

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

NEWS & EVENTS

WINTER
2025-2026

#AlpesDuSud
#purealpes

SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

RÉGION
SUD
PROVENCE
ALPES
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM
BOARD



Southern French Alps, an exceptional territory between sea & mountain

Glide over crisp, fresh snow in the morning and savour dinner by the Med in the evening... The Southern Alps promises a unique marriage of majestic mountains and scintillating sea. With summits soaring to over 4,000 metres and virgin valleys, it invites visitors to explore no less than 62 ski areas and village resorts, where each new day unveils winter under dazzling azure skies.

France's second-largest ski area, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region boasts 2,500 km of alpine slopes and 1,200 km of Nordic trails, forming an exceptional playground for skiers, hikers, climbers and trail runners alike against a stunning and beautifully preserved natural backdrop.

Set at the crossroads of Provence and the Côte d'Azur, the Southern Alps is a gem of culture and traditions too. Mountain lifestyle is everywhere here, cultivated by friendly inhabitants, all proud ambassadors of this authentic territory.

Fully aware of the climate emergency, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council voted Europe's first "100% green" budget and launched the "Pure Alps" tagline, embodying their commitment to preserving the continent's purest air.

The Southern Alps is far more than a simple destination; it is a promise of escape in every season.

"Since 2017, under the impetus of Renaud Muselier, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council has chosen a clear path: to make the ecological transition a driving force for development rather than restriction. Our undertaking is set to forge history - that of the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

These Games are not just a 2-week event: they symbolize an entire trajectory - that of a mountain range that knows how to reinvent itself, an accelerating economic and environmental model, and a generation that is lending new meaning to France's sense of pride.

Thanks to the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and its alpine territories as a whole will benefit from exceptional funding, with over 522 million euros dedicated to making the Southern Alps and Briançon area more accessible by road and rail. These structuring projects are benefiting from the full force of the Olympic momentum, ushering in redesigned amenities, a transformed transport network and reconnected valleys. But their most powerful legacy will not be material. It will be a legacy of common sense."

