

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

HAPPINESS AU NATUREL

JUST OUT
WINTER
2023-2024

#AlpesDuSud
#puralpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

RÉGION
SUD
PROVENCE
ALPES
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM
BOARD

4

65 ski resorts,
one massif, and a
thousand marvellous
mountains



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Southern Alps,
major ski resorts
& village resorts



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2030 Olympic
and Paralympic
Winter Games:
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Glide over fresh snow in the morning and dine by the Mediterranean in the evening: the Southern Alps' close proximity to the coast combines the world-unique pleasures of mountain and sea. Here, visitors savour the delights of peaks soaring to over 3,000 meters and many valleys to explore, together with 65 major ski resorts and village resorts all with their own special personality, buzzing in every season.

Whether medieval hamlets or 20th Century Heritage resorts, they offer 65 different yet equally happy winter holiday experiences under azure skies. And of course, the lucky people who live in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur get to ski and make the most of the snowy slopes without venturing far from home.



Renaud MUSELIER

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council
Deputy President Régions de France

Instilled with the traditional values of mountaineering, the Southern Alps is a resolutely sporty destination where you'll find plenty of non-ski activities even in the heart of winter: trail running and rock climbing to name but a few. Close to both Provence and the Riviera, the mountains abound with cultural and heritage attractions. A limitless source of well-being, they promise to get you back on top of the world, aided and abetted by welcoming inhabitants who are genuine ambassadors for their homeland.

Wide open spaces and virgin landscapes... The Southern Alps – France's second most-popular ski area - is a genuine refuge, basking in the pure air that inspired our "purealpes" tagline. The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council voted for the European Green Deal to preserve this treasure. The climate emergency is an important factor in every investment decision.

"The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne Rhône-Alpes regions have submitted a joint bid for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

We are committed to providing innovative and sober Games that respect the mountains as bearers of alpine heritage. Working hand in hand with our partner resorts, we fly the flag of these character-filled mountains where the environment rules, inviting visitors to recharge their batteries and share quality experiences in winter and all year round."

François de CANSON
Vice-President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council
President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board
President of ADN Tourisme



One massif, **65** ski resorts and a thousand marvellous mountains



© R. Van-Rijn ↑

Views over the Med or a sea of summits?

What will it be, views over the Med or a sea of summits? Dog sledding in the larch forests or meandering down a blue slope in the sunshine? A friendly old hamlet or MKII resort? Or how about all above the above?! The mountains and valleys of the Southern Alps promise a thousand treats to share. And the cherry on the cake? You'll find all the space you need there...

From La Grave to La Vésubie and the stunning summits of Écrins National Park to the Scots pines of La Tinée, most of this exceptional playground remains untouched. The raw, unbridled, sunswept beauty of the Southern Alps' two national parks - Mercantour and Écrins - and regional nature reserves - Queyras, Baronnies Provençales and Préalpes -, is truly breathtaking. The nights are stunning here too: don't miss a spot of stargazing at the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve.

Home to 2,500 kilometres of downhill slopes, mythical cross-country trails and a record number of ice waterfalls, the Southern Alps is the stuff champions are made of. A paradise for lovers of virgin snow, pristine forests and nature without frontiers, our **#purealpes** promise many moments of pure happiness.

Fiercely proud of its treasures, the Southern Alps fosters a myriad of initiatives combining eco-responsibility and attractiveness. Serre Chevalier, Les Orres, Puy-Saint-Vincent, to name but a few, are pioneers in energy self-production and waste management. What's more, the Regional Council encourages soft mobility, making the white expanses easily accessible from our major towns, railway stations and airports - and at prices as gentle as a snowflake...



2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games: The French Alps in The Bidding

"The executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially invited the French Alps into Targeted Dialogue as the only Preferred Host for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Today marks the start of a period of work, rationalization and performance in fine-tuning our project before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. We will be working diligently and with great humility to achieve the end result: the return of the Games to the world's leading ski area, the French Alps, across 4 clusters and 2 regions. We pledge to remain faithful to the Olympic spirit, with particular focus on athlete experience. This bid is an integral part of our "Une Cop d'Avance" climate plan and 100% green budget, the first in Europe.

The objective is clear: sober Games that open up the French Alps, considerably reduce financial costs and mark a return to the "snow and chalet" origins of the Winter Games. To all volunteers, athletes, and community and economic players : today we are calling on all those who wish to join forces with us to make this project a proud moment for the French Alps and for all.

Long live Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, long live the French Alps!"

Renaud MUSELIER

President of the Provence-Alpes-
Côte d'Azur Regional Council
President of Régions de France

A unique bid

Every Olympic bid is unique, but uniting two regions around a global project spanning such a vast area has never before been attempted. Sporting events can no longer be envisaged as they were in the last century; the joint bid submitted by the French National Olympic Committee, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is authentic, environmentally-friendly and proud.

This unifying project conveys the desire shared by our two regions: to ensure the voice of our mountains resounds worldwide, through sober, sustainable and flawless Games that will have a lasting impact on our destination and future generations. Our bid capitalizes on our History too, from the most ancient, Chamonix, to the most recent, Albertville, and aims to leave a legacy that everyone can enjoy.

The French Alps' bid for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is all that and more, topped with cosy chalets and stunning scenery. And it starts here.

The selected Olympic sites are set around 4 geographical hubs from North to South as follows:

- Haute-Savoie hub
- Savoie hub
- Briançon hub
- Pôle Nice Côte d'Azur hub

Each hub will welcome a village as well as all the necessary media facilities.

KEY DATES

NOVEMBER 29TH, 2023

The French Alps is invited into targeted dialogue as the only Preferred Host for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

JULY 2024

Election of the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games host.



Inspiring champions

Mathieu FAIVRE

Two-times World Champion, Giant Slalom

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

On the slopes of Isola 2000

Julia PEREIRA DE SOUSA MABILEAU

Snowboard Cross Olympic Silver Medal winner.

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HER?

At Isola 2000

Maxime MONTAGGIONI

Para Snowboard Cross Champion
Banked Slalom

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

Vars and Isola 2000 are major snowboarding hotspots

Christophe FERRIER

Ice Driving

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

In his icy garden at Isola 2000

Arthur BAUCHET

8 Paralympic Medals including 3 Gold Medals

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

He is the ambassador of Serre Chevalier Vallée Briançon, where a black ski slope is named after him



Simon BILLY

holder of the Speed Skiing World Record:
255.50 km/hr

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HIM?

At Vars of course, not far from the speed ski piste

Charlotte BANKS

Snowboard World Champion

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HER?

On the slopes of Écrins National Park



Aurélie RICHARD

Para Downhill and Slalom World
Championship Silver Medal

WHERE CAN YOU MEET HER?

At Ceillac. Her favourite slope is the Piste Girardin.





Southern Alps, **moving mountains**

Plunge into the heart of the Southern Alps, a winter playground boasting 2,500 km of thrilling slopes dedicated to alpine skiing, freeriding, surfing and snowscoting.

Mythical passes such as Col de l'Izoard await cross-country skiers, while Queyras - an international ski mountaineering hotspot - and Écrins National Park - home to 450 ice waterfalls - make the Southern Alps a paradise for mountaineering enthusiasts.

A plethora of experiences awaits in addition to snow-capped peaks, exalted by the *joie de vivre*, professionalism and passion of the local inhabitants: great cuisine, dog sledding, farm tours, heartwarming encounters and wellbeingalore. Succumb to the artistic beauty of chapel frescoes, UNESCO World Heritage fortifications, land art installations and outdoor photo galleries...



© Zoom ↑

Ascend

in a cable car to the heights of Briançon, a citadel built by Vauban, now part of UNESCO World Heritage: a one-of-a-kind experience only found at the Grand Domaine de Serre Chevalier.

Roam

the banks of Lac d'Allos, Europe's highest natural lake, kitted out with snowshoes.

© iStock ↓





© Adobe Stock ↑

Gaze

at the Mediterranean Sea from the Mercantour peaks after a cross-country ski climb: an official "Esprit Parc National" experience led by a "Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional" qualified nature guide.

Discover

bison in the Monts d'Azur geological reserve, near the ski resort of Gréolières. A unique site and rewilding benchmark, where European bison, stags, Przewalski's horses, chamois, golden eagles and wolves live side by side in the heart of nature. You can even sleep there.

© R. Van Rijn ↓



© Digne-les-Bains Tourisme ↑

Battle it out

with an escape game in the underground galleries of Fort Vauban in Seyne-les-Alpes.



© R.Van Rijn ↑

Admire

Ousmane Sow's Little Big Horn exhibition at the UNESCO fortified village of Mont-Dauphin.

Perfect

your skiing skills thanks to an indoor ski carpet hooked up to video analysis software, or sample the joys of rock climbing and generally keep up to speed with your fitness routine at the new Sports & Innovation Hub in Les Orres. 1,100 m² bursting with innovative amenities.

© T. Blais ↓



Adobe Stock ↑

Feed and pet

merino sheep at Chez Flouka, a wool producer based in Dévoluy for three generations.



R. Van-Rijn ↑

Glide

across the mythical cross-country trails of Col Izoard, Col Agnel and more, reserved for ski tourers on certain mornings.

Observe

the stars on an exciting night hike starting out from the resorts of the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve... Or head over to the brand new Barcelonnette Observatory.

Adobe Stock ↓





© OT Le Dévoluy ↑

Ascend

one of the 450 ice waterfalls in Écrins National Park... In winter, the valleys transforms into a genuine hall of mirrors. There's something for everyone here, whether you're a beginner or an expert. Grab your ice axe and crampons and get ready to climb!

Fly

in a hot-air balloon at altitudes of over 4,000 metres and get a whole new angle on the magnificent Barre des Ecrins mountain range. Kitted out with oxygen, participants even enjoy a chocolate fondue during the flight! Take-off from Orcières ski resort.

© M.Ruffini ↓



© Rogier Van Rijn ↑

Climb

to Pelvoux on the winter via ferrata in the company of qualified instructors. A hybrid activity combining hiking and ice climbing.

Conquer

icy torrents and rivers running through little gorges with a Ruisseling session.

© T. Blais ↓



© Luparini C. ↑

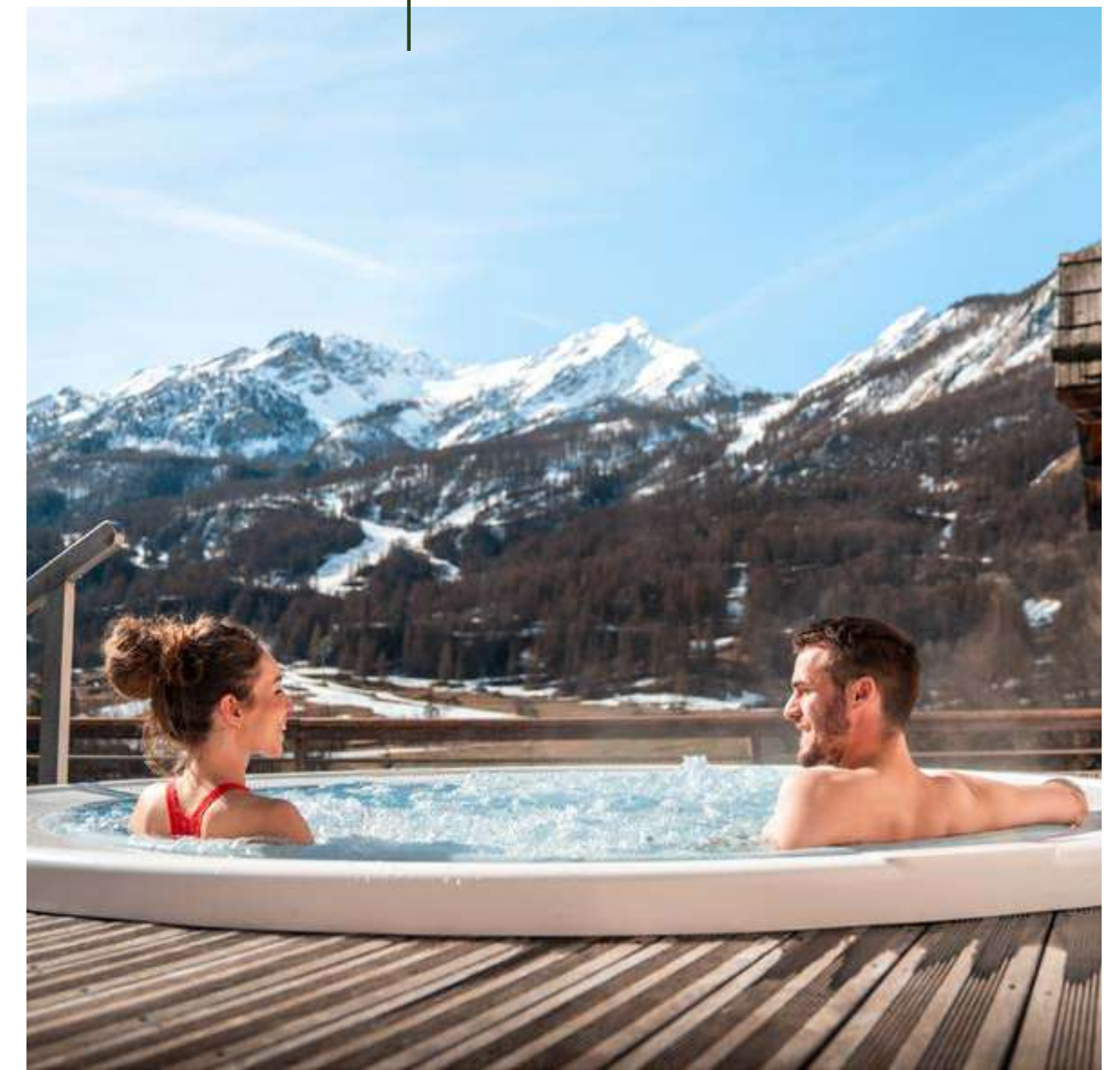
Sit down

at Les Tables de Gaspard in the Hautes-Alpes. Run by the chef and his wife, this incredible two-man show is the Southern Alps' only Michelin-starred eatery!

Bathe

in naturally hot, rejuvenating waters at Les Grands Bains in Monêtier. Treats include bubbling beds, geysers, a Roman-Celtic space, jacuzzi on the winter terrace overlooking the snow and magnificent new sauna.

