

# WHAT'S NEW?

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

SPRING  
SUMMER  
AUTUMN  
2024

#SouthernFrenchAlpes  
#Visitsouthoffrance  
#purealpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH  
**alpes**

RÉGION  
SUD  
PROVENCE  
ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM  
BOARD

## Southern French Alps, an Olympic hub of sustainable tourism

France's leading region for tourism, flying the flag of three international destination brands - Provence, Southern French Alps and Cote d'Azur -, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is committed to responsible and sustainable tourism.

A little corner of France home to 5 million inhabitants, our region welcomes tourists from the world over in all seasons, come to savour our rich heritage, buzzing culture, exceptional scenery between sea and mountain, enviable lifestyle, fine food and legendary hospitality.

A forerunner for the ecological transition, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council voted Europe's first "100% green" budget.

Accounting for 40% of the region's territory, the Southern Alps is asserting its position as a 2024 benchmark for local, sustainable and sports tourism. Sustainability reigns here, reflected in vast, preserved natural areas, with 6 nature reserves including 2 national parks, a traditional Transhumance now listed as UNESCO Intangible Heritage and France's largest number of organic farms.

A cradle of champions, the Southern Alps is a haven of outdoor sports ranging from paragliding to hiking, mountaineering, sailing and a myriad of freshwater sports on lakes such as Serre-Ponçon, a training ground for the 2024 Olympic sailing events. The Olympic Flame will be stopping off, among others, on the whitewater banks of the river Ubaye.

**Everyone knows that our mountains and lush valleys are a cyclist's paradise, home to the iconic mountain passes of the Tour de France, as well as mythical long-distance mountain bike routes such as the Transverdon.**

Active wellbeing, pure air and an opportunity to reconnect with nature foster local tourism, with 4 out of 10 visitors coming from neighbouring areas.

Nurturing the flagship values of authenticity and simplicity, together with a delightful welcome and great variety of accommodation, the Southern Alps welcomes a wide public and seduces younger generations. It accounts for 10% of annual tourism consumption in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, i.e. 1.8 billion euros. Running until 2027, the 200 million euro Mountain Plan aims to provide even better amenities and improve mountain access, while continuing to honour the environment. **A challenge driven by a much-awaited upcoming event: the 2030 Winter Olympics!**



**Renaud MUSELIER**

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

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





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# SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES, THE CYCLIST'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

Cycling is king in the Southern French Alps! Whatever your preferred style – road, mountain, gravel or BMX, with or without electrical assistance – the area's varied relief has something for every cycling occasion. Head out to roam green valleys, climb challenging slopes, revel in adrenalin-packed descents, tackle the Tour du Verdon or pedal along the stunning rocky balcony overlooking the Écrins glaciers. What's more, this vast playground is welcoming five stages of the Tour de France this year!

## 111TH TOUR DE FRANCE

Departing from Italy, this year's 111th Tour de France features a concentrate of Southern Alps challenges, with the mythical mountain passes of Briançon, Ubaye and the Route des Grandes Alpes, plus two forays into Dévoluy and the first ever stage in Superdévoluy. The 150-kilometre southern alpine final stage on July 19th promises to be sublime, with three climbs to altitudes of over 2,000 metres and up to 2,802 metres at the summit of La Bonette, Europe's highest road, prior to the finish line in Nice.

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



Tour de France Serre Ponçon © A.S.O. A. Broadway

## A MYRIAD OF MOUNTAIN PASSES

The mountain passes of the Southern Alps are as regal as the summits themselves. You'll find dozens of them here, in addition to the seven in the spotlight of this year's Tour de France.

### 📍 Col du Galibier 2 642 m

**Total climb:** 11.9 km (gradient 7.1%), then 17.7 km (gradient 6.9%).

A giant lying between the Northern and Southern Alps.

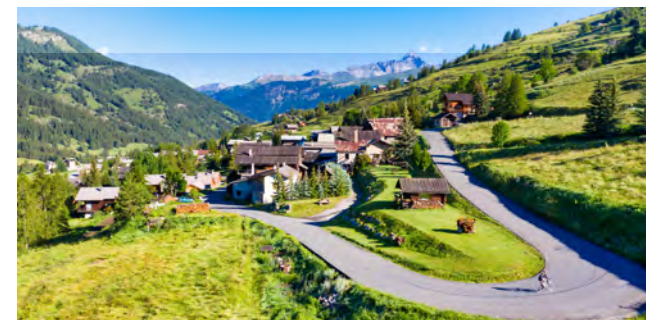
**Elevation gain:** 1,239 m from Valloire

Boasting a total of 64 Tours de France including 2024. In 2024, the 4th stage, spanning 138 km, will cross two legends: Col de Montgenèvre and Col du Galibier via Le Lautaret, a Tour de France classic.

### 📍 Col du Lautaret 2 050 m

**Total climb:** 27.7 km from Briançon. 11.3 km with a gradient of 9.2%, sometimes 10%.

**Elevation gain:** 853 m.



Col Agnel © R. Fabregue

### 📍 Col d'Allos 2247 m

**Total climb:** 17.5 km from Barcelonnette, 22.50 km from Colmars-les-Alpes.

**Elevation gain:** 1,108 m. Average gradient 6.33%, Maximum 11%.

### 📍 Col de la Bonette-Restefond 2 802 m

**Total climb:** 24 km from Jausiers or Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée.

**Elevation gain:** 1,589 m.

### 📍 Col d'Izoard 2 360 m

**Total climb:** 19 km from Briançon (gradient 6%) or 15.9 km via Gorges du Guil (average gradient 6.89%)

**Elevation gain:** 1,174 m (from Briançon).

### 📍 Col des Gondrans 2 347 m (VTT)

**Total climb:** 6.7 km from Montgenèvre.

**Elevation gain:** 519 m, average gradient 7.75%, Maximum 10.2%.

### 📍 Col de la Cayolle 2 326 m

**Total climb:** 29.1 km from Barcelonnette.

**Elevation gain:** 1,190 m. Average gradient 4.09%, Maximum 8.2%.

## SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES, THE CYCLIST'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND



Grands cols Lautaret Galibier Izoard © P. Domeyne



### "COLS RÉSERVÉS"

**July 4th to 9th, 2024**

During the "Cols Réservés" operation held every summer in the Southern Alps, mythical mountain passes such as Izoard Allos, Galibier, Granon, Agnel, Echelle, Montée de Chabre and Pommerol are closed to traffic on certain mornings – and wide open to cyclists keen to test their limits in all safety. Saddle up!

[Read more](#)

### BREVET DES 7 COLS

Four hundred kilometres and an elevation gain of 7,200 metres... Athletes who manage to ascend the 7 mountain passes of Ubaye Valley are rewarded with a diploma and access to the very exclusive "Brevetés des 7 Cols" club. On the programme: classics such as La Cayolle, Allos, La Bonette and Vars, together with the lofty Sainte-Anne, Fillys and Pontis, offering exhilarating views over Serre-Ponçon lake.

[www.ubaye.com/GB\\_brevet-des-7-cols.html](http://www.ubaye.com/GB_brevet-des-7-cols.html)



Col du Noyer @ R. Fabregue

### "GRANDE TRAVERSÉE DES HAUTES-ALPES À VTT" (GTHA)

The ultimate mountain biking experience between La Grave-Villar d'Arène and Laragne-Montéglin, from the glaciers to Serre-Ponçon lake: 350 km and an elevation gain of 17,000 metres. France's highest long-distance trail demands a 7 to 10-day commitment.

[www.hautes-alpes.net/fr/tourisme/experiences/pleine-nature/velo/gtha-vtt.html](http://www.hautes-alpes.net/fr/tourisme/experiences/pleine-nature/velo/gtha-vtt.html)



VTT grands espaces © G.Baron

## SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES, THE CYCLIST'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND



Dévoluy © K.Kestler

### BIKE PARKS UNDER THE LARCH TREES

Whatever your preference - cycle touring or extreme sports, cross-country, DH, BMX Trial, X-Country or Freeride, with or without electrical assistance -, mountain bikes are resolutely at home in our massifs. A myriad of bike parks, sometimes accessible via the ski lifts, allow aficionados to practise their art in all safety and open the way to a great choice of fun or challenging red, black and blue slopes. Here are a few examples:

📍 **Digne-les-Bains:** the Terres Noires trail has placed Digne among the downhill world's top-ranking names. The EVO Bike Park, often listed among the world's top ten bike parks, offers nine tracks and is open in all seasons.

📍 **La Moulière:** since 1992. Coveted by riders for the sea views from some of its 12 downhill tracks and two touring MTB tracks.

📍 **Le Dévoluy:** 7 beautifully-maintained tracks and 1 Northshore track, with a total of 50 km of downhill adventures and two entrances located at Superdévoluy and La Joue du Loup, in the stunning mineral landscapes of the limestone Dévoluy massif.

📍 **Montgenèvre:** on the Italian border. Its 8 tracks ranging from 2,450 to 1,860 m have made this park a benchmark. You'll find a wash and repair station there too.