**President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
Regional Tourist Board**

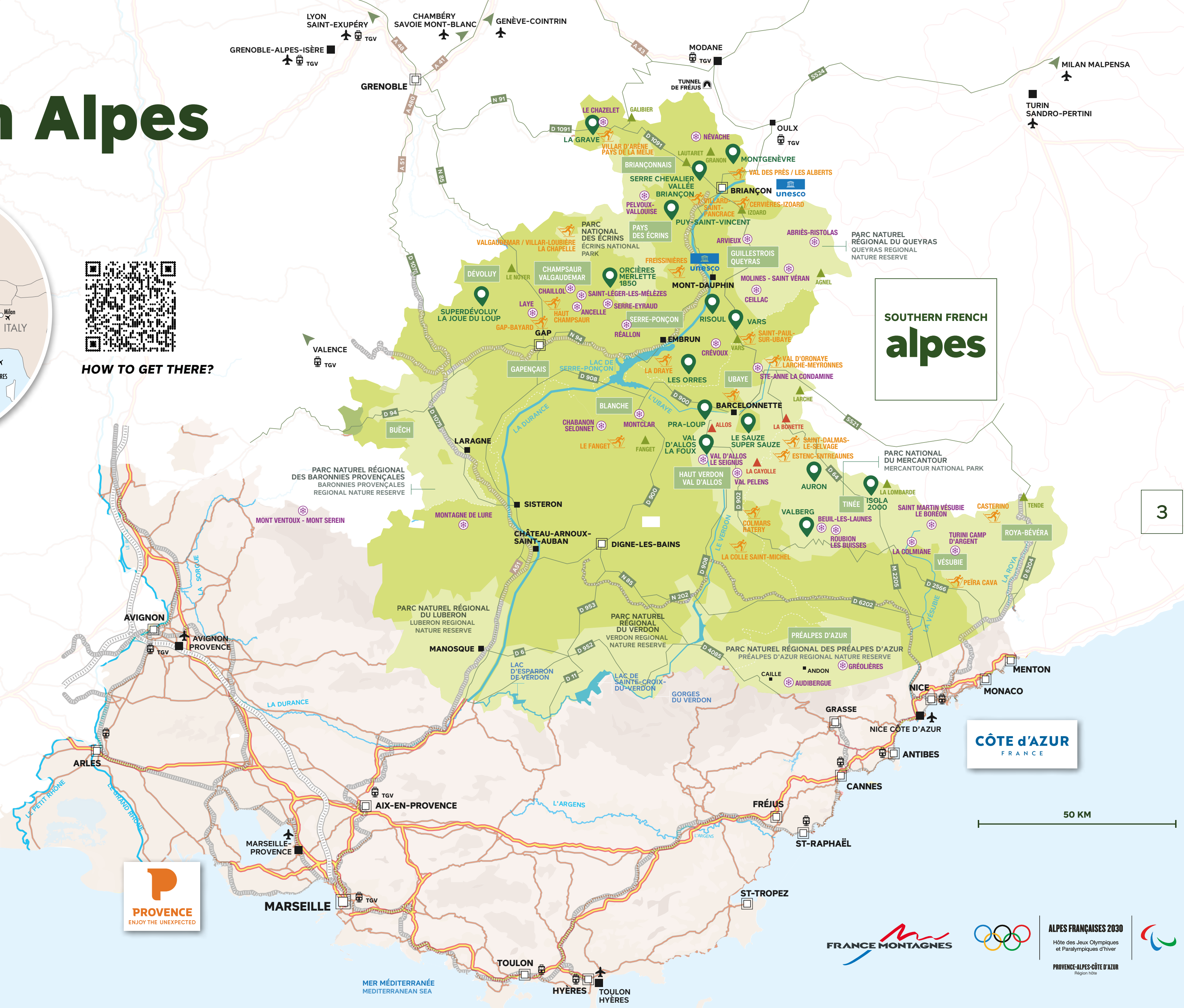
Southern French Alps

purealpes

- TGV High-speed train stations
- Airports
- RIVERS
- 7 NATURE RESERVES
- Main towns
- Valleys
- ALPINE & NORDIC SKIING
 - VAL D'ALLOS } Espace Lumière
 - PRA-LOUP }
 - LE SAUZE }
 - SUPERDÉVOLUY } Le Dévoluy
 - LA JOUE DU LOUP }
 - ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE 1850 }
 - LES ORRES }
 - RISOUL } La Forêt
 - VARS } Blanche
 - PUY-SAINT-VINCENT }
 - BRIANÇON / SERRE CHEVALIER VALLÉE }
 - MONTGENÈVRE }
 - LA GRAVE }
 - AURON }
 - ISOLA 2000 }
 - VALBERG }
- VILLAGE RESORTS Alpine & Nordic skiing
- NORDIC SKI AREAS
- PASSES
- PASSES PERMANENTLY CLOSED IN WINTER
- UNESCO World Heritage
- UNESCO Global Geopark



HOW TO GET THERE?



SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

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CÔTE D'AZUR
FRANCE

50 KM

PROVENCE
ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

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The 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

Here in Provence-Alpes- Côte d'Azur!

"A silent revolution is brewing in our Southern Alps: that of a mountain range preparing for 2050, a mountain range that is diversifying its economy, marrying tourism and energy, heritage and innovation, with sustainable development at the core of its rebirth."

Renaud MUSELIER

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

Deputy President of Régions de France

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ALPES FRANÇAISES 2030

Hôte des Jeux Olympiques
et Paralympiques d'hiver

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR
Région hôte



The 2030 Winter Olympics, history's most sober Winter Games

PASSION MONTAGNE 2050 a clear vision:

- **Unifying Games**, reconciling present and future,
- **Sober Games**, prioritizing existing amenities and reuse,
- **Useful Games**, transforming the challenges of the climate transition into springboards for innovation and attractiveness.

THE 2030 WINTER GAMES are a milestone and an accelerator.

- A structuring, concrete and sustainable legacy project to:**
- **Reinforce** transport and service infrastructures,
 - **Support family relocation** to new mountain homes,
 - **Energize employment** and training in mountain trades,
 - **Enhance touristic** and sporting attractiveness across the four seasons.

Public transport: a revolution serving inhabitants and the Games alike

The Winter Olympics are accelerating the "rail revolution". Since 2016, rail travel in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur has already doubled and the objective is clear: 1.5 million passengers in 2030.

Public transport is enjoying an overhaul thanks to the Games:

- **The Provence Côte d'Azur Ligne Nouvelle** (New Line), featuring an airport station unique in Europe, is scheduled for delivery in 2029, in time to welcome the Olympic Games in Nice.

- **Modernisation of the Chemins de Fer de Provence**, including a maintenance site and eight new hybrid trains.
- **Salvaging of the Nice-Breil-Tende line**, regeneration of the Côte Bleue service, and four Metropolitan Regional Express Service projects in Marseille, Avignon, Toulon and Nice.
- **Modernisation of the Marseille-Briançon line**, connecting the mountains to Marseille in 3 hours 40 minutes.

