

AUVERGNE  
RHÔNE-ALPES  
**2024**

**MOUNTAIN  
DIARY**



**A TOUT  
FRANCE**  
Agence de développement  
touristique de la France  
Partenaire

French  
**ALPS**



Auvergne  
Rhône-Alpes  
Tourisme



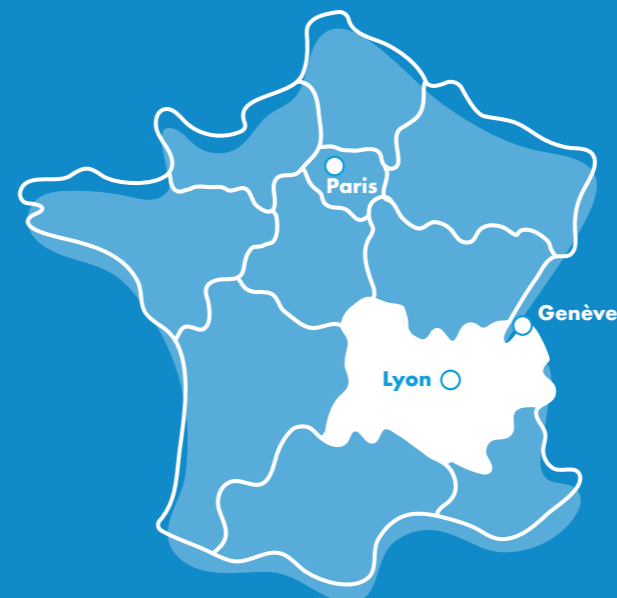
# THE WORLD'S NR.1 REGION for WINTER SPORTS

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 2023, including flights from Doha, Bilbao, Florence, Hamburg, Funchal, Birmingham, Liverpool, Cork, Manchester and more.



### 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

## FRENCH ALPS 2030

### OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES 2030

#### THE OLYMPIC DREAM DRAWS CLOSER!

The French Alps candidate, headed by the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur alongside the Comité National Olympique et Sportif français (France's National Olympic Committee), has been selected by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to enter into "targeted dialogue" for the organizing of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030.

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, covering the heart of the French Alps, has helped create some of the finest moments in the history of winter sports, having already hosted three editions of the Winter Olympics, including the very first one, in Chamonix in 1924, then those in Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992.

A new chapter in this history begins this December 2023 – the French Alps, sole candidate invited to enter into targeted dialogue with the IOC with a view to organizing the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030, is in fact the only candidate put through to the IOC's final selection, before the official attribution of the Olympic Winter Games is announced in summer 2024.

So, the Olympic dream is within our grasp, bringing together all those who love our mountains and all the energy of our regional partners, committed to organizing the most environmentally-friendly winter games, proving responsible and sustainable both in ecological and economic terms.

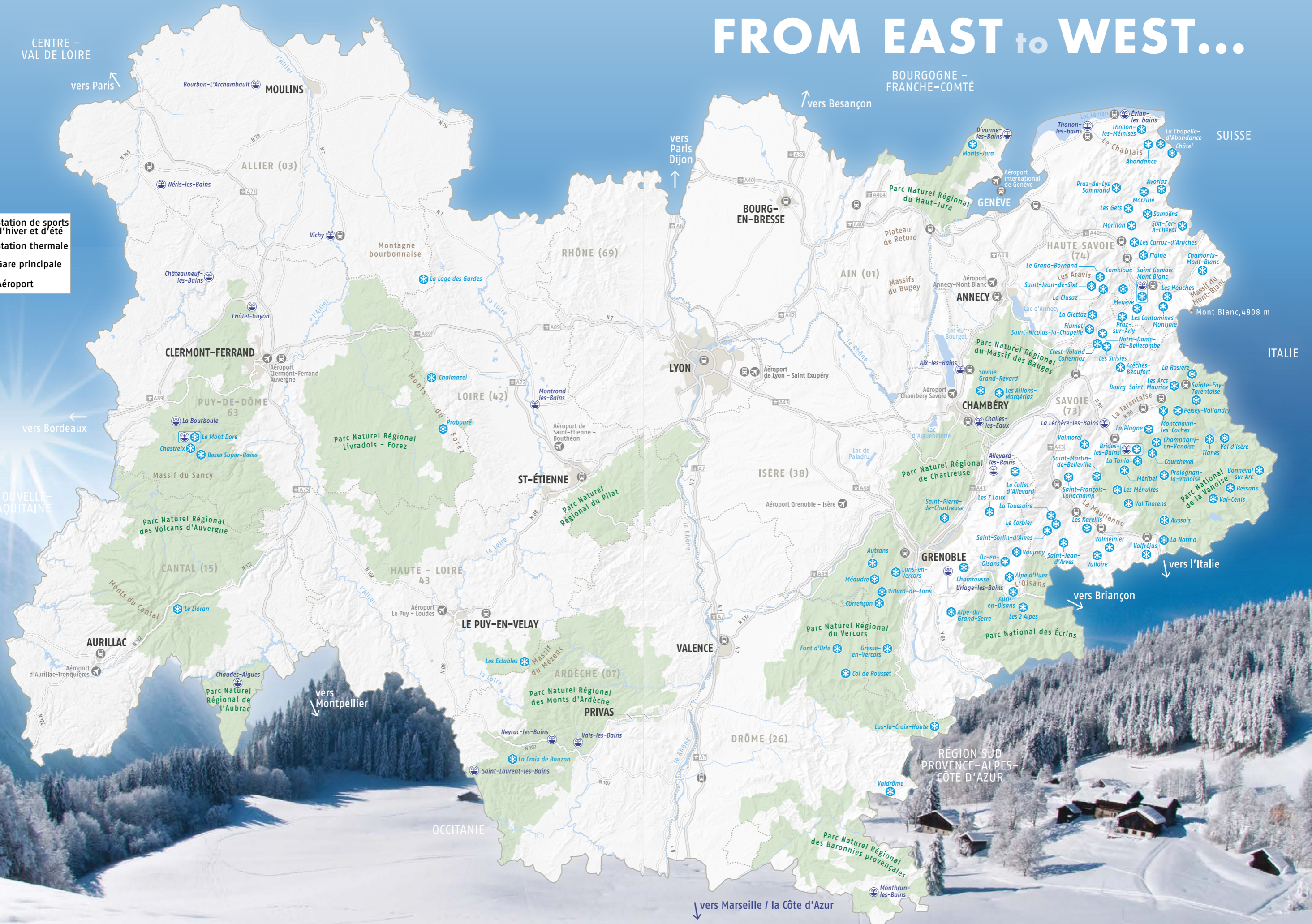
Of note: 95% of the sites planned for use in the Olympic Winter Games 2030 already exist. Many date back to the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics. This has proved a major asset for the candidacy of the French Alps, aiming to organize games that set the way for the future, demonstrating how winter sports in the mountains can become increasingly sustainable.