📍 **Les Orres:** a fun, sporty and accessible playground at altitudes of 1,600 m to 2,600 m, sure to satisfy every MTB fan. The "Moniteur Cycliste Français" school provides training while the new "Pôle Sport Innovation" centre allows you to train virtually on an ultra-black slope at maximum speed.

📍 **Pra Loup:** the Clappe telemix serves 7 slopes of all levels, with a total of 18 km downhill runs and an elevation gain of 500 m. Beginners will enjoy the fun, free space, accessible via the Clapiers ski mat.

📍 **Puy-Saint-Vincent:** the base camp of world champion Jordan Sarrou. Gazing out over the Barre des Écrins, this bike park featuring a family trail welcoming kids aged 5 years upwards and mini MTB bike park, is a must for your first family rides.

📍 **Vars:** in 2023, Vars launched around 55 km of new electric mountain bike trails for cross-country enthusiasts including free charging stations, plus a new Downhill track, making a total of 125 km routes for all disciplines.

📍 **Seignus Val d'Allos:** the Enduro pioneer and organizer of the Tribe 10 000, Val d'Allos offers mythical singletracks starting out at an altitude of 2,371 metres, crowned with dazzling panoramic views over Grande Sèolane and Le Pelat at 3,051 m.



VTT enduro © G. Baron

## SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES, THE CYCLIST'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND



Bike-park-orcières @ G. Baron



### GFNY ORCIÈRES CYCLING FESTIVAL

**A FIRST! ON AUGUST 24TH AND 25TH,**

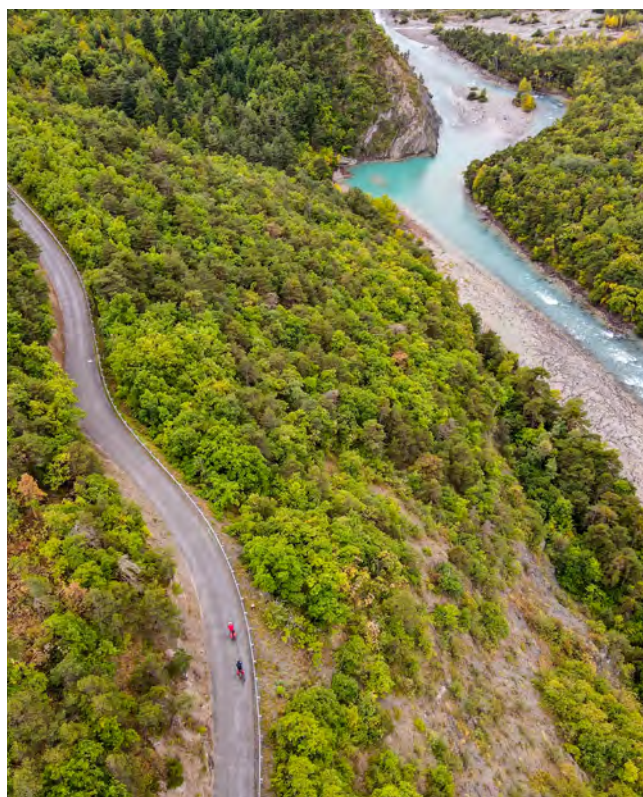
Orcières will be welcoming a stage of the GFNY: the largest amateur cyclosportive race, with 400 to 800 cyclists battling it out on a 158 km route across Champsaur valley, with an elevation gain of 4,400 m. Participants can take their pick from two options: "sporty" or "discovery". The event is backed by the newly-created Orcières Cycling Team – a first in the cycling world comprising three clusters: competition, leisure and events.

[www.orcieres.com/en/](http://www.orcieres.com/en/)

### DURANCE BY BIKE

The recently-completed V862 "Durance à Vélo" trail, measuring 438 kilometres, runs alongside Provence's largest river. The scenery is simply stunning, from the river's source on the heights of Montgenèvre to its confluence with the Rhône in Avignon. Several railway stations allow you to hop onto this road bike and MTB route, in particular the high alpine stages stretching from Briançon to Sisteron in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence.

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



Durance à Vélo @ ADDET05 C. Tempier



Vélo © Van RijnR

### TOUR DU VERDON

What better than a round trip for really getting to know a particular area? This sometimes-dizzy, 258-kilometre loop offers breathtaking views over the lower gorge of the Verdon Canyon and banks of the lakes of Sainte-Croix-du-Verdon and Esparron. Saddle up for four to seven days of pure magic.

<https://uk.veloloisirprovence.com/page/tour-du-verdon-a-velo---en+2760.html>

# SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES, THE HEIGHTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Home to two national parks and four regional nature reserves, the majority of the Southern Alps territory remains untouched. Two of these protected natural areas - Écrins National Park and the Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve - are inter-regional, while Mercantour National Park and the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve, on the Italian border, operate transborder cooperation programmes with Italy's parks.

The Alpine massif is home to 691 protected sites, spanning 9.4% of the territory.

Many of the Southern Alps' leisure facilities, accommodation providers and local products bear the "Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional" or "Esprit Parc National" quality labels. The Southern Alps is also home to a record number of farms growing organic produce or selling direct from producer to consumer. You'll find a remarkable offering here in terms of soft mobility and low-carbon transport too, while Green Key sustainable labels abound. Farming occupies around 1.7 million acres, with a major focus on pastoralism.



Transhumance-des-herens-ferme-lautaret @ P. Domeyne



Transhumance Routo © P. Fabre



# TRANSHUMANCE, A SOUTHERN ALPS HERITAGE EVENT

In December 2023, the UNESCO listed the Transhumance – the seasonal droving of livestock by shepherds and breeders – as part of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The high-altitude pastures of the Southern Alps are at the core of this ancient and still very much thriving tradition.

Archaeological digs around Lauzanier lake have revealed that sheep breeding was practised near Col de Larche as far back as Neolithic times. Along with its neighbour, Col d'Allos, this mountain pass is home to some of the Alps' most-reputed pastures, perched at altitudes of 1,500 to 2,500 metres. In the Middle Ages, flocks of six to twenty thousand sheep were herded twice yearly along the cattle tracks running alongside the rivers Durance and Asse to the green meadows of Haute Ubaye. Today, flocks of around 620,000 sheep arrive in June, mainly in cattle trucks. Four to five hours after their departure from La Crau in the Bouches-du-Rhône area, they are disembarked next to the alpine pastures.

Their arrival is celebrated with numerous Transhumance fairs (in Vernet, Jausiers and Castellane to name but a few).

According to historians such as Henri Falque-Vert, these seasonal movements of livestock allowed the mountain populations to mingle with the outside world. Farmers and shepherds alike were obliged to accompany the flocks, obtain the necessary authorisations, manage the traffic and seek out grassy pastures *en route*.



Alpes transhumance. @ C. Chillio

### NOÉ MARTIN, FRANCE'S BEST YOUNG SHEPHERD

Originating from Allos, in Val d'Allos, Noé Martin, aged just 16 years, swept up the title of France's Best Young Shepherd 2024 at the last Agricultural Show in Paris. Noé is proudly following in the footsteps of his father and stepmother, who run the "Fromagerie du Brec" cheese dairy in Val d'Allos. His family breed goats and hardy, red-headed Mourerous sheep.

[www.valdallos.com/alimentations-produits-regionaux-fromagerie-du-brec-val-dallos-le-village.html](http://www.valdallos.com/alimentations-produits-regionaux-fromagerie-du-brec-val-dallos-le-village.html)

### GR®69 LA ROUTO®

Linking the plains of Provence to the alpine valleys of Piedmont, La Routo® (from the Occitanian expression *far la routo* in reference to the seasonal droving of livestock) spans 540 kms in the footsteps of the Transhumance. This stunning, long-distance trail is a genuine ode to the local accommodation providers, restaurateurs, sheep fairs and sheep products such as Arles merino wool - Europe's finest.

<https://larouto.eu/en/>

### LA CABANE DE ROUANETTE IN ORCIÈRES

A great excuse for a family outing in Champsaur, La Cabane de Rouanette has just been restored with the aid of the Heritage Foundation. This cabin allows shepherds to keep their flocks safe at night without having to walk too far. Departing from Archinard, in Orcières, the six-kilometre hike pans out under larch trees and along a torrent to a beautiful, flowering cirque.

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

### PASTORANDO APP

In Allos, in Mercantour National Park, the Pastorando app provides real time geolocation of flocks, hence facilitating mountain sharing. Today, farmers use impressive Pyrenean Mountain Dogs known as patous to protect their sheep from wolves. The app allow you to circumnavigate them if you so wish.

The Buëch Dévoluy area and others employ mediators every summer to inform the public and ensure holiday-makers can get in touch with local shepherds and farmers.

[www.pastorando.com/#/](http://www.pastorando.com/#/)

# AGRITOURISM, LOCAL PRODUCE AND HOSPITALITY IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is France's leading region for organic farming in terms of surface area, while the Southern Alps is home to a record number of organic farms and farms selling directly from producer to consumer. Lavender, high-altitude wines, IGP Red Label lavender honey, apples and pears are just some of the iconic products on offer.