Local event LA TOURNÉE DES NEIGES

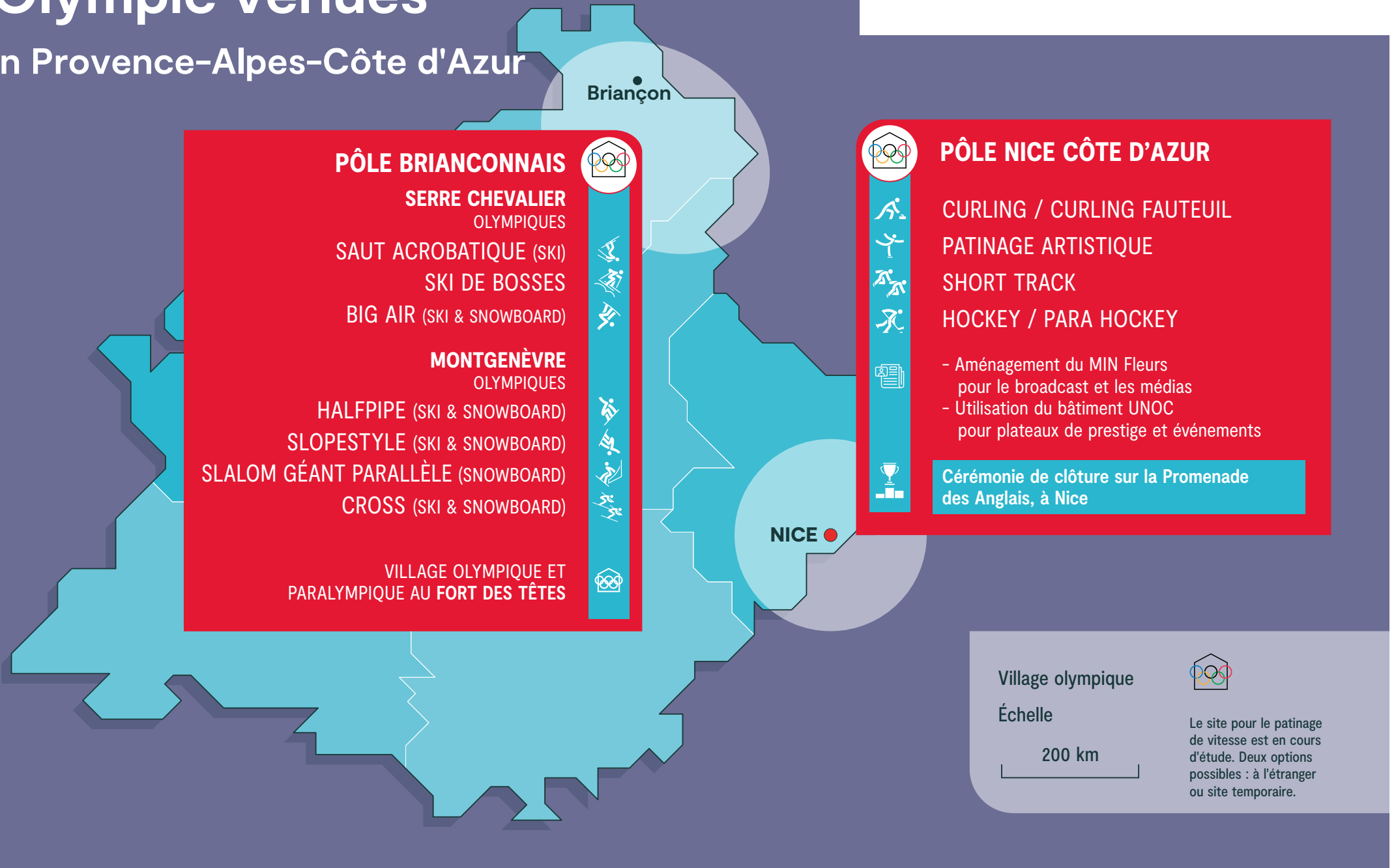
The upcoming Winter Games will be celebrated throughout the Southern Alps, not just at a few Olympic sites! **This winter, "La Tournée des Neiges"** will be coming to our ski resorts: a popular, sporty and cultural event designed to embark the entire population on the Olympic and Paralympic adventure.

DIARY

- 15/02: Orcières Merlette**
- 17/02: Montgenèvre**
- 21/02: Pra Loup**
- 23/02: Serre Chevalier**
- 25/02: Auron**

French Alpes 2023: Olympic venues

in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur



Inspiring champions prepping for the podium!

From February 6th to 22nd, the **Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games** will be bringing the elite of the alpine skiing world together in neighbouring Italy. And you'll find plenty of Southern Alpine champions among them!

Terence TCHIKNAVORIAN Ski Cross

Milan Cortina: Terence Tchiknavorian's third Winter Games. This athlete from Avignon will be representing Le Sauze/ Barcelonnette and Ubaye Valley in the ski cross competition. Since his first World Cup victory in 2021, he has conquered the podium no less than 9 times. Terence also enjoys surfing the waves of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur's Mediterranean shores and top hotspots.



Melvin TCHIKNAVORIAN Ski Cross

"Ski cross is a blend of alpine skiing techniques, freeride commitment and the lightness of freestyle skiing." Skiing is a way of life in the Tchiknavorian family. Melvin, born in Marseille, chose to specialize in ski cross and continues to train at Le Sauze ski club. At 28 years of age, this police officer navigates bumps and banked turns with ease and won the silver medal at the World Championships mixed event in March 2025 in Saint-Moritz.

Nils ALLÈGRE Super G

Born and bred in Saint-Chaffrey, one of the departure points for Serre Chevalier's ski slopes, Nils trained at Luc Alphand's prestigious ski club. This high-level athlete, a sergeant in the French Defence and Gendarmerie (SHND-G) corps, is also the patron of the High Mountain Gendarmerie Platoon (PGHM) in Briançon. France's Super-G champion, he swept up his first World Cup victory in 2024 in Garmisch, Germany. His favourite hobby? Fishing!