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

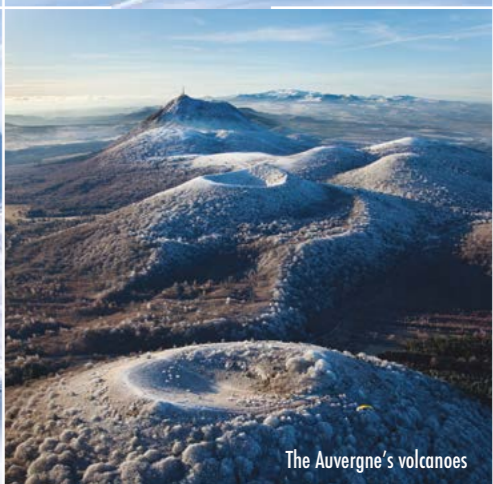


# FROM EAST to WEST...

-  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!

- **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 unspoilt 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, unspoilt 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!



Eating out on the terrace of a high-altitude restaurant



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.

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



Airboarding, tackling the slopes in a novel way





## OUR MOUNTAINS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES



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



**F**or 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.



# MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS



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

**A**cross 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!

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







## 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 fireplace back in 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: at **Megève**, the iconic Christmas tree is magical; the night-time trail, **Alta Lumina**, at **Les Gets**, is enchanting; 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, as well as the musical light show of "Magic Avenue". In each of our ski resorts, Christmas means festivities to make your winter holidays unforgettable.

### A Christmas that's 100% car-free in the ski resort of Avoriaz

Avoriaz boasts of being the only French ski resort that's 100% pedestrianized as well as snow-covered at Christmas. Sample its unique way of life. Leave your vehicle in the car park and forget about it! Ski to the boulangerie, go shopping by toboggan and get around by horse-sleighs, exceptional local taxis. Don't miss to take part in taxi races or embark on a sleigh tour to visit the town! The Christmas ambiance in Avoriaz with sleighs running up and down the streets is unique, taking you definitely back to childhood dreams!



## SKI CLEVER!

Clever payment and pricing innovations have been put in place in our ski resorts. From hourly passes, activated as soon as you get on a chair lift, to smart checkouts, via modular packages covering either small ski areas, large ski areas, or several ski areas at once, plus the facility to extend your ski package coverage online, all manner of options now exist. With 175-plus ski resorts across Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, everyone can find the perfect option, skiing clever, making the most of the largest choice of ski areas in the world.

### Travel sustainably with Go Savoie Mont-Blanc

A booking platform for door-to-door multi-modal transport solutions, "Go Savoie Mont-Blanc" allows customers to tailor their own route to many of our ski resorts. Choose from the most sustainable way (the smallest carbon footprint option comes up first), the fastest way or the cheapest way, combining, in one basket, with just one payment, the best means of transport to reach your destination. This app has been improved recently to also allow holiday-makers to reserve transport towards the region's valleys and lakeside destinations.

### A new app for L'Alpe d'Huez

This winter, this ski resort and its ski area are bringing out a new app, "Alpe d'Huez", with a new design and novel

features. Maps, chair lift opening hours, a calendar of events... these details will still be easily available, but the new interface will offer further benefits. For example, you can personalize your account, from your resort reference point to your points of interest (ex. relaxation, sport, culture, etc.), via specifying your type of group (family, friends, couple, solo). Users can thus receive more targeted notifications. It'll be possible to geolocate friends and family on the pistes and to check, in real time, on waits for chair lifts, etc. A must-have app to enjoy an exceptional experience in the area. Free to download via the Appstore or Playstore.

### Weather guarantee at Val Cenis

Val Cenis will become the first ski resort in Europe to offer a Garantie Météo, or weather guarantee, for customers buying ski packages. For the online launch of packages for the 2023-2024 season, Val Cenis will propose this innovative option, allowing you to buy a weather guarantee with your package, so protecting your skiing package from interruptions due to snow or rain. When the day's forecast indicates snow or rain for more than three hours, customers with this option will be automatically reimbursed, without having to cancel.



Activities taking you into the heart of nature.



## NEW ACTIVITIES WINTER 2023/2024

### Observing starry nights at Pralognan la Vanoise

Keen to learn about the sky at night? Identify stars, planets and constellations in a fun way, Thierry's presentations making use of a laser pointer. Participants will discover much more about the stars and their usage in many practical fields. After the star-gazing, learn about photographing the night sky, leaving with personalized pictures for memories of your studies of the stars. Also discover "light painting"! Lasts: 1hr 30mins. Price per person: €7. Free for under 12s. Booking essential. Further information: THIERRY DARNIS « Les Rencontres de l'Infini » E-mail : thierrydarnis@icloud.com Téléphone : 06 80 32 98 93