If you're keen to savour the best of the Southern Alps produce and rural welcome, here are a few benchmarks.

## A NEW "100% VALEURS DU SUD" LABEL



This label distinguishes regional produce that guarantees farmers a fair wage. It can also be awarded to processing and distribution firms.

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



© La Valbonnette

## RESTAURANT: NEW AT LES TABLES DE GASPARD

Nicknamed "France's most affordable Michelin eatery", the Hautes-Alpes' only Michelin one-star restaurant has changed hands but its philosophy remains the same: the new owners, Alice Raveau and Ivan Labrador, will be continuing to give pride of place to small producers and extra-local fare.

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

## BIENVENUE À LA FERME



This network of farms offering direct sale and accommodation has 420 regionwide members (out of a total of nearly 20,000 farms). Whether you're seeking lodgings, farm camping, an educational tour or produce straight from the fields, it always lives up to its "You are welcome" motto.

[www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com](http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com)

## ACCUEIL PAYSAN



Deeply committed to sustainable development, this network of men and women farmers opens its arms to visitors, with the promise of a different kind of holiday.

[www.accueil-paysan-paca.com](http://www.accueil-paysan-paca.com)

## BISTROTS DE PAYS



As its name implies, "Bistrots de Pays" is an association of rural bistros: unique venues serving delicious little dishes, morning coffee and evening aperitifs, topped with the opportunity to meet with the locals and enjoy a variety of activities and events. In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the "Fédération des Bistrots de Pays", based in its birthplace Forcalquier, has published the first "Guide National des Bistrots de Pays". The 122 addresses on offer include some delightful, friendly spots in the Southern Alps, perfect if you're a fan of cosy atmospheres, authentic cuisine and local experiences.

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

## "BIENVENUE À LA FERME" ROADTRIPS

The Alpes-de-Haute-Provence area offers five, 3-day farm discovery tours with stop-offs at "Bienvenue à la Ferme" gîtes, farm campsites and B&Bs. For example, you can opt for a tour spanning the Haute-Provence, Verdon and Var areas, snaking its way between lakes and gorges across the mountain passes of Col d'Allos, Col des Champs and Col de la Cayolle.

➤ [Read more](#)



## “LOW CARBON” PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### THE “PASS JOURNÉE” DAY PASS

Valid all year round, this new pass allows you to travel all day on TER and ZOU! public transport services in one or two administrative areas (departments) in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region.

**The deal:** €20 per day for one department, €35 for 2 adjacent departments, plus plenty of options. Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is home to 6 departments. The mega deal: people accompanying the pass holder (up to 8 people) pay a discount rate of €5.

The “Pass Journée” is on sale at regional train station ticket offices and ticket machines, as well as on the SNCF Connect and TER SNCF websites.

➤ [Read more](#)

### CÔTE D’AZUR, “PASS SUD AZUR EXPLORE”

A great way to get around on public transport - train, tram or bus - on the Côte d’Azur (Alpes-Maritimes) for 3, 7 or 14 days at a very friendly price.

➤ [Read more](#)



Gare Bollène © A. Hocquel



Train des Pignes © CRT-Cote d'Azur France - G. Veran





HOW TO GET THERE?

**FROM AIRPORTS**

Marseille: [zou.maregionsud.fr](http://zou.maregionsud.fr)

Nice: [www.lignesdazur.com](http://www.lignesdazur.com)

Lyon, Turin: [www.linkbus-alps.com](http://www.linkbus-alps.com)

