



**From the Jura's "Little Canada"
to the "Highlands" of the Forez,
AMAZING SETTINGS!**

**Peat bogs, volcanic lakes, glacial streams:
an intense concentration
of extraordinary natural phenomena**



LAC GÉNIN "A LITTLE CANADA" IN THE HEART OF THE JURA



In the Haut-Bugey area, in the heart of a forest of pine, spruce and deciduous trees, Lac Génin offers a haven of unspoilt nature. At an altitude of 850m, this lake in these mid-range mountains provides an enchanting setting recalling Canadian landscapes. In summer, its clear waters incite visitors to go swimming (with a life-guard supervising), fishing, hiking and mountain-biking, or then to try out a tree-top assault course. In winter, in the snow, the lake is transformed into a far-northern setting suitable for snow-shoeing, skating or even ice diving – making for a Canadian-style atmosphere par excellence! This site, divided between the municipalities of Oyonnax, Charix and Échallon, is classified as a “site pittoresque” and an “Espace Naturel Sensible”, to protect its remarkable biodiversity. (01) www.montagnes-du-jura.fr

HIKING

La Tourbière du Lac Génin (Lake Génin Peat Bog) provides a perfect walk to understand the spirit of the place. The trail leads you right around the lake before guiding you into the marshland where the peat bog formed. (01) <https://ain-outdoor.com>