© Entre2Poles ↓





Southern Alps, **10 reasons to prefer winter**

The Southern Alps is addictive! Savour skies drenched in azure blue, married to perfection with dazzling white snow. Revel in vast, virgin and varied wide-open spaces, graced with Himalayan valleys, glowing gorges, dizzy peaks, high-altitude lakes, sunny cirques and verdant forests. You'll need to visit several times to explore it all: the friendly local villages and ski resorts, inhabited throughout the year, welcome you back like an old friend.

1 | 65 different mountain moods

High altitude villages dotted with sundials, contemporary resorts listed as 20th Century Heritage, 17th-century fortresses and hamlets immersed in larch trees: simply pick your dream getaway on the heights! **Saint-Véran** in the **Queyras** area – Europe’s highest village – is famed for its larch log cabins known as fustes. **Superdvoluy**, **Les Orres** and **Isola 2000** are celebrated for their 20th-century architectural heritage. The Southern Alps’ 65 ski resorts all have their own unique character, so why settle for just one “mountain break”?



R. Van-Rijn ↑

2 | Glorious scenery

The complex and rugged relief of the **Southern Alps** alternates peaks soaring to over 3,000 metres (**Barre des Écrins**, 4,102 metres, is the highest point in France), Himalayan valleys, high-altitude bocages, larch forests and plateaux swathed in lavender. Get ready to wallow in genepi and thyme! If you’ve had your fill of winter sports, venture out to explore the ancient local monuments, Vauban fortresses listed as UNESCO World Heritage and Baroque chapels.

3 | Sunshine and pure air galore

Soak up the sun’s rays and enjoy a real breath of fresh air! The sun shines 300 days a year in the Southern Alps and the air is among the purest you’ll find anywhere. You won’t find any major groups or polluting activities here: AtmoSud (a benchmark observatory for monitoring air quality in the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur** region), rarely pinpoints any pollution peaks. What’s more, the massif’s resorts are among the most innovative in Europe in terms of renewable energy production and mindful consumption.

4 | An array of experiences to share

The Southern Alps’ mild climate and varied geography have spawned a fantastic variety of experiences and activities for all ages. Families are welcomed warmly, children are extra-spoilt, shops and services are handy and you’ll find friendly prices throughout the ski resorts. **Auron**, **Valberg**, **Le Devoluy**, **Montgenèvre**, **Orcières-Merlette**, **Val d’Allos** and **Les Orres** are all proud holders of the national Famille Plus (Family Plus) label.

APRIL 6TH TO 7TH, 2024

Course La 1000 Pattes | Montgenèvre

A colourful sporting event and France’s largest meeting of young hopeful skiers, welcoming over 1,000 children aged 5 to 10 years with an exciting line-up of fun competitions against the clock.

→ www.1000-pattes.fr

EVENT



M. Lelièvre ↑

5 | An extra-friendly welcome

Many people live in the **Southern Alps** all year round and are more than happy to welcome visitors and share a taste of their lifestyle. Encounters with local producers, introductions to craftwork, or simply meals savoured at a friendly inn... Heartfelt human relationships rule here.

Local inhabitants come first when it comes to tourism, so in **Serre Chevalier**, they enjoy privileged access to the ski amenities. After all, kindness isn't seasonal...

6 | More spending power

Quality services, idyllic surroundings, delightful accommodation and... Some of Europe's most affordable ski packages!

Le Grand-Puy in the **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence** area ranks second among the Top 10 most-affordable ski areas according to the France Holidu search engine, with accommodation plus a ski pass priced at €39 per person per day! At **Chazelet** in the **Hautes-Alpes**, at the foot of **La Meije**, day passes cost just €19 per adult. → www.chazelet.com

In the **Alpes-Maritimes**, you can enjoy 30 km of pistes at **Roubion-les-Buisses Roubion**, just one hour from Nice, for €18 per day for adults and €14 for children.

→ www.roubion.com

7 | Tantalising tastes

Sea buckthorn, genepi, lavender and chard pie... The fondues here are flavoured with **Queyras blue cheese** and dishes are perfumed with plants that flourish between the Alps and Provence. Larchwood, or *Larix decidua*, was used to manufacture the Briançon area's very first skis. Today, in addition to providing roof trusses and cladding for the region's chalets, its resinous scent has become a culinary must-have, used in desserts, sweets and liqueurs, or slipped into savoury dishes.

8 | Star-studded skies

The **Alpes Azur Mercantour** area was awarded the International Dark Sky Reserve label in 2019 in recognition of the exceptional quality of its night skies and efforts to reduce light pollution. Several resorts, including **Valberg** and **Les Orres**, bear the Starry Towns and Villages label, awarded to municipalities using a third less artificial light than average. Fancy a moonlit stroll?

Barcelonnette Observatory (Observatoire d'Astronomie)

Opening its doors this winter in the heart of the town's former military quarter, this new, Jules Verne-style observatory features two domes and a planetarium. A genuine cabinet of curiosities!



J. Dupieux ↑

9 | Big picture views

Take to the heights to contemplate the stunning summits of **Écrins**, peaks of **Mercantour**, ridgeline of Italy, sparkling **Mediterranean Sea** on the horizon, or frozen winter waters of a blue lake... In **Réallon**, you'll find no less than five belvederes offering breathtaking vistas, and even a platform teetering above **Serre-Ponçon** lake. You can reach them on skis or on foot from the top of the gondola lift.

10 | A hub of traditional mountaineering

Mountaineering was classified as part of UNESCO Intangible Heritage in December 2019 and several villages have now been awarded the very-exclusive **Villages d'Alpinisme** (Mountaineering Villages) label, including **Pelvoux-Vallouise**, La Grave and **Le Monêtier-les-Bains** in **Serre Chevalier** Valley. Their motto? "Less But Better". These peaceful localities devoted to soft tourism cherish the mountain environment and boast a diverse and respectful mountain sports offering.

JANUARY 25TH TO 28TH, 2024

ICE CLIMBING ÉCRINS | L'Argentière-la-Bessée

A major landmark on the ice climbing calendar, this international meeting features introductory and advanced workshops, a professional fair, European Cup and alternative Mountain & Adventure film festival.

→ ice-climbing-ecrins.com

MARCH 30TH AND 31ST, 2024

LE GRAND BÉAL | Arvieux, Queyras

One of the oldest and most famous ski mountaineering competitions on the French circuit, Le Grand Béal showcases "high altitude" courses much appreciated by athletes.

The venue for numerous national and international events, Arvieux is a genuine hallmark of quality and professionalism.

→ montagnes-queyras.com

EVENT

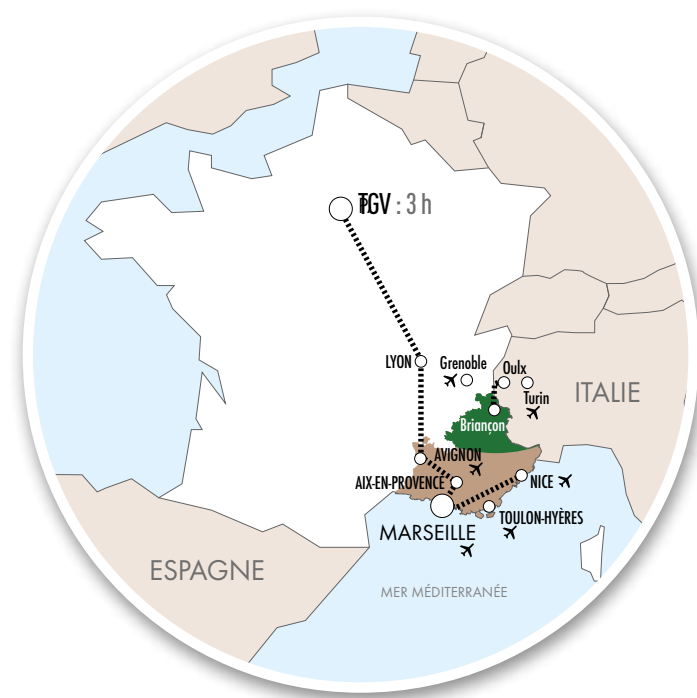


Southern Alps, **major ski resorts & village resorts**

The Southern Alps' 65 ski resorts each boast their own seasoned character, combining heritage and cutting-edge performance. Here, village resorts and major ski resorts live side-by-side in perfect harmony; moreover, our ancient hamlets have captured the hearts of many champions. The proof of the pudding? The slopes of Serre Chevalier Briançon, Val d'Allos, Auron, Vars and Le Dévoluy, to name but a few, pan out around villages dating back to medieval times. Their little old lanes are lined with craft shops and architectural treasures.

Major ski resorts & village resorts

alpes DU SUD



HOW TO GET THERE?

BY AIR

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

BY RAIL

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



SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

ITALIE

20

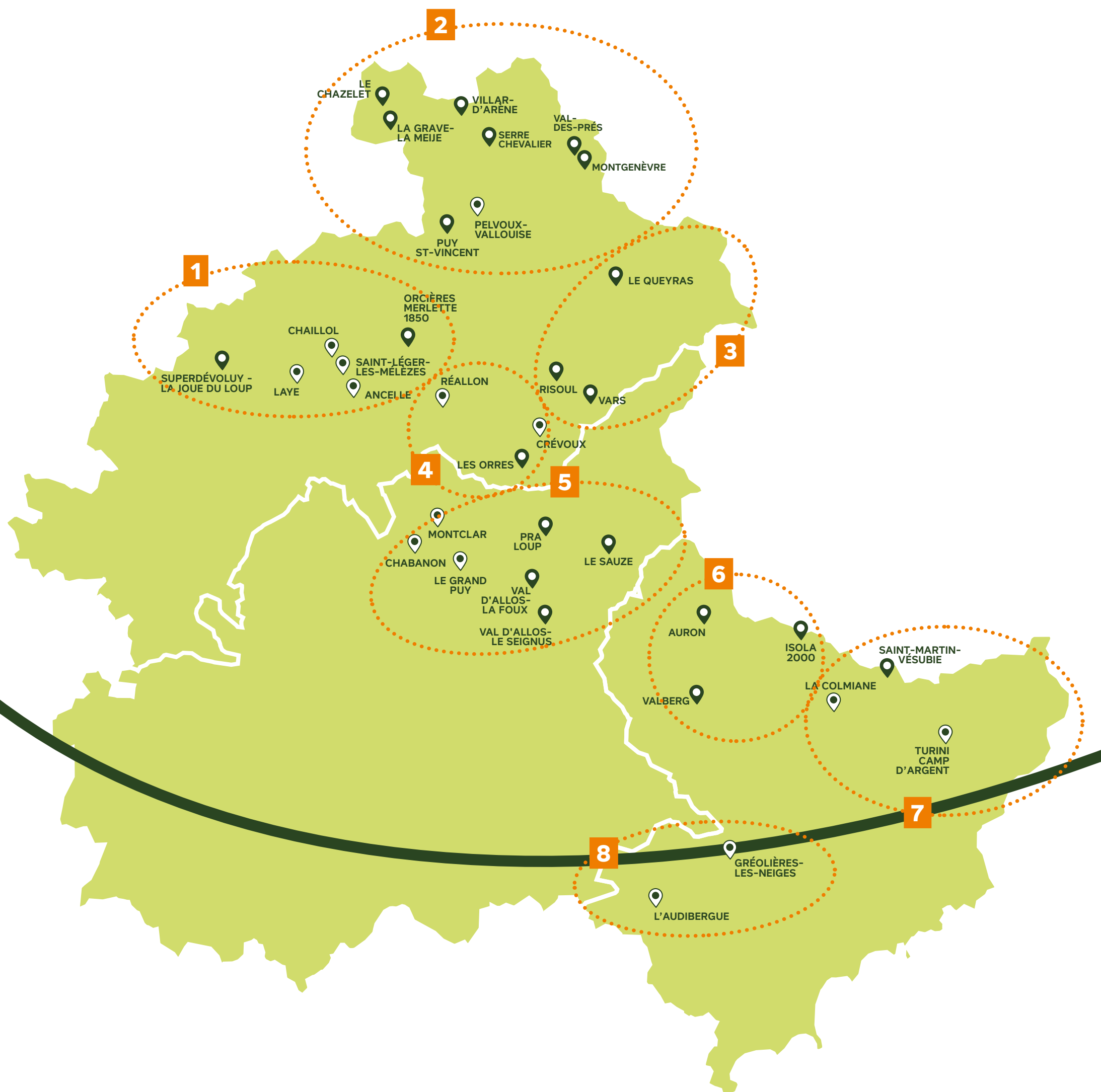


- Train stations
- Airports
- Rivers
- Nature Parks
- Main Towns
- Valleys

- 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
- Village Resorts

Southern French Alps

8 beautiful areas



**1 CHAMPSAUR
VALGAUDEMAR
LE DÉVOLUY**

→ [Ancelle, Champsaur 3 Gliss
Chaillool, Lave - Saint
Léger-les-Mélèzes](#)

→ [Le Dévoluy](#)

→ [Orcières Merlette 1850](#)

**2 BRIANÇON AREA
ÉCRINS**

→ [Station village du Chazelet](#)

→ [Domaine Nordique
de Villar d'Arène](#)

→ [La Grave La Meije](#)

→ [Montgenèvre](#)

→ [Névache - Val-des-Prés](#)

→ [Pelvoux-Vallouise](#)

→ [Puy-Saint-Vincent](#)

→ [Serre Chevalier](#)

**3 GUILLESTE AREA
QUEYRAS
FORÊT BLANCHE**

→ [Vars](#)

→ [Le Queyras](#)

→ [Risoul](#)

**4 EMBRUN AREA
LES ORRES**

→ [Les Orres](#)

→ [Réallon](#)

→ [Crévoux](#)

**5 UBAYE
BLANCHE
VAL D'ALLOS**

→ [Chabanon - Le Grand Puy](#)

→ [Le Sauze](#)

→ [Montclar les 2 Vallées](#)

→ [Pra-Loup](#)

→ [Val d'Allos](#)

**6 ISOLA 2000
AURON
VALBERG**

→ [Isola 2000](#)

→ [Auron](#)

→ [Valberg](#)

**7 VALDEBLORE
VÉSUBIE**

→ [La Colmiane](#)

→ [Saint-Martin-Vésubie](#)

→ [Turini Camp d'Argent](#)