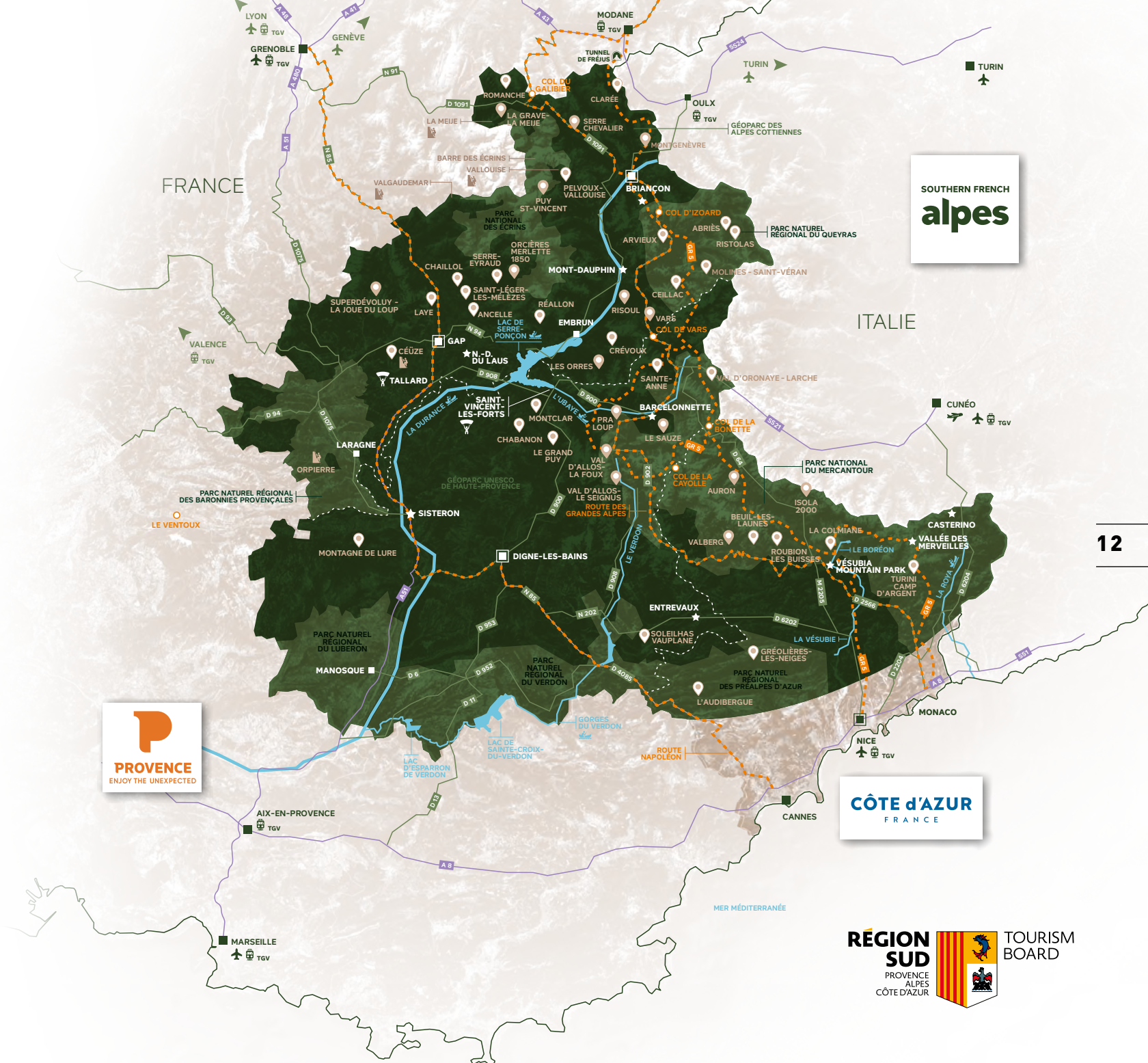
**FROM TRAIN STATIONS / CITIES**

Aix TGV, Marseille, Lyon TGV, Oulx TGV,

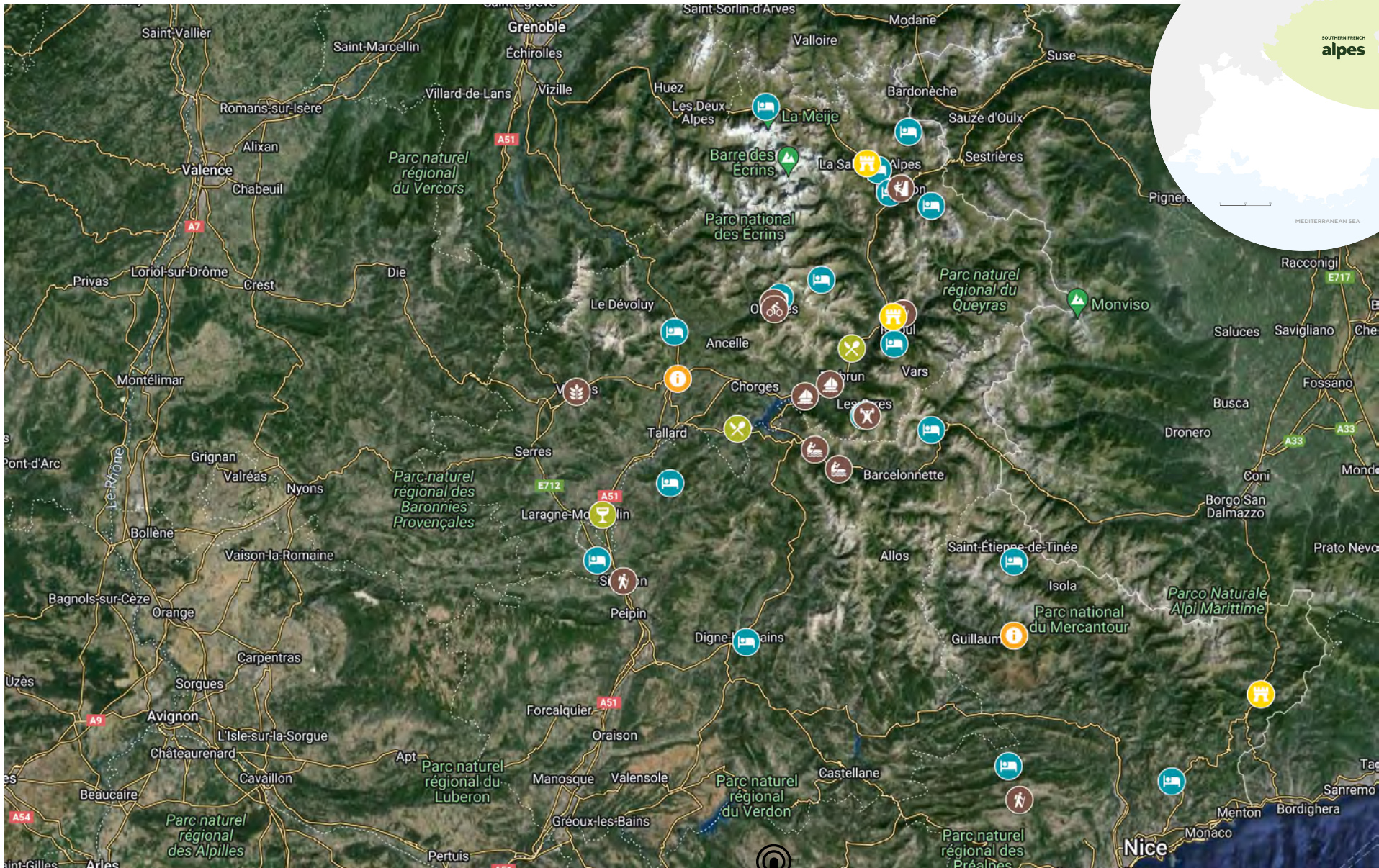
Paris, Modane: [www.linkbus-alps.com](http://www.linkbus-alps.com)

[www.autocars-resalp.com](http://www.autocars-resalp.com)


[www.autocars-imbert.com](http://www.autocars-imbert.com)



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE ALPS?



**CLICK HERE**  
You'll find all the listed addresses on this interactive map



## PAYS DU BUËCH FROM SISTERON TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS

**S**tanding 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**. The cliffs of **Orpierre** and **Céüse** offer a thrilling vertical playground for climbing enthusiasts from the world over, while the **Massif du Dévoluy**, carved out with 600 hollows, is a haven for caving enthusiasts.

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.

➤ **This season's events line up**

## HOSPITALITY

### LE GRAND LOGIS

📍 LE CAIRE

This magnificent house on Place de Le Caire harbours many a treasure. The second floor, at the top of a grand staircase, features a billiards room and table tennis room, a 7-metre climbing wall and two spacious guest rooms, one for two guests (*Santorin*) near the terrace, gazing out over the mountain. Inspired, as its name suggests, by mountain refuges, the second room (*Le Refuge*) is clad in cosy wood and offers three bunk beds. Guests have access to the cellars converted into a spa with whirlpool bath, a musical grotto and massage room. Owner Arnaud Lecreux promises plenty of other upcoming surprises too.

€200 to €230 for two guests including breakfast. Additional guest €30 to €50. Optional meals €40 to €50 for two.

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



© Le Grand Logis

### LE DOMAINE DE COMBE BELUZE

📍 MISON, SISTERON-BUËCH

Set between Méouge gorge and Sisteron's citadel, this 1678 construction surrounded by chestnut trees was abandoned for a long time. After five years of respectful restoration work, Anne Truphème has transformed the house into a tranquil haven complete with two barns for receptions. The five rooms are called *Vigne*, *Olive*, *Lavande*, *Pomme* and *Grenier* (*Grenier* still features graffiti dating from WWI). All are fitted with a kitchenette. The gites for two and four guests share a rooftop terrace. A summer kitchen with pizza oven, BBQ and brazier is available near the main courtyard lined with veteran cedar trees. Three natural springs supply water to the pool. The estate can be privatized for a day or weekend.

€113 to €198 per night for two guests including breakfast, gites for two or four guests €250 and €350 per weekend, €550 to €1,200 per week.

[www.domaine-combe-beluze.fr](http://www.domaine-combe-beluze.fr)



© Domaine Combe Beluze

### LE REFUGE DES SOURCES\*\*\*

📍 DIGNE-LES-BAINS

Located just outside Digne and a ten-minute walk from the thermal baths, the Refuge des Sources underwent a 4-month facelift before reopening in summer 2023 as a three-star hotel. Architecture firm A26 Igloo has instilled the 60 rooms - some ideal for families or groups of 6 - with a cosy feel. The delightful pool and terrace are open in summer. You can also opt for a package deal including accommodation and treatments at the Haute Provence spa. General Manager Vanessa Delmas offers spa guests an extra-special welcome, while Chef Matthieu Bonnoure pays tribute to local produce at *La Table du Refuge*.

[www.lerefugedessources.com/en](http://www.lerefugedessources.com/en)



Le Refuge des Sources - © DR

## GASTRONOMY

### VILLA COSTEBELLE

📍 UPAIX, SISTERON-BUËCH

Inspired by an idea put forward by the Laragne cinema, Magali Vignaud now hosts a “Wine of the Month” event every 20th of the month (“le vingt” in French!). Her 6-acre vineyard in Rourebeau produces an impressive 15 natural wines, all bearing the IGP Hautes-Alpes label, including a Cuvée Jany Gleize named after the illustrious lady chef from Châteauroux. Magali also invites visitors to enjoy a day in the vines harvesting the ten or so grape varieties.

Free cellar tours and wine tasting on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6.30 pm. “Wine of the Month” tasting on every 20th of the month paired with regional specialities. Please book ahead.

[www.sisteron-buech.fr](http://www.sisteron-buech.fr)

## OUTDOORS

### WELLBEING BETWEEN PROVENCE AND ALPS

📍 LES SOURCES DU BUËCH

Dotted with springs and waterfalls, the alpine-come-Provencal valleys of the Buëch area are perfect for getting away from it all. You'll find around 40 wellness specialists here, offering a wide panel of specialities ranging from equine therapy to Chi Nei Tsang abdominal massage, kinesiology and Wutao. You'll find various training courses on offer all year round too, including Nuad Boran Thai massages by Laetitia Cassin and yoga retreats with Pascale Javaux. Not forgetting the yearly wellness fair in Veynes at the beginning of autumn, perfect for getting your energy back on track.

Details available from the Sources du Buëch Tourist Office.

<https://www.sources-du-buech.com/>

### PLANT GATHERING IN PAYS DU BUËCH

📍 MONTMORIN, SISTERON-BUËCH

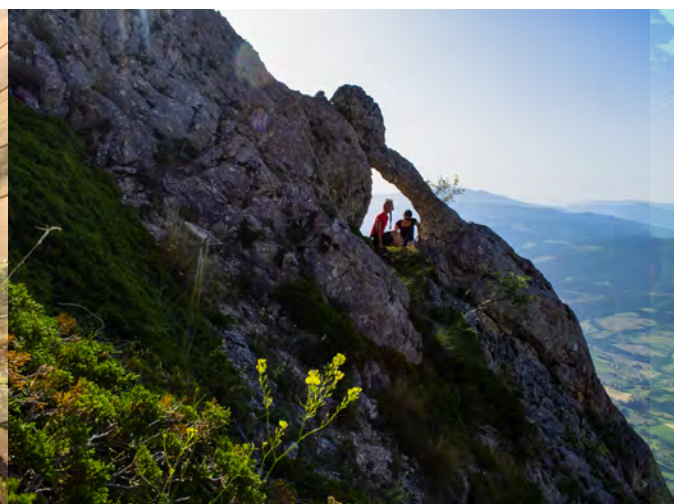
Located near the village of Montmorin, Claire Girard invites visitors to enjoy a stroll in the hills to get to know and gather local wild plants used to concoct two meals. Her Pra Boyer gîte is hidden away at the end of a forest path in the secret little Vallée de l'Oule. You'll also enjoy a visit to Aurore Tenoux, a local walnut grower and holder of the “Valeurs Parc Régional” quality label. Other activities on the menu include hikes to Le Duffre, the highest point of the Baronnies Provençales Regional Nature Reserve. Concocted by the Sisteron Buëch Tourist Office, this magical experience, lasting 3 days and 2 nights, was awarded a prize by ADN Tourisme, the National Federation of Tourism Institutions.