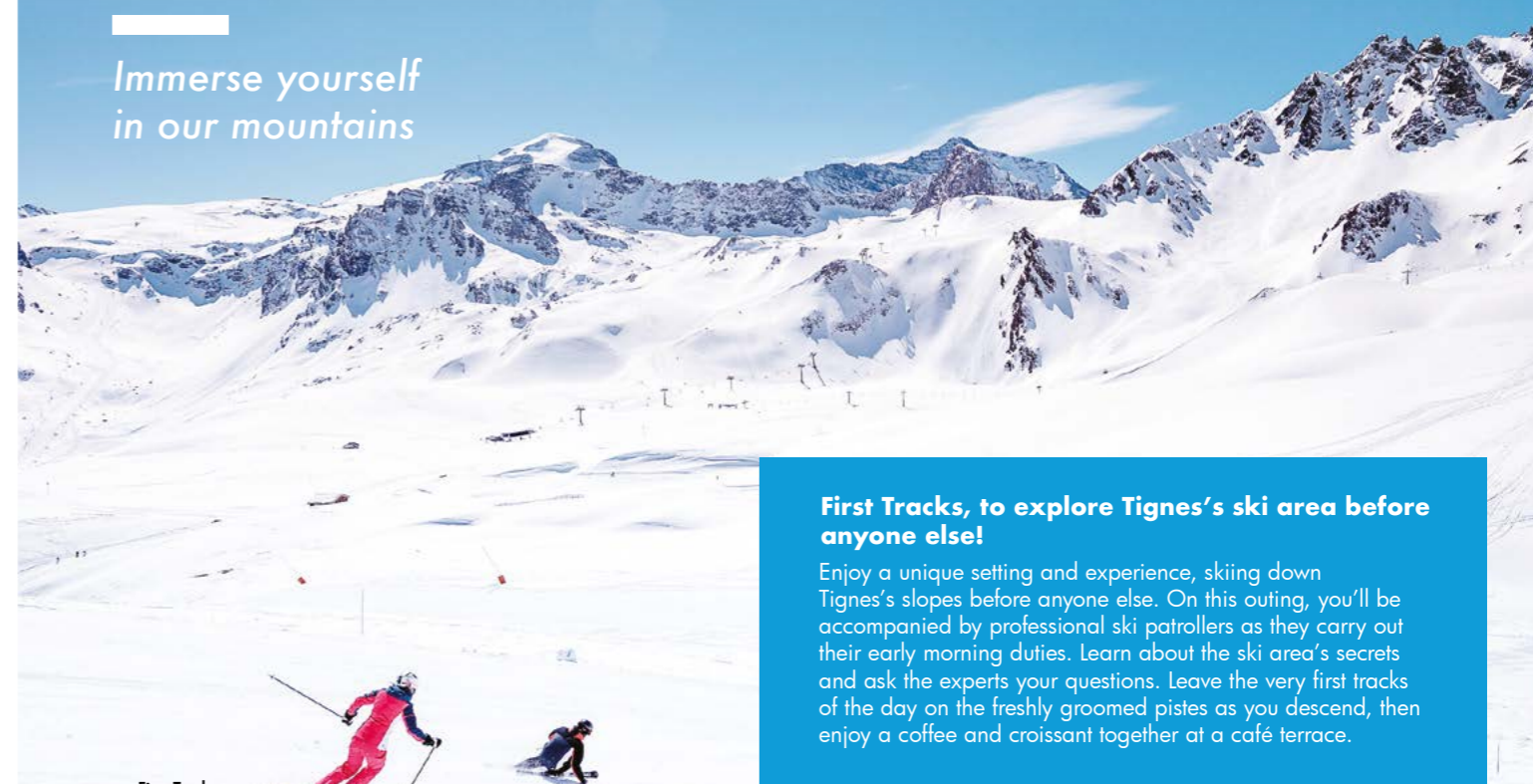
### A skiing option 100% for women with the French ski school at L'Alpe d'Huez

Some 47% of skiers in our resorts are women. With this in mind, the ESF de L'Alpe d'Huez is offering three special skiing options for women. The Ladies Camp proposes three half-days packages for women to go out with a female instructor, choosing from three levels: Progression ski – intermediate level, ideal for tackling the slopes with no complexes, neither pressure, (re)gaining confidence in skiing, plus with one evening dedicated to yoga; Précision ski – for experienced skiers, for women wishing to perfect their style, develop their confidence and take on sporting challenges to enjoy the slopes even more,



plus, to relax, one yoga evening; Multiglisses – an introduction to three activities, to discover a wider range of winter sports possibilities, from snowshoeing to cross-country skiing, with time factored in for contemplative breaks, plus a well-being experience. d'une expérience bien-être.

### Immerse yourself in our mountains



### First Tracks, to explore Tignes's ski area before anyone else!

Enjoy a unique setting and experience, skiing down Tignes's slopes before anyone else. On this outing, you'll be accompanied by professional ski patrollers as they carry out their early morning duties. Learn about the ski area's secrets and ask the experts your questions. Leave the very first tracks of the day on the freshly groomed pistes as you descend, then enjoy a coffee and croissant together at a café terrace.

First Tracks





### Starry snowshoeing & a night in an igloo in the Pays du Mont-Blanc

At Combloux, experience a memorable night out, starting by snowshoeing under the stars (c.1hr 15mins climb, with 230m shift in altitude). Next, tuck into a Savoie fondue, gathered around the pot, in a tepee. Then, fall fast sleep in an igloo (for 2 to 4 people), duvets provided. Next day at 8am, enjoy a convivial breakfast. The igloo village here consists of nine igloos – five igloos for 2 people each and two igloos for 3 / 4 people. Maximum nr of 12 to a group.