Julia PEREIRA DE SOUSA Snowboard

A 2018 snowboard silver medallist at the age of 16 in 2018 - making her the youngest French Winter Olympics medal winner -, this athlete from the Île-de-France area has made Isola 2000 her second home. She came fifth in Beijing in 2022 after two cruciate ligament tears, then returned to the highest level, winning two medals at the 2025 World Championships: bronze in the individual event and gold in the team event.

Camille CERUTTI**Downhill-Super G**

This young woman from Marseille discovered skiing in Risoul. At just 4 years of age, she joined the local sports club and later, the Alpes-Provence regional committee. Selected for the Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer in 2016, she competed in both the giant slalom and speed events. In 2021, she was crowned France's Super-G champion, but suffered injuries during the downhill event at the Beijing Olympic Games.



© R. Van Rijn

Matthieu BAILET**Downhill-Super G**

Born in Nice, Matthieu will be celebrating his 30th birthday during the Cortina Olympics. Hopefully, there will be other reasons to celebrate too! A member of the very exclusive Interclub Nice, Matthieu Bailet stepped onto the podium for the first time as runner-up of the Saalbach Super-G World Cup on March 7th, 2021.



© DR

Chiara POGNEAUX
Slalom and Giant Slalom

Chiara attended school in the Briançon area up to age 15. A member of the Serre Chevalier ski club, she joined the French Alpine Ski Team in 2017. After back surgery in March 2025, she is set to be in top form for the Slalom event at the Milan Cortina Olympic Games.



© R. Van Rijn

Arthur BAUCHET**Para Alpine Skiing**

Already a legend! At almost 26 years of age, Arthur Bauchet from Saint-Tropez has racked up some impressive achievements that go beyond skiing: four-times Paralympic silver medallist in Pyeongchang in 2018 and triple Paralympic champion (downhill, Super-Combined and slalom) in Beijing in 2022, he is also the winner of the overall para-cycling World Cup title in Italy in 2025.

© OT Serre Chevalier
Vallée Briançon

© DR

Nils ALPHAND**Super G**

Born in 1996, Nils is the son of Luc Alphand, winner of the 1997 World Cup and brother of Estelle Alphand and Sam Alphand, who regularly feature on the European Cup podiums. Nils Alphand made a name for himself when he won the Super-G junior world championship title in 2017. Injured - like his brother - last winter, he is also determined to make the Alphand name shine again at the Olympic Games.



Southern French Alpes **Unique sensations & experiences**

Slip, slide, laugh if off and try and try again... A face-to-face with nature that is both humbling and a source of absolute wonder in the most magnificent playground of them all: the Southern Alpes!

NEW

Pass Sud Montagne is a €100 digital wallet designed to encourage high school students living in the region to take part in mountain activities in both summer and winter: skiing, hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and much more. This initiative once again asserts the region's commitment to Southern Alpine providers by supporting their activities and facilitating access to outdoor sports for young people.

Available in early December 2025.

→ www.maregionsud.fr



© T. Blais ↑

Stairway to the stars

Home to a sparkling array of stargazing amenities, including the brand-new observatory in Valberg boasting southeastern France's largest planetarium, the Southern Alps is resolutely asserting its status as a stairway to the stars. Today, many resorts offer nighttime walks and even downhill skiing in the moonlight...

