

WHAT'S NEW?

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

SPRING
SUMMER
AUTUMN
2023

#SouthernFrenchAlpes
#Visitsouthoffrance
#purealpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

RÉGION
SUD
PROVENCE
ALPES
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM
BOARD



THE SOUTHERN ALPS AN ECO-DESIRABLE MOUNTAIN RANGE

Barre des Écrins, Meije and Mercantour... Names that dreams are made of. And the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region goes the extra mile to ensure visitors to the Southern Alps enjoy discoveries as dizzy as the summits themselves. Tourism development in the Southern Alps is governed by a profound respect for natural and cultural resources.



France's second most-popular mountain range accounts for 65% of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur territory but just 15% of its inhabitants. An increasing number of holidaymakers flock there every year, seeking sunshine with cool temperatures, pure air, unpolluted rivers and lakes, and wild, wide-open spaces – a myriad of treasures that have earned the Southern Alps its "Puralpes" tagline. Everything here is geared towards preserving the wonderment of visitors and the quality of life of locals – and that includes taking care of our beloved marmots and chamois...

Designated a **French ecological planning pilot area**, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur aims to become Europe's first carbon-neutral region from 2037. ***"Climate criteria are applied to every budget from 2023: whatever the file and field of expertise, every euro spent by the Regional Council must contribute to the fight against or adaptation to climate change. There's even talk of a 100% green budget"***, explains the President of the Region Sud. The 2021-2027 Mountain Plan is dedicating 200 million euros to sustainable development.

Virtuous practises begin with slow, carbon-free mobility. Thanks to the ZOU bus and TER regional train networks, the Southern Alps is now easily accessible at a very friendly price from the train stations and

airports of the South's main cities Nice-Côte d'Azur and Marseille-Provence, as well as Lyon and Paris. Happiness is just a train ride away... And there's even a **Paris-Briançon** night service. Emphasis is on renewable energy production, with **Serre Chevalier** already producing a third of its own energy needs. Two regional plans – "5 million trees" and "War on fire" – have also reinforced the protection of our forests.

On the conservation front, the Southern Alps is a genuine benchmark, home to four Regional Nature Reserves – **Préalpes d'Azur, Baronnies Provençales, Verdon** and **Queyras** –, together with Europe's largest geological reserve – the Haute-Provence Geopark – and two National Parks, **Mercantour** and **Écrins, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023**. Although preservation and sometimes sanctuarization are necessary, they aren't always enough. We rely on inhabitants and visitors alike to promote the destination's "unexpected places", foster gastronomy based on short, solidarity-based circuits and usher in the agro-ecological transition. A combat of the highest order.

provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en/alpes/



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SKI RESORTS AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AREAS



COMMENT VENIR ? / HOW TO GET THERE?

DEPUIS LES AÉROPORTS / FROM AIRPORTS

Marseille : www.info-ler.fr
 Nice : www.lignesdazur.com
 Lyon, Grenoble, Turin, Chambéry, Milan, Genève : www.linkbus-alps.com

DEPUIS LES GARES / FROM TRAIN STATIONS

Aix TGV, Marseille, Lyon TGV, Oulx TGV, Modane : www.linkbus-alps.com
www.autocars-resalp.com
www.autocars-imberty.com

- Gares TGV / High-speed train station
- Aéroports / Airport
- Cours d'eau / River
- 7 Parcs Naturels / 7 Nature Parks
- Villes principales / Biggest town
- Vallées / Valleys
- Grands Domaines / Major ski resorts

- Pra-Loup
- Le Sauze
- Val d'Allos
- Vars
- Risoul
- Orcières-Merlette 1850
- Puy-Saint-Vincent
- Briançon / Serre Chevalier Vallée
- Montgenèvre
- Superdévoluy / La Joue Du Loup
- Les Orres
- Isola 2000
- Auron
- Valberg
- La Grave La Meije

- Stations Villages / Village resorts

0 25 50
kilomètres / kilometers

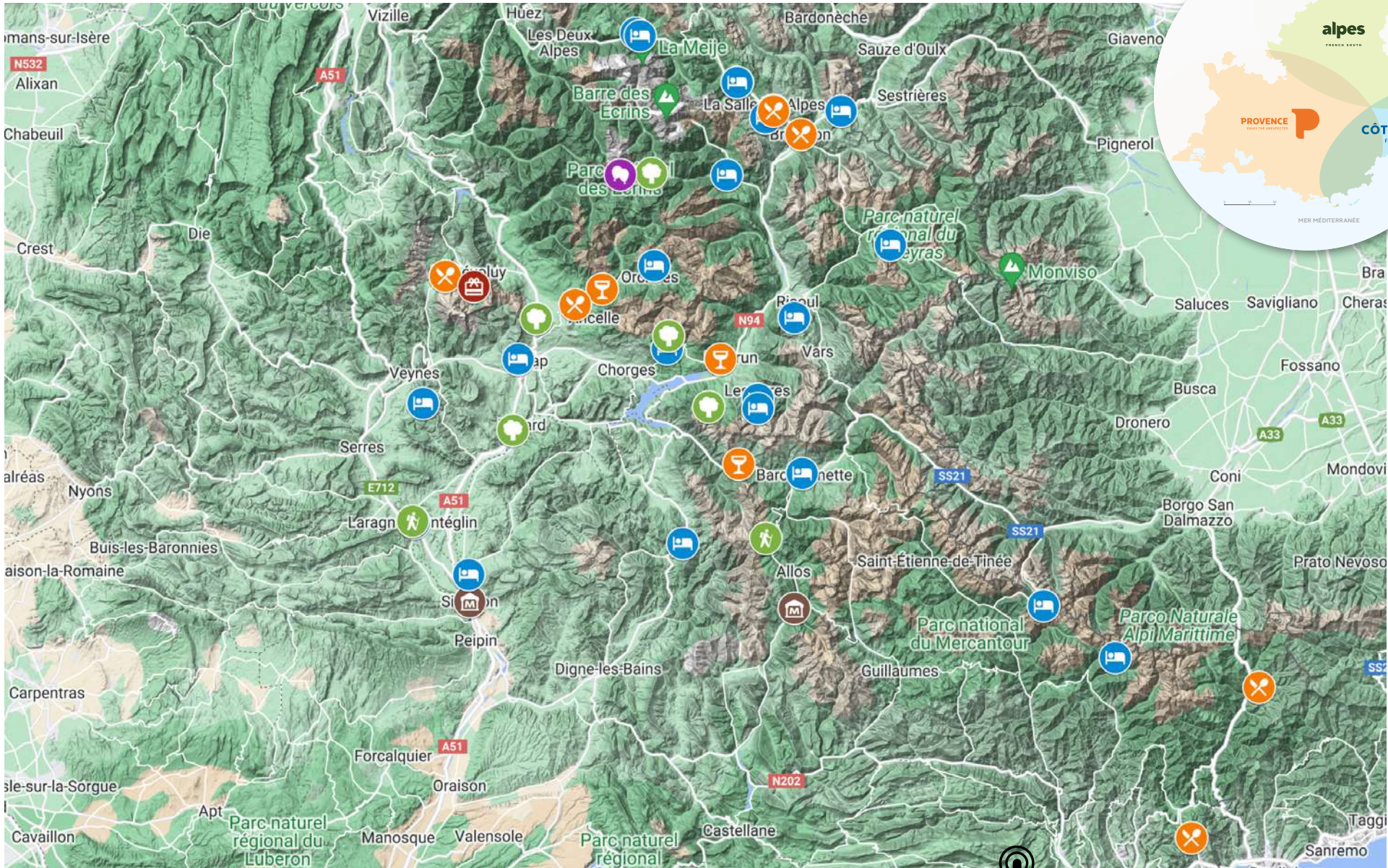


SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

CÔTE D'AZUR
FRANCE



WHAT'S NEW IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS?