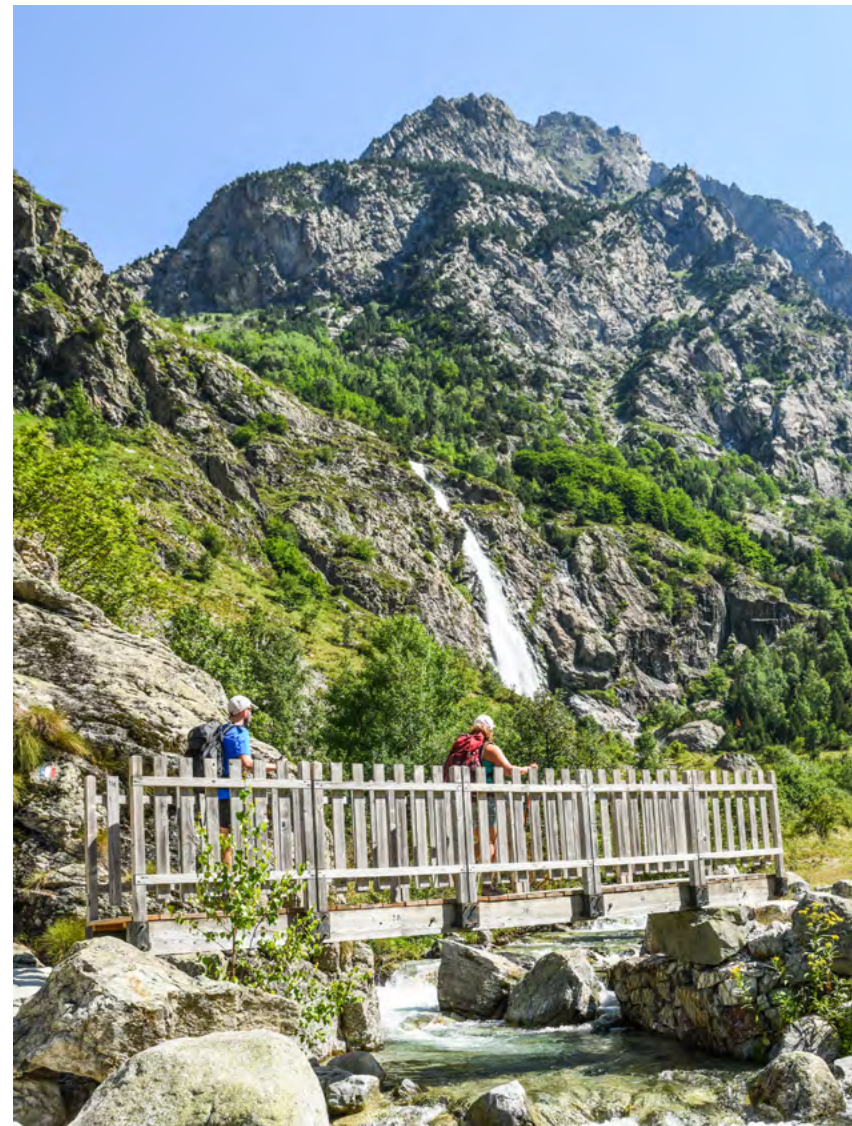


TAKE A BREAK

Auberge du Lac Génin, an inn renowned for its traditional cuisine, including food grilled over a wood fire, and with several spacious rooms with direct views over the lake, is ideal for allowing you to make the very most of the place, enjoying the tranquillity and the natural setting. (01) www.lacgenin.fr

LA PISSE WATERFALL IN THE PARC NATIONAL DES ECRINS, WITH HINTS OF EXOTIC ISLANDS

AMAZING
SETTINGS



The La Pisse Waterfall in the Valjouffrey seems to take you to the ends of the earth. In fact, you need to reach the last inhabited hamlet in the valley before the entrance to the heart of the Parc National des Ecrins. The landscapes marked by cliffs, rivers, waterfalls and verdant vegetation give you the impression of crossing into unknown territory. La Pisse Waterfall, the highest in the area, drops some 40m. Its crystal-clear waters racing down through the midst of green foliage have hints of the exotic French islands of La Réunion and Guadeloupe. (38) www.alpes-isere.com



HIKING



La Pisse Waterfall and the belvedere (38) www.matheysine-tourisme.com

TAKE A BREAK

Bar Restaurant des Ecrins
a friendly place at which to enjoy a break: (38) www.matheysine-tourisme.com

Gîte d'étape des Arias



offering a colourful place to stay the night in the hamlet, Le Désert en Valjouffrey. (38) <https://gite-etape-arias-desert>

Refuge de Font Turbat



(a 1hr walk from the waterfall) (38) www.refugefontturbat.com

HINTS OF THE AMAZON IN THE QUEUILLE MEANDER

This natural meander in the Sioule River practically encircles a dense, lush patch of forest, making this corner almost resemble a piece of Amazonian tropical jungle, the atmosphere marked by all manner of green colours and winding waters. But this place is in the Combrailles area of the Auvergne, in an unspoilt corner of the region just made for a peaceful break in nature. (63) www.combrailles-auvergne-tourisme.fr



HIKING

The Randonnée des Gorges de la Sioule: a 20km circuit, for a six-hour mini-adventure exploring the Queuille Meander, from its dam to its nature trails. (63) www.combrailles-auvergne-tourisme.fr

TAKE A BREAK

La guinguette (simple outdoor summer eatery) at the Belvédère du Méandre (63) www.combrailles-auvergne-tourisme.fr

Cabanes de Bois Basalte, for huts under the stars, looking over to the volcanoes of the Chaîne des Puys, and c.20 mins from the Méandre. (63) <https://cabanes-auvergne.fr>



DISCOVERING AUVERGNE'S "LITTLE COLORADO" IN THE VALLÉE DES SAINTS

This rare spot, with its crumbling cliffs consisting of colourful towered layers of clay tinted with iron oxides in vivid hues of red and orange, could be mistaken for a slice of a splendid backdrop in an American Western. It evokes Colorado, with its arid landscape sculpted by erosion and time. In fact, you're in the county of Puy-de-Dôme, close to the historic town of Issoire. (63) www.issoire-tourisme.com

HIKING

Into hiking and wine territory (63) www.auvergne-destination.com

TAKE A BREAK

LE BOUDES DE LA VIGNE (63) www.le-boudes-la-vigne.com

LES ETOILES

in a Norwegian pod after a day exploring the local "little Colorado"! (63) www.auvergnelesetoiles.com