€300 per person, 3 days/2 nights.

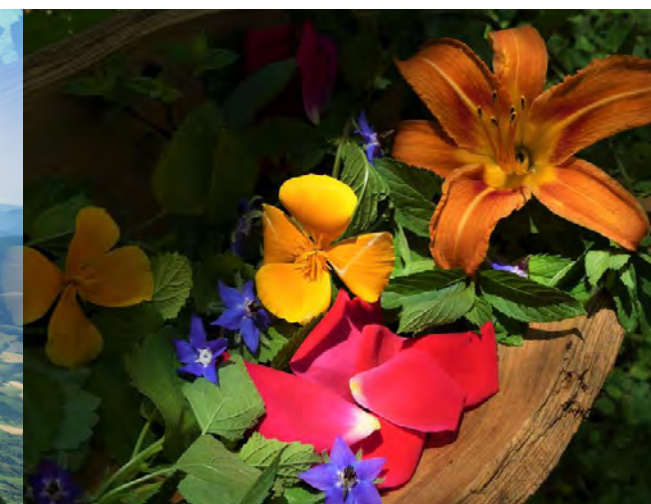
[www.sisteron-buech.fr](http://www.sisteron-buech.fr)



© Villa Costebelle




Randonnée à Maraysse © Communauté de Communes Sisteronais-Buëch  
M. Marmier



Randonnée Terroir et gourmandise © OTSB



A scenic view of a mountain range with a winding road and a cyclist. The image shows a vast landscape with rugged, rocky mountains in the background under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a paved road curves through a lush green valley. A cyclist in a blue and white jersey is riding along the road. The overall scene is bright and sunny, capturing the beauty of the French Alps.

# GAPENÇAIS CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR DÉVOLUY

**A**n air of the South of France envelops **Gap**, the genteel capital of the **Hautes-Alpes**. As you head onto the **Napoleon Road**, the blue horizons of Provence give way to spectacular scenery. The green expanse of Europe's highest bocage pans out in the valley of **Champsaur**.

On the other side of the iconic **Vieux Chaillol**, **Valgaudemar** could easily be mistaken for a Himalayan valley... **Pic de Bure**, the region's largest observatory, gazes over the mineral landscapes of the Massif du **Dévoluy**. Its *chourums* - mysterious natural hollows formed from karst - attract cavers from the world over in both summer and winter, while botanists flock here to contemplate the local flora.

📅 **This season's events line up**

## HOSPITALITY

### DOG-FRIENDLY: GUIDE DU TOUTOURISME

📍 GAP TALLARD VALLÉES

Available from the Gap Tallard Vallées Tourist Office and website, the new *Guide du Toutourisme* (Dog-Friendly Tourism Guide) offers a comprehensive list of professionals offering a warm welcome to holidaymakers travelling with their four-legged companions. The Gap Tallard Vallées Tourist Office was one of the first in France (the third to be precise) to offer VIP dog-friendly services including a *Toutou Bar*, *Toutou Pack*, advice and plenty of pats on the head. And with over 7 million dogs in France, demand is high! N.B. the town of Tallard is now a holder of the “Commune Station Touristique” resort label in recognition of its outstanding tourism policy.

<https://www.gap-tallard-vallees.fr/en/stay/toutourisme/>



© AD04 - Raoul Getraud

### GUEST ROOMS AND GITES AT LA MAISON L'AIGUILLE

📍 LAYE STATION, CHAMPSAUR

Marjorie and Guillaume Barry's guest rooms and gites are set inside a former hotel in Laye Station. The two self-catering gites with terrace and garden can accommodate up to 6 people. 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. Good news for gourmets too: Guillaume runs a delicious table d'hôte with specialities including vegetarian or beef lasagna, *oreilles d'âne* spinach bake and Champsaur ravioli. Guests staying at the gites can also book a breakfast basket with granola, brioches, and homemade 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. Gites and guest rooms from €80 per night, minimum 2 nights for gites.

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



Maison l'Aiguille- © DR

### CHALET REFUGE IBEX\*\*\*

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

Eco-luxury in the heart of nature! Ivo Ricou - the grandson of Camile 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 rated “5 Claws” 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.

€2,300 to €4,000 per week.

[www.refugeibex.com/en/](http://www.refugeibex.com/en/)



Refuge Ibex - © G. Baron

## GASTRONOMY



Learn more about  
Southern Alps honey

### MIEL DE PIN DES ALPES DU SUD

📍 SAINT-JEAN-SAINT-NICOLAS

This rare honeydew – as pine trees don't have flowers, it isn't exactly a honey – is gathered by bees in Aspremont forest. Its sweet and gentle flavour unveils notes of underwoods and pine nuts.

250g: €13.90.

On sale at:

<https://hedene.fr/en/>



Miel - © P. Domeyne

## OUTDOORS

### ÉPICERIE DES LYS

📍 CHÂTEAURoux-LES-ALPES

According to the Gourmet Sélection delicatessen fair, it's the best grocery shop in France. A genuine treasure trove, set on Châteauroux-les-Alpes village square, the Épicerie des Lys was handed down to 25 year-old Delphine Bernard by her aunt Carole. The jury particularly appreciated the old-fashioned service and fabulous selection of cheeses plus, no doubt, the charm of this little village home to 1,200 inhabitants between Risoul and Serre-Ponçon, already famed among whitewater sports fans the world over for its "Rabioux wave".

[epiceriedeslys.fr](http://epiceriedeslys.fr)



Cabane Rouanette - © M. Aimar

### LE MONDE DES 6 LACS

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

This 3-hour walk sets out from the summit of Drouvet (you can reach the summit on the Télémix®) and runs along the six sumptuous lakes bordering Écrins National Park. 18 works of art now line the lakes, adding an extra touch of poetry to the sublime landscapes: the *Rêveur des Cîmes* in oak and weathering steel, pointing his finger upwards to the peaks, *Repaire des Marmottes* and *Fontaine Dragon*, standing regally in Estaris forest. A feast for the senses...

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



Monde des 6 lacs © G. Baron

### ORCIÈRES CYCLING TEAM

📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE, CHAMPSAUR

Cycling reigns in Orcières and the resort has welcomed the Tour de France no less than 5 times. The new Orcières Cycling Team is a never-before-seen initiative in the cycling world. Created just over a year ago, the structure comprises three hubs – competition, leisure and evens. It has now teamed up with Groupama's Ton Club Ton Maillot and champion cyclist Delphine Reinert, the French Cycling Federation ambassador now in charge of developing women's cycling. Already boasting 250 members, it has also launched the Orcieres Cycling Festival, winding up the summer season.

These initiatives are part of a wider drive to promote cycling in the Hautes-Alpes, Champsaur valley and Orcières.



VTT grands espaces © G. Baron



**On August 25th, 2024**, Orcières is welcoming a new French stage on the GFNY circuit (Gran Fondo cyclo-sportive event). The 158 km course, with an uphill climb of 4,469 metres, is open to non-professionals of all levels, from 18 years upwards.

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



Bike Park - Orcières © Gilles Baron



### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

**Wednesday July 17th**

**17th stage:** Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux / Superdévoluy, 178 km

The race is on to the Southern Alps, with some likely surprises in store for the peloton on the last 40 km of climbs including the formidable Col du Noyer (7.5 km, 8.4% uphill slope) and arrival in Superdévoluy, welcoming the Tour for the first time this year.

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



© Agence Kros - Remi Fabregue



# GRAND BRIANÇONNAIS 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 **Écrins 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...

📅 **This season's events line up**

### LES OASIS ENCHANTÉES

📍 EYGLIERS, QUEYRAS

A new way of discovering heritage, the *Sens'action* walking trails, first introduced in Ubaye valley and around Serre-Ponçon lake, are dotted with riddles! This new 4.3-kilometre loop in the Queyras regional nature reserve winds its way between the Catinat cliffs and Guil gorge, unveiling a string of enchanted oases with many stories to tell. The project is part of the Serre-Ponçon/Guillestrois-Queyras bid for the "Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" (Land of Art & History) label.

[provence-alpes-cotedazur.com](http://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com)



Randonnée © Itinera Magica



### VAUBAN

📍 VILLAGE FORTIFIÉ  
DE MONT-DAUPHIN, QUEYRAS

Make the most of it. On every first Sunday of the month until March, the National Monuments Centre in Mont-Dauphin is opening the doors to Ousmane Sow's "Battle of Little Bighorn" exhibition free of charge. The *Les Enquêtes de Anne Mésia* app allow visitors to enjoy a self-guided exploration of this listed monument, fortified by Vauban and now a UNESCO Heritage Site.

[www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en](http://www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en)



Mont-Dauphin © B. Bodin



### OUSMANE SOW

The National Monuments Centre is hosting "The Battle of Little Big Horn", a 10-year renewable exhibition by artist and sculptor Ousmane Sow in the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin. A world-unique voyage under the exceptional Philibert Delorme-style wooden ceiling of the Rochambeau barracks. Prior booking obligatory.