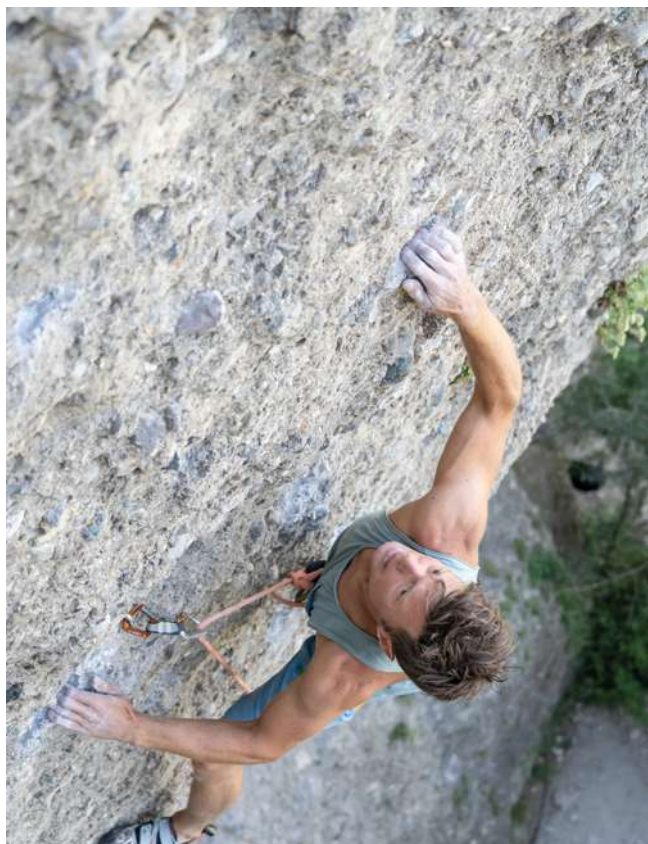


 [CLICK HERE](#)

THE SOUTHERN ALPS, A SPORTING HUB

Home to over 150 summits rising to more than 3,000 metres, **Écrins National Park** is a cradle of mountaineering. 15 sites specially kitted out for beginners are now dedicated to introducing aficionados to very high-altitude climbing techniques.

The Southern Alps is a playground for boulder climbing too, thanks to a fabulous variety of hotspots including the cliffs of Ceūze, Orpierre, the Verdon Canyon and Annot, attracting climbers from the world over.



© R. Van Rijn



Glacier Blanc-Famille © Thibaut Blais

The Climbing World Championships in Briançon in July is a favourite meeting place. In summer, canyoning fans don a helmet and harness before plunging into the gorges of Cians and Haute-Ubaye.

Whitewater sports are also part of the mountain range's DNA: you'll find canoeing, kayaking, rafting and whitewater swimming opportunities galore there throughout the warmer seasons.

And of course, outdoor sports are all geared around preserving the Southern Alps Natura 2000 sites and respecting sensitive natural areas.

JULY 14TH TO 15TH, 2023

**MONDIAL DE L'ESCALADE #34
Serre Chevalier Vallée Briançon**

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ mondial-escalade.fr

JULY 17TH TO 22ND, 2023

**BOULDERING COMPETITION: TOUT A BLOCS
L'Argentière-la-Bessée**

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ toutablocs.com/fr

📌 **Check out the season's events!**

EVENT

The whitewater stadium in **Argentière-La-Bessée** is a holder of the "**Land of the 2024 Games**" label awarded to 2024 Olympic Games training sites.

Appreciated by skippers for its thermal winds, **Serre-Ponçon** lake has been designated an Olympic Games inland **water sports centre**.

The Olympic flame will be crossing the entire region, stopping off – among other places – at **Barcelonnette** in Ubaye valley. Swimming, running and cycling are on the menu for participants in the **Embrun Man** very long-distance international triathlon race (XXL Ironman category) held every year on August 15th since 1984, spurred on this year by the Nice Côte d'Azur Ironman finals in 2023.

Meanwhile, fans of outdoor running, rugged terrains and magnificent landscapes will be jostling for a place on the podium at the **Sky Race**, **Ultra Trail Salomon**, **Ultra Trail Côte d'Azur Mercantour** and **Ultrachamp-saur**.

AUGUST 15TH, 2023

TRIATHLON EMBRUNMAN #39 | Embrun

SERRE-PONÇON, EMBRUN, UBAYE,
VAL D'ALLOS

→ embrunman.com

SEPTEMBER 9TH & 10TH, 2023

SERRE CHE TRAIL SALOMON #10

Serre Chevalier

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ trail-serre-chevalier.com

👉 **Check out the season's events!**

EVENT

VTT-Gtha © Alpesphotographies.com



Savines-Serre-Ponçon © Cedric Tempier

On the cycling front, **cycle tourers** get a chance to conquer the **mythical mountain passes of the Tour de France** every summer in **Ubaye**, the **Briançon area** and **Mercantour**, thanks to the "mountain passes reserved for cyclists" operation. The Southern Alps is also France's leading area for **mountain bike touring**, with several **French Cycling Federation-approved Grandes Traversées long-distance routes** including **Alpes-Provence**, the **Transverdon** and **Les Chemins du Soleil**.

The Southern Alps' exceptional aerological conditions attract many aerial sports fans and the area is home to over a hundred launch and landing sites. What's more, **Gap-Tallard** is **Europe's largest skydiving centre**.

And of course, outdoor sports are all geared around preserving the Southern Alps **Natura 2000** sites and respecting sensitive natural areas.

JULY 9TH TO 14TH, 2023

GRAND RALLYE VTT TRANSVERDON #8

Colmars-les-Alpes

PRÉALPES D'AZUR, MERCANTOUR

→ fullattack.cc/aventure-vtt

SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH, 2023

ULTRA RAID VTT DE LA MEIJE #12

Vallée de La Grave

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ ultraraidlameije.fr

👉 **Check out the season's events!**

EVENT

THE SOUTHERN ALPS, A LAND OF ADVENTURE AND ENCOUNTERS

2023 is commemorating the **50th anniversary of Écrins National Park**, France's largest national park. Designated an Alpine Protected Area by the European Council, its "Mountaineering Villages" are designed to protect the values associated with this ancient discipline: self-transcendence, mutual aid and respect for the environment.

The anniversary celebrations will be paced with a series of friendly scientific encounters. Head over to one of the seven *Maisons du Parc* centres to take part in the fun, including field trips, coffee-aperitifs, talks and the traditional *Musique en Ecrins* music festival, lighting up Vallouise-Pelvoux once again this year.

JULY 24TH TO AUGUST 11TH, 2023

FESTIVAL MUSIQUES EN ÉCRINS #30

Pays des Ecrins

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ musiques-en-ecrins.com

THROUGHOUT 2023

50TH ANNIVERSARY ECRINS NATIONAL PARK

Ecrins National Park, Gap

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ ecrins-parcnational.fr

👉 **Check out the season's events!**



© R. Van Rijn

Mont-Dauphin © Bertrand Bodin

The rocky faces of the Southern Alps are dotted with numerous fortifications. Under the reign of Louis XIV, Vauban built or restored 12 strongholds stretching from Antibes to Briançon. Now listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Vauban Fortifications are still very much in the news. **The fortified village of Mont-Dauphin** is welcoming the "Little Big Horn" show by sculptor Ousmane Sow, **Fort de Seyne-les-Alpes** is setting the scene for an exciting **escape game** and a multimedia show in the guardroom of **Fort Vauban** in **Colmars-les-Alpes** will be telling the compelling **Story of Vauban**. Set on the border of the Kingdom of France and House of Savoy, the town's history remained turbulent until 1860. Sébastien Le Prestre, the Marquis of Vauban, also bequeathed a perfectly-preserved military legacy to Entrevaux, now a member of the "Towns & Villages of Character" network. A "**Land of Art & History**" label is also in the pipeline for the **Alpes Provence Verdon** metropolitan area.