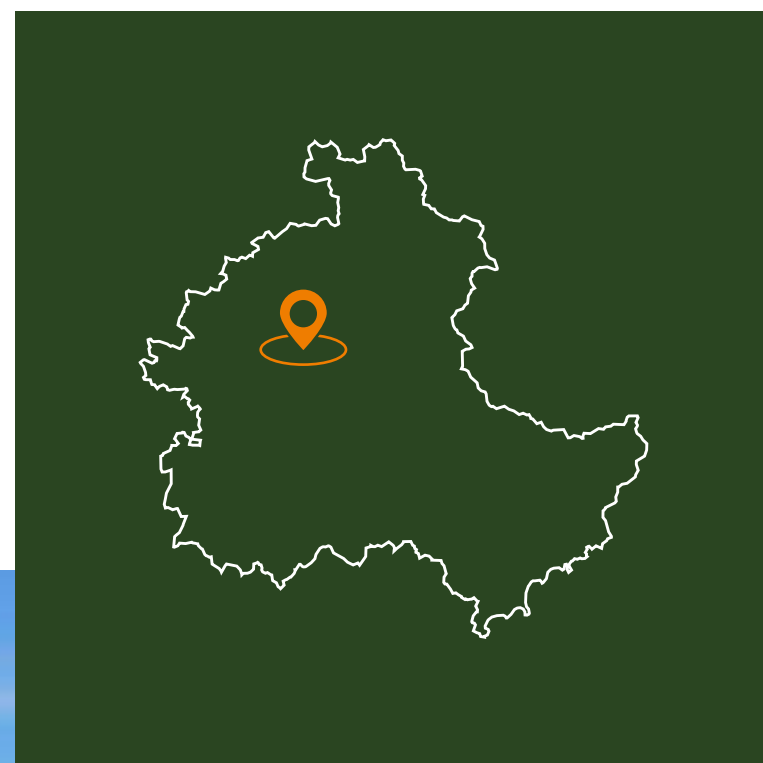
→ [Castérino](#)

**8 GRÉOLIÈRES
AUDIBERGUE**

→ [Gréolières - L'Audibergue](#)

1

CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR LE DÉVOLUY



© G.Bron ↑

Dazzling! Orcières-Merlette, Champsaur- Valgaudemar valleys

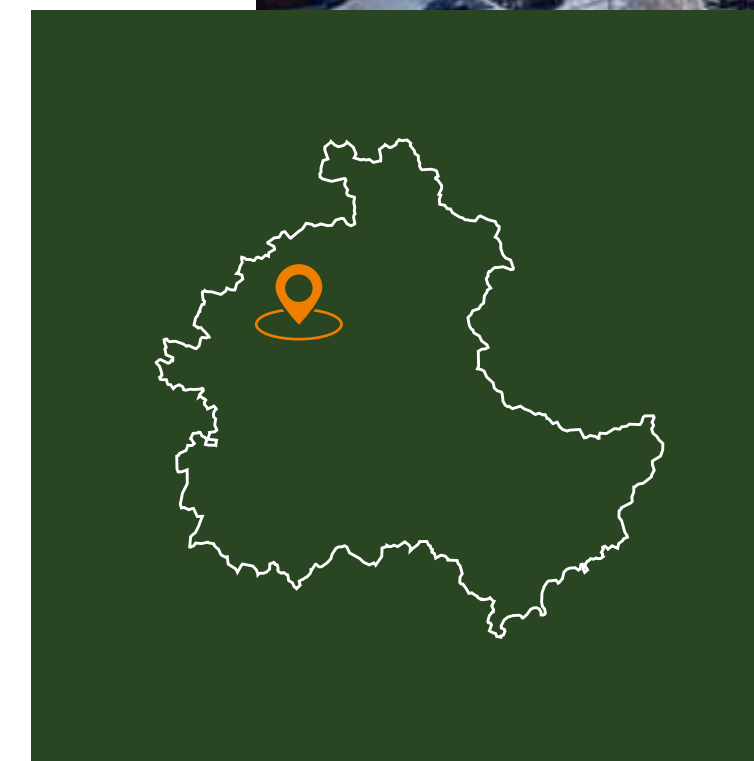
The 100 kilometres of slopes ascending to 2,725 metres are a genuine sight to behold. And the stunning views over Vieux-Chaillo, Pointe des Estaris and the various 3,000 metre summits of Écrins National Park are easy to reach too thanks to the Blue Label trails.

In 2023-2024, the ski area is also welcoming an exhibition of 65 large format photos visitors can admire on skis! Perched at an altitude of 1,850 metres, the cedar-lined resort of Champsaur never ceases to innovate. In 1967, it launched the very first Jardin des Neiges ski kindergarten, closely followed by a snow school in 1970 (which allows parents to ski outside school holidays at attractive rates). Other treasures include the Palais des Sports, igloos on Roche-Rousse plateau and charming hamlets of Prapic and Serre-Eyraud.

→ www.orcieres.com



© OT Dévoluy Arzur - Michaël ↑



A dynamic duo Super Dévoluy and La Joue du Loup, Massif du Dévoluy

The two resorts of Dévoluy have a very different style but the same southern alpine charm: Dévoluy, a U-shaped massif with the peak of Bure as its highest point and Super-Dévoluy built around Le Bois d'Aurouze, aptly nicknamed the "Cruise Liner of the Snow". Listed as Remarkable Contemporary Architecture, it shares one hundred kilometres of slopes with the pretty wooden chalets of Joue du Loup. Treat yourself to a whirlpool bath facing the mountains at the Espace Odycéa. The Nordic area features around 40 km of multi-activity trails and offers sweeping views over Joue du Loup plateau and Brèche de Faraut in the distance.

→ www.ledevoluy.com/fr

FEBRUARY 10TH TO 11TH, 2024

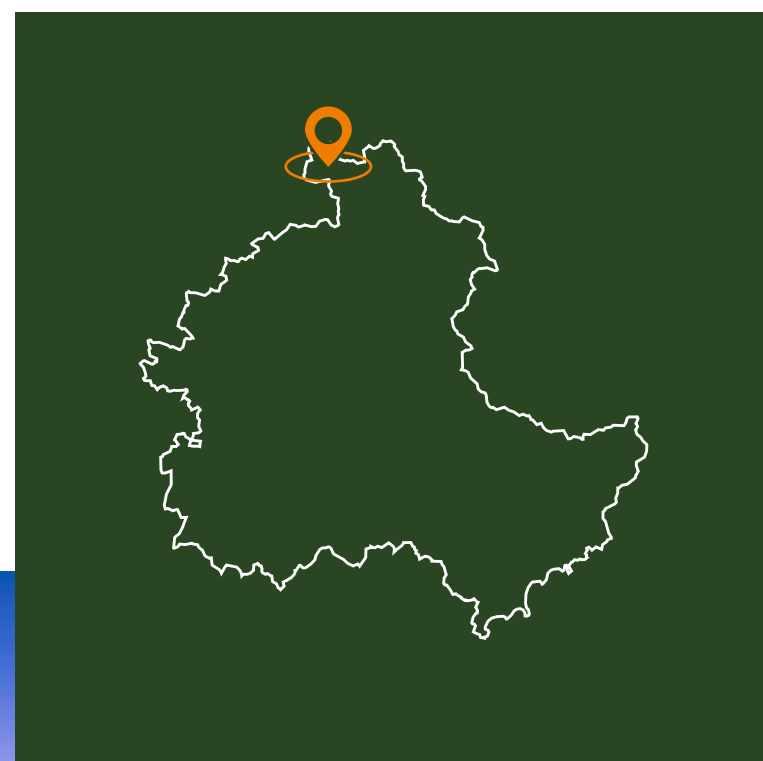
LA GRANDE TRACE HIVER DÉVOLUY COUPE DE FRANCE FFME | Le Dévoluy

France's oldest alpine skiing and climbing race, part of the French Mountain Climbing Federation Cup, is back this year with three courses: course A "L'Authentique", 2,500 metres uphill approx. (in teams); course B, 1,500 metres uphill approx. (individual); and course C, 1,000 metres uphill approx. (individual).

EVENT

→ www.ledevoluy.com/hiver

2 BRIANÇON AREA ÉCRINS



© Alpes Photographies ↑

Intense La Grave-La Meije

The only groomed slopes you'll find in this mythical freeriding hotspot are located on Girose glacier, at an altitude of 3,200 metres. Experienced skiers only please! La Grave is the ultimate playground for extreme skiing and freeriding aficionados and freeriders flock from the world over to tackle this high altitude, off-piste and ungroomed ski area nestling at the foot of the mythical summit of La Meije. But you don't have to be an adrenalin freak to appreciate La Grave-La Meije: savour the comforting food on offer at the local auberges, enjoy the breathtaking panoramic vistas from the Glaciers de la Meije cable car, revel in a fondue at the Refuge Chancel or slip into skis for the first time at the Chazelet ski resort ... All at a friendly price!

→ www.lagrave-lameije.com

APRIL 3RD TO 7TH, 2024

DERBY DE LA MEIJE #33 | La Grave

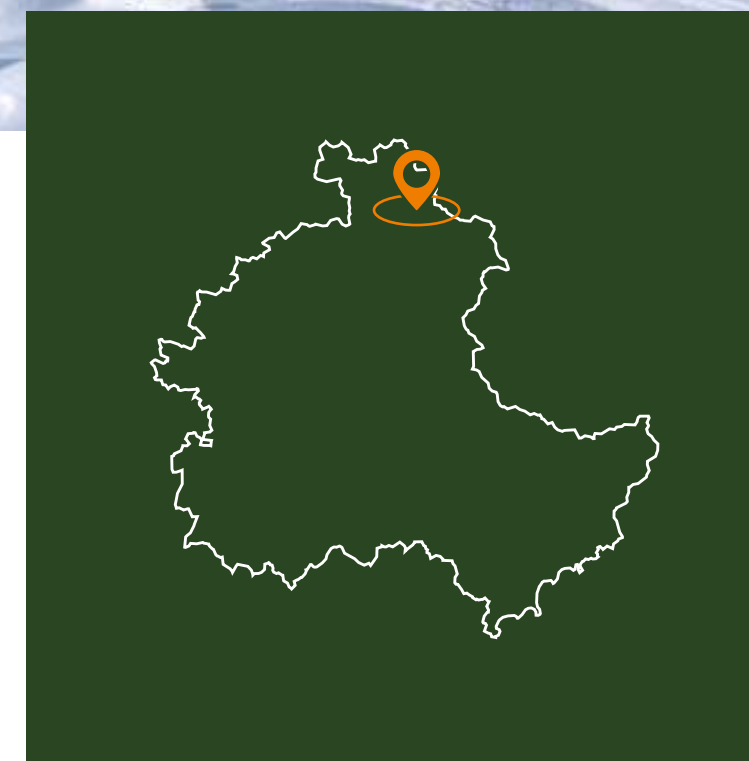
The legendary Derby de la Meije brings together 800 runners from the world over. After two days of reconnaissance and mountain safety workshops, competitors set out to storm the valleys of La Meije armed with their favourite snow gear. Some go to win, while others are just there to have a laugh with their team in fancy dress. Friday evening marks the start of yet more fun and games, with concerts and a plethora of prizes.

→ www.lagrave-lameije.com/fr/evenements

EVENT



© C. Tempier ↑



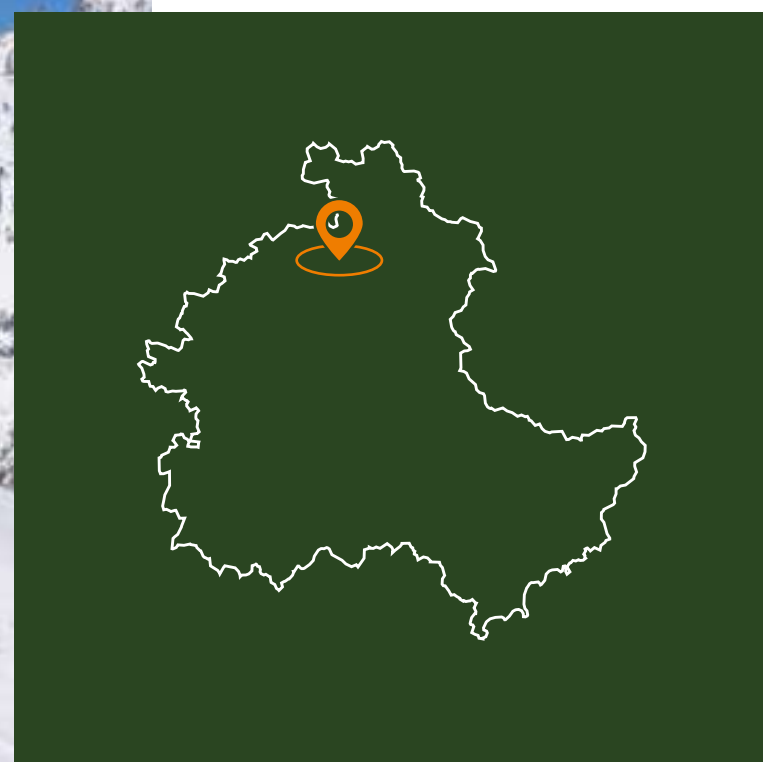
Dolce Vita Montgenèvre

The resort's Italian ski-in/ski-out connection has just been upgraded and that's great news, because our neighbours love this resort perched on the Italian border, on a mountain pass generously sprinkled with snow from Pô plain. You'll hear plenty of Italian spoken in the cosy wooden chalets on the snow front. You'll definitely want to whoosh over to Italy to savour sausage and polenta on the Colette green trail, or make the most of a free day in the Voie Lactée ski area - a whole 400 km of pistes leading to the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics site - when you book a 6-day package. France's oldest ski resort, this international hub features 110 km of pistes on two pleasantly-varied slopes, a 50,000 m² beginner's area (free of charge), modern cable car and panoramic toboggan - not to mention a Durancia balneotherapy centre.

→ montgenevre.com



© R. Van Rijn ↑



The Great North down South! Pelvoux-Vallouise, Écrins National Park

Perched at the gateway to Écrins National Park, this resort comprises two villages: Vallouise at the confluence of the Gyr and Onde rivers, and Pelvoux and its hamlet Ailefroide, an international mountaineering hub. The Préron chairlift whisks you up to the new panoramic barbecue and boasts spectacular views over the Barre des Écrins at 4,102 metres and Rouya at 2,730 metres, very popular with ski tourers. The igloos and ice rink of the pop-up Igloo Pelvoo village immerse holidaymakers in the atmosphere of the Great North. On the slopes, under the arcades of Vallouise and in the lanes of Puy Aillaud, you'll find plenty of gourmet addresses coveted by foodies.