### Try out ruisseling at Les Contamines-Montjoie

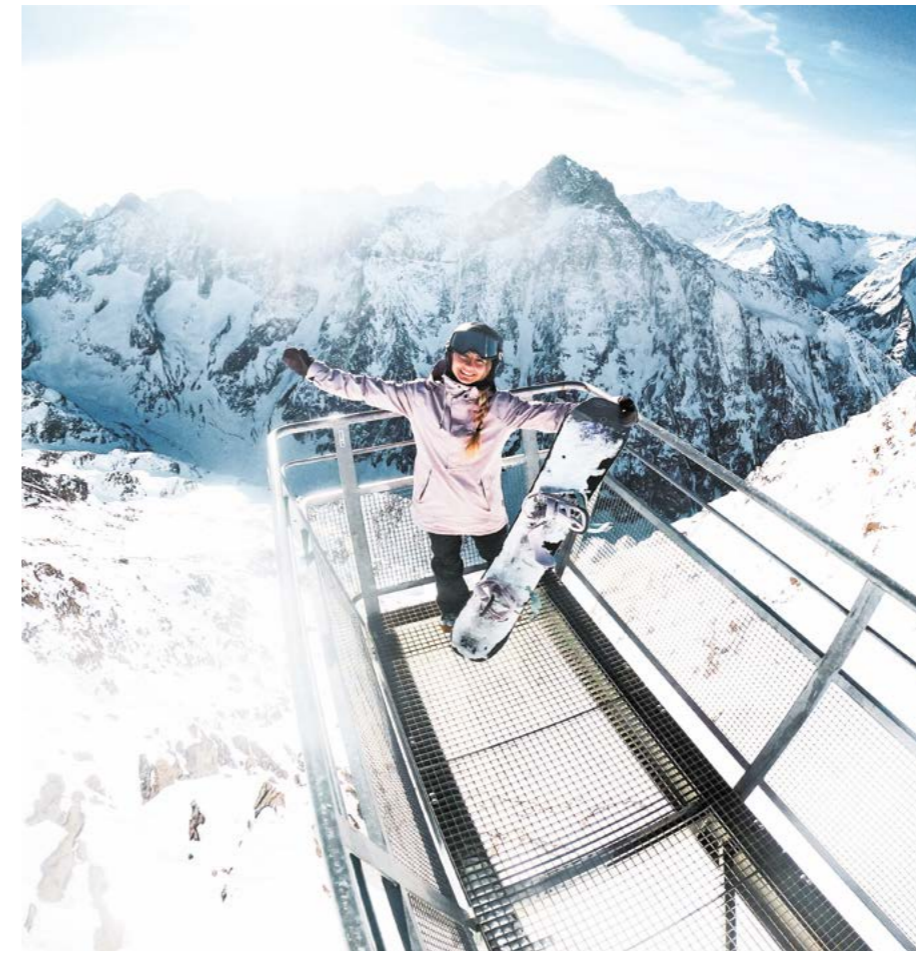
What about exploring one of our mountains from a different angle? To get as close as possible to nature, enjoying splendid, wholly unspoilt scenery in the heart of the Réserve Naturelle Nationale des Contamines (the highest such Reserve in France), try ruisseling. This winter sport, consisting of climbing up frozen streams, is attracting more and more winter sports enthusiasts. Experiencing this activity at Les Contamines-Montjoie brings out strong emotions, as you tackle unique trails that leave quite an impression! The setting is breath-taking, the landscapes untouched, nature at its most invigorating. All told, this is a magical way to enter into close contact with the environment. More than a sport, ruisseling offers an enchanting adventure. You'll be accompanied by experienced local guides who'll teach you how to use the very specific equipment required, including ice axes and crampons. This makes for an extraordinary outing that'll appeal to those who love the mountains, be they simply inquisitive or seasoned explorers.

### Snowshoeing and story-telling in the Chartreuse

At nightfall, as nature appears to have fallen asleep, Cyrille invites participants to follow him on an amazing snowshoeing walk under the stars. To immerse you further in the atmosphere, Cyrille recounts mountain stories and fantastical tales as you go along, something that appeals greatly to children, who willingly feel themselves part of the story. After the walk, everyone gathers to enjoy a hearty traditional mountain meal for a lovely end to the evening. It all makes an unforgettable experience for families. [www.chartreuse-tourisme.com](http://www.chartreuse-tourisme.com)

### Ice floating in Val d'Isère

Try a relaxation pursuit straight out of Finland by going ice floating at the Lac de l'Ouillette with the adventure school, Evolution 2. Dressed in a watertight wetsuit, slip into the icy lake to experience an extraordinary feeling of relaxation. This outdoor flotation allows you to reconnect wholeheartedly with nature, affording a unique feeling of wellbeing. At 2,513m in altitude, in the heart of a ski area, you'll feel like you're floating through the mountain landscapes!



### A contemplative high-altitude mini adventure at Les 2 Alpes

Walking on glaciers is an activity that has traditionally taken place in spring or summer (May to August), but this winter, from March on, local guides will lead walkers out over high-altitude areas, above 3,400m. Glacier hiking takes you close to great summits and gives you a taste of mountain-climbing. You may be walking at exceptional altitude, but you'll be accompanied by experts. Step out in your crampons, putting your pick axe to use immediately as you breathe in the invigorating mountain air, enjoying breath-taking views of mountain peaks all around, far from any crowds. This makes for an extraordinary, magical adventure, but it's surprising how accessible it is, with children allowed to take part from 10 years of age upwards.

### Rushing down head first at Super-Besse!

Head for Super-Besse in the Sancy Range to try out its Fantasticable giant zipwire, giving you the sensation that you're flying... 45m above the ground, enjoying breath-taking views along the 1,600m (c.1 mile) descent, dropping 250m in altitude. At the start, you get truly impressive views down on the resort. Once comfortably in your harness, you race head first along the wire, reaching up to 120kph! Accessible to over 12s, must weigh over 35 kilos.