From the major engineering works of the *Chemins de Fer de Provence* railway to the humble old ovens, fountains and sundials found in the surrounding villages, historic gems are plentiful here. The Southern Alps is a treasure trove of Romanesque and Lombardy art, from Embrun cathedral to modest chapels, often adorned with frescoes painted by Piedmont artists. Many provide a beautiful stage for summer concerts.

JULY 1ST TO SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023

IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION LE RÉCIT DE VAUBAN

Fortified Village, Colmars-les-Alpes

PRÉALPES D'AZUR, MERCANTOUR

→ verdontourisme.com/

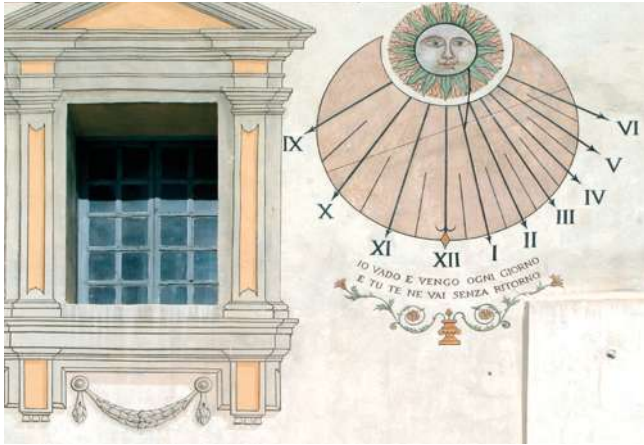
JULY 9TH TO 10TH, 2023

RENCONTRE EN CIEL PUR! Saint-Véran

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ www.saintveran.com

👉 **Check out the season's events!**



Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée, cadran solaire et trompe l'œil
© Georges VERAN

The festivals of the Southern Alps give pride of place to sustainability: **Potes de Marmot's** in **Guillestre** is a children's festival that aims to raise awareness and protect our marmots. The **Festival Terre Sauvage** in **Clarée valley** in early July is a meeting place for people committed to cherishing planet Earth. The **Festival de Chaillol**, taking place in the villages of **Champsaur-Valgaudemar**, is an ode to music and scenic discoveries. Agropastoralism has carved these landscapes for centuries, scoring sheep tracks across the alpine pastures. It was even listed as UNESCO Intangible Heritage in 2020... In **Val d'Allos**, you can enjoy a **hike with the local shepherds**, or ascend to the mountain pastures with the flocks in **Castellane**. A true delight, combined with a meaningful cultural experience.

JULY 15TH TO AUGUST 11TH, 2023

FESTIVAL DE CHAILLOL #27 Champsaur-Valgaudemar

GAP AREA, CHAMPSAUR, VALGAUDEMAR, DÉVOLUY

→ festivaldechaillol.com

AUGUST 22TH TO 24TH, 2023 FESTIVAL

POTES DE MARMOT'S #11

Guillestre

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ fr-fr.facebook.com/festivalpotesdemarmots

📌 Check out the season's events!

EVENT

Marmotte © Rogier Van Rijn



vallouise © alpesphotographies

THE SOUTHERN ALPS, A TEMPLE OF WELLNESS

Relax, reconnect with nature and get your fill of pure air and Vitamin D... With a whopping 300 days of sunshine a year, the Southern Alps is a temple of active wellbeing. Thousands of kilometres of trails – sometimes flat – invite visitors to get outside and enjoy a hike.

Walking is the very best way to keep your joints, muscles, tendons and cardiorespiratory system in tip-top condition. Some trails, like the ones you'll find in Valberg, are dotted with contemplative stop-offs, ideal for practising your favourite yoga poses.

The local forests include such jewels as Boscodon, one of Europe's oldest beech forests and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. So how about treating yourself to a forest bath? Whether your preference goes to pine or larch, a spot of tree hugging never fails to revitalize.

JULY 7TH TO 9TH, 2023

FESTIVAL TERRE SAUVAGE #2 | Névache

GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ terre-sauvage.com

OCTOBER 8TH, 2023

FESTIVAL OF THE ALMOND OF PROVENCE

Oraison

PAYS DU BUËCH FROM SISTERON

TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS

→ tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com

📌 **Check out the season's events!**



Estenc, commune d'Entraunes © Georges VERAN

Pure, life-giving water abounds in the mountains of the Southern Alps, bubbling up in the shape of thermal baths at the **Grands Bains de Monétier** in **Serre Chevalier**, **Berthemont** at the gateway to **Mercantour** National Park and **Digne-les-Bains**. Elegant balneotherapy centres such as **Durancia** in **Montgenèvre** invite you to let your troubles float away between swan necks, geysers and invigorating water jets, as you gaze out over the glorious peaks. Alternatively, lie back and relax in water heated to 38°C at **O'dycea** in **Dévoluy**, as you contemplate the constellations above. The outdoor Nordic bath offers stunning panoramic vistas over Bure plateau too. Or slip into the delicious Aquatic and Balneotherapy spaces on offer at the **Vesubia Mountain Park**, before heading to your cabin in the pine trees to listen to the sounds of birds... And wolves at the neighbouring **Parc Alpha**!

11 AU 13 JUILLET 2023

FESTIVAL DÉTOX ET BIEN-ÊTRE | Les Orres

SERRE-PONÇON, EMBRUN, UBAYE, VAL D'ALLOS

→ lesorres.com/sur-place/evenements

📌 **Check out the season's events!**

The Southern Alps' recent hotels are often adorned with a spa, where you can enjoy a little pampering in expert hands with organic cosmetics made with local plants, including **lavender** and **edelweiss**. You'll find more and more flowers and plants on your plate too, alongside succulent seasonal fruit and vegetables.

The Southern Alps is home to France's **highest percentage of organic farmland**: good news for foodies, hikers, birds and indeed all our planet's inhabitants.

Interestingly, the most recent scientific studies – e.g. the Senckenberg Research Institute's climate studies – show that the higher the biodiversity, the better we feel.

Luckily, Mercantour National Park boasts France's highest floral diversity, while the Queyras area is home to part of the Franco-Italian Mont Viso biosphere – a UNESCO label certifying that mankind and nature live in harmony there.



Joubarbes, près du lac des Grenouilles © Georges VERAN



SPA thermal de Digne-les-Bains © AD04 Foehn Photographie

OCTOBER 15TH, 2023

FAIR OF THE BREBIS BRIGASQUE #13 | La Brigue
PRÉALPES D'AZUR, MERCANTOUR

→ www.menton-riviera-merveilles.fr

OCTOBER 28TH, 2023

MARKET - MARCHÉ AUX FRUITS ANCIENS #21
Orpierre

PAYS DU BUËCH FROM SISTERON
TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS


→ fruitsanciens.fr

JULY 1ST TO 2ND, 2023

FAIR - PLEINE LUNE DE L'ÉVEIL | Arvieux
GRAND BRIANÇON, ÉCRINS, QUEYRAS

→ pleinelunedeveil.blogspot.com

➔ **Check out the season's events!**



PAYS DU BUËCH FROM SISTERON TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS

12

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the beautiful Southern Alps, the hills of Haute-Provence, rising 700 to 1,200 metres above sea level, pan out in the sunshine under a comfy forest blanket. Trees cover 70% of the 500,000 acres comprising the **Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve**. **Orpierre** and its cliffs offer a thrilling adventure playground for climbing enthusiasts from the world over. Guarding the gateway to this magnificent area, the citadel of **Sisteron** stands on the Napoleon Road and "Route du Temps" heritage trail leading to **Digne-les-Bains**. Dotted with geological treasures, the trail offers stunning views over **Lure mountain**, a herbalist's paradise.

📅 [Check out the season's events!](#)

ART & ARCHITECTURE

MEET SISTERON!