→ www.valberg.com/en

© Ubaye ↓

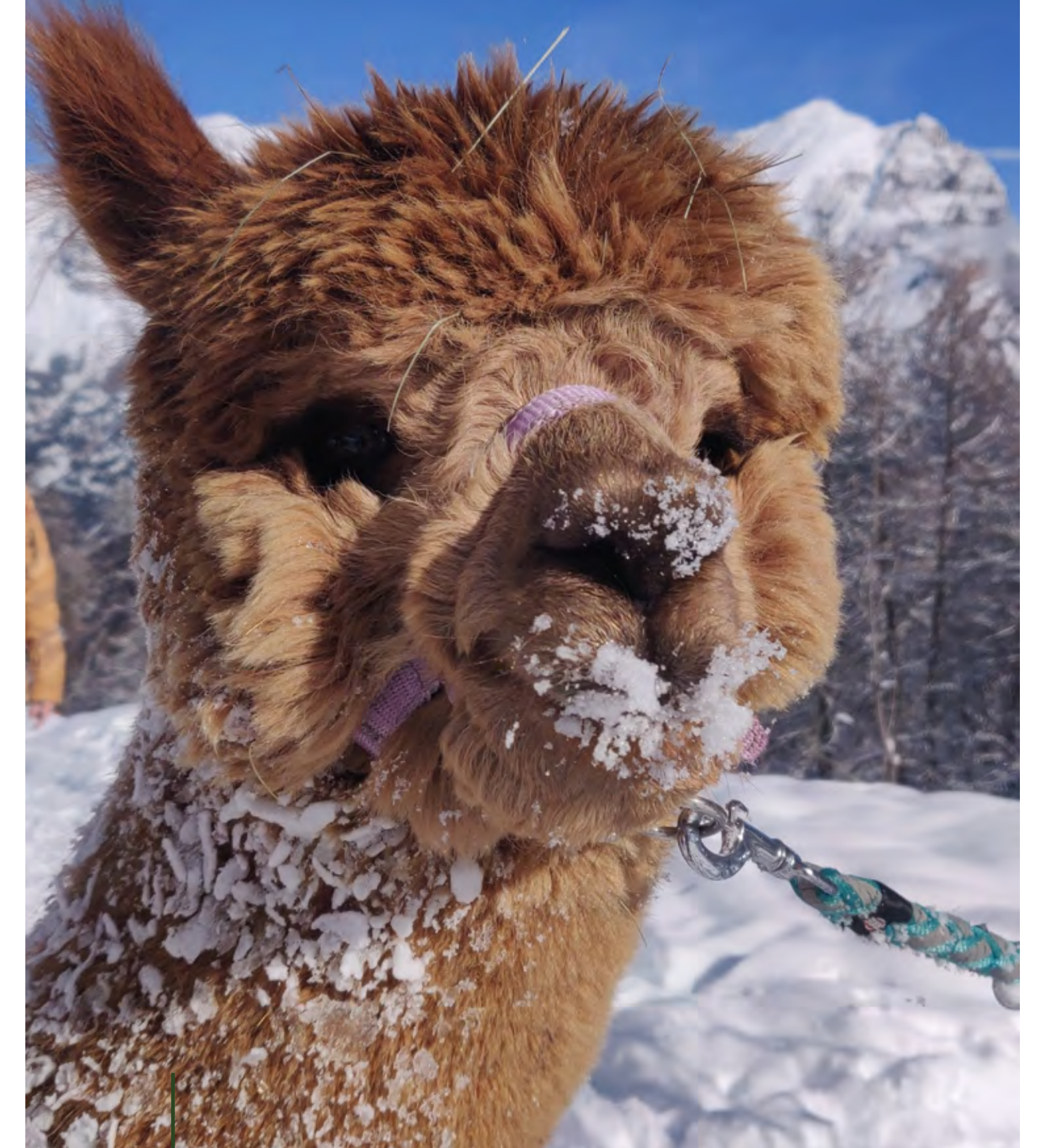


Whooshing down the slopes

Most of the Southern Alps ski resorts offer free, safe and signposted family sledging. But how about something even more thrilling? The latest alpine coasters in Gréolières and Superdévoluy respectively offer 1,335 and 1,565-metre runs for guaranteed thrills and spills!

→ www.paysdegrassetourisme.fr/en

→ www.ledevoluy.com/winter



© Alp'agaga ↑

Novel walks

Take your time, build trust and get in tune with nature with a mountain walk in the company of a four-legged friend - a genuine life lesson! Walk in pace with an alpaca in Pelvoux-Vallouise, or glide on a sled pulled by carthorses in Superdévoluy!

→ www.ski-pelvoux.com

→ www.ledevoluy.com/winter

Accessible only on foot

The hamlet of Dormillouse, perched high above Freissinières valley in the heart of Écrins National Park, is accessible only on foot - or on skis in winter. Instructors from the Orcières ESF (French Ski School) host two-day ski tours including an overnight stay in comfortable accommodation and delicious meal at the Refuge de l'Oncle Emile. A unique experience far from the madding crowds!

→ www.orcieres.com/en

© G. Baron ↓



© Le Queyras Mont-Dauphin © PEMA ↑

Plus Beaux Villages de France

Already a UNESCO World Heritage site, Mont-Dauphin, erected at an altitude of 1,050 metres under Louis XIV and famed worldwide for its Vauban fortifications, has now been awarded the "Most Beautiful French Villages" label alongside France's highest village Saint-Véran in the Queyras area and another newcomer: Colmars-les-Alpes near Val d'Allos.

→ lequeyras.com/en

→ en.valdallos.com/winter

2030 Winter Olympics the Southern Alps in freestyle mode!

Part of the exciting 2030 Olympic Games line-up, freestyle skiing was born in the Southern Alps. You'll find plenty of adapted snow parks and boardercross courses here, together with a wealth of renowned professionals including many local athletes competing in the World Cup and Olympic Games, and world-class instructors. Freestyle skiing encompasses six ever-evolving disciplines: moguls, aerials, ski cross, slopestyle, halfpipe and big air. It embodies a new vision of skiing - one that is more playful and acrobatic, and a genuine philosophy among aficionados.

Montgenèvre will be hosting the 2030 halfpipe Olympic competition, where riders perform a series of rotations, grabs and switch tricks inside a half-pipe. Currently under construction, the halfpipe is set to become a permanent fixture. Serre Chevalier will be hosting the aerials, moguls, and big air events.