→ www.paysdesecrins.com

JANUARY 25TH TO 28TH, 2024

ICE CLIMBING ECRINS #34 Argentière-La-Bessée

The chilliest event on the planet in the heart of Ecrins National Park, bringing together climbers from the world over every year for three days of workshops on the themes of ice climbing, snowshoeing, E-cycling and much more. A must-do!

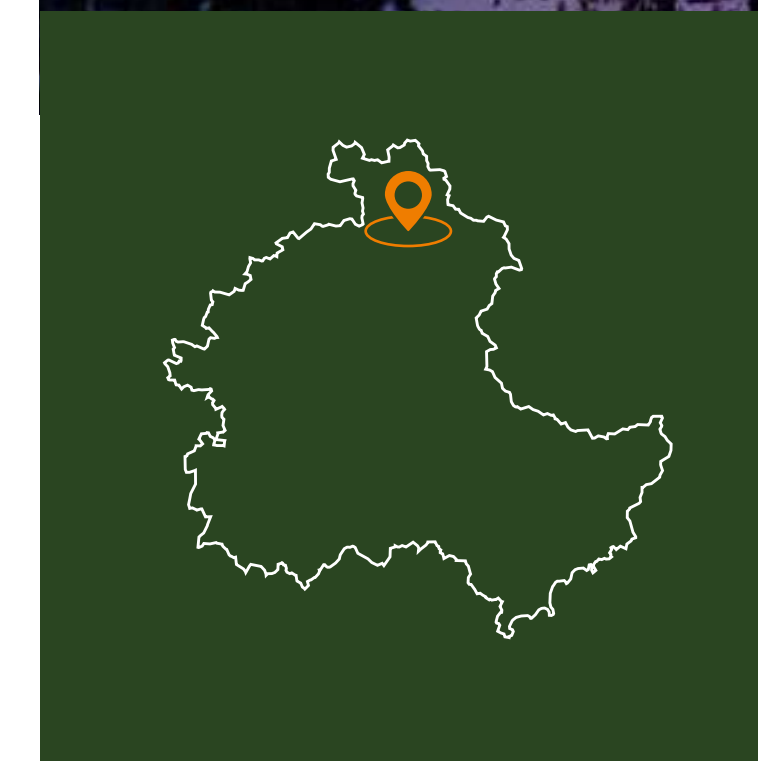
→ ice-climbing-ecrins.com

EVENT

Recharge your batteries Serre Chevalier-Briançon, Guisane Valley

Serre Chevalier's 250 km of slopes span the heights of Guisane valley, between Briançon and Col du Lautaret, making it one of the largest ski areas in France. The Prorel cable car glides its way over fortifications listed as UNESCO World Heritage. 80% of the ski area is set at over 2,000 metres and can be reached from three villages, including Monêtier-les-Bains - home to Les Grands Bains du Monêtier - and La Salle-les-Alpes, where you'll be able to hop on the Pontillas gondola opening this winter. Thanks to the new gondola, a high-altitude snow front is scheduled for development on Méa plateau as part of its ground-breaking adaptations to climate change. Serre Chevalier is the first ski resort to produce a whole third of its own energy needs through the combined use of microturbines, hydroelectricity and solar panels. The destination is buzzing all year round, with no less than 5 four-star hotels and a record number of activities including farm tours within walking distance, snowkiting at Col du Lautaret and of course bouldering: Bloc 027, measuring nearly 630 m² and suitable for all levels, has just opened in Briançon.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

JANUARY 18TH TO 27TH, 2024

ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL #16 Briançon

Two weeks of jazz and improvised music in the heart of winter in the mountains of Serre Chevalier Briançon, with the Théâtre du Briançonnais at its epicentre. The theatre will be open every afternoon during the week so visitors can meet with musicians - you'll find a café, shop, ticket office and art exhibition there too. The concert programme promises exciting new discoveries, plus a committed and open mindset welcoming international artists and emerging French and regional talents.

→ www.altitudejazz.com

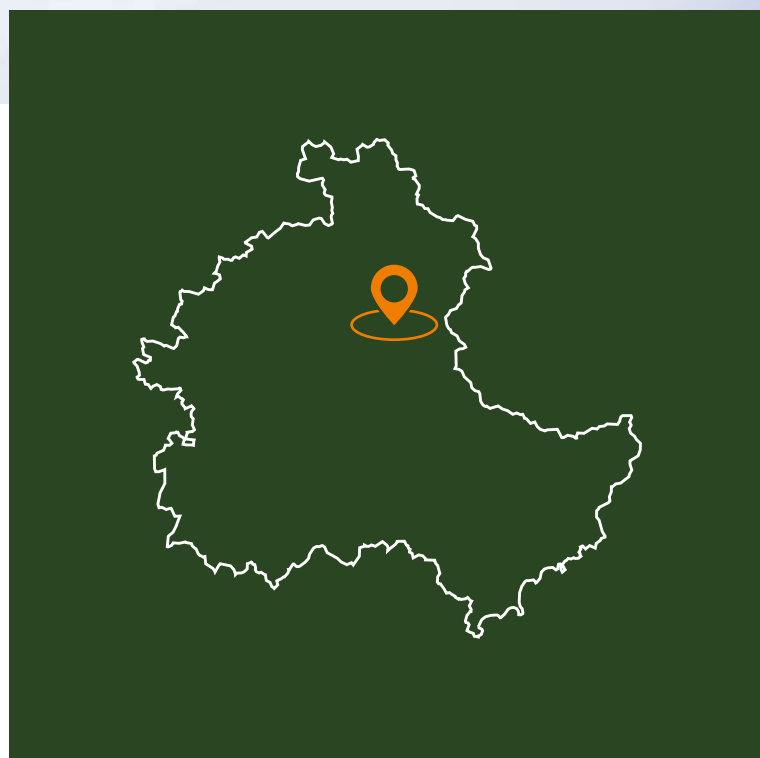
EVENT

3

GUILLESTRE AREA QUEYRAS FORÊT BLANCHE



© OT Risoul ↑



Fun & artistic Risoul, Écrins National Park

Tucked away in larch trees at an altitude of 1,850 metres, Risoul lies at the gateway to the Forêt Blanche ski area and the 180 km of slopes it shares with Vars. Risoul 1850's wooden shingle-clad buildings form the beating heart of the resort, offering excellent transport services to and from Guillestre.

A holder of the Famille Plus label, Risoul is a paradise for kids, with activities including the safety-oriented “good skier” diploma, Waouland snowpark, and blue and green trails leading to numerous viewpoints... This winter, a giant hammock will be inviting visitors to enjoy a contemplative nap at the top of the Peyrefolle chairlift. Artists will be expressing their talents on the slopes too. Art lovers take note: Risoul is just 7 km from the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the venue for the magnificent “Little Big Horn” exhibition by Ousmane Sow.

→ www.risoul.com/hiver

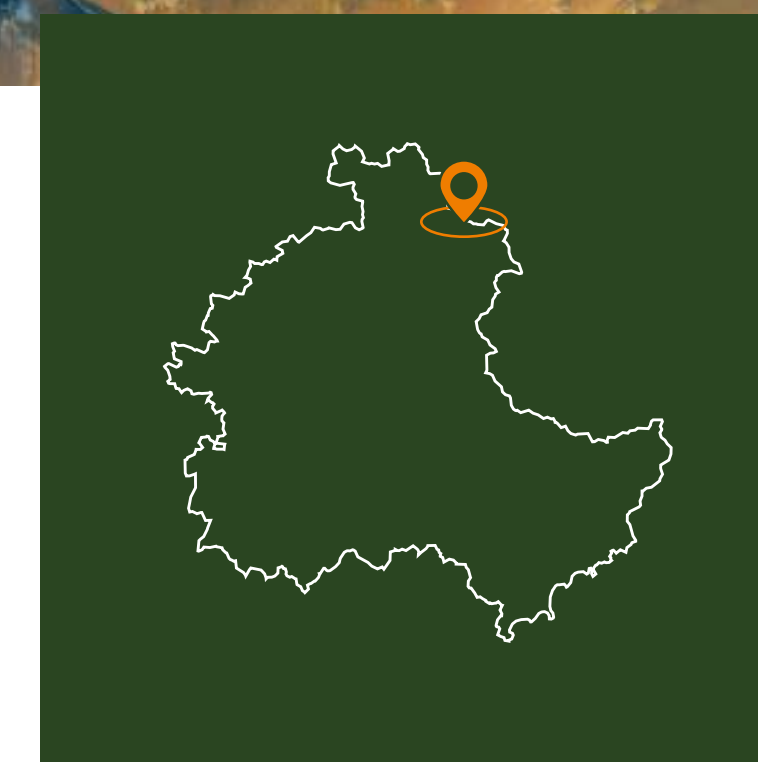


© Duncan Mac Arthur ↑

A haven of tranquillity Abriès

Resembling a little island on the border with Italy, nestling in the protective embrace of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve, Abriès is an international benchmark in ski touring, ski mountaineering and ruisselement (hiking with crampons along the banks of frozen rivers). Perched at an altitude of 1,550 metres, this village resort promises virgin landscapes worthy of the Great North at the confluence of the Guil and Bouchet rivers. The new La Brune ski lift at the mouth of the Bouchet river uses roller technology to allow visitors to return to the resort on skis. The La Brune black slope has been redesigned, as has the ski-in/ski-out connection between Ruibon and Valpréveyre, winding its way through underwoods. The slopes, which also pass through Aiguilles and Ristolas, range from 1,550 to 2,450 metres above sea level. Nighed under Tête du Pelvas (2,929 metres), the wild and natural ski area of Abriès offers 21 km of pistes and a 900-metre downhill run from the summit of Gilly, soaring to 2,450 metres.

→ lequeyras.com



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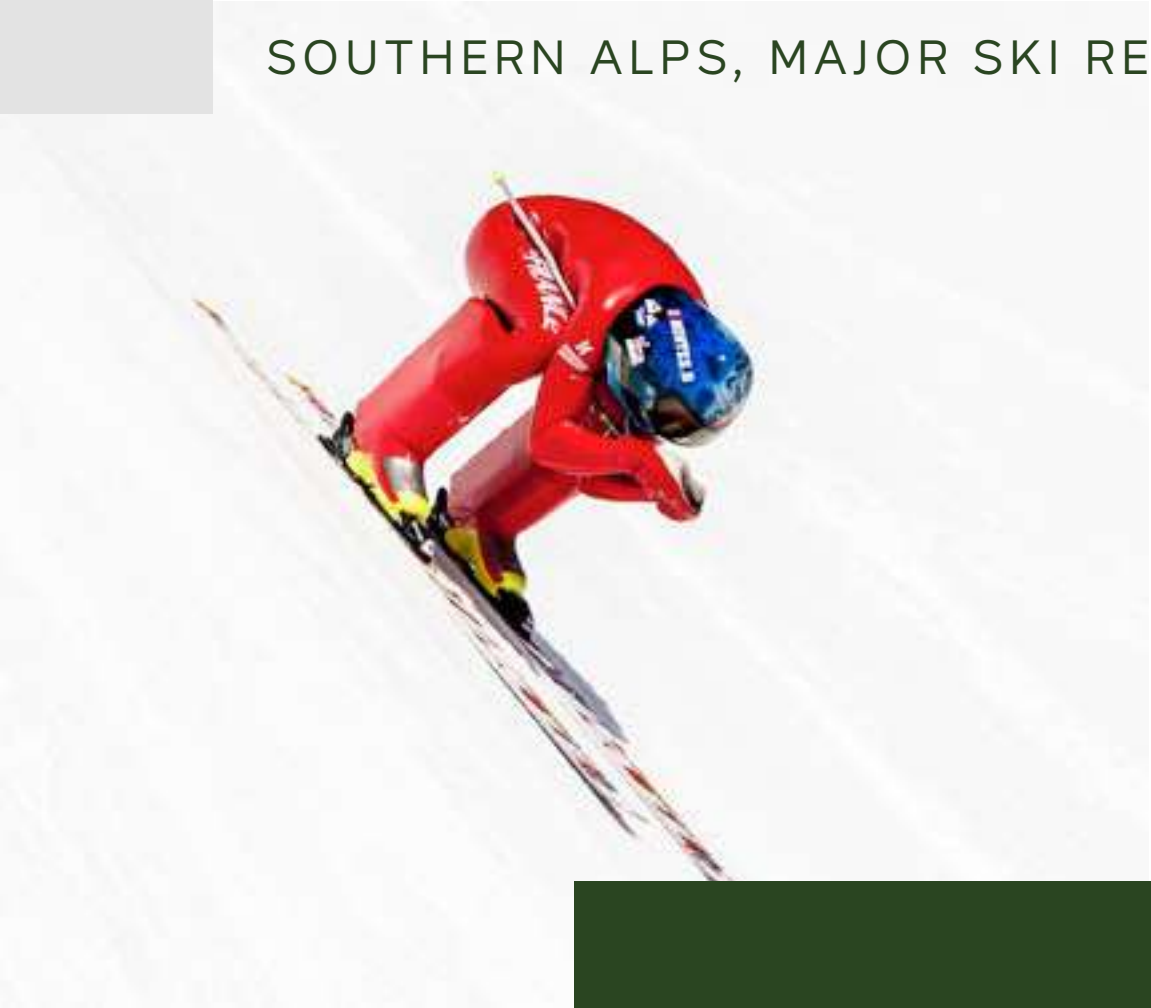
FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024

TRAVERSÉE DU QUEYRAS #40 Saint-Véran / Abriès, Queyras

This cross-country ski race is part of France's national long-distance competition calendar. Every year, several hundred athletes set off on trails ranging from 2.5 to 47 km between Saint-Véran and Abriès. Boasting a very friendly atmosphere, this is one of the most popular races in the Southern Alps.

EVENT

→ traversee-du-queyras.fr



© R. Morel ↑



Grand cirque Vars

“Reach the summit in under 10 minutes”: Vars keeps its promises. The new Vars Speed Master whisks skiers and pedestrians over the Chabrières speed ski slope before landing them at an altitude of 2,750 metres. From this high point, you can gaze out over Mont Ventoux, the Mont-Blanc, Écrins massif and Serre-Ponçon lake, before heading to the ice cave, where around thirty ice sculptures on the Olympic Games theme await you. Vars is also home to 50 km of walking trails at altitudes of over 2,000 metres. Forming a vast, sunny cirque during the day, the Forêt Blanche area shares 36 ski lifts with Risoul, i.e. 180 km of slopes offering a 1,100-metre downhill run. Les Claux forms the beating heart of the resort, which spans the rural hamlets of Sainte-Marie, Saint-Marcellin and Sainte-Catherine.