THE “HIGHLANDS” IN THE HAUTES-CHAUMES AREA

The Hautes-Chaumes du Forez, a high-altitude plateau with few trees, allowing you to take in vast horizons, can bring to mind the Scottish Highlands. The windswept moorlands and high meadows fit the bill... but this Natura 2000 protected site lies between the French counties of the Puy-de-Dôme and the Loire, a natural frontier between the old regions of Auvergne and Forez, imparting a feeling of wild unspoilt spaces. From here, enjoy majestic 360° views over the volcanoes of the Chaîne des Puys, Monts du Sancy and Monts du Forez, even as far as the Alps on clear days... perhaps taking the Scottish comparison a little too far! **(63) www.auvergne-livradois-forez.com**

HIKING

Le colporteur des jasseries: (The peddler around the jasseries mountain farms): **(63) <https://livradois-forez-rando.fr>**

TAKE A BREAK

Auberge de Valcivières
(63) www.auvergne-livradois-forez.com

La Source d'en Haut,
in a traditional farm turned B&B
in Valcivières
(63) www.auvergne-livradois-forez.com



EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL PHENOMENA



LES TOURBIÈRES (PEAT BOGS) IN THE BOURBONNAIS MOUNTAINS

The Plateau de la Verrerie (the name recalling thriving 17th-century glass-making activities here) is protected both as a Site Natura 2000 and an Espace Naturel Sensible. It lies east of Saint-Nicolas-des-Biefs and is characterized by mountainous moorlands sustaining traditional grazing, plus a peat bog harbouring rare plant species, some from the end of the Ice Age. A boardwalk and viewing table help visitors appreciate the area's ecological riches, as well as opening up vast panoramic views over the Roannais, Auvergne and distant French Alps. **(03) <https://vichymonamour.fr>**

HIKING

Sentier de découverte du plateau de la verrerie
(03) www.allier-auvergne-tourisme.com

TAKE A BREAK

AUBERGE DES BOIS NOIRS
(03) <https://lesboisnoirs.com>

LES LOGES DE LA NATURE

Four unique eco-huts allowing you to immerse yourself completely in nature. **(03) www.leslogesdelanature.com**



GOING FOR AN OUTING AROUND A VOLCANO CRATER!

Across the Auvergne, there are half a dozen ancient volcanic craters turned by time into lakes, wonderful places to go walking: Lac Pavin, Lac d'Aydat and Gour de Tazenat in the Puy-de-Dôme; and Lac du Boucher and Gour de Conche in Haute-Loire. Enjoy a hike around them, or even, in the case of some, a swim in their waters! **(63) www.sancy.com**

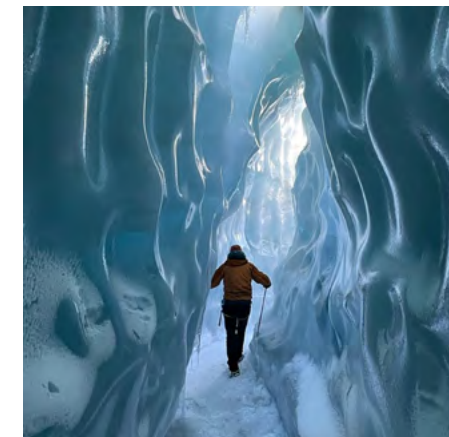
HIKING

Tour du lac Pavin à Besse
(63) www.sancy.com

TAKE A BREAK

Restaurant du lac Pavin
(63) www.restaurant-lac-pavin.fr

Le Domaine les 2 mondes
(63) www.domaineles2mondes.fr



PLUNGE INTO THE ARCELIN GLACIER'S GLACIAL STREAMS

A 3-hour hike from the mountain refuge at the Col de la Vanoise Pass, the Arcelin Glacier's glacial streams form a fascinating, fragile world. Depending on the year's thawing, the results should be visible in mid-August, as they create an extraordinary labyrinth, the ice sculpted by the flow of water. However, a tour around them, both above ground and below, is only possible accompanied by a trained mountain guide from Pralognan-la-Vanoise. While the effects are magical, they are proof of an ecological shift, showing how the glacier is dwindling and how fragile it is. **(73) www.guides-pralognan.com**