© J. Dupieux - Serre-Chevalier ↓





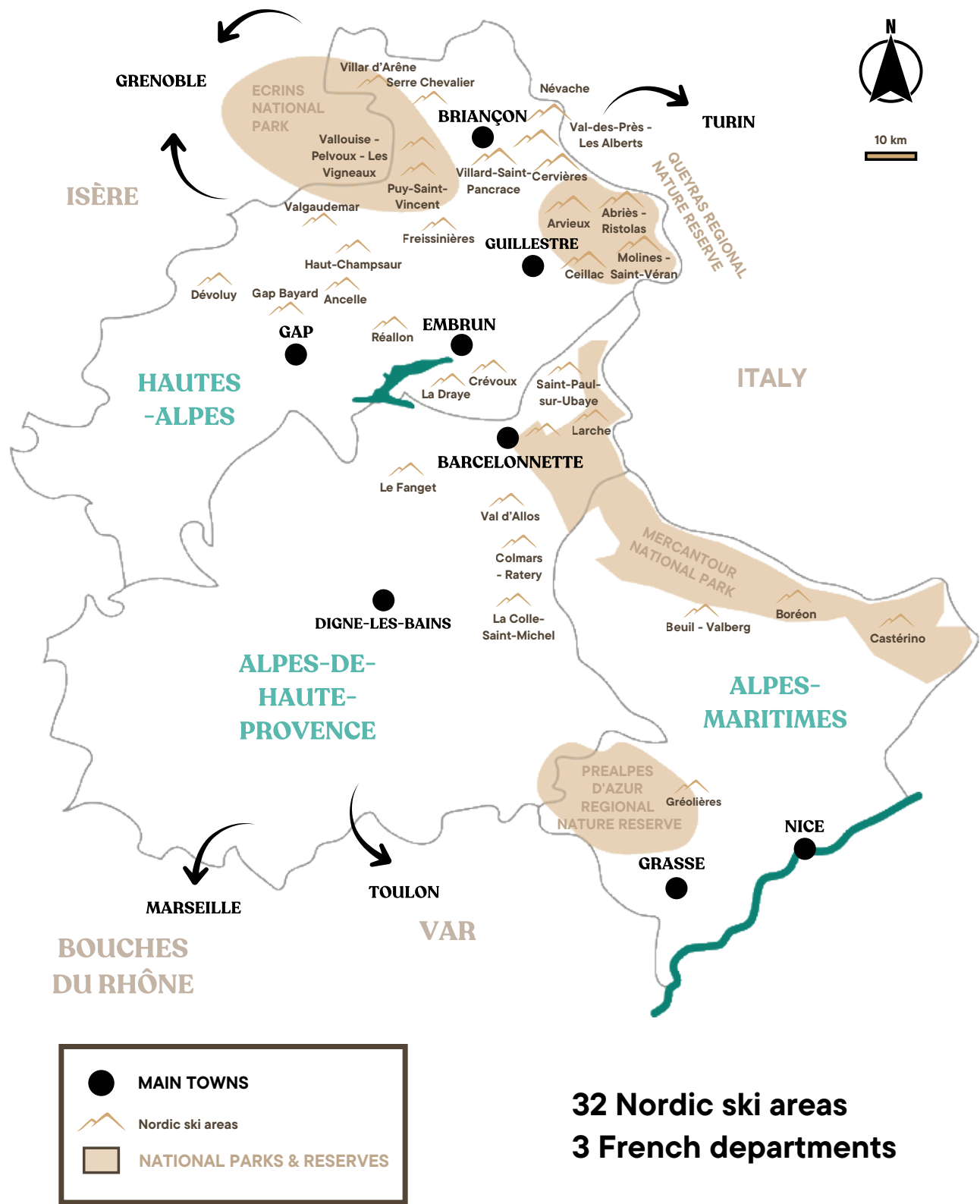
Southern French Alpes **Nordic Ski Areas**

Home to an impressive 21 Nordic ski areas, spread over 32 sites, the Southern Alps is an unrivalled champion of cross-country skiing. You'll find a plethora of other winter activities on offer too, including snowshoeing, hiking, trail running, fat biking, dog sledding, tobogganing and biathlon... Not to mention the delights of altitude, sunshine, wild, preserved scenery and, of course, well-maintained, safe and signposted trails, for guaranteed comfort and pleasure!

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com



SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES SKI AREAS



Nordic Pass Saison

This Seasonal Pass encompasses downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and the various other Nordic activities up for grabs at the Southern Alps' 21 ski areas in 2025/2026. What's more, prices have been frozen since 2024-2025! Enjoy discount rates when you purchase ahead of your stay: Youngsters (born between 2011 and 2021) €70 Senior (born between 1947 and 1951) €100 Adults €140

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com

Nordic Pass Evasion

This Pass offers access to a wide range of Nordic activities including snowshoeing, tobogganing, fat biking and trail running (excluding cross-country skiing): Price: €5 € per day, €15 per week, €45 per season.

N.B. You can select the ski area you wish the proceeds to be paid to at the time of purchase, but the pass is valid throughout the Southern Alps.

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com

NEW

Nordic Winter Challenge!