📍 SISTERON

Sisteron and its famous citadel are definitely worth a visit! But you can do it remotely too if you'd rather, thanks to the "Sisteron, virtual discovery" app available for smartphones and tablets. You can also use the app on site, to enjoy a voyage back in time while you roam. Don't miss the "zigzag" drawbridge, recently restored after several years of research by the association ATM (Arts Theatre Monuments). Its mechanism is unique in France.

www.citadelledesisteron.fr

www.sisteron-buech.fr



Citadelle de Sisteron © AD04 - Itinera Magica

HOSPITALITY

LE COTTAGE DE SOPHIE***

📍 SISTERON

This ancient farm, now a 3-star hotel with 5 rooms and suites, lies on the road running from Sisteron to the hilltop village of Valernes. Sophie Vincembeau, the talent behind the charming *Patio de Sophie* in Sisteron, has put her interior design expertise to work in the spacious lounge with exposed stonework, now adorned with shells, rattan furniture, terracotta, wrought iron and beautiful grege furniture. The hotel basks in 5 acres of breathtaking natural scenery with 360° views over Sisteron to the South, Lure mountain to the West, the Hautes-Alpes to the North and mesmerizing *Pointe de Gâche de Saint-Geniez* to the East. The cottage is the departure point for a delightful 7 km walk and the fortified town of Sisteron is just 5 km away.

Dinners subject to prior booking, bicycles available. Open from March to October, rooms from €180.

www.lecottage-desophie-sisteron.com



Le cottage de Sophie © S. Vincendeau

LES TERRASSES

📍 LARAGNE-MONTEGLIN

Laura Lombard and Valentin Samtmann met in Marseille – she's from London and he's from Salon-de-Provence. Valentin's studies in motorcycle mechanics sparked his passion for restoration. Set in the heart of the Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve, on Route Napoléon, the ten welcoming rooms of *Les Terrasses*, decorated by artists, overlook the river and Chabre mountain. Valentin pampers guests with traditional cuisine "like my mother makes". A fabulously friendly address.

Rooms from €64 to €96. ..

www.leterrasseslaragne.fr



Les Terrasses © L. Lombard

RETRouvance BUËCH DEVOLUY: ON THE ROAD TO OUR FORGOTTEN VILLAGES

📍 LARAGNE-MONTÉGLIN

Enjoy a 6-day hike in the Pays de Buëch area, stopping off at four abandoned villages... This *Retrouvance* (a French National Forestry Commission brand) holiday experience won the Challenge 2023 prize at the French *Territoires Insoupçonnés* (Unexpected Places) competition. The groups of 5 people minimum, which can comprise individual participants, are led by a mountain guide and coordinator, with accommodation at a beautifully restored forester's house in one of the villages. Nestling between the Southern Alps and Provence, on the border of the Drôme, the Buëch area is swathed in alpine lakes, forests, pastures and torrents... The *Retrouvance* break – an immersive, back-to-nature experience – is marketed by Ahimsa-Voyages.

ahimsa-voyages.com/alpes-du-sud

www.sources-du-buech.com



Retrouvance Buëch-Dévoluy © P. Lefevbre



Retrouvance Buëch-Dévoluy
© JB. Gache



Buëch Randonnée © E. Burlet



GAP AREA CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY

The town of **Gap** – the administrative capital of the Hautes-Alpes area – is steeped in the atmosphere of the Southern Alps. Along the ancient Napoleon road, the bluish horizons of Provence give way to breathtaking scenery and Europe's highest bocage adds an extra green touch to **Champsaur valley**. **Valgaudemar**, on the other side of the valley's emblematic **Chaillol mount**, is France's most Himalayan valley, while **Pic de Bure**, the region's largest astronomical observatory, gazes out over the striking mineral formations of the **Massif du Dévoluy**.

📌 [Check out the season's events!](#)

HOSPITALITY

CHALET LE KITZ

📍 ORCIÈRES

Perched at an altitude of 1,950 metres, amid slopes crossing the tiny hamlet of Forest des Estaris, *Le Kitz* was formerly a shelter for shepherds come to make sheep's milk cheese in days gone by. This historic, 120 m² chalet has now been completely restored using local larch wood. Its 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, with sweeping views over the ski resort and Champsaur valley, can welcome up to 10 guests.

www.orcieres.com



Chalet Le Kitz © OT Orcières

LUMINSENS, DEFINITELY DIFFERENT

📍 GAP

Health professionals with a holistic outlook, Frédérique and Daniel Walser are the brains behind this "energetic hub", ideal for recharging your batteries. The site comprises a deconstructed villa, with four LumiPods scattered throughout 2,500 m² of meadows, above Gap. Offering 180° vistas over the valley and peaks of the Hautes-Alpes – Le Brec de Chambeyron and Le Viso -, each glass and wood bubble measures 15 to 43 m²: one contains a living room and kitchen, two feature a bedroom and bathroom and the fifth houses a spa. The "villa" as a whole can be rented out and comes with the joys of a heated swimming lane. An aperitif is included in each rental, for two nights minimum.

€750 per night, minimum two nights.

www.lumi-n-sens.com



Charance © R. Fabregue

LE PETIT BÉGOU - B&B

📍 SAINT-AUBAN-D'OZE

Audrey has opened three "country chic" B&B rooms at her family farm on the outskirts of the little village of Oze. Dressed in linen, wood and dried flowers, their gorgeous natural materials exalt the exposed stone walls. One room offers views over the mountains, while the other two overlook the apple and pear orchard, tended to by Audrey's arborist husband. Don't miss the exceptional fruit and fruit juices served with the *table d'hôte* dinners and breakfast! A holder of the "Accueil Paysan" Label.

Rooms from €85 to €110.

www.lepetitbegou.com



Le Petit Béguou © DR

GASTRONOMY

GUILLAUMETTE DRY GENEPI

📍 SAINT-JEAN-SAINT-NICOLAS

The talent behind a distinguished genepi liqueur, winner of the Excellence prize at the 2021 *Concours Agricole*, Maison Guillaumette now produces a dry genepi with half the usual sugar content, applauded by restaurateurs and mixologists alike.

The distillery, located at Pont-aux-Fossés in the town of Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas, at the gateway to Écrins National Park, is open to the public mornings and afternoons.

www.guillaumette.com



Génépi dry de Guillaumette © Genepi Guillaumette

WELCOME TO THE FARM!

📍 SAINT-LAURENT-DU-CROS

The Hautes-Alpes is one of France's most-organic areas, with a whopping 500 or so farms committed to organic production, many of which welcome visitors. Fancy savouring some high-alpine lamb, apples or cheeses?

A few addresses: the Ebrard cheese dairy in Chabottes - where you'll find the coveted *Crémeux des Ecrins* cheese and whipped fromage blanc with blueberries - is celebrating its 120th birthday. *Salaisons du Champsaur* is a charcuterie specialist, whose secrets have been handed down from father to daughter since 1987. Different but just as tempting: two husband-and-wife farmer teams have converted an old sheepfold in the hamlet of Matherons, in the ski resort of Ancelle, where they now offer a range of organic farm produce (eggs, potatoes, etc.) grown on mounds at an altitude of 1,300 metres. You'll find jams, pestos and aperitif nibbles at Les Soldanelles, plus two rural gites, introductions to permaculture and hikes with the house donkeys... .

www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com



Rendez-vous à la ferme © P. Domeyne



Rendez-vous à la ferme © P. Domeyne

GASTRONOMY

CHALET NAÏSKA

📍 LA JOUE DU LOUP

Perched at an altitude of 1950 metres, at the arrival of the Les Fontettes telemix (open in summer), this wooden chalet boasts an exceptional location above Joue du Loup and facing the draped slopes of the Dévoluy mountain chain. Audrey Bouteiller, Benoît, and their dog Chukka, now the chalet's mascot, took over the reins of this high-flying establishment in September 2022. The fare is simple and family-style, with freshly-tossed pancakes savoured on wooden tables. You can spend a night there too if you book ahead – the pretty wood-clad rooms bedecked with felt curtains open onto the picturesque surrounding scenery. You can travel up on a snow groomer on certain dates in winter, to feast on a fondue before spending a night a little closer to the stars.