TAKE A BREAK

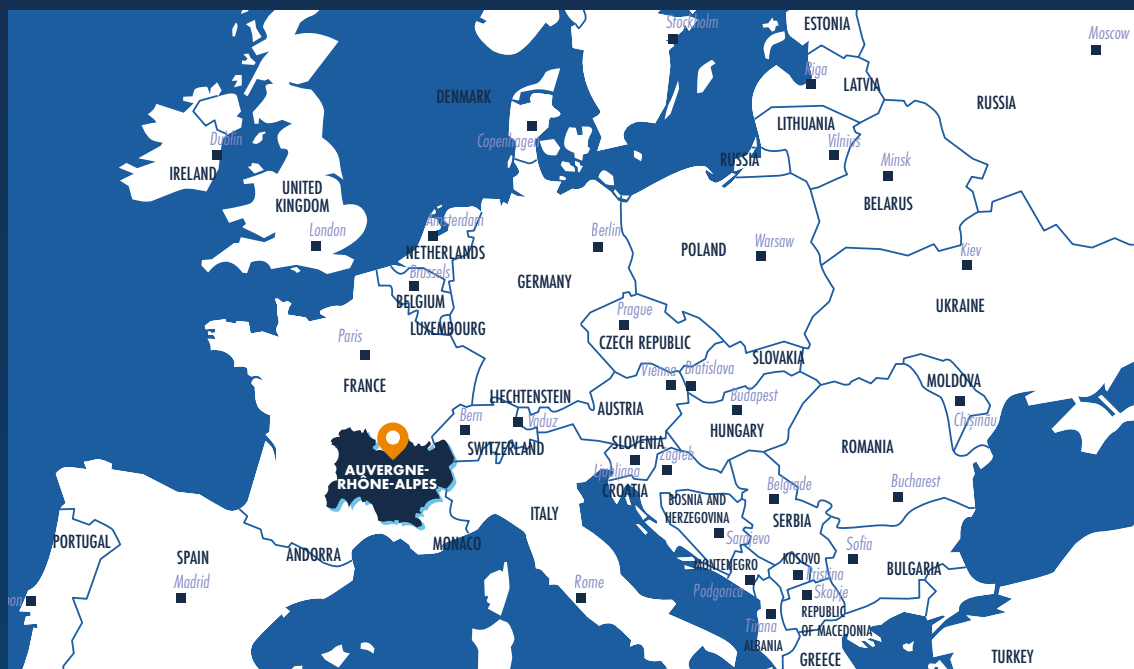
Hôtel restaurant Pépé Gust'
An institution in Pralognan!
(73) <https://pepegust.com/>

Restaurant Le Régal Savoyard
(73) <https://leregalsavoyard.eatbu.com>





**Auvergne
Rhône-Alpes**
Tourisme



PRESS CONTACTS:

EUROPE:

Germany, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland:

Irène TRONCHET-FARAUT - i.faraut@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com

England, Scandinavia:

Romane CHEVALIER - r.chevalier@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com

Italy:

Vanessa MICHY - v.michy@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com

AMERICAS (Canada, United States, Brazil) and **INDIA:**

Barbara BREHERET - b.breheret@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com

ASIA, MIDDLE EAST: (Japan, Korea, China, Middle East, Israel):

Rachel GREGORIS - r.gregoris@auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com

www.inauvergnerhonealpes.com/en

<https://phototheque.auvergnerhonealpes-tourisme.com/en/>



AIRFRANCE



**BANQUE des
TERRITOIRES**