Who will be sweeping up the title of "Nordic King" and "Nordic Queen" this year?! Running from January 1st to March 31st, 2026, this new challenge launched by "Nordic Alpes du Sud" rewards the fastest cross-country skiers on specific trails in each ski area. All Nordic Pass holders have to do is register their course times via Strava (public or private mode) to feature in the ratings!



Biathlon for all!

From 8 years upwards in Val d’Oronaye

The Southern Alps' Nordic ski areas are the perfect place for a fun introduction to biathlon. In Val d’Oronaye for example, children as young as 8 years old enjoy introductions to laser rifle shooting with a qualified instructor at the Piste de la Croix stadium. Stretching from 1,700 to 2,000 metres on Col de Larche, this Nordic ski area basks at the heart of Mercantour National Park, right near the Italian border.

→ www.ubaye.com/en

NEW

A shooting range in Serre Chevalier

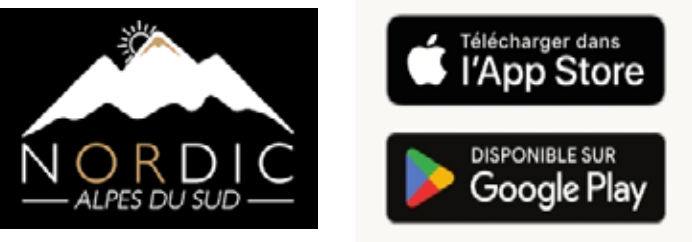
Ceillac and Serre Chevalier are home to the Southern Alps two 50-metre shooting ranges. Featuring a whopping 30 targets, the Serre Chevalier range is the region's largest. Recently certified by the French Ski Federation, it is set to become a premier training spot for clubs and biathletes alike.

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com

NEW

Real-time grooming updates

"Have the slopes been groomed today?" Cross-country skiers in the Southern Alps can finally stay up to speed thanks to innovative new GPS tracking tools: Nordic Life in the Pays de la Meije – Villar d’Arène ski area Nordic Pulse in the Vallouise – Pelvoux – Les Vigneaux ski area





© Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur ↑

Saint-Dalmas-le-Selvage

Two-thirds of Saint-Dalmas-le-Salvage - the highest village in the Alpes-Maritimes area - lie on the protected expanses of Mercantour National Park. Here, cross-country skiers enjoy warming up on a 3-kilometre loop, while ski tourers make a beeline for Col de la Braïssa or Sestrières plateau. 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



© T. Blais ↑

Izoard

The Nordic ski areas of Cervières and Arvieux en Queyras wind their way around the personality-packed Col d'Izoard of Tour de France fame, where nature goes hand in hand with every sporting challenge and vast larch forests promise an invigorating breath of fresh air. If you love the wide-open spaces of the Queyras and Briançonnais areas, be sure to explore the cross-country ski trails - the trail connecting le Laus to the Col d'Izoard pass is a must.

UNIQUE

The "Maison des Bêtes à Laine" in Cervières invites visitors to tour the sheepfold and learn how to spin wool the old-fashioned way. A one-of-a-kind experience for all the family!

→ www.hautesvallees.com

La Draye

Perched on the heights of Serre-Ponçon, the Nordic ski area of La Draye, home to "Bout du Mélèze" forest, boasts breathtaking views over Durance Valley and Serre-Ponçon lake. You won't find any 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 vintage snow groomer's petrol and upkeep. 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.

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com



© Domaine de La Draye ↑



Haute Vallée de la Clarée © F. Guffroy ↑

Clarée Valley

Névache and Val-des-Prés on the banks of the river Clarée are musts for mountain lovers seeking simplicity combined with beautiful and preserved natural landscapes. The valley is home to a host of welcoming hotels, guest houses and restaurants, together with a biathlon shooting range, two downhill ski slopes and numerous cross-country ski trails such as Les Planchettes and La Forestière, upgraded for the 2025-2026 winter season.

A route leads to the Col de l'Échelle pass, the gateway to an even more secluded valley: Vallée Streta, a Franco-Italian curiosity home to a handful of chalets and two mountain refuges, I Re Magi and Terzo Alpini, where you'll find Italy both in the atmosphere and on the menu. The site can only be reached with snowshoes and a guide in winter.

→ www.hautesvallees.com/la-claree/en

Colmars-Ratery 1 700

Located at altitudes of 1685 to 1800, metres, the Ratery 1700 Nordic ski area promises an unrivalled change of scenery just a stone's throw from the beating heart of Mercantour National Park. Its magnificent north-facing larch forest guarantees excellent snow cover on the twenty or so groomed trails.

NEW

The four-season laser biathlon stadium, safe toboggan run and snowshoeing trails are a family favourite. You'll find quality local cuisine at the "Chalet de Ratery", topped with novel accommodation in a mountain yurt. Equipment rental available. The ski area is easy to reach from Colmars-les-Alpes (6 km), recently awarded the "Plus Beaux Villages de France" (Most Beautiful French Villages) label, as well as Val d'Allos (12 km).