Snow groomer ride, fondue and night: €480 for two guests. €199 per night in winter, from €159 in summer.

chaletnaïska.fr



Le Naïska © OT Le Dévoluy

KNOW-HOW

DES CIMES ET DES RACINES

📍 LE DÉVOLUY

Country-born herbalist Luc Bernard has been exploring the rocky scree and ridges of the Dévoluy mountain chain for nearly 40 years, collecting sea buckthorn and larch flowers and growing edelweiss and genepi at high altitudes. You'll find the syrups, herbal teas and creams he makes with the fruit of the land at his farm *L'Herbier du Dévoluy*. His encounter with yoga teacher Maryline Schied prompted him to build a cabin complete with a meditation platform, tucked away among the spruces and larches of Bois Rond forest. You can climb up there to enjoy a Tibetan Singing Bowl sound bath while contemplating the peaks of Pic de Bure and mount Arrouze. The session ends with a cup of herbal tea or soup cooked over a wood fire. Pure magic.

Thursday afternoons and Tuesday evenings €40, plus €15 for the meal.

herbierdudevoly.fr



Des Cimes et des Racines © DR



Le Dévoluy © F. Thibault

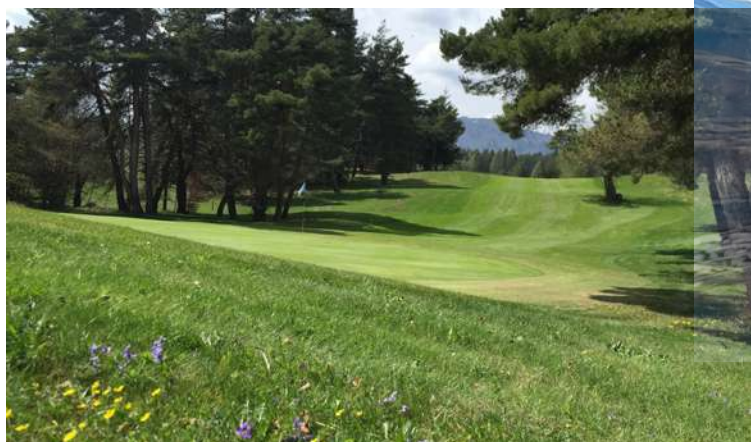
OUTDOORS

BIATHLON EVOLUTION

📍 GAP BAYARD

High-level athlete Yann Debayle, a member of the French biathlon team until 2007, created *Biathlon Evolution* in the aim of offering training amenities and encouraging sports fans of all levels to give it a go. He has now partnered up with Frédéric Jean, also a biathlete and former coach for the French women's biathlon team: "The idea is to develop biathlon and introduce children, teenagers and adults from in and around the Hautes-Alpes to the discipline. We offer four laser rifles, five air rifles and three 22 long rifles for the 50-metre event". The two athletes offer training sessions in Pelleautier, a few kilometres from Gap, or on Gap-Bayard plateau at an altitude of 1,246 metres.

biathlon-evolution.fr



Golf Gap-Bayard © Gap-Bayard OT GTV

HIGH MOUNTAIN BALLOONING

📍 TALLARD

Based in Gap-Tallard, *Alpsud Montgolfière* offers spectacular balloon flights with certified pilots over the mounts of the Southern Alps: a great chance to admire Ceüze cliff shaped like a giant horseshoe, the jutting pyramid of Pic de Bure, Ecrins mountain range and vast blue expanse of Serre-Ponçon lake... Take-off from Tallard or Savines-le-Lac.

Flights from €250.

alpsudmontgolfiere.com



© Pendulaire Fly dream



SERRE-PONÇON EMBRUN UBAYE VAL D'ALLOS

20

Sailing, windsurfing, rafting or a spa break? Basking to the South of the Hautes-Alpes area, **Serre-Ponçon lake** resembles a small inland sea, dedicated to the joys of boating and bathing. **Embrun**, nicknamed the "Little Nice of the Alps", stares down at the lake from the top of its rock. **Ubaye valley**'s natural legacy remains untarnished despite its turbulent past, offering a virgin paradise for hiking, skiing and white water sports. In the 19th century, a mad migratory story unfolded in this magical valley, still visible today in the shape of **Barcelonnette**'s Mexican-style villas.

📅 [Check out the season's events!](#)

ART & ARCHITECTURE

THE STORY OF VAUBAN

📍 COLMARS-LES-ALPES

This 20-minute multimedia show in the guard room of Fort Vauban promises an exciting foray into the medieval town of Colmars. Set overlooking the Verdon river, Colmars formerly marked the border between the Kingdom of France and Savoie. Prolong the pleasure on the walkway leading to the ramparts and fortified towers.

From July 1st to September 30th, 2023.

www.verdontourisme.com/en



Le récit de Vauban © DR

HOSPITALITY

APPART'HÔTEL YOONLY & FRIENDS***

📍 RISOU

This aparthotel, opened in spring 2022, is a great choice for 18-35 year-olds keen to get away from it all, have fun and share plenty of forever memories - mainly freeriders who love the resort's (very) festive atmosphere! It is ideally located on the snow front, 400 metres from the Pelinche ski lift. The 63 apartments for 4, 5, 6 and 9 people are spread over 7 floors, with direct access to a shared kitchen, terrace and relaxation area. Some feature an equipped kitchenette. Holidaymakers, seasonal workers and valley inhabitants alike enjoy chilling at the chic, industrial YoYo bar-restaurant. You can opt for a yoga class on Sundays too, including warm-up exercises and detox tea. Smart locks allow fast and easy check-in. N.B. A new *Yoonly & Friends* establishment is scheduled to open in Briançon's ancient barracks in 2024. From €250 per week for 4 people.

www.yoonly.eu

HÔTEL LE BALCON DES ECRINS***

VACANCES LÉO LAGRANGE

📍 REALLON

This fully-refurbished hotel is now the 3-star *Hotel Le Balcon des Écrins Vacances Léo Lagrange*. The 37 rooms with 2 to 5 beds overlook the mountains. The hotel is instilled with the Léo Lagrange philosophy, promoting the right to holidays and leisure for all. Priority goes to accessibility, social and intergenerational diversity, environmental friendliness, working hand-in-hand with local inhabitants and fostering a great entente between holidaymakers and staff. Strongly committed to the environment, the Léo Lagrange clubs proudly sport the Clé Verte, Marque Valeur Parc and Plastic Origin labels, plus partnerships with the Surfrider Foundation, France Nature Environment and Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux (Bird Protection League).

From €80/night.

www.lebalcondesecrins.com



Lac-de-roue © Cedric Tempier



Le Balcon des Écrins © DR

LE GÎTE 05

📍 LES ORRES

A group of musicians and cabaret enthusiasts, united by 25 years of passion for French songs, now heads up this former summer camp converted into a 13-room lodge, set at an altitude of 1,450 metres. You'll find well-being treatments here, plus pure air and great music at the novel dinner shows. Each room features 4 beds (a double bed and two bunk beds) and looks out over the forest. Guests also enjoy a bar with board games, restaurant kitted out for musical performances, an artists' studio, billiard table, table football, sauna, crazy golf and even yoga lessons. A free shuttle connects the hamlet of Mélézet to Les Orres ski resort.

www.legite05.com



Le gîte 05 © DR

LE SPA BY ALPIN D'HÔME****

📍 LES ORRES

Alpin d'Home's new spa is set inside a 200 m² dome rising to 8 metres in height. This soothing bubble offers a steam room, sauna, Nordic bath and herbal tearoom. Two treatment cabins, including a duo cabin, welcome guests for delicious treatments courtesy of Gemology, reputed for its mineral-packed cosmetics. Don't miss the signature massages with precious warm stones and parent & child treatments with products by Colin Maillard - a genuine ode to the senses. Outside, the 80 m² solarium and hanging nets boast exceptional views over the valley and Serre-Ponçon lake. *Alpin d'Hôme* now offers eleven high-end transparent bubbles tucked away among the larch trees. The perfect way to switch off and recharge your batteries.