[www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en](http://www.village-fortifie-montdauphin.fr/en)



Ousmane Sow © C. Chillo

## HOSPITALITY

### HÔTEL LE CASTILLAN\*\*\*

📍 LA GRAVE - LA MEIJE

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.

Prix fixe menu from €26, children's menu €10.

[www.le-castillan.com](http://www.le-castillan.com)



Hôtel Le Castillan - © DR

### LES CHAMBRES D'HÔTES D'ANAVO

📍 NÉVACHE, VALLÉE DE LA CLARÉE

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 40m<sup>2</sup> 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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 2 guests, table d'hôte meals €21.50. Open January to mid-April and mid-May to mid-November 2024.

[leschambresdanavo.fr](http://leschambresdanavo.fr)



Anavo - © N. Martin

## HOSPITALITY

### GUEST HOUSE INSPIRATION MONTAGNE

📍 NÉVACHE, VALLÉE DE LA CLARÉE

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](http://inspirationmontagne.ellohaweb.com)

### AUBERGE-CHALET LA MAISON DE CATHERINE

📍 PUY-SAINT-PIERRE  
SERRE CHEVALIER BRIANÇON

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 or 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 a 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. Ideal for skiers and summer hikers alike.

Double room €90 to €100, triple €125 to €131, quadruple €131 to €158. Breakfast €9.50.

[lamaisondecatherine.fr](http://lamaisondecatherine.fr)

### HÔTEL LE PETIT CERF LODGE

📍 CERVIÈRES,  
SERRE CHEVALIER BRIANÇON

Revamped and buzzing with good vibrations, the former Hôtel d'Izoard, situated at the foot of Col d'Izoard on the Briançon side, basks in stunning natural scenery. Isabelle Bertrand redesigned the 16 rooms with a nice dose of colour plus wood from the valley. After a day's skiing in winter, or hiking in summer, relax on the lounge-bar fireside sofas or terrace to the sound of live music. A shuttle service runs to the lodge from Briançon railway station.

Open until end April and from end May to end September 2024.

Double room: Lodge from €90, Hotel €120 or €164.

[www.hotel-petitcerf.com](http://www.hotel-petitcerf.com)



Inspiration Montagne - © DR



La Maison de Catherine - © DR



Le petit Cerf - © M. Costet



## HOSPITALITY

### LE REFUGE DE L'ONCLE ÉMILE

📍 DORMILLOUSE FREISSINIÈRES,  
LES ÉCRINS

Claude Bounous and Stéphanie Lavinia left their family plumbing business in Saint-Crépin to live year-round in Dormillouse. A brave decision: this hamlet in the heart of Écrins National Park is only accessible on foot and it takes 45 minutes in summer and an hour and a half in winter to climb up to their refuge perched at an altitude of 1,800 metres. The 400 m<sup>2</sup> house used to belong to Stéphanie's uncle. Today, the two mountain lovers have refurbished it superbly, complete with cosy bedding and delightful bathrooms. The solar panels, pellet stove and heated floors are sustainable too. The dormitory features six single beds plus two more-secluded beds. The three wood-clad bedrooms - *Crocus*, *Lys* and *Lys Martagon* - offer superb vistas over Tête de Gramusat, famed for its ice waterfalls in winter. And the *fondues* and *tartiflettes* are just the ticket after a day out on the slopes.

Dormitory €79 per night, double room €199 per night, meals €29.

[refuge-dormillouse.fr](https://refuge-dormillouse.fr)



© M. LACHAUD

### 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 hammam, 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. And you can wear skis all the way out and back too.

[www.mmv.fr](https://www.mmv.fr)



Résidence MMV - © Manu Reyboz

### 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 m<sup>2</sup> are instilled with a contemporary mountain mood, with spacious volumes, glass façades 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.

<https://grandhotel.fr/en/>



Studio Frémont - © Fremont Serre Chevalier

## KNOW-HOW

### A SECOND HYDROELECTRIC TURBINE

📍 SERRE CHEVALIER

Key to Serre Chevalier Vallée's renewable energy programme, a second hydroelectric turbine has now been installed at the Fréjus snow factory in La Salle-les-Alpes. From spring to autumn, it will be working the waters of the Bez river to produce 3 gigawatt hours of electricity per year. Fitted with a 5-ton alternator, it is set to account for 70% of the total power produced with renewable energy sources (hydroelectric, wind and solar), allowing the resort to achieve 30% self-sufficiency.

[www.serre-chevalier.com/en](http://www.serre-chevalier.com/en)



turbine- © DR

## OUTDOORS

### V862 LA DURANCE BY BIKE CYCLE ROUTE

📍 BRIANÇON À AVIGNON

It's great for long-distance adventures and everyday travel alike – and as it crosses numerous railway stations, it's ideal for mixed train-rail journeys too! The Durance by Bike (V862) cycle route covers 438 kilometres along the river Durance between Briançon and Avignon. Stretching all the way from the source of the Durance, at an altitude of 2,390 metres on the heights of the Col du Montgenèvre, to the Rhône river, it crosses the fortified village of Mont-Dauphin, Serre-Ponçon lake and enchanting landscapes of orchards and lavender...

[laduranceavelo.fr](http://laduranceavelo.fr)



Durance à vélo © Patrick Domeyne

Durance à Vélo © ADDET 05 - C. Tempier



### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

**Thursday July 4th, 2024**

**Stage 4:** Pinerolo / Valloire.138 km

Departing from Florence in Italy, this is the first French stage on the Tour. The peloton will be arriving in the Briançon area via Col de Montgenèvre, before heading to Col du Galibier (11.9 km, 7.1% then 17.7 km, 6.9%), via Le Lautaret. Monêtier-les-Bains marks the start of the last 11.5 km stretch to the finish line, with an average 9.2% uphill climb and some gruelling stretches at 10%.

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

## OUTDOORS

### CLIMBING WALL

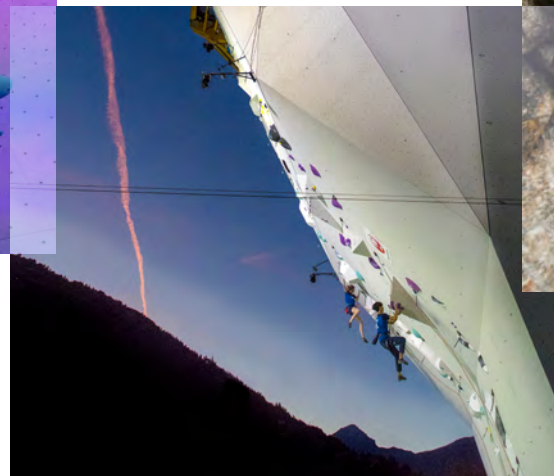
#### 📍 BRIANÇON

A stunning natural setting, brilliant architectural feat and impressive variety of routes of varying difficulty: the Briançon outdoor climbing wall inaugurated in July 2023 is already a benchmark! Architect Grégory Poles wanted it to be visible from all around, like “a tree furling skywards”. A joint project by Briançon town council and the French Climbing Federation, the wall is open to schoolchildren, clubs and for various events, so climbers of all levels can enjoy their favourite sport throughout the year. The host town for the Climbing World Championships for the last 34 years, Briançon is the international climbing capital – a renown set to continue thanks to the climbing wall, refurbishment of the high-altitude sports centre and opening of the O27 bouldering hall. It is also an official climbing Preparation Centre for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

[www.serre-chevalier.com/en/climbing-wall](http://www.serre-chevalier.com/en/climbing-wall)



© Patrick Domeyne



© Patrick Domeyne

Escalade © Van-RijnR



# SERRE-PONÇON EMBRUNAIS UBAYE VAL D'ALLOS

**S**ailing, 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.

➤ **This season’s events line up**

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### STATION-PILOTE

📍 LES ORRES

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. The resort’s new Sports & Innovation Hub and Patrolair mountain drone training centre, unique in France, further confirm its visionary reputation.

[www.lesorres.com/en](http://www.lesorres.com/en)



Les Orres - PSI ©Baillon Henrion Architectes

## HOSPITALITY

### LE REFUGE DES CAST'ORRES

📍 LES ORRES

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](http://refuge-des-castorres.com)



Le refuge des Cast'Orres- © DR

### LES CLEFS D'ORRES

📍 LES ORRES

Located in the Pramouton quarter, this 150 m<sup>2</sup> chalet can be rented as a whole or two apartments. The ground floor apartment, featuring a 39 m<sup>2</sup> lounge, offers direct access to a large, flat garden. The upstairs apartment is bedecked with a 50 m<sup>2</sup> 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/en](http://www.lesorres.com/en)



Les Clefs d'Orres- © DR

## HOSPITALITY

### CHALET-HÔTEL SAINTE-ANNE

📍 SAINTE-ANNE-LA-CONDAMINE CHATELARD

Perched 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. In the garden you'll find two heated Nordic baths and a sauna set inside in a welcoming cabin, perfect for a relaxing getaway.