### Horse-drawn tobogganing in the Jura Mountains

Your guide, Nicolas Guitton, wears two hats, both rearing horses on a small farm in the Valsérine Valley and acting as a trained guide in low-altitude mountains. Year-round, he can put on tours for you to discover the secrets of the Jura Range and its traditional agricultural ways. Nicolas organizes outings that take you as close as possible to nature. Experience intense moments as he leads

you out on a horse-drawn toboggan, or on a snowshoeing outing, or then on a hike. He'll guide you through the heart of the Jura Mountains, focusing on specific themes, for instance the making of Bleu de Gex cheese. For further information on the Ferme Equitable des Monts Jura: [www.paysdegex-montsjura.com](http://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com)

## HIGH TECH ZIPWIRE

First, a bit of history. We're back in the 1930s in Valloire, in July, the hay harvest in full swing. Every evening, barrels full of hay are attached to a cable for them to be sent straight down across the valley to the barns. In Valloire's collective memory, some individuals accidentally got caught on the cables and carried across the valley in rather comically precarious style, thus becoming the first, unintentional practitioners of zipwires! Each hamlet in the Valloire area set up a cable to transport the hay barrels in a much faster, easier way than before, especially as some of their hay was cut at up to 1,800m in altitude. This transport system only worked in the one direction, downwards. At the same time, though, the first cable car for skiers was being

built at Valloire, one of the very first in France, the Téléski de l'Épinette. Now, Valloire is launching the first intelligent zipwire, promising truly extraordinary sensations, with the capability for riders to increase or decrease their speed. In addition, this zipwire can recharge its electric capacity during the descent. Finally, in case of bad gusts, it has all the safety features possible to ensure users don't get stuck midway along the cable. The ride involves a 300m shift in altitude along its 1,380m length, the daring types who try it enjoying stunning 360° views. Combining technological innovation with local mountain traditions, this project creates a nice balance between contemporary and historical cultural practices, as well as taking the environment into consideration.



**Valloire is launching its high-tech, intelligent zipwire, combining tradition and innovation!**



# 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-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. 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.



### A new well-being centre in Les Contamines-Montjoie

Set right beside the natural reserve here, a new well-being centre is opening from the winter season 2023-2024, very close to many hiking trails and in the midst of nature. After time relaxing in the 5m pool, you might spend a few minutes in the hammam or the sauna before enjoying a massaging

"ciel de pluie" rainfall shower, finishing with a snack and an infusion at the tisanerie. This new complex will include a restaurant providing local produce and a lovely terrace. To chill out, there's also the large bar at which to enjoy a bite for lunch or a drink at the end of the day.

## 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)

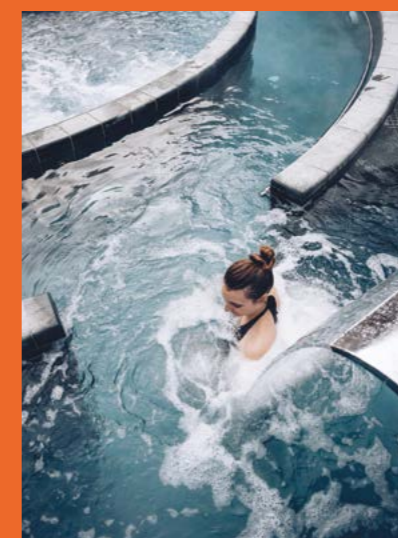
**A new cable car of note**  
The new Télécabine du Montenvers at Chamonix Mont-Blanc  
Le Montenvers is a tourist spot offering quite unique views down on the Mer de Glace glacier and up to the Drus and Grandes Jorasses peaks. It's accessible via rack-and-pinion train leaving from Chamonix, open mainly 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.*



## LES BAINS DU MONT-BLANC

Mont-Blanc's natural thermal spa waters have been exploited at the Thermes de Saint-Gervais for the last 200 years and more. Saint-Gervais can boast of being the only high-altitude thermal spa resort in the Alps, its thermal spa centre now named Les Bains du Mont-Blanc. Inside, you're led on a sensory voyage of exploration, the trail through the spa inviting you to discover the path taken over thousands of years by the naturally hot, bountiful Mont-Blanc waters via a series of relaxation stations. [www.thermes-saint-gervais.com](http://www.thermes-saint-gervais.com)



### Aquamotion in Courchevel

Swim, dive, slide, enjoy water-fights or simply zoning out by the water... such are the pleasures on offer to families at Aquamotion. Since 2016, this playful water centre in Courchevel welcomes young and old alike, both in winter and summer. Its varied pools offer space for water gym, swimming and trying out various water sports, with even a Surf'Indoor wave facility, plus there's an outdoor lagoon. As to the Aquawellness Space (only for over 18s), it's dedicated to rest and recuperation, offering various saunas, a hammam and a salt grotto.

### Spa in Brides-les-Bains

Spend the morning making the most of the countless sporting and outdoor activities available across the Trois Vallées area, then devote the afternoon to the Grand Spa Thermal (the largest in the Alps) to relax and unwind. End the day with a traditional regional meal in the company of local people.



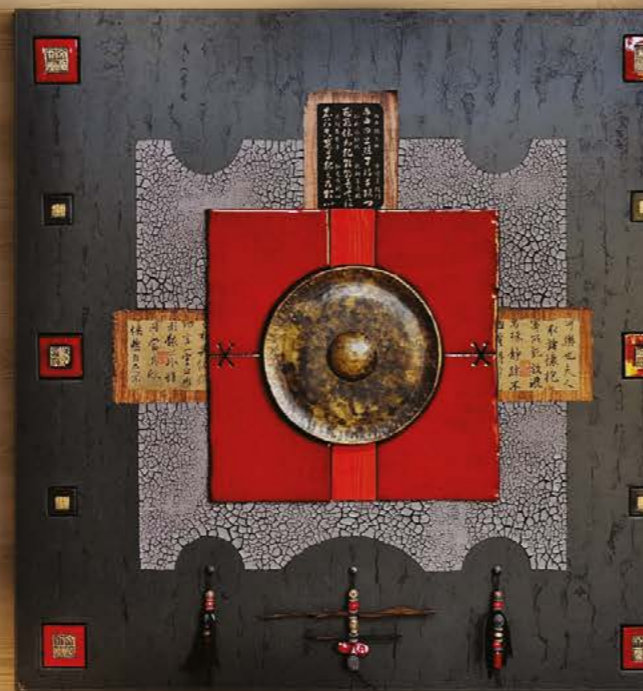
# ACCOMMODATION

## 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



### In Grand-Bornand Best Western Hotel Chalet Les Saytels

★★★★★

An iconic establishment standing out in the heart of the village of Le Grand-Bornand, the Best Western Hotel Chalet Les Saytels has undergone an extensive make-over, overseen by an architectural practice guided by the principle of respect... for context, local architecture and design. Behind the traditional façades with their remarkable geometric patterns, the 30 rooms and suites have been turned into calm cocooning places perfect for relaxing after making the most of the great outdoors. The interior design elements have been chosen with great care, subtly combining Alpine wood and blue hues, creating an atmosphere of contrasts, cosy and ultra-contemporary at the same time. These elements have been carried through brilliantly in the lounges, the restaurant and the conference rooms set in the former boarding school dating back to 1953.