→ www.vars.com/winter/

JANUARY 19TH TO 21ST, 2024

OUTDOORMIX FESTIVAL WINTER | Vars

A spectacular event combining outdoor sports, international freestyle competitions and free concerts.

Skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, snow kayaking and highlining... A not-to-be-missed cocktail of sport and good vibes!

→ www.vars.com

EVENT

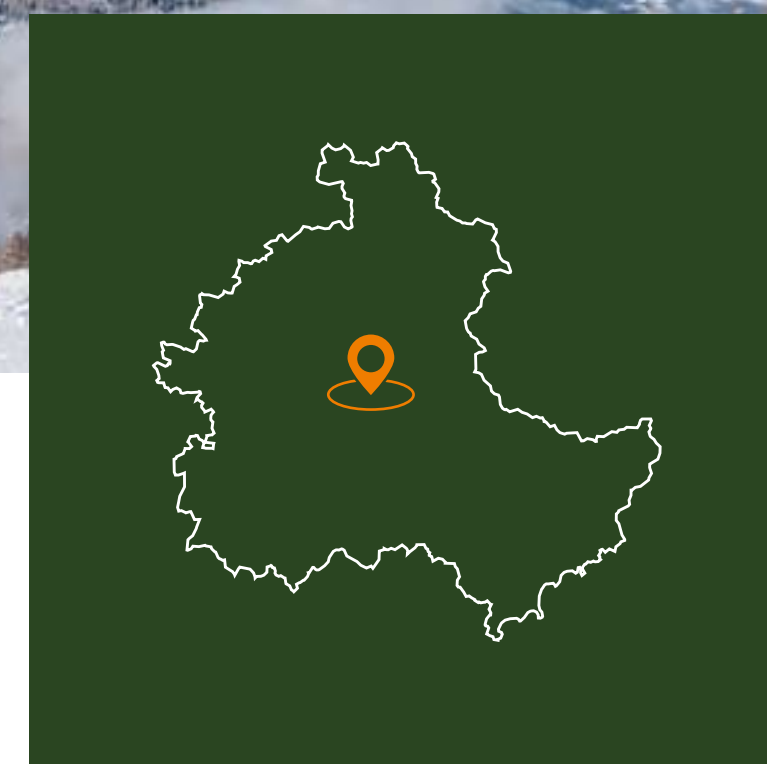
4

EMBRUN AREA LES ORRES

Visionary Les Orres, Serre-Ponçon Valley

A belvedere suspended over Serre-Ponçon lake, Les Orres is an inventive resort. Its unique cedar wood architecture has earned it the 20th Century Heritage label, but Les Orres is a forward-looking destination too and a pilot resort for the European green transition. Facing north-west, its snowy playground ranges from 1,650 to 2,720 metres above sea level and generally promises excellent snow cover. The new Sport & Innovation Hub is revolutionizing traditional sports, while Maison Fichet is fostering networking between residents and raising awareness on agroecological challenges through its Game of Trees festival. Not forgetting the Patrolair mountain drone training centre, 3D scanners to help skiers pick the best boots, a zipline measuring almost 2 km and high-altitude concierge service...

→ www.lesorres.com



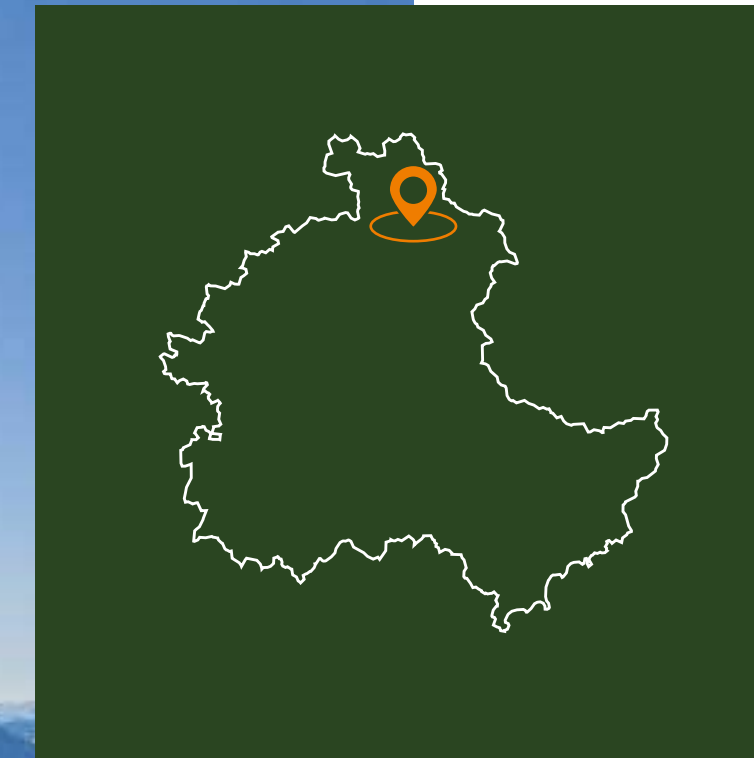
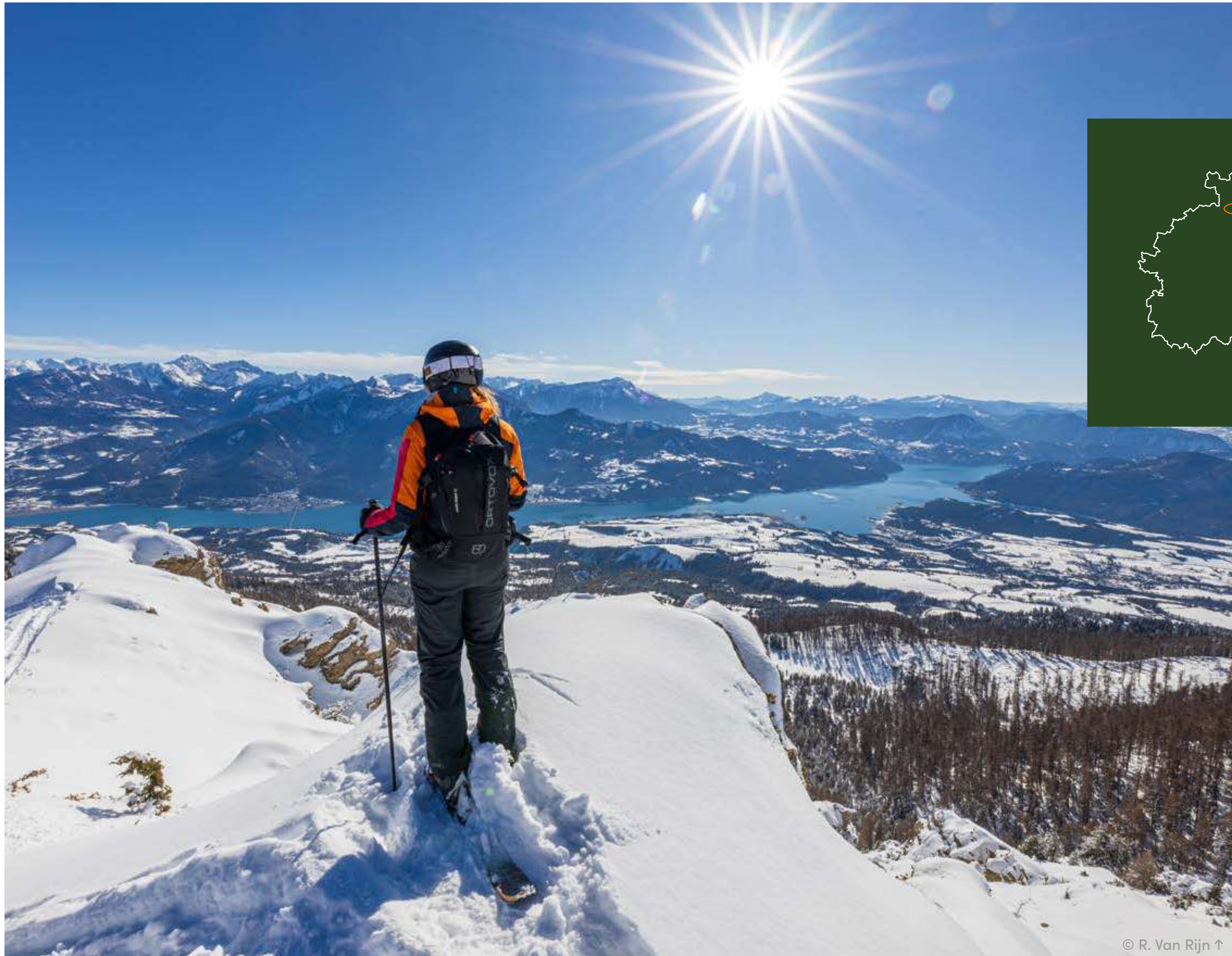
MARCH 22ND TO 24TH, 2024

FESTIVAL SKI DÉTOX & BIEN-ÊTRE ALPIN | Les Orres

An invigorating cocktail of yoga, fitness, Pilates, wellness walks, sophrology, meditation and relaxation... All the wellbeing ingredients you need to get back on top of the world.

→ www.lesorres.com/fr

EVENT



A belvedere over the lake Réallon

Niched between Serre-Ponçon lake and Écrins National Park, Réallon is a little resort ideal for family skiing, bathed in sunlight from daybreak onwards. The ski carpet is free for toddlers. The two chairlifts whisk both skiers and walkers up to the summit at 2,150 metres. At the foot of Aiguilles de Chabrières, an orientation table guides you through the striking panorama stretching from the peaks lining the Italian border to Mont Ventoux and Serre-Ponçon lake, resembling a fjord. You can get back down to the resort on skis, snowshoes, or the Ripaa: a 4 km toboggan connecting the ski area to the snow front. The ridge is dotted with five viewpoints. The signposted cross-country route, offering a gentle, 600-metre climb up to La Serre du Mouton, is the perfect place to try your hand at this delightful activity or perfect your technique. Free shuttle service to Crévoux, 70% discount on services to Les Orres.

→ www.reallon-ski.com

© R. Van Rijn ↑

5

UBAYE BLANCHE VAL D'ALLOS



© SDragon ↑



Tranquil Montclar-les-Deux-Vallées, La Blanche and Ubaye Valleys

The Blanche-Serre-Ponçon area is often likened to a little Switzerland in Provence! Opened just 50 years ago, Montclar-les-Deux Vallées was one of France's first resort towns. Small, triangular buildings, with silhouettes reminiscent of mountain peaks, form the heart of the pedestrian village. 17 chairlifts lead to 50 km of slopes careering downwards opposite Serre-Ponçon lake or on the heights of Ubaye. The resort focuses primarily on farm tours, hikes on groomed trails and visits to major heritage sites, including Seyne-les-Alpes fort, home to an exciting escape game.

→ www.montclar.com

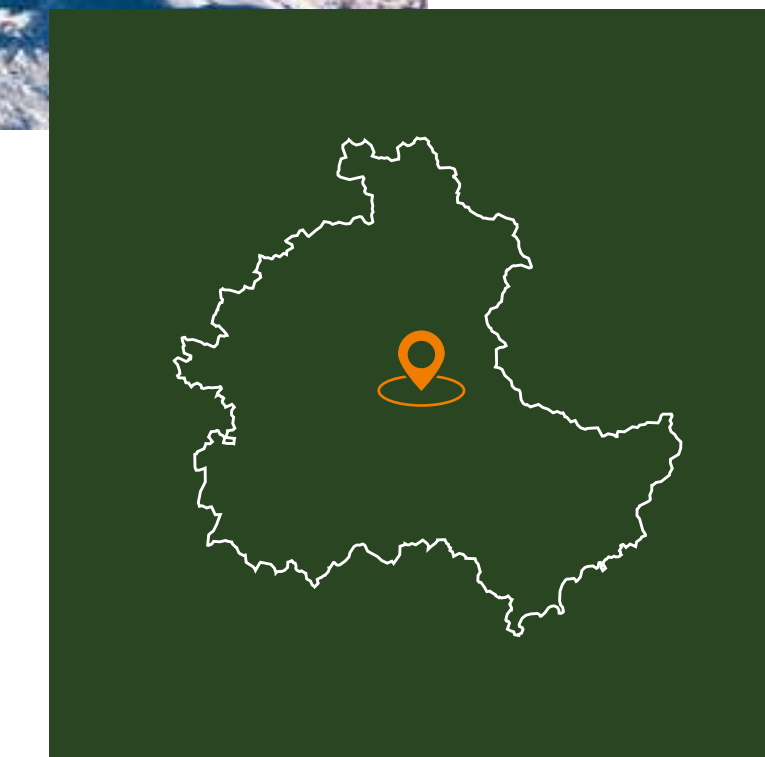


© CRT PACA ↑

Life-changing Le Sauze

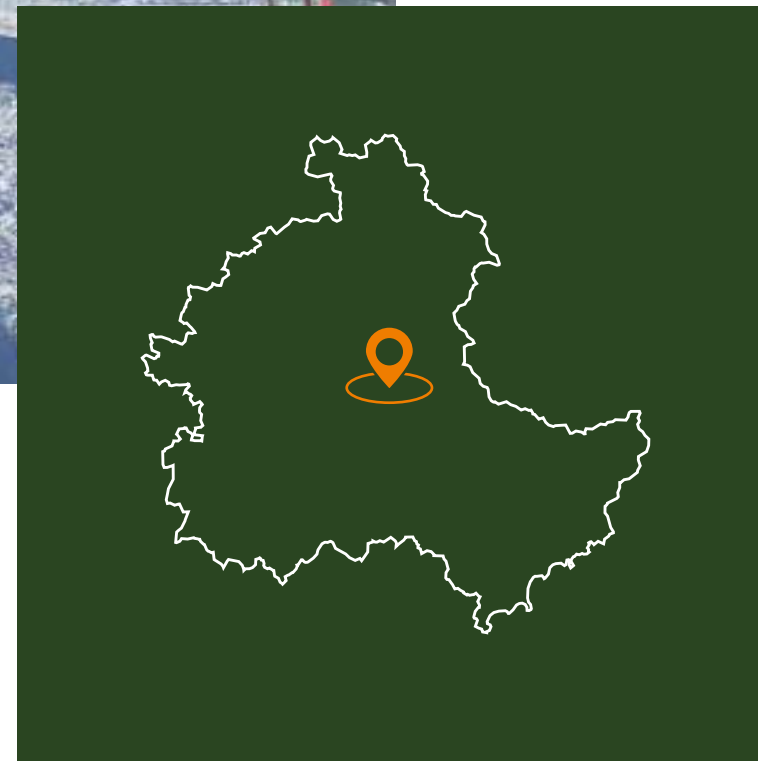
In winter 2023-2024, this family resort is inaugurating a 2-km zipline, running from the top of the ski area at an altitude of 2,200 metres to the snow front. You can opt for a fun snow groomer or MoonBike ride too - a small electric motorbike designed in the Alps. Le Sauze, opened in 1934, is one of France's oldest ski resorts and an ideal pick for beginners, with slopes ranging from 1,400 to 2,400 metres above sea level. Everything here is crafted to boost children's confidence, with amenities including dedicated slopes, treasure hunts, a baby snow park and playground. The ski area also features three cross-country routes at altitudes of between 300 and 800 metres, and the slopes of Chapeau de Gendarme are easily accessible thanks to the ski lifts. A valley lift is scheduled to connect Le Sauze 1400 to Le Sauze 1700 then Barcelonnette by 2025.