Domes from €399 to €649/night. Restaurant dinner €25 to €35/pers. Finnish Kota €149 to €249/night.

www.alpin-dhome.fr/en/spa



Alpin d'Hôme © Kinaphoto



Alpin d'Hôme © Kinaphoto

MAISON D'HÔTE VILLA PUEBLA

📍 BARCELONNETTE

Standing witness to the exodus of Ubaye valley inhabitants to South America in the late 19th century, one of Barcelonnette's most beautiful "Mexican villas" now offers room and board! Its builder made his fortune trading in Puebla, near Mexico City, hence the villa's name. And the same family have lived there since 1880. Laurent Marais and his Swedish wife Tessie were determined to preserve the villa's timeless atmosphere, Art Nouveau ceramics and furniture, and now-restored floral wallpapers. The three guest rooms on the first floor gaze out over the famous *Chapeau de Gendarme* Alpine summit or spacious grounds filled with veteran trees. From time to time, the second floor welcomes artists in residence: the new owners love bringing the house to life with exhibitions and talks.

Rooms €120 and €150 with breakfast.

villapuebla.com



Villa Puebla © DR



GÎTES L'INATTENDU

📍 LE VERNET

Cécile Cloître and Bruno Cavagieni took over this lodge perched on a plateau near Seyne-les-Alpes in Vallée de la Blanche in 2020. The perfect place for a getaway break in the middle of nowhere, it offers eleven spacious rooms plus an apartment, all promising 3-star comfort. Bruno is at the helm of the kitchen and meals are served in the dining room or out on the terrace. As its name suggests, *L'Inattendu* (the unexpected), also hosts concerts, events and various get-togethers at the heart of Haute-Provence's UNESCO Geopark. Cyclists, bikers and riders enjoy a warm welcome from Cécile, whose two horses graze peacefully in the meadow next door. N.B. Le Vernet is served by the number 28 bus running from Marseille to Barcelonnette.

Rooms from €77 for 2 guests to €124 for 4 guests, including breakfast.

linattendu04.fr/en



L'Inattendu © C. Cloître

GASTRONOMY

DOMAINE DU MONT GUILLAUME

📍 EMBRUN

Domaine du Mont Guillaume spans 11 acres of vines at an altitude of 880 metres. Originating from Burgundy, Emmanuel and Delphine Berteloot are committed to restoring the lost lustre of two historic winemaking villages: Saint-André d'Embrun and Puy-Sanières. Since 2017, they have been producing organic wines with Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Syrah and Cabernet grapes, plus the endemic Mollard variety, on the south-facing slopes of Serre-Ponçon lake. Take note! Their wines - Clos de la Pinée, Le Roc and Altitude 880 - are only available for purchase in the Hautes-Alpes!

www.domaine-du-mont-guillaume.com



Domaine du Mont Guillaume- ©P. Domeyne

LACHANENCHE WHISKY

📍 UBAYE - SERRE PONÇON

Lachanenche, an artisan distillery in Ubaye Valley, has just produced very-first whisky brewed, distilled and aged in the region. Free of additives, this organic, single malt whisky is made with French barley and aged for 3 years in an old railway tunnel built in 1880. The taste? Elegant and subtle with gourmet, spicy flavours...

www.lachanenche.com



Whisky Lachanenche © DR

OUTDOORS

BALCONIES OVER THE LAKE

📍 RÉALLON

This little ski resort in the Embrun area is committed to seducing summertime visitors too (currently representing just 10% of total yearly business). And it has plenty of assets to do so... The resort has now created a series of belvederes and a footpath, so everyone can enjoy its breathtaking vistas over Serre-Ponçon lake and the Aiguilles de Chabrières rock formations. Réallon currently devotes half of its revenue to energy and economic transition through the creation of non-snow products even in winter, such as play areas for children..

en.reallon-ski.com



Lac de Serre-Ponçon © B. Bodin

A NEW MUSHROOM IN BOSCODON FOREST!

📍 CROTS

Its name is *Calonarius flavomirus*... The high-alpine mycologist Jacques Guinberteau and his wife discovered this magic new mushroom in 2016 in Boscodon forest, home to remarkable biodiversity. This newcomer went on to become the subject of a scientific publication and DNA study. Boscodon forest, a 2,174-acre fir and beech forest, is France's eleventh official "Exceptional Forest" – a distinction awarded by the National Forestry Commission. Now state property, the forest was for many years part of Boscodon Abbey, a beautiful 13th-century Romanesque monument perched at an altitude of 1,150 metres. It is located in the Hautes-Alpes area, not far from Serre-Ponçon lake.

en.serreponcon.com



Forêt de Boscodon © J. Photography

PASTORAL HIKE IN VAL D'ALLOS

📍 ALLOS

In the expert hands of a mountain guide, hikers can now get up-close-and-personal with the flocks, help take care of the sheep and learn how to approach their four-legged guardians, locally nicknamed "patous". A dozen or so shepherds are taking part in this initiative to promote their time-honoured know-how. The first pastoral hike should take place on July 4th, but it depends on when the ice thaws and the flocks are herded up to their alpine pastures. This winter 2022-2023, Val d'Allos is currently France's 4th snowiest ski resort...

en.valdallos.com



© Drone Alp04



GRAND BRIANÇON ÉCRINS QUEYRAS

Look up and breathe in! Set at the gateway to the ski resorts of **Montgenèvre** and **Serre Chevalier**, **Briançon** is surrounded, in the words of Vauban, "with valleys that descend into the abyss and mountains that touch the clouds". The latest French summits conquered by mountaineers, **La Meije** and **La Barre des Ecrins** tease the stars, while the great mountain passes of **Galibier** and **Lautaret** spur on sporting feats. At the gateway to **Ecrins National Park**, the **Queyras Regional Nature Reserve** – a haven of stone pines, larches and traditional craftsmen – shines like an island in the ocean of the Southern Alps...

📅 [Check out the season's events!](#)

HOSPITALITY

RESTAUBERGE LA REINE MEIJE

📍 LA GRAVE

One of our current faves, this inn in the hamlet of Les Terrasses, at an altitude of 1,800 metres, offers comfy rooms with breathtaking views over La Meije. The new manager, Frédéric Jongen, has added a delightful Belgian touch to both the welcome and choice of beers, while local cuisine has given way to signature sand shrimp fritters.

Half board from €28, rooms from €65.

reinemeije.com



La Reine Meije © DR

CHALET LA CABANE

📍 LA GRAVE

This chalet offers 3 rooms with bathrooms set on 4 floors with views over La Meije, a superbly equipped kitchen and balcony overlooking the river. Other amenities include a garage, ski store and very handy boot dryer.

www.gites.fr



Chalet La Cabane © DR

NEW APARTMENTS AT HÔTEL LE MONÊTIER****

📍 LE MONÊTIER-LES-BAINS
SERRE CHEVALIER

Hôtel Le Monêtier is enjoying a new lease of life! Located 200 metres from the original building, Les Chalets now offers 6 superb apartments built in wood, for 4, 6 or 8 people. Guests enjoy plenty of room, a terrace, views over the summits, designer furniture, high-quality services and optional hotel services including a concierge, the Stabatio restaurant with panoramic terrace and breakfast delivered to your door... The hotel is part of the *Les Hôtels Très Particuliers* group.

From €450 for 3 nights for the Quartz apartment for 2 to 6 guests.

www.lemonetier.com/fr/appartements



Les appartements de l'Hôtel le Monêtier © LHTP

MAISON ALLIEY & SPA APPART-HOTEL ***

📍 LE MONËTIER-LES-BAINS

The same brand, but a new concept: the warm and welcoming Maison Alliey, in the centre of MonËtier-les Bains, now offers 15 aparthotels (studios or duplexes) for 2 to 6 people, available all year round. Guests enjoy a gorgeous spa featuring an indoor pool with massage jets, lauze stone steam room, heated outdoor pool, flower garden and deckchairs facing Pic de Rochebrune. Maison Alliey also rents out a 185 m² chalet - Les Clochettes -, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms for 6 to 8 people, set in a country house complete with central fireplace. Other treats in store include à la carte hotel services and a concierge service. The reception is located at 320 Route de Grenoble, where you'll also find the breakfast room and wine bar set around a fireplace.