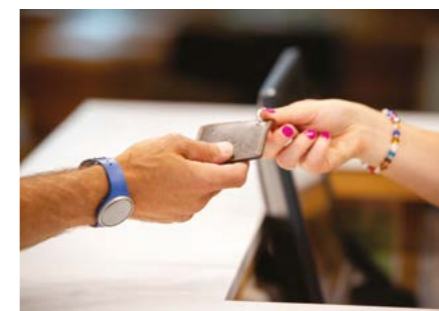
[www.bestwestern-chaletlessaytels.com](http://www.bestwestern-chaletlessaytels.com)

### In Courchevel Hôtel Les Peupliers

★★★★★

At the Hôtel Les Peupliers you'll discover family stories, as the passion for this rare traditional establishment has been handed down from generation to generation, much being preserved, much regularly updated. A new chapter began here in June 2022, as the Pinturault family that founded and owns the Hôtel Annapurna in Courchevel 1850 set about giving a new lease of life to this enchanting place. The four-star Hôtel Les Peupliers has 20 comfortable, modern, welcoming, cosy rooms occupying a major house in the heart of the village. The hotel is colourful, set over three levels, and lies in a lively location, just 100m from the ski lifts.

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

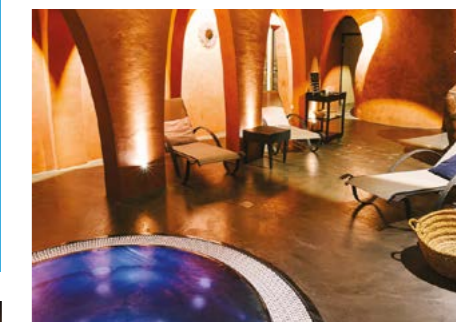


### In Les 2 Alpes Hôtel Côte Brune

★★★★★

The Hôtel Côte Brune has just been awarded a fourth star. The Bel family offers guests a warm welcome in this little corner of paradise in the heart of the ski resort of Les 2 Alpes. With a lively après-ski bar, an outdoor pool, a solarium providing splendid mountain views, a wood and stone furnishings lounge with fireplace, cosy rooms, a restaurant, a terrace and a superb spa... it has everything you need to make your days as fine as your nights!

[www.hotel-cotebrune.fr](http://www.hotel-cotebrune.fr)



*Our establishments  
compete to provide the  
best in design and comfort*



**In Flaine  
Hôtel & Résidence Alhena**  
★★★★

MGM, in December 2023, is opening a four-star hotel and a five-star tourism residence in the heart of Flaine for ski-in / ski-out ease, close to the Grandes Platières cable car just a stone's throw away. Beyond its perfect location and innovative architecture, the tourism residence provides a wonderful mountain way of living, with spacious shared areas

where you can meet others, in the heart of the establishment. The apartments are also generously proportioned, very functional and bathed in light thanks to large windows and balconies looking out either on the ski slopes or the centre of the resort. As to services, the residence includes a restaurant, an ESF nursery, a lounge with fireplace, a lounge bar, a well-being area covering over 1,000m<sup>2</sup> and its Spa Montagnes du Monde®. [www.mgm-hotels-residences.com](http://www.mgm-hotels-residences.com)



**In Les Gets  
Chalet-Hôtel Blythe**

This brand-new, charming establishment will offer catered chalet accommodation (rooms with hotel services). It's ideally located close to the slopes and the village centre. With top-of-the-range, made-to-measure service and a chef available to prepare meals, the hotel promises guests an exceptional stay. The hotel promises to provide exceptional breaks, via the concierge service to organize a panoply of activities before your arrival as well as on the spot, be it for renting ski equipment or for booking packages, ski lessons, spa treatments, minibus transport between ski resorts... This chalet-hotel has just eight spacious, luxurious rooms, each with private bathroom. The exclusive spa area includes a pool, a sauna, an ice room, a hammam, a room for treatments and massages, a gym, plus an outdoor jacuzzi. [www.summitspecial.co.uk](http://www.summitspecial.co.uk)



**IN A TOURISM RESIDENCE  
OR CLUB**



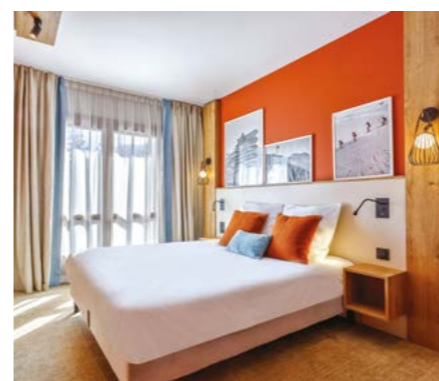
**In Valmorel  
New tourism residence  
« Le Roc »**  
★★★★

In a prime spot in Valmorel, Le Roc promises to be an exceptional addition, a brand-new development perfectly located just a stone's throw from the ski area. You'll be able to enjoy ski-in / ski-out access from the residential chalets. These are beautifully integrated into the local surroundings, the prestige residences located in the finest spots closer to the heart of the resort and its shops, benefiting from 180° views of the mountains. 45 apartments in total, from one to four bedrooms each. The complex lies 2km far from the centre of Valmorel. Opening on 1 December. [www.le-roc-valmorel.com](http://www.le-roc-valmorel.com)