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

[www.chaletsainteanne.com/en/](http://www.chaletsainteanne.com/en/)



Chalet-Hôtel Sainte-Anne - © DR



© Patrick Domeyne

## GASTRONOMY

### ÉPICERIE DES LYS

📍 CHÂTEAURoux-LES-ALPES

According to the Gourmet Sélection delicatessen fair, it's the best grocery shop in France. A genuine treasure trove, set on Châteauroux-les-Alpes village square, the Épicerie des Lys was handed down to 25 year-old Delphine Bernard by her aunt Carole. The jury particularly appreciated the old-fashioned service and fabulous selection of cheeses plus, no doubt, the charm of this little village home to 1,200 inhabitants between Risoul and Serre-Ponçon, already famed among whitewater sports fans the world over for its "Rabioux wave".

[epiceriedeslys.fr](http://epiceriedeslys.fr)



Fromage de chèvres - © B. Bodin

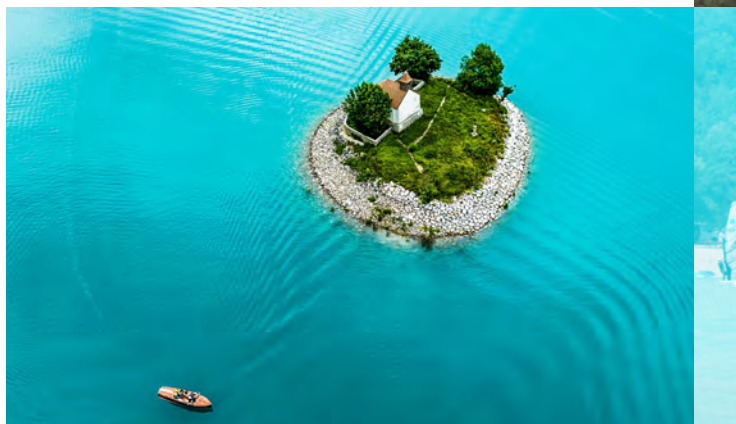
## OUTDOORS

### SAILING ON THE KHAYA

📍 SERRE-PONÇON

Local-born Stéphane Russo had *Khaya* built by hand in Brittany. Varnished mahogany, glinting chrome and comfy seating... *Khaya* offers all the elegance of a luxury Seventies boat plus the advantages of modern technology for a minimal environmental impact. Passengers – no more than a dozen – enjoy venturing into the river's coves, watching firework displays on the water and listening to the captain's anecdotes: he is a genuine expert on the history of Serre-Ponçon lake. A taste of luxury at the very friendly price of €34 per person for adults and €29 for children. *Khaya* and its skipper cater to private events too.

[www.serre-poncon-tour.com](http://www.serre-poncon-tour.com)



Khaya - © DR



### IQFOIL YOUTH AND JUNIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

📍 CLUB NAUTIQUE ALPIN  
SERRE PONÇON

**July 2nd to 11th, 2024**

An international-scale IQFOIL event hosted in the Southern Alps for the very first time. Entertainment and festive evenings are on the menu too.

[www.cna-embrun.com/en/](http://www.cna-embrun.com/en/)



IQFOIL © Club Nautique Alpin Serre Ponçon

### SPORT & INNOVATION HUB

📍 LES ORRES 1650

The only one of its kind in the mountains, this hub is set inside a futuristic building and features five virtual reality sport simulators. Novices and seasoned athletes alike can enjoy refining their skills on the indoor ski carpet, hooked up to video analysis software. An indoor climbing wall and fitness room hosting various workshops complete the offering. Spanning 1200 m<sup>2</sup>, the hub offers a new twist on traditional sporting practises and promises visitors an exciting new way to discover Serre-Ponçon valley.

Open December to April and July-August.

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



Pôle Sport Innovation © DR

## OUTDOORS



### TOUR DE FRANCE 2024

#### Thursday July 18th

**Stage 18:** Gap / Barcelonnette. 179 km

Ubaye Valley is in the limelight for two days, although sprinters will barely have time to admire Serre-Ponçon lake before attacking the slopes of Saint-Apollinaire and Les Demoiselles Coiffées.

#### Friday July 19th

**Stage 19:** Embrun / Isola2000. 145 km

A dizzy, ultra-mountain stage spanning less than 150 km, with three climbs to altitudes of over 2,000 metres and up to 2,802 metres at the summit of La Bonette. A record altitude for the Tour de France!

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



Lac de Serre Ponçon © B. Bodin



Tour de France Serre Ponçon © ASO - Alex Broadway



### FESTIVAL OUTDOOR MIX #10

📍 EMBRUN

#### May 17th to 20th, 2024

After the winter edition it's time to make way for the spring 2024 anniversary edition of this fabulous festival combining extreme sports, concerts headlining top names and an events village. An original and explosive cocktail, this festival is now one of the Southern Alps' musts.

[www.outdoormixfestival.com/fr/les-editions/](http://www.outdoormixfestival.com/fr/les-editions/)



© DR



## OUTDOORS

### ON THE WHITE WATERS OF UBAYE

Ubaye Serre-Ponçon Valley is THE whitewater hotspot.

Almost completely wild, the Ubaye river cascades freely through the valley's stunning mountains-capes, offering an impressive 50 km run with no dams. Whitewater is classified from I to VI in terms of difficulty and the Ubaye has them all, with a total of 8 courses and a diversity that caters to everyone, from champions to 4 year-olds.

### PACKRAFT EXPEDITION

#### 📍 LE LAUZET-UBAYE

The packraft is a small, inflatable boat combining a kayak and raft, easy to transport in a backpack and offering unique whitewater thrills. The Crazy Water rafting teams hosts 2 and 3-days trips down the Ubaye river, with bivouacking on the river banks.

Who needs the Grand Canyon! Bubble tents nestling in the trees at Lauzet invite adventurers to enjoy a well-earned rest after their odyssey. The entrance to the Crazy Water rafting base has been redesigned and is now very easy to access.

[www.crazywater-rafting.com](http://www.crazywater-rafting.com)

### AQUA TREKKING

#### 📍 MÉOLANS-REVEL

Fun and refreshing – what could be better in the heart of summer?! The waters of the Ubaye river can reach temperatures of up to 18°C during the hot months. In addition to a “Rand'eau” aqua trek, Raft'Ubaye also hosts river descents in a 35 kg featherweight “Sotar” raft handmade in Oregon.

A fabulous toy for whitewater fans.

[www.raft-ubaye.com](http://www.raft-ubaye.com)



Kayak sur l'Ubaye © AD04 - Raoul Getraud

### NIGHT WALKS IN VAL D'ALLOS

The “International Dark Sky” label is awarded to locations boasting particularly pure, starry skies. There are only 14 in the world, and the Alpes Azur Mercantour area has been one of them since December 2019. The label rewards the quality of the area's night skies and local efforts to reduce light pollution.

Nestling at the centre of Mercantour National Park, Val d'Allos is a particularly fabulous site for appreciating the “black velvet expanse covered with thousands of flickering lights”, as described by mountain guide Marc Aynié from the association Rando Azur. Marc leads participants on an easy night walk, with eyes raised to the heavens: a truly astonishing and disconcerting experience, rekindling the senses of our ancestors. A novel and magical foray for all ages (from 7 years).

3-hour walks on Monday and Wednesday evenings and on request from mid-June to October.

Price: Adults and children over 10 years €30, special rates for groups and families.

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



# PRÉALPES D'AZUR MERCANTOUR

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 **Écrins 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...

➤ **This season's events line up**

## ART & ARCHITECTURE

### PLUS BEAU VILLAGE DE FRANCE

📍 SAORGE

In September 2023, the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” committee decided to add Saorge (Alpes-Maritimes) to the club of France’s most beautiful villages, making a total of 176 villages bearing the prestigious label nationwide. The tall façades of Saorge cling to the rock face, in the heart of Roya valley. The village boasts an exceptional religious heritage on three levels, connected by a maze of stone staircases. 22 of the “Plus Beaux Villages de France” are located in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur. The label is awarded subject to 32 criteria: in addition to its aesthetics, the village must have at least 2,000 inhabitants and be home to two protected sites. The label was created in the stunning village of Gordes in the Luberon, honoured with the title of “Most Beautiful Village in the World” by the American magazine Travel + Leisure in 2023.

