva international airport: [www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)
  - Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne international airport: [www.clermont-aeroport.com](http://www.clermont-aeroport.com)
- Two airports for the winter season:
- Chambéry Savoie airport: [www.chambery-airport.com](http://www.chambery-airport.com)
  - Grenoble Isère airport: [www.grenoble-airport.com](http://www.grenoble-airport.com)



### BY TRAIN:

International transport services – High-speed trains:

- Thalys and TGV from Brussels to Lyon: 3hrs 45mins
- TGV from Geneva to Lyon: 1hr 45mins
- TGV: Paris-Lyon: 2hrs (30 TGVs daily)

International lines: [www.oui.sncf](http://www.oui.sncf)  
Regional express trains: [www.ter.sncf.com/auvergne-rhone-alpes](http://www.ter.sncf.com/auvergne-rhone-alpes)



### BY ROAD:

More than 1300 km of motorway make Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes one of the most easily accessible regions in France.  
[www.viamichelin.fr](http://www.viamichelin.fr)



**Auvergne  
Rhône-Alpes**  
Tourisme

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**FOTOS: [phototheque.auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](http://phototheque.auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)**

**Download our outdoor map**

**<http://pro.auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com>**