From €129/night for 2 guests.

www.alliey.com/en



Alliey & Spa © DR

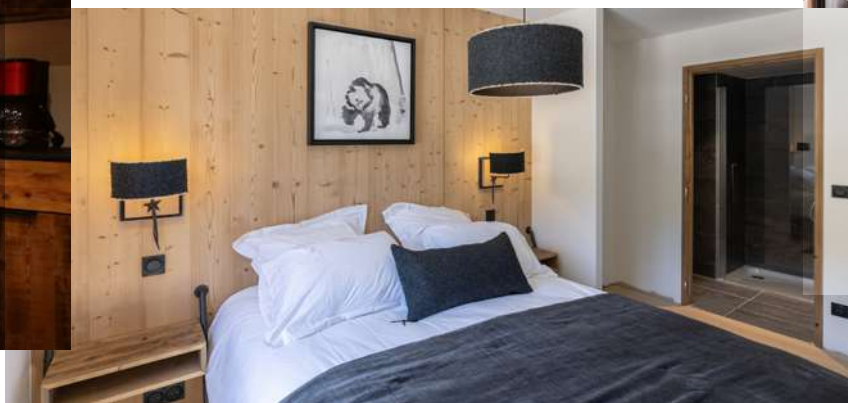
RÉSIDENCE LE CRISTAL LODGE

📍 CHANTEMERLE

Located on the site of *Hôtel de la Balme*, owned by the family of French ski champion Luc Alphand, this *Terrésens Hôtels & Résidences* lodge is divided into two separate chalets and comprises 20 hotel rooms, plus 26 apartments ranging from studios to 4-room cabins. Both are holders of the new "Daddy Pool" label and feature living and activity areas, topped with an original decor of bric-à-brac furniture, colourful neon lights and houndstooth wallpaper. The delightful atmosphere combines made-to-measure playlists with fragrances of lavender and wood. You'll find a wellness space there too (massage cabin, steam room, sauna and jacuzzi), plus a children's playroom, large underground car park and bar. Residents can opt for the "Welcome Pack" containing travel essentials and set off home with the "Goodbye Pack". Last but not least, the team offers short breaks and overnight stays with hotel services (bed linen, daily cleaning, concierge service).

From €672 per week for a 2-bedroom apartment for 4 guests.

www.terresens-hr.co.uk



Le Cristal Lodge © Terrésens

LE REFUGE DU GRAND HÔTEL

📍 SERRE CHEVALIER

Perched at an altitude of 1,900 metres, this classy chalet with eleven deluxe rooms for 2 to 5 people and an indoor/outdoor bar-restaurant, is part of the Grand Hôtel located down below. Although the Hotel and Refuge were both redesigned by *Studio Frémont*, their atmospheres are very different. The chalet is accessible on foot or via the Serre Chevalier gondola lift and offers breathtaking panoramic vistas over the valley's villages. Guests at the *Refuge du Grand Hôtel* enjoy full board, a courtesy bar and the services and activities on offer at the 4-star Grand Hôtel, including a Nuxe Spa and outdoor pool. The Grand Hôtel also markets luxury apartments designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte.

Open until April in winter and July to September in summer. Rooms €240.

lerefuge-grandhotel.fr



Le Refuge du Grand Hôtel © P. Bréchu

LE CHALET BLANC HÔTEL & SPA****

📍 MONTGENÈVRE

Perched at an altitude of 1,860 metres, just five minutes from the Chalvet gondola lift, this gorgeous, fully-refurbished chalet combines stone and alpine wood architecture with contemporary touches. The 34 rooms - including one allergy-free - feature balconies and handmade beds. Le *Chalet Blanc* also offers a patio, solarium, swimming pool and wellness centre complete with whirlpool bath, steam room and sauna.

www.hotellechaletblanc.com



Le Chalet Blanc © DR

CHALET AU FIL DE L'ONDE

📍 VALLOUISE

Peaceful, welcoming and cosy... Your host and mountain guide Catherine offers guests a warm welcome to this environmentally-friendly, wooden eco-chalet located near Vallouise, featuring 3 private rooms. The *table d'hôtes* shared meals, rich in colours and flavours, are concocted with fresh, local produce. The entire chalet, for 8 to 12 people, can also be rented out on a self-managed basis.

Room for 2 guests from €83. Breakfast €10 per person.

www.aufildelonde.fr



Au fil de l'onde © M. Lachaud

GÎTES MAISON EMME

📍 MOLINES-SAINT-VÉРАН

Lovingly restored by Justine and Mathieu, this typical country house perched at an altitude of 1,730 metres in the heart of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve blends beautifully into the surrounding environment. It now offers four uniquely charming lodgings, aimed at reconnecting visitors with life's simple pleasures. The 4 gîtes for 2 to 6 guests feature a pellet stove, outdoor areas and a myriad of delightful little details to get you in the holiday mood. La Grande Ourse is a roomy stone duplex with an attic atmosphere; the self-catering *Bon-Henri* is a small, independent chalet with a garden and river below; *Céleste* is set on the top floor and *Philème*, with its large terrace, is set around a spacious living room.

From €125.

www.maison-emme.com



Maison Emme © Office de Tourisme du Guillestrois et du Queyras

GASTRONOMY

PICNIC TIME!

📍 SAINT-CHAFFREY SERRE CHEVALIER

Accessible to all and kitted out with plancha grills and wooden deckchairs, these mountain picnic areas delight skiers in winter and hikers in summer. Saint-Chaffrey, part of Serre Chevalier Valley, has just joined the club.

www.serre-chevalier.com

LE CHAMP DU VAGABOND

📍 BRIANÇON

Recently opened on the main street of historic Briançon, nicknamed "the gargoyle", this tiny restaurant with just 15 covers is a dream come true for fervent wild plant and cooking fans Stéphanie Soulasse and Gaëtan Bartevelle. Their gluten and lactose-free dishes are inspired by the plants and berries they collect in the wild: roasted celeriac, creamed meadowsweet, chocolate & larch tart, or panna cotta with wild carrot seeds... The other ingredients are courtesy of organic producers. Talk about healthy!

 [Le Champ du Vagabond](#)



Serre-Chevalier © T. Blais



Le Champ du Vagabond © A. Régnier



Serre-Chevalier © T. Blais

MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL SITES

📍 PARC NATIONAL DES ÉCRINS

Mountaineering is an art! And to learn it, opt for one of the 15 mountaineering school sites located near the Écrins' *Villages d'Alpinisme* mountaineering villages. The mountaineering school site concept is "one of a kind in France", in the words of Jean-René Minelli, a member of the *Compagnie des Guides Oisans Écrins* guide association. Its members have kitted out natural boulders, climbing routes and waterfalls for beginners at sites located adjacent to seven mountaineering villages. Examples include the Pic des Aupillous ridge (Vallouise-Pelvoux), Pantalou site (Le Monêtier-les-Bains), Fréaux ridge and Balmes boulders (La Grave), plus the route leading from Sirac to La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar.

These committed initiatives are set to encourage younger generations to discover the beauty and values of mountaineering. The project is led by the Hautes-Alpes Agency for Economic and Tourism Development in partnership with Écrins National Park, and backed by European funding.

guides-ecrins.com

ÉCRINS NATIONAL PARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY

📍 PNR LES ECRINS

In 2023, Écrins National Park is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its official opening on March 27th, 1973. In fact, the park was born much earlier: its current core is that of the old Bérarde national park, created in 1913. 110 years ago, its aim was to protect the mountain from the impact of excessive grazing. In 1923, it was renamed Pelvoux national park and covered 32,000 acres. In 1960, France finally began creating national parks as genuine tools for the "conservation of fauna, flora, soil, subsoil, atmosphere, waters and the natural environment in general".