[www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org](http://www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org)

[www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk](http://www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk)



Saorge © G. Veran



Station d'Auron en été © S. Dragon



Auberge de Calenda © DR

## HOSPITALITY

### RÉSIDENCE ODALYS LE MONT D'AURON\*\*\*\*

📍 AURON

Situated in the village centre, five minutes from the snow front, this four-star 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-vacation-rental.com](http://www.odalys-vacation-rental.com)

### BISTROT DE PAYS L'AUBERGE DE CALENDAL\*\*\*

📍 AIGLUN

This delightful auberge nestles on a staircase street in the centre of Aiglun, on the slopes of Mont Saint-Martin, one hour from Nice and Grasse. Owners Gwen and Michel Rocton set up home in this picturesque little village after years spent preparing fine fare for palaces and stars, from Naomi Campbell to Serge Gainsbourg. Now a proud holder of the “Bistrot de Pays” label, pastry chef Michel concocts traditional dishes with a twist such as Guinea Fowl Wellington and Veal Blanquette, served at the *Endrone* restaurant with terrace overlooking the mountains, open from Thursday to Monday. Wind the day up with an unrefined cocoa tea from Saint Lucia – Gwen’s birthplace – or Caribbean cocktail. The five double rooms and two dormitories with 6 to 8 beds are refurbished every spring. You can also swim in one of France’s cleanest rivers, the Esteron, just down from the hotel. Aiglun is a popular meeting place for canyoning enthusiasts, also home to many hiking trails criss-crossing the Préalpes d’Azur Regional Nature Reserve.

Five rooms from €70, dormitory €30 including breakfast.

[auberge-de-calenda.leprovencehotels.com](http://auberge-de-calenda.leprovencehotels.com)

## HOSPITALITY

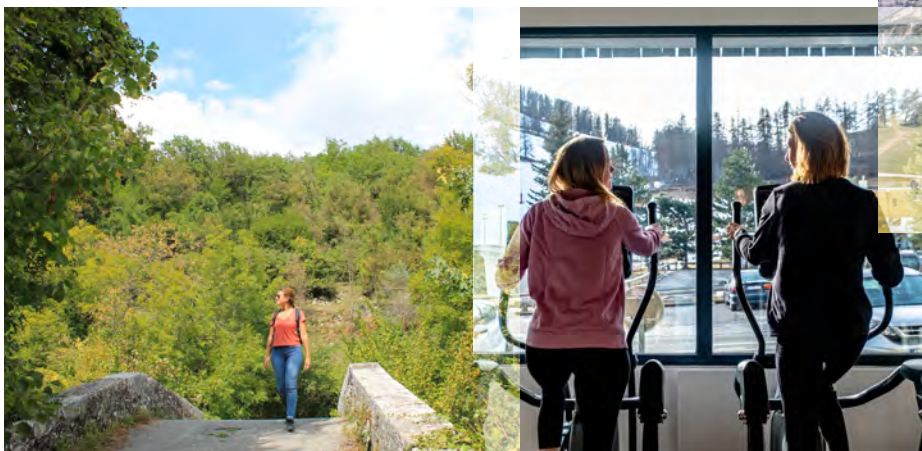
### BISTROT DE PAYS HÔTEL RESTAURANT BEAUSÉJOUR

📍 BERRE-LES-ALPES

Located 22 kilometres from Nice, the hilltop village of Berre-les-Alpes gazes out over Paillon valley, the Mercantour mountain chain and Mediterranean Sea. And this stunning eagle's nest harbours another little treasure too – its bistro! A holder of the “Bistrot de Pays” label, the Beauséjour Hotel-restaurant, set inside a magnificent stone building, invites guests to relax on its pretty terrace adorned with virgin creeper, or take a seat inside the old vaulted stables. Philippe and Monia pay homage to Nice's traditional, old-fashioned cuisine, with dishes including pissaladière, courgette flower fritters, beef stew and *merda di can*, aka gnocchi with chard. A professional pastry chef, Philippe also pampers guests with a whirlwind of sweet treats including tiramisu, a tart of the day, Saint-Honoré cake, black forest gâteau and cheesecake. Luckily, six comfortable rooms await you at the LogisHotel.

Prix fixe menus €9.50 to €25. From €70 per night.

[www.hotel-berrelesalpes.com](http://www.hotel-berrelesalpes.com)



Gréolières - © C. Chillio

Valfit © OT Valberg

## OUTDOORS

### EXPLOR GAMES

📍 GRÉOLIÈRES

Explor Games® are outdoor adventure games designed for families, friends or teams. The Gréolière game consists of nine challenges set over a distance of six kilometres around Gréolière-les-Neiges, between hollows, pastures, lapiaz, forests and lakes.

The pitch? Pollution, droughts and hurricanes are threatening to destroy the Earth. But Gaia – the Earth's personification – has taken refuge in Gréolières-les-Neiges, one of the last havens of biodiversity. As scientists, you have been called on to examine the site and judge if it can save Gaia and the planet...

[cotedazurfrance.fr](http://cotedazurfrance.fr)

### VAL' PASS, VAL'FIT

📍 VALBERG

Valberg is a great destination in every season! The Val'Pass multiactivity pass – a sort of electronic wallet you can credit with the amount you need – offers access to a fabulous range of activities including the new Val'Fit gym.

Fitness, core training or muscle strengthening: the digital equipment on offer at this new gym facing the Parc des Sports caters to every need, while the connected wristband allows users to tailor their training schedule.

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



## TOUR DE FRANCE 2024


**Saturday July 20th**


**Stage 20:** Nice > Col de la Couillole 132 km

Departing from Nice Côte d'Azur, the peloton will be tackling four successive climbs: Col de Braus (10 km, 6.6%), Col de Turini (20.7 km, 5.7%), Col de la Colmiane (7.5 km, 7.1%) and Col de la Couillole (15.7 km, 7.1%). Just 24 hours from the finish line, the bets are still on!

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


## READ MORE

 **40%** of the region's surface area





 **8%** of the region's population

**2<sup>nd</sup> French mountain destination**  
(15% of French mountain tourism)

 **27.2** million overnight stays including  
**75 %** French **25 %** International tourists

 **1.8** billion tourist spending

### Distribution of nights spent

 WINTER .....	<b>43%</b>
 HEART OF SUMMER (July/August) .....	<b>23%</b>
 SPRING .....	<b>16%</b>
 INDIAN SUMMER (autumn) .....	<b>18%</b>

Source: 2023 Tourism Survey - Regional Tourist Board /  
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and local partners

[Read more - Observatoire du Tourisme](#)

### PROTECTED AREAS

- **6 protected areas**
  - Écrins and Mercantour national parks
  - Queyras, Baronnies Provençales, Verdon and Préalpes du Sud regional nature reserves
- **2 geoparks and national geological reserves**
  - UNESCO Haute-Provence Geopark
  - Alpes Cottiennes Geopark
- **26 lakes**, including Europe's largest high-altitude lake (Lac d'Allos) and one of France's largest lakes (Lac de **Serre-Ponçon**)
- **Europe's highest village**: Saint-Véran (2 042 m)
- **Europe's highest town**: Briançon (1 326 m)

### RENOWNED CULTURAL SITES

- **UNESCO**: Briançon, Village Fortifié de Mont-Dauphin
- **Spiritual**: Boscodon Abbey and its Forêt d'Exception® (exceptional forest), Embrun Cathedral, Notre-Dame-de-Laus Sanctuary, plus Baroque constructions such as Saorge Monastery and Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption Church in Saint-Martin-Vésubie.
- **"France's Most Beautiful Villages" label**: Entrevaux, Saint-Véran, La Grave, Saorgue, Coaraze, Sainte-Agnès, Gourdon
- **Novel**: Barcelonnette and its historic ties with Mexico, Prehistoric cave paintings in the Vallée des Merveilles.

### RENOWNED SPORTS LOCATIONS

- **Whitewater/sailing**: Durance / Guil / Ubaye rivers, Serre-Ponçon lake, Verdon Canyon, La Roya.
- **Aerial**: Tallard, Saint-Crépin, Le Chevalet in Aspres-sur-Buëch and La Bâtie-Monsaléon, several paragliding/hang-glider sites including the internationally renowned Montagne de Chabre near Laragne, plus Saint-Geniez near Sisteron, Le Cousson above Digne-les-Bains, Saint-André-les-Alpes, Plateau de la Chau in Montclar, Saint-Vincent-Les-Forts.
- **Climbing/Mountaineering**: Le Caire, La Meije, Vallouise, Valgaudemar, Orpierre, Céüse.
- **Cycling**: Mountain passes of Galibier, Izoard, Vars, La Bonette, Allos, Durance à Vélo trail, Grande Traversée des Alpes long-distance trail, Tour du Verdon.
- **Hiking**: GR5, La Routo, Route Napoléon.

### THIS SEASON'S EVENT LINE-UP

READ MORE



EVENTS  
IN REAL TIME!

SEASON'S EVENTS

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GENERAL PHOTO LIBRARY

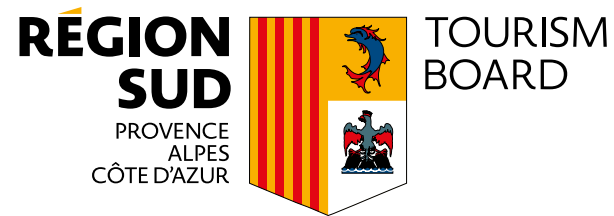
PHOTOS FROM THIS KIT


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Check out our **Media Space** for the latest news, press releases, press kits, events, media libraries and video library.

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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