→ www.sauze.com





© L. Chovelon ↑



A balcony over Ubaye Valley Pra Loup, Ubaye Valley

In Pra Loup, just 7 kilometres from Barcelonnette - the little capital of Ubaye Valley - local inhabitants have been welcoming skiing fans in a Mediterranean ambience since 1961.

48 slopes served by new-generation ski lifts pan out under the watchful gaze of La Grande Séolane. The ski-in/ski-out connection, via Le Peguieou, allows skiers to explore the entire Espace Lumière ski area spanning 180 kilometres, while a second boardercross

course promises adrenalin freaks plenty of excitement. Pra Loup is the only French resort offering Ice Cross: a challenging downhill skating sport on a walled track. The resort is constantly upgrading, with stylish boutiques now opening at the mall and wooden chalets flourishing alongside the Odalys and renovated VTF (Holiday Village) in the Molanès quarter.

→ www.praloup.com

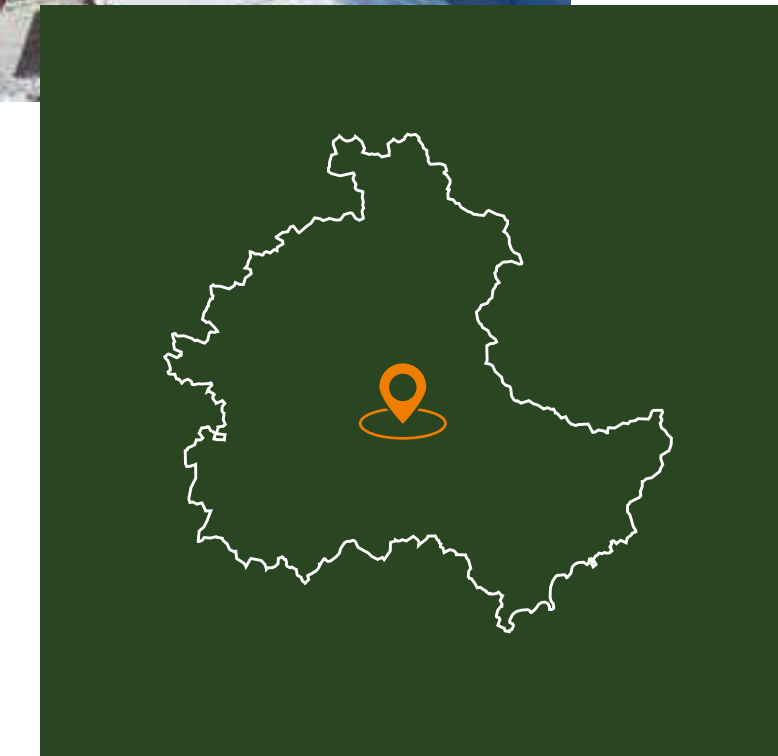


© R.Palomba ↑

Where the Verdon springs Val d'Allos Mercantour National Park

Every week, Gilles, an ambassador for the Mercantour Ecotourism heritage label, introduces visitors to the jewel of Allos: the 13th century church of Notre-Dame-de-Valvert. Forming part of Mercantour National Park, this attractive village features farms, ancient wash houses, dairy cooperatives and a very-popular farmers' market. You can access the Espace Lumière and its 180 kilometres of slopes from the village resorts of La Foux and Le Seignus, lined with chalets buried in larch trees. The pistes are scattered over five slopes - ideal for enjoying the sun until late in the day.

→ www.valdallos.com



MARCH 16TH TO 17TH, 2024

WEEKEND DE LA FEMME | Val d'Allos

True to its title, Women's Weekend in Val d'Allos is all about the ladies! The fun and frolics include games, entertainment and special offers for the fair sex...

→ www.valdallos.com/week-end-femme

EVENT

6

ISOLA 2000 AURON VALBERG

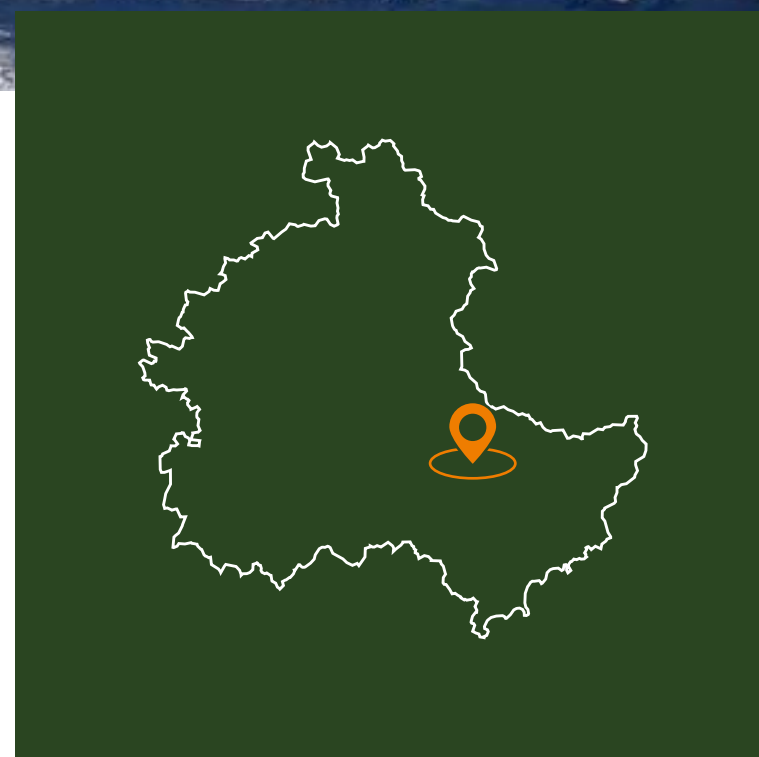


© CRT PACA ↑

Adrenalin galore Isola 2000, Mercantour National Park

From the heights of the resort, the dreamy panorama embraces the Écrins massif all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, via Le Viso and the Argentera massif. The youngest and highest resort in the Alpes-Maritimes area celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. Set between Mercantour National Park and the Parco Alpi Marittime, Isola 2000 is a ski-in/ski-out resort boasting 120 km of slopes. A freestyle paradise par excellence, its flurry of snowboarding amenities include Tony's Snowland snowpark, the Biopark and Back to Back: a competitive snowboard club with over a hundred national titles. Isola 2000 is also home to a renowned ice driving circuit. In short, the perfect pick for thrill-seekers!

→ www.isola2000.com



JANUARY 12TH TO 13TH, 2024

E-TROPHÉE ANDROS | Isola 2000

Welcome to the world's biggest ice driving race! What's more, the Trophée Andros (e-Trophée Andros) is now 100% electric!

→ www.tropheeandros.com

EVENT

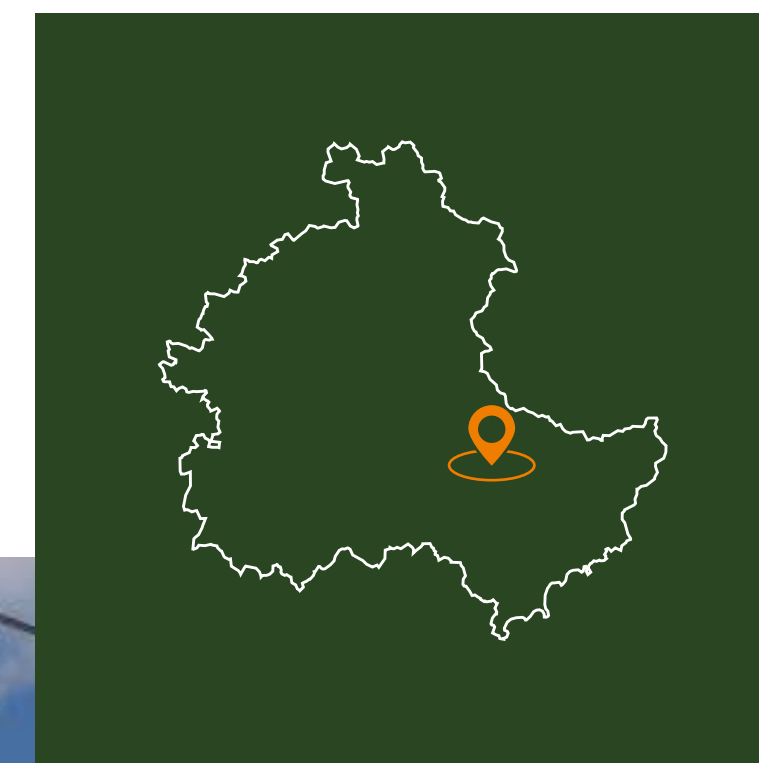


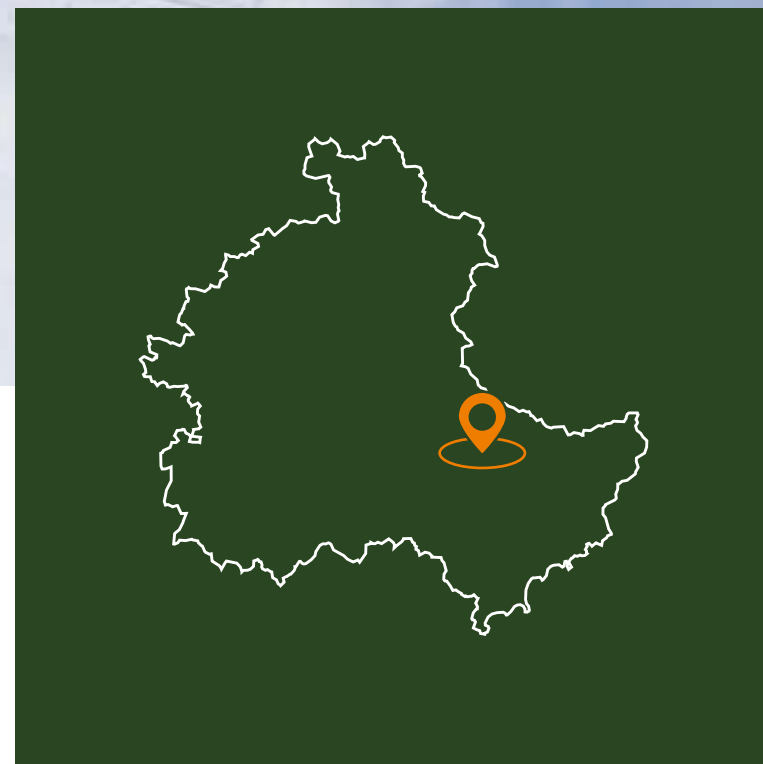
CRT - Georges Véran ↑

Multifaceted Auron, Mercantour National Park

With a new swimming pool and two 5-star hotels, Auron, perched in the highlands of Nice, is continuing to move upmarket while maintaining all of its original alpine village charm. The ski passes remain reasonable at €40 and offer access to 135 km of slopes - the largest ski area in the Alpes-Maritimes - at the gateway to Mercantour National Park. Among the free activities on offer, virtual reality headsets allow you to explore the off-piste areas of Saint-Dalmas-le-Selvage, 14 km away on the shuttle bus, or admire the frescoes adorning the chapel - a listed monument - before you visit. The station is a holder of the Famille Plus, Station Verte and (soon) Flocon Vert labels.

→ www.hiver.auron.com





© CRT - Pierre Béhar ↑

A shower of stars **Valberg, Mercantour** **National Park** **and Côte d'Azur Alps**

The Alpes-Maritimes' oldest ski resort lies on a mountain pass between the Saint-Honorat mountain range and Mont Mounier, at the gateway to Mercantour National Park, near Cians gorge and Daluis. It is a holder of the Flocon Vert, Familles Plus and Village Etoilé labels. Little light disturbs the night skies of this village home to 800 inhabitants and astronomy is among the many non-ski activities on offer here. With its cocktail of farms, quaint old houses, modern lodgings, a pedestrian zone and electric car-sharing vehicles, Valberg is a genuine wellness resort. Its latest innovation? A trail dedicated to yoga.

→ www.valberg.com

7

VALDEBLORE VÉSUBIE



© CRT - Georges Vérant ↑

Valley of Marvels Castérino, Roya Valley

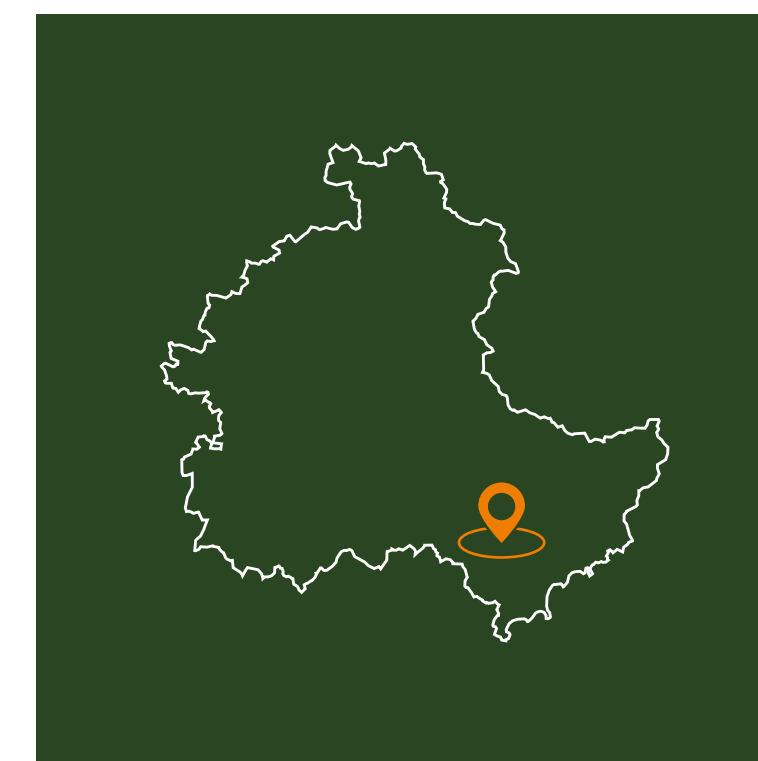
Situated in Haute-Roya, in the town of Tende, Casterino is a beautifully-preserved paradise at the foot of Mercantour National Park. Tucked at an altitude of 1,550 metres on the French border, the hamlet is surrounded by stunning peaks including the mythical Mont Bégo, revered by Neolithic shepherds... This haven of peace is just 1½ hours from the hustle and bustle of Nice by car, but a shuttle service from Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende station also winds its way round the 46 bends you'll need to negotiate to get there.