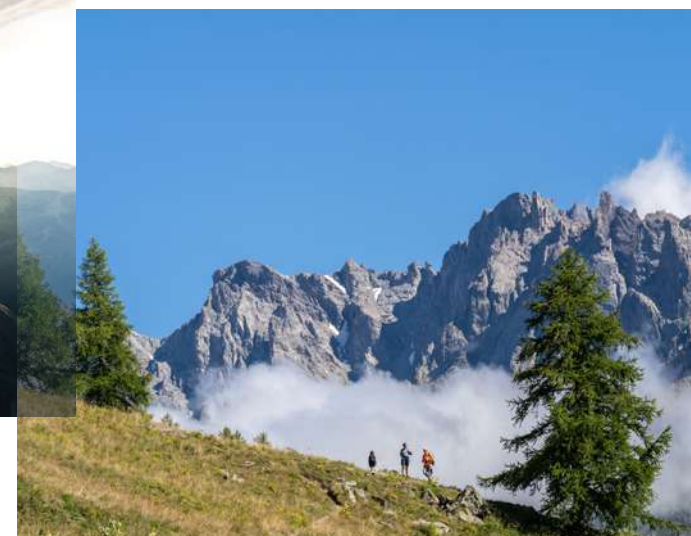
When the Parc National des Écrins – France's 5th national park – was set up in 1973, it had already been a conservation test site for 80 years. Now spanning 227,000 acres between the towns of Gap, Briançon and Grenoble, Écrins National Park has always been a scientific hub. Friendly scientific meetings are scheduled throughout the area for the park's 50th anniversary celebrations, with researchers and residents alike meeting up for a series of café-aperitifs, talks and field trips. June marks the peak of this year's events programme.

A call for projects has also been launched in the aim of creating public events at sites throughout the park.

www.ecrins-parcnational.fr



© J. Dupieux



© R. Van Rijn



PRÉALPES D'AZUR MERCANTOUR

32

From summits to shores, where the mounts of the Southern Alps plunge into the Mediterranean, cheered on by the Côte d'Azur... Set on the Italian border, **Mercantour** National Park is a hiking and rock climbing paradise, whose high peaks unveil the distant sparkling sea. Nestling between the coast and Southern Alps, the **Préalpes** d'Azur Regional Nature Reserve is carved out by small rivers yearning for the big blue – Le Paillon, La Siagne, Le Var and Le Loup –, with peaceful villages perched on their banks, sheltering precious old frescoes and altarpieces.

📅 [Check out the season's events!](#)

HOSPITALITY

APPARTHÔTEL MMV LES TERRASSES D'ISOLA

📍 ISOLA 2000

Beautifully kept and decorated in cosy colours, this MMV aparthotel offers 2-room apartments and 4-room cabins for up to 10 guests, promising a delightful holiday with family or friends. Guests enjoy a heated indoor pool, AquaZen and AquaTonic classes, and a 200 m² relaxation area hosting activities led by fitness coach Lucile Woodward. Children from 4 to 10 years old are treated to their very own entertainment programme - and pets are allowed!

www.mmv.fr



©ManuReyboz

CABANES PERCHÉES DU BORÉON

📍 SAINT-MARTIN-VÉSUBIE

À 1 600 m d'altitude, deux nouvelles cabanes se sont perchées à l'orée du Parc Alpha. Pour 4 personnes, les You'll now find an extra two treetop cabins perched at an altitude of 1,600 metres on the outskirts of the *Parc Alpha* animal park. Welcoming 4 guests, the cabins enjoy breakfast service out on the terrace, plus their own kitchenette. Entry to the animal park (2 adults + 2 children) is free with your stay, and for a small fee you can rent a pair of binoculars to observe the eagles and, of course, wolves.

www.saintmartinvesubie.fr



Cabane perchée © DR



Cabane perchée © DR

GASTRONOMY

AUBERGE SAINT-MARTIN

📍 LA BRIGUE

This century-old hotel-bar-restaurant, now fully restored, sits between two churches at the heart of the village of La Brigue, in the upper Roya valley. Patrick Teisseire gives pride of place to valley cuisine, also referred to as Cucina Bianca in reference to its proximity to the high valleys of Piedmont and Liguria. Made with typical ingredients from the agropastoral era - flour, potatoes, leeks, legumes and, especially, herbs gathered on the transhumance routes -, it is simple, tasty and healthy. Upcoming: a "Cucina Bianca Route" running from La Brigue to Mendatica in Italy, plus holidays in partnership with AetNature (aetnature.com).

www.hotel-la-brigue.fr



Auberge Saint Martin © Pango Visual

BISTROT DE PAYS L'HARTMONIE

📍 CASTILLON

Castillon - a genuine picture-postcard, with its old stone walls and tiled roofs clustered around a proud bell tower - is a hilltop village located just next to Menton. This new *Bistrot de Pays* establishment serves delightful meals on a shaded terrace in the village centre, at a friendly price. But that's not all: for the first time in France, it also incorporates an ESAT (establishment facilitating employment for disabled workers). Chef Stéphane Taton and his accomplices Jérémy, Sabrina, Élisabeth and Stéphane, have a flair for creative cuisine.

Dish of the day €10.20 on weekdays / €12.50 on weekends. Starter + main course + dessert €19 on weekdays / €21 on weekends.

www.bistrotdepays.com/castillon



Auberge Saint-Martin © R. Cortin



Bistrot de Pays L'Hartmonie © Kolandjian



Bistrot de Pays L'Hartmonie © Kolandjian

Zero pollution peaks

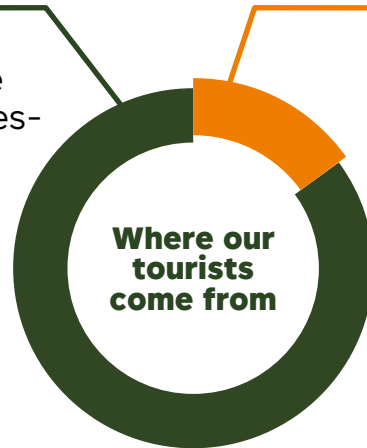
85%
French tourists

Including:
30% from the
Provence-Alpes-
Côte d'Azur
region



15%
international
tourists

Mainly



2nd French mountain destination
(15% of regional economic activity)

Seasonal distribution



WINTER _____ **37%**



SUMMER _____ **47%**



SPRING - AUTUMN _____ **16%**

- **12 000 km²**, 40% of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region's surface area and 8% of regional population
- **450 000 inhabitants** (8% of the region's population)
- **7 Nature Parks**
 - Ecrins and Mercantour National Parks
 - Queyras, Baronnies Provençales, Verdon, Luberon and Préalpes d'Azur Regional Parks
- **2 Geoparks and National Geological Reserves**
 - Haute-Provence UNESCO Geopark
 - Alpes Cottiennes Geopark
- **26 lakes** including Europe's largest natural high-altitude lake (**Allos**) and one of France's largest reservoirs (**Serre-Ponçon**)
- Europe's highest village: **Saint-Véran** (2,042 m)
- Europe's highest town: **Briançon** (1,326 m)
- **65 ski resorts and cross-country ski areas**
- **Renowned sporting hotspots**
 - **Whitewater sports & sailing**
Serre-Ponçon, Verdon Canyon, Durance, Ubaye and La Roya
 - **Aerial sports**
Tallard, Saint-Vincent-les-Forts
 - **Mountaineering & rock-climbing**
La Meije, Vallouise, Valgaudemar, Orpierre, Céüse
- **Cultural sites**
 - Mont-Dauphin (UNESCO), Briançon (UNESCO),
 - Entrevaux, Barcelonnette, Casterino, Notre-Dame du Laus, Vésubia Mountain Park, Vallée des Merveilles

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EVENTS IN REAL
TIME!

SEASON'S EVENTS

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presse@provence-alpes-cotedazur.com





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N.B. Although great care is taken to ensure the information provided in this kit is correct, it is non-exhaustive and cannot be guaranteed.

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