**In Flaine  
Village vacances Belambra**

The latest of the Belambra clubs is opening its doors to guests from 23 December. This four-star, ski-in / ski-out holiday village proposes all-inclusive holidays, with kids' clubs for children from four months of age upwards and staff to accompany the family to collective ski lessons. Communal dining is available, and there are two restaurants, a bar, an indoor pool and a spa. In short, enjoy the best of a Belambra experience here. [www.belambra.fr](http://www.belambra.fr)



**In Méribel  
Résidence le Falcon Lodge**

Opening in the heart of Méribel in December 2023 is the brand-new Falcon Lodge Residence. Consisting of 32 apartments as well as three chalets accommodating between four to thirteen people, this tourism residence will also offer many services, such as a well-being centre, a ski room, a reception with concierge service, breakfast delivery and a shuttle transport facility. [www.cimalpes.com](http://www.cimalpes.com)

**In Courchevel  
Chalet-suites at Le K2 Palace**

As of December 2023, five new chalet-suites will be available at Le K2 Palace, offering a perfect combination of top Alpine and contemporary features. These chalet-suites are linked to the main Le K2 Palace, benefiting from all its luxury facilities, as well as offering breath-taking views of the Dent du Villard peak and the Courchevel Valley. Each provides around 300sqm of living space, including three bedrooms (each with its bathroom) for a maximum of six guests. Spread over several levels, each chalet-suite has its own private lift. [www.lek2palace.com](http://www.lek2palace.com)





# IN A TRADITIONAL CHALET

## In Val d'Isère Le Refuge de Solaise

The dormitory at the Refuge de Solaise – The highest hotel in the French Alps (at 2,550m in altitude) offers, as well as its 16 rooms and suites and its four apartments, a cosy dormitory for families and groups of friends (from 4 to 18 people) that you can block-book for your group. This dormitory provides a unique way of staying in our high mountains and a first taste of what it's like staying in a mountain refuge while benefiting from hotel facilities (pool and spa) and from access to secured slopes as soon as they open in the morning.  
[www.lerefuge-valdisere.com/winter](http://www.lerefuge-valdisere.com/winter)



## In Méribel Les Chalets Célénia

Located in the authentic quarter of La Gittaz, the Chalets Célénia, seven in total, have been inspired by traditional Savoie architecture and hamlets, a heritage dear to Méribel and a founding principle from the resort's inception. All the chalets offer exceptional facilities, such as a spa, a sensory shower and, for the largest two, an indoor pool. From the cosiest chalet (184 sqm big), to the most spacious one (303sqm), each is in fact unique in shape, facilities and even materials used. The facilities of Méribel Village and the departure of Télésiège du Golf chair lift can be reached by car in just three minutes. Thanks to Olympe cable car just a few hundred metres from the chalets, you can reach the start of the famous La Chaudanne slopes. To make the most of the mountain resort with ease and sustainability in mind, each property has its own electric vehicle enabling you to reach Méribel Station or Méribel Village in no time.  
Rental via: [www.cimalpes.com](http://www.cimalpes.com)



## In Val d'Isère Résidence Alpine Collection « Silverstone Lodge »

This secretive Silverstone Lodge offers an exceptional setting for summer holidays with family or friends. Close to the village centre, offering easy access to all kind of outdoor activities, this luxurious chalet has exceptional suites and can accommodate between 8 and 17 people. Opening December 2023.  
[www.alpine-lodges.fr](http://www.alpine-lodges.fr)

## CLUB MED OPTIONS

Club Med packages are ideally suited to holidays in the mountains, both in winter and in summer. With a significant presence in the Northern French Alps, in Tignes, Val d'Isère, L'Alpe d'Huez, Samoëns, Les Arcs, La Plagne, Valmorel and Peisey, a new Club Med is now opening at La Rosière:

Exclusive Collection Club Med 5 Tridents. The family apartment-suites, measuring between 72sqm and 84sqm, have three rooms and can accommodate up to four people. On the ground floor, they are ski-in / ski-out. The sitting room is 26sqm. The Prestige room and Comfort room have their own bathroom. The terrace has

exceptional views and there's a covered car park. A continental breakfast is served in the suite; drinks and tea are available in the exclusive lounge area. There's also a bar serving bites, a separate ski room and a dedicated concierge service throughout your stay. From your sitting room, make the most of the tranquillity, the amazing views down the Haute Tarentaise Valley, and the cosy, intimate atmosphere of your accommodation, directly connected to the 4Ψ Resort of La Rosière.  
[www.clubmed.fr](http://www.clubmed.fr)



## EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUAL OPTIONS

### In La Plagne A night in the snow groomer Over the Moon

This accommodation is unique in the world! The concept – to spend an extraordinary night at 2,400m in altitude, in a snow groomer converted into a high-end suite! Expect excellent comfort: a king-size bed; heating; music; a home cinema; breakfast; and the odd surprise! To add to the experience, make the most of the private bathroom with its bath with massaging jets. Can be reserved during the period the ski area is open, daily except Sunday. Expect to pay €340 for 2 people per night on a B&B basis. An extra-special package is available for Christmas, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Night.  
[www.skipass-laplagne.com](http://www.skipass-laplagne.com)



### In Arêches-Beaufort A unique Inuit-style night

Who hasn't dreamt of sleeping in an igloo? As a couple or a family, come and enjoy this thrill at 2,000m in altitude, at the heart of the Beaufortain area, in the Arêches-Beaufort ski area. Located right beside the Chalet de l'Alpage, these igloos are accessible via ski lift, Nordic skis, on foot or in snowshoes. You'll find comfortable services on arrival: a restaurant, showers and toilets. Sleeping on a comfy mattress, under a warm duvet, you'll be surprised at how peaceful a night in an igloo can be. No stray icebergs or polar bears here, but sparkling snow and chamois to glimpse under the stars! Immerse yourself in this white world where silence reigns. Waking early, make the most of such a rare opportunity to enjoy unrivalled views of the incomparably beautiful Mont Blanc Range in all its majesty. Foodwise, dinner consists of a delicious Savoie meal, while after your refreshing night, you'll be served a hearty breakfast.  
[www.globatlasadventures.com](http://www.globatlasadventures.com)