In summer, Castérino is the starting point for the aptly-named Vallée des Merveilles and its prehistoric cave paintings, while popular winter activities include ski touring, ascending the peaks of Mercantour National Park to enjoy uninterrupted views of the Med, or snowshoeing up to the Refuge des Merveilles anchored in a cirque of frozen lakes.

→ www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk/

8

GRÉOLIÈRES AUDIBERGUE



Sea view Gréolières-Les-Neiges, Grasse highlands

This little, family-style ski resort is the closest to the Mediterranean coast: just 22 km as the crow flies. Its 25 km of slopes lie on the northern slopes of the Cheiron massif. From the summit of Cheiron, the majestic panorama unveils the Côte d'Azur in all its glory, from the Estérel hills to Corsica. Located between 1,400 and 1,800 metres above sea level, amid Scots pines, it is the perfect pick for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, biathlon, pony riding, skijoring and astrotourism fans alike. The medieval village with its narrow streets and ochre walls promises to delight heritage buffs too. In winter, you can reach Gréolières-Les-Neiges on the Navette des Neiges shuttle service from Antibes (1½ hrs) or bus number 512 from Grasse.

(www.envibus.fr).

→ stations-greolieres-audibergue.com

© E.Juppeaux ↓

Nordic ski areas

Experience the Great North down South! Among the Southern Alps' lesser-known ski areas graced with virgin landscapes, these three little gems are ideal for a winter escapade.

N.B. the "Nordic Pass Alpes du Sud" allows visitors to explore all the Hautes-Alpes and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Nordic ski areas.



© R. Van Rijn ↑

Saint-Dalmas-le-Salvage

Two-thirds of Saint-Dalmas-le-Salvage - the highest village in the Alpes-Maritimes area - lie on the protected land of Mercantour National Park. Here, cross-country skiers enjoy warming up on a 3-kilometers loop, while ice waterfall enthusiasts test their skills in Gialorgues valley and ski tourers make a beeline for Col de la Braïssa, Sestrières plateau and more. The 50 km of snowshoeing trails also lead to Bousieyas, the highest hamlet in the Alpes-Maritimes (1,960 metres). In Provençal dialect, its name "bousihar" means "to blow a gale".

→ saintdalmasleselvage.fr



© R. Van Rijn ↑

La Draye

You won't find ski passes here, but rather a tree trunk at the start of the slopes where you can leave however much you want. The money collected is used to pay for the snow groomer's petrol and maintenance. Thanks to the combined efforts of the managers of Gîte de la Draye, a musher and local lads and gals, this delightful ski area, lying at an altitude of 1,500 metres on the heights of Boscodon forest, is back on track. The site gazes over Massif de Morgon.

→ ladraye.fr

Cervièrès

Tucked away at the foot of Col de l'Izoard, Cervières was on its way to becoming a ski resort in the Seventies, before local shepherds put their foot down. Today, it basks in nature's timeless luxury. Don't miss a visit to Vallée des Fonts, where chapels, mountain chalets and ancient fortifications stand guard over passing cross-country skiers. The 42 km of ski and ski skating slopes also spill over into the Laus area.

→ cervieres.fr



Southern Alps, **a taste for all things local**

The Southern Alps is resolutely committed to short distribution circuits and human-scale farms, with 78% of farms in the Alpes-Maritimes area spanning less than 6 acres.

A wide variety of produce, ranging from wines from France's highest vineyards, Protected Geographical Indication (IGP) red fruit and apples from the Alpes de Haute-Provence, home-grown cheeses, meats and cured meats, also lend the Southern Alps its very special character.

There's no shortage of curiosities here – like mushrooms grown in the old barracks of Mont-Dauphin, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll find these various delicacies at the local markets and farms: a whopping 38% of regional farms favour short circuits versus the national average of 21%.

Organic farming accounts for over a quarter of farmland, placing the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region on top of the podium for this up-and-coming sector. With 40% of certified-organic land, the Hautes-Alpes is now France's leading area for organic farming, along with the Var department.



© P. Domeyne ↑

Cheeses, the heights of taste

Cow and ewe tommes, goat cheeses and cottage cheeses rub shoulders on every Southern Alps cheese platter.

The delicious Tomme du Champsaur and Bleu du Queyras are currently in the race for the coveted AOP label. Creamy Bleu du Queyras streaked with blue veins boasts a delightfully gentle taste, but beware - the mature version is nicknamed the “devil’s kiss”! Fresh Champsaur tomme cheese is used to stuff the local tourtons – deep-fried puff pastry pillows - and Champsaur ravioles. Champsaur valley, home to Europe's largest mountain bocage, accounts for 40% of milk production in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. You'll find lots of other cheeses there too, such as blue cheese from Col Bayard, Puimichel tomme, Valdeblore or Isola from the upper Tinée Valley.

Natural springs

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is France's leading French region for aromatic and perfume plants. Genepi, larch, lavender, juniper, thyme, savory and rosemary grow wild in the mountains and their incredible diversity inspires cooks, jam makers, syrup makers, herbal tea producers, liqueur makers, distillers and brewers alike. You'll find rare fruit juices ([Les délices d'Orsatus](#)) in the Southern Alps, as well as unique syrups ([l'Herbier du Dévoluy](#)) and even water from France's highest spring in [Montclar](#). Local craft beers made with spring water are flavoured with thyme or genepi.

On the spirits side, the Southern Alps' exceptional elixirs include [Guillaumette dry genepi](#), [Lachanenche](#) organic gin and larch liqueur courtesy of the [Distillerie des 4 Frères](#), founded by 4 brothers who gather and distil their own herbs...



© Genepi Guillaumette ↑

Where to find them?

You'll find all the Southern Alps artisan products on sale at local producers, markets and farms.

→ www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com/paca



© E. Hertault ↑

La Luge à Foin restaurant, Névache

In French, a "luge à foin" means a bad skier! But it is also the name of this delightful chalet in Clarée Valley, resembling old-fashioned stables. The food, giving pride of place to high alpine vegetables and wild plants, is cooked over a coal fire.

→ lalugeafoin.fr

Naïska, La Joue du Loup

Perched at an altitude of 1,950 metres, this cosy chalet is situated at the arrival of the Fontettes chairlift. Get ready to savour local soup and oreilles d'âne spinach bake while lapping up the views over Dévoluy Valley and La Joue du Loup. On some evenings, you can travel up on a snow groomer for a fondue to remember. The chalet also features a Chukka skylight room, where you can spend the night gazing at the stars...

→ chaletnaïska.fr/fr/accueil

Pasta Casa, Les Orres

Long live fresh, homemade pasta, made on site right on the snow front of Les Orres... You can savour Pasta Casa's tasty spaghetti, linguine and lasagna out on the terrace overlooking the slopes.

→ www.lesorres.com/en/bars-restaurants/pasta-casa-bar-a-pates

JANUARY 24TH TO 28TH, 2024

FESTIVAL DES CHEFS AU SOMMET #12 Auron

A must-do celebration of gastronomy in the exceptional setting of Auron. Meet with the region's finest chefs and pastry chefs and enjoy a variety of novel cooking demonstrations!

→ hiver.auron.com

EVENT



© OT le Dévoluy ↑

"Bistrots de Pays"

The very first "Bistrot de Pays" establishment was born in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur! These wonderful bistros are great places to meet new people, discover new things and enjoy a variety of activities and entertainment. The perfect place to get to know the locals!

→ www.bistrotdepays.com



Southern Alps, **hospitality** *au naturel*

2024 overflows with exciting new arrivals: high-altitude lodges, refined B&Bs, hotels with spas, joyous hostels and creative cuisine. In the Southern Alps, modern comforts don't come at the expense of soul: larchwood façades reign supreme, while sometimes-eccentric interiors paying homage to Provence add a touch of colour to the pure white decor. You'll find lots more premium chalets on offer too, welcoming families or friends keen to delve into mountain lifestyle with a southern accent.

SERRE CHEVALIER VALLÉE BRIANÇON



© Studio Frémont ↑

📍 Chalet du Grand Hôtel

Chantemerle - Serre Chevalier

Jean-Michel Wilmotte designed the four new chalets now adorning the old Grand Hôtel - Serre Chevalier's very first hotel located in the historic heart of the resort, at the foot of the legendary Luc Alphand slope. The 21 apartments with terraces ranging from 44 to 192 m² are instilled with a contemporary mountain mood, with spacious volumes, glass facades and decoration courtesy of interior designer Olivier Frémont. The 102 guests enjoy the Grand Hôtel's premium services, including a Nuxe Spa and access to the Grand Hôtel refuge at an altitude of 2,200 metres. Opening scheduled in December 2023.

→ grandhotel.fr



© M. Costet ↑

📍 Le Petit Cerf Lodge

Cervièrès

Revamped, the former Hôtel d'Izoard situated on the Briançon side, basks in stunning natural scenery. Isabelle Bertrand designed the 16 rooms with a nice dose of colour plus wood from the valley. After a day out touring or Nordic skiing, relax on the fireside sofas in the lounge-bar to the sound of live music, or head outside to admire the night skies. Simple meals and aperitif platters are available at all hours. On the ground floor, the Black Bear Ski Bike Shop offers equipment rental and repairs. You can also opt for a freeriding or ski touring weekend.

A shuttle service runs to the lodge from Briançon railway station. Double room: Lodge from €90, Hotel €120 or €164. Half board €140. Open until end April 2024 and end May 2024 to end September 2024.

→ www.hotel-petitcerf.com

MERCANTOUR



© P. Behar ↑

📍 Résidence Odalys Le Mont d'Auron

Auron

Situated in the village centre, five minutes from the snow front, this residence offers 2, 3 and 4-room apartments accommodating up to 8 people, plus a wellness space with a heated indoor pool, sauna and steam room. On-site breakfast service. Odalys' excellent panel of services includes early/late arrivals, online check-in, shared payments, discounts on ski equipment rentals and special offers on early bookings and 2-week stays.

Prices: from €429 per week for 4 people outside school holidays and from €1,419 per week for 4 people during school holidays.

→ www.odalys-vacances.com

HAUTES-VALLÉES



© N. Martin ↑

📍 Les chambres d'Anavo

Névache

Good news for ski tourers exploring Clarée Valley in Névache this year: Raphaël and Nathalie have added a small dormitory for visiting athletes to their two spacious guest rooms. Measuring 35 and 40m² and accommodating up to 12 people or two families, the rooms feature a living area and private bathroom decorated in chic mountain style. The house can be partly privatized – the owners live on the top floor. Guests enjoy a spacious dining room, cosy lounge with a wood burner and a 300 m² garden complete with Norwegian bath. The table d'hôte meals give pride of place to local produce. Nathalie manages a Hautes-Alpes information website, while Raphaël is a mountain guide, so guests benefit from plenty of excellent advice. Chalet Anavo is located in the middle of Clarée Valley's two Nordic ski areas: Les Alberts and Névache.

€90 to €125 per night for two, table d'hôte meals €21.50

Open from January to mid-April and mid-May to mid-November 2024

→ leschambresdanavo.fr



© DR ↑

📍 Inspiration Montagne

Névache

Keen hikers for the last 30 years, Hervé and Marie-Ange fell under the spell of Clarée Valley while they were touring mount Thabor. They restored a house there, in the little village of Plampinet, en route to Col de l'Échelle. The three rooms for 2, 3 and 4 guests pay homage to wood: their original wood beams are still on show, along with the openings used to air fodder in days gone by. In room 4 - a duplex - you'll find an ancient miller's ladder climbing up to the mezzanine. Breakfast is served in the old vaulted stables and guests also enjoy a garden.

Rooms €105 to €120.

inspirationmontagne.ellohaweb.com

LA MEIJE



📍 Le Castillan

La Grave

As its manager proudly proclaims, Le Castillan is a four-seasons destination, just like La Meije glacier towering over it. Open all year round, this family-style hotel offering cosy rooms, a sauna, garden, children's games to share and bicycle and motorcycle stores, has just swept up a third star. The chef, a proud holder of the Maître-Restaurateur label, concocts a different menu with local produce every day, plus a discovery menu for kids. Set menu from €26, children's menu €10.

→ www.le-castillan.com

HAUTES-VALLÉES



📍 La Maison de Catherine

Puy-Saint-Pierre

For the last year, Maison de Catherine has been enjoying a new lease of life in the heart of Puy-Saint-Pierre. This auberge-come-chalet actually comprises two chalets offering double rooms and an apartment for 4 to 6 people, available for weekend or weekly rental. The decoration is charming and the cuisine faultless, with treats including homemade caillette pâté, soup of the day, roast quail and morel mushroom fondue. Puy-Saint-Pierre - a hamlet perched above Briançon - is the first stop for the Prorel gondola; skiers only have to walk a few metres to reach it.

Rooms: double €90 to €100, triple €125 to €131, quadruple €131 to €158. Breakfast €9.50.

→ lamaisondecatherine.fr

CHAMPSAUR



📍 La Maison l'Aiguille

Laye Station

Marjorie and Guillaume Barry have opened five guest rooms and two self-catering gites in a former hotel on the snow front of Laye Station. The gites accommodate up to 6 guests and feature a terrace, balcony and small garden, while the guest rooms are decorated with objects brought back from the couple's travels in Canada, Bali and Polynesia. Get ready for superb views over the peak of L'Aiguille and mountains of Champsaur. Guillaume runs a delicious table d'hôte with treats including vegetarian or beef lasagna, spinach bake and Champsaur *ravioles*. If you're staying in one of the gites, you can also book a breakfast basket with homemade muesli, brioche and bread. In fact, Guillaume's bread is so popular he now bakes for the village's 275 inhabitants.

Table d'hôte meals €28 per person. Breakfast basket €45. Discovery platter and homemade ready-to-heat dishes for 4. Gites and guest rooms from €80 per night, minimum 2 nights for gites.

→ maisonlaignuille.com

ORCIÈRES



© G.Barron ↑

📍 Refuge Ibex

Orcières-Merlette

Eco-luxury in the heart of nature! Ivo Ricou - the grandson of Camille Ricou, mayor of Orcières-Merlette when the resort was built in 1962 - spent four years doing up this isolated chalet on the slopes of Queyrelet. Today, its solar panels make it 100% energy self-sufficient. The chalet offers two rooms, a dormitory accommodating eight guests, two bathrooms and three toilets, plus a living room and kitchen, all designed using noble materials. In addition to its three stars, the establishment is a proud holder of the Orcières "5 Claws" label in recognition of its comfort and quality. It is located half an hour from the car park on foot or with snowshoes, or you can ski or walk down to it from the Rocherousse cable car and telemix ski lift.

From €2,300 to €4,000 per week.

→ www.refugeibex.com

LES ORRES



📍 Le refuge des Cast'Orres

Les Orres 1650

Situated five minutes from the ski lifts on the shuttle bus, this chalet built in 2022 accommodates up to ten guests in four airy rooms, including a master suite and dormitory. Guests enjoy a sauna, giant screen, board games, boot dryers and two spacious terraces. The refuge is rated "4 Larches" by the Les Orres Quality Accommodation label.

From €2,600 per week.

→ refuge-des-castorres.com



© Gilles Baron ↑

📍 Les Clefs d'Orres

Les Orres

Located in the Pramouton quarter, this 150m² chalet can be rented as a whole or two apartments. The ground floor apartment, featuring a 39m² lounge, offers direct access to a large, flat garden. The upstairs apartment is bedecked with a 50m² living area with a glass façade, mezzanine, open-plan kitchen and balcony with uninterrupted views over the mountains and valley. The front door is shared by both apartments, with space to take off your shoes and a laundry room.

From €5,500 per week for twelve people.

→ www.lesorres.com

VALLÉE DE L'UBAYE



📍 Chalet-Hôtel Sainte-Anne

Sainte-Anne-La-Condamine Chatelard

Nestling at the foot of the slopes, at an altitude of 1,830 metres, this chalet run by Fabienne Arnoux has just had a facelift: the 38 rooms, most with balcony, are now decked out in blue, yellow and red. The cosy bar, lined with old barrels and skis, leads into the restaurant complete with a spacious, south-facing terrace gazing out over the slopes. On the menu? Tasty mountain specialities including fondue, raclette and baked cheese in a box. In the garden you'll find two heated Nordic baths and a sauna set inside in a welcoming cabin, perfect for a relaxing winter getaway.

Double room from €80, half-board €39 per person. Pets: €8.

→ www.ubaye.com/GB/offre/chalet-sainte-anne

RISOUL



📍 Résidence Club MMV Le Silvana

Risoul

This new MMV Club Residence, located 15 minutes from the snow front, offers all the advantages of the MMV Club topped with the privacy of your own apartment. Redesigned by architect Marc Miginiac from the Savoie-based agency Studio Arch Inside, the building now resembles a fun mountain cabin, complete with corridors lined with coarse wool carpets, illuminated arches, a lounge with fireplace, real and fake mountain memorabilia and paintings of animals in ski suits... 4-10 year olds enjoy morning skiing lessons led by the MMV activities team, while teens love getting together at the Squ@t – no parents allowed of course! Other amenities include an indoor pool, sauna and steam room, outdoor whirlpool bath, cinema and gaming area. Gourmet afternoon snacks are provided to tide you over until the evening quizzes, cooking demonstrations, MMV Shows and MMV Games, winding up on the dancefloor. You can opt to have your week's meals delivered and book your ski passes and ski gear on site at a friendly price.

Apartment rental from €857 from December 22nd, 2023 to April 6th, 2024.

→ www.mmv-holidays.co.uk





Southern Alps, **an ecological transition pilot area**

In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur – an ecological planning pilot region –, the green transition is happening on all fronts. Our local inhabitants are playing a vital role too and have become genuine ambassadors for today's new ways of experiencing the mountains.

Here are just some of the focuses:

- Soft mobility, with a network of bus services;
- Preservation of landscapes, with the reduction - and recycling - of numerous pylons and installation of ski lifts that use less energy;
- Leisure real estate upgrades, with better thermal insulation and aesthetics; energy saving through the use of solar panels;
- Low-carbon snow groomers;
- Think-tanks on the use of artificial snow;
- Development of 4-season tourism and non-motorized nature activities;
- Commitment to the Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional regional nature reserve label “A new life begins here”.



© T. Blais ↑

Puy-Saint-Vincent: **a pilot for waste processing**

A third of waste – in particular biowaste from food – is currently not recycled, despite the fact that source separation will be a legal obligation from December 31st, 2023. Puy-Saint-Vincent was the first mountain resort to organize biowaste collection and the resort was awarded the 2022 Cimes Durables trophy for its initiative.



© T. Blais ↑

Serre Chevalier: **a pilot for energy self-sufficiency**

In winter 2023-2024, Serre Chevalier will be producing a whopping third of its own annual energy needs using a combination of three renewable energy sources: hydroelectricity, solar power and micro wind turbines. This ambitious initiative has inspired a number of other resorts belonging to the Compagnie des Alpes group.



Les Orres: **a pilot for eco-awareness**

Since April 2018, the resort has been flying the flag of the Interreg Alpine Space project, part of the European Smart Altitude programme. Its good practices include the use of microgrids (intelligent electrical networks) and raising awareness among holidaymakers and inhabitants alike through events such as the Game of Trees festival.



© G. Baron ↑

Orcières-Merlette: **a pilot for building renovation**

The resort is renovating its existing buildings to incorporate energy-saving and enhanced aesthetics alike. The facades are clad with thermal insulation prior to laying the traditional larchwood shingles - a local wood that does not require any treatment. Allocated by the resort, the Qualité Confort Hébergement label rewards establishments committed to eco-friendly practices.



© R. Morel ↑

Vars: **a pilot for snow management**

Natural snowfall is preserved prior to the winter season thanks to plant shredding and the installation of snow barriers. Snow groomer drivers benefit from training in eco-driving and use biofuels and SnowSat software to optimize grooming times.

The Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional label: **a new life begins in Queyras.**

No less than fifty carpenters, producers, mountain guides, travel agents and hoteliers in the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve have been awarded the prestigious Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional label. Created in 2016, this label guarantees the commitment of its holders to both social and environmental issues, in line with the reserve's slogan "A new life begins here".

→ www.pnr-queyras.fr



© Station de ski Pra Loup - L. Chovelon ↑

Vallée de l'Ubaye: a pilot for soft mobility

Ubaye valley is currently testing a park-and-ride service. Visitors can park in Barcelonnette and hop on the free shuttle buses serving all the valley's resorts - Pra Loup, Le Sauze, Sainte-Anne -, as well as the Larche and Saint-Paul Nordic ski areas.



© G. Veran ↑

Valberg et Ceillac: pilots for 4-seasons tourism

Valberg is offering evermore year-round activities, including the Vallywood open-air cinema where movie buffs can enjoy the latest releases even in the middle of winter. Sports enthusiasts will appreciate the Val'Fit room, also open all year round. The new 4-Seasons annual pass offers unlimited access to a plethora of activities.

→ pass.valberg.com

One of 2024's top new events in the Southern Alps and in particular Queyras - now a flagship 4-Seasons destination for snow sports enthusiasts -, Ceillac's new Biathlon Stadium features fifteen 50-metre shooting ranges plus a penalty loop. It is connected to a 50-kilometre network of cross-country trails winding through larch forests. From summer 2024, three new roller ski trails will allow enthusiasts to train all year round in good weather. This low environmental impact stadium spans 5 out of the valley's 24,000 acres.

ZOU!

By bus or train

Snowy slopes in a snap!

“Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur offers fantastic conditions for enjoying the snow and mountains. Our ZOU! Neige bus and train services take you quickly and easily to the Southern Alps ski resorts at a very friendly price!”

Renaud MUSELIER

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Regional Council
President of Régions de France

SOUTHERN ALPS

€2,10*
PER TRIP

Southern Alps, **soft mobility**

TAKE TO THE SLOPES WITH ZOU!

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region is firmly committed to car alternatives. Now, you can reach the local resorts easily by hopping on a ZOU! bus or train at a very friendly price. Say goodbye to traffic jams!



ZOU! Bus services

Navette Blanche shuttle buses run from Marseille-Provence airport and Aix-en-Provence TGV railway station to the Southern Alps' various ski resorts on Saturdays, with additional services available during the Christmas and February holidays. Return fare: €35. Special rate for families: €90.

The ZOU! buses also run every day from Nice-Côte d'Azur train station and airport for easy access to the resorts of Valberg, Gréolières-les-Bains and Auron.

The ZOU! buses whisk you straight from the train station to your chosen ski resort. You can hop on at stations along the Paris-Briançon line, at regional express train stations departing from Marseille and Nice, or stations along the Chemins de Fer de Provence line running from Nice and Digne-les-Bains.

Good to know: ZOU! now offers a very-friendly flat rate of €2.10!

Timetables and bookings at

→ zou.maregionsud.fr/actualites/acces-aux-stations

In the valleys

Once you've reached your destination, the shuttle bus network makes it easy to get around and visit the local attractions, whether a baroque church, restaurant, or local producer... Ubaye valley is even trying out a free shuttle service serving the whole valley!

A holiday with a view!

Running from Nice to Digne, the delightful Train des Neiges is another must for snowy mountain fans and serves, among others, Val d'Allos and the little resort of Castérino, with connecting buses courtesy of ZOU!

Paris-Briançon Serre Chevalier by train or bus

If you're arriving from France's capital, you can reach Serre Chevalier Vallée directly on the Paris-Briançon night train, also serving Gap, Embrun (Les Orres, Réallon, Crévoux) Veynes Dévoluy (Superdévoluy and La Joue-du-Loup) Montdauphin Guillestre (Risoul, Vars, Ceillac) and L'Argentière Les Écrins (Puy-Saint-Vincent, Pelvoux-Vallouise).

ZOU! buses provide connections from the various train stations.

New: This winter, the Paris-Briançon BlaBlaCar Bus low-cost coach service will be serving the town of Gap for the first time, along with Montdauphin-Guillestre train station.

Southern Alps, **key figures**

82%
French tourists

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



18%
**international
tourists**

Mainly



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

Overnight stays

	WINTER	43%
	SPRING	16%
	HEART OF SUMMER	23%
	INDIAN SUMMER - AUTUMN	18%

Source : Enquête régionale de clientèles touristiques – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

. **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 Nature Reserves

. **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**

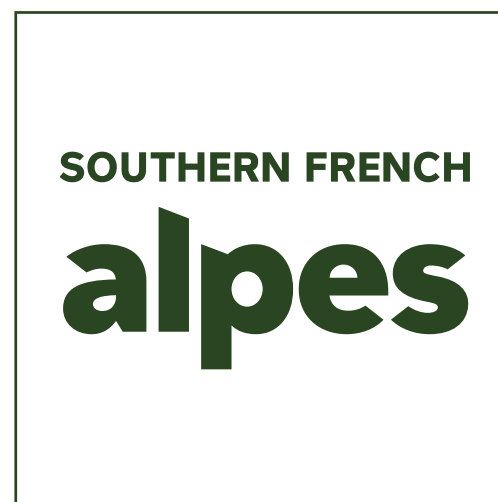
Tallard, Saint-Vincent-les-Forts

- **Mountaineering & rock-climbing**

La Meije, Vallouise, Valgaudemar, Orpierre, Céüse

. **Cultural sites**

- Mont-Dauphin (UNESCO), Briançon (UNESCO),
- Entrevaux, Barcelonnette, Casterino, Notre-Dame du Laus, Vésuvia Mountain Park, Vallée des Merveilles



The "Alpes du Sud" collective was formed in 2018 by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency to boost the attractiveness and economy of the Southern Alps. Its objective: to form a common strategy and budget around the "Southern French Alps" destination brand, in the aim of fostering a stronger and more legible image vis-à-vis markets and customers. The "Southern French Alps" destination brand has been co-steered by the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board** and **Hautes-Alpes Development Agency** since its launch in January 2018. They were joined by the **Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office** in 2021 and **Ubaye Valley Tourist Office** in 2022, with the **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Development Agency** scheduled in 2023.

→ SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES
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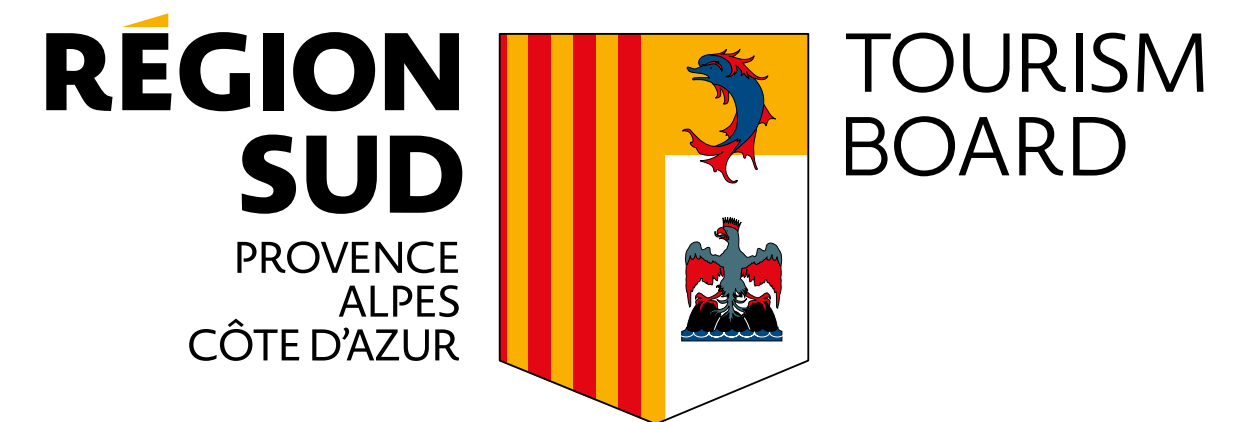


→ PHOTOS
→ VIDEOS

→ DIARY
Events, Ski resort opening dates




For the latest news, press releases, press kits, events, media libraries and video library, check out our [Media Space](#).



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