### Come summer or winter Camping in nature with Huttopia

Whether in the heart of the French Alps or in the Jura Mountains, at Bozel or Bourg-Saint-Maurice in Savoie or at Divonne in the Ain, these Huttopia destinations are located in unspoilt natural sites just a stone's throw either from major ski areas or from little family resorts. Opt for vintage camping perhaps, with, notably, little chalets with all the comforts, including a wood-burner, and enjoy an experience far from the crowds, surrounded by nature, so close to so many outdoor activities.  
[www.europe.huttopia.com](http://www.europe.huttopia.com)

### And why not enjoy a camping experience in winter?



### À Pralognan la Vanoise Two pods in igloo style

Nestling in an extensive garden with mature trees, at the foot of the Vanoise summits, these two wooden cocoons covered in snow await those who love nature. Kitted out with high-quality custom-made furnishings, these charming pods offer all the modern comfort (a bedroom for 2, a sitting and dining space, storage, a bathroom and toilet and even a large terrace). It's fitting in perfectly with the unspoilt Alpine setting.  
[www.camping-alpeslodges.com](http://www.camping-alpeslodges.com)



# OUR MAJOR FESTIVITIES TO ENJOY TO THE FULL

## EVENTS TO ADD MAGIC TO YOUR HOLIDAYS



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 throughout the winter. Some highlights: the ice sculptures at the **Concours International de Sculpture sur Glace de Valloire** (9-12 Jan 2024); the **Exhibition**

**Chamonix 1924**, recalling the creation of the Winter Olympics, at the Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine in Chamonix Mont-Blanc (from Dec 2023); **Les Arcs Film Festival**, the focus on sustainability with the theme “moving mountains”, putting to the fore more environmentally friendly cinema (16-23 Dec 2023); the comedy festival **Les Sommets du Rire** in Arêches-Beaufort, celebrating 20 years; **Classicaval**, Val d’Isère’s iconic classical music festival celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> edition (in two parts: 15-18 Jan 2024 and 11-14 Mar 2024).

Pop, rock and electronic music events get our mountains buzzing, notably in spring:

**Tomorrowland Winter** – for its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 16 to 23 Mar 2024, Tomorrowland Winter is back in force, combining skiing and the best of electronic music, to be enjoyed at over 2,000m in altitude. Hundreds of artists will take part across eight stages, from the heart of the ski resort up to the Pic Blanc, at 3,330m.

From 9 to 16 Dec, **Rise Festival** – on its 9<sup>th</sup> edition, this event brings together c.6,000 Brits in Les 2 Alpes, enjoying the electronic music and the joys of the ski resort.

**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 from 17 to 24 Mar to experience this unique festival.

The eagerly anticipated **La Folie Douce Courchevel Festival** will return in April 2024 for a new edition, featuring more music than ever around the ski resort. The eclectic line-up will include concerts and lively DJ sets. Expect to see famous artists giving memorably vibrant performances on the snowline at Courchevel 1850. This event is for everyone, and brings a great atmosphere to the place.

For further information on winter events, go to: [inauvergnernhonealpes.com](http://inauvergnernhonealpes.com)



## ICONIC SPORTING EVENTS

The staging of three Winter Olympics in the French Alps, Chamonix in 1924, Grenoble in 1968 and Albertville in 1992, shows how our region is a great, unmissable outdoor playground for winter sports in general. In addition, our region draws world championship events and other major sporting competitions as well: the **Val d’Isère Alpine Ski World Cup events** (68<sup>th</sup> edition this winter of the Critérium de la 1<sup>re</sup> Neige, 9 & 10 and 16 & 17 Dec 2023); **Le Kandahar** at **Les Houches** (3-4 Feb 2024); the **Women’s Alpine Ski World Cup**, returning to **Courchevel**, featuring a night-time slalom on 21 Dec 2023; the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the **Fis Snowboard Cross World Cup** at **Les 2 Alpes** (1-2 Dec 2023); the **Junior World Ski**

**Championships at Les Portes du Soleil** (27 Jan-3 Feb 2024); and the **Bobsleigh World Cup at La Plagne** (4-9 Dec 2023).

Crossing spectacular mountain scenery on a truly unique trail, the **Grande Odysée VVF**, the most important husky sleigh race in the Alps, involves some 400 dogs (13-25 Jan 2024). Also consider the **46<sup>th</sup> edition of La Foulée Blanche**, a cross-country skiing challenge through the Vercors (Jan 2024) and the

**Transjurassienne**, a cross-country skiing race through the Jura Range (10-11 Feb 2024), plus a special race for keen young cross-country skiers in January.



La Grande Odysée WF





## OUR TEAM DEDICATED TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

BELGIUM • NETHERLANDS • GERMANY  
**Irène TRONCHET** • [i.tronchet@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:i.tronchet@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

AMERICAS • ISRAEL  
**Corinne RENARD** • [c.renard@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:c.renard@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

UK • ITALY • SCANDINAVIA • SPAIN  
**Anissa GUENFOUD** • [a.guenfoud@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:a.guenfoud@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

ASIA • MIDDLE EAST • CIS  
**Rachel GREGORIS** • [r.gregoris@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:r.gregoris@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

DISTRIBUTION AND SALES PROMOTION / FRANCE AND INTERNATIONAL  
**Barbara Prieto-Lavault** • [b.prieto-lavault@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:b.prieto-lavault@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

INDIA • DESTINATION MONTAGNES-GRAND SKI • WORLD MAJOR EVENTS  
**Barbara BREHERET** • [b.breheret@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:b.breheret@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

HEAD OF PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION / FRANCE AND INTERNATIONAL  
**Christian DOUCHEMENT** • [c.douchement@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com](mailto:c.douchement@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com)

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



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