→ www.nordicalpesdusud.com



© M. Lachaud ↑



Southern French Alpes **62 major ski resorts & village resorts**

The Southern Alps' 62 ski resorts are all packed with personality and high-performance amenities that blend in beautifully with the magnificent local heritage. Various exceptional ski areas such as Serre Chevalier - Briançon, Montgenèvre, Pra Loup, Val d'Allos, Vars, Risoul and Auron, pan out around medieval villages. The hearts of champions often beat in these lively, time-old hamlets, inhabited year-round, adding to their inimitable charm.

CHAMPSAUR VALGAUDEMAR LE DÉVOLUY

Pioneering Orcières Merlette 1850, Champsaur-Valgaudemar Valley

The slopes of Orcières-Merlette fan out to the south, between the two highest summits: Drouvet (2,655 m) and Gnourou (2,725 m). The recently re-groomed Vallons blue slope offers magical views over Champsaur Valley. Terraces adorned with animal sculptures offer resting places for hikers on the way up to Rocherousse plateau, where you'll find a great choice of activities including dog sledding, ski tubing in the Winter Parc, a fun zone and the departure point for a cross-country adventure.

→ www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com/en

NEW

The redesigned snow front now offers easier access for beginners thanks to a covered magic carpet lift. The new Muande chairlift provides easy access to the Camille Ricou slope, hosting prestigious events every winter. **Beautifully refurbished and sporting the "Qualité Confort Hébergement"** (Quality Comfort Accommodation) label, the apartments feature an open-plan design. Three kilometres away, the Orcières leisure centre unveils a different winter pace, with **Nordic skiing and dog sledding for children** along the river Drac. Back in the day, **Orcières introduced the first children's snow club and first combined chair and gondola lift**. Sixty years on, the resort continues to innovate tirelessly.



© G. Baron ↑



Trail étoilé © G. Baron ↑

JANUARY 10TH, 2026

TRAIL ÉTOILÉ D'ORCIÈRES Orcières Merlette 1850

A race on snow under the stars, lit only by headlamps... Insane! Taking place on January 11th, with 300 runners competing in the magnificent landscapes of Ecrins National Park, the Trail Etoilé challenge promises a show to remember.

→ www.orcieres.com/en

EVENT

MARCH 31ST - APRIL 2ND, 2026

EUROPEAN SNOWBOARD CUP! | Orcières Merlette 18500

This year, the resort of Orcières Merlette 1850 will host the final of the European Snowboard Cup, a must-see event on the international circuit. This prestigious event, organised under the auspices of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS), marks the end of the European season. Athletes will come here to earn their final points before the world finals, in a friendly sporting atmosphere in the heart of the Southern Alps.

→ www.orcieres.com/en

EVENT

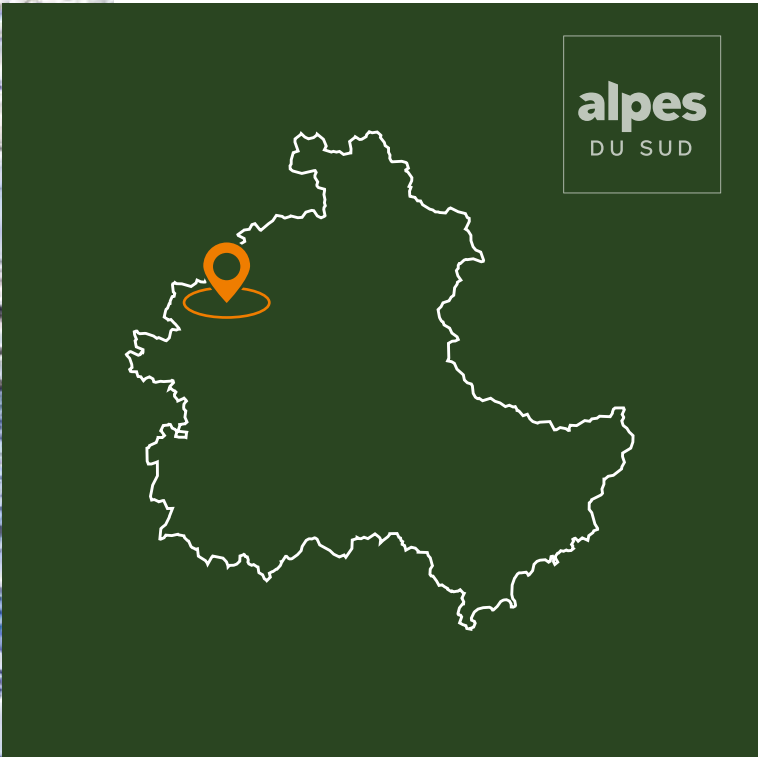


© OT Le Dévoluy ↑

A Charming Duo
Superdévoluy & la Joue du Loup, Massif du Dévoluy

Dévoluy, a U-shaped mountain range culminating at the summit of mount Obiou, boasts two ski resorts with very different styles, although both are imbued with the same southern alpine charm. Le Bois d'Aurouze, nicknamed the "Cruise Liner of the Snow," is an iconic building in Superdévoluy, classified as "Remarkable Contemporary Architecture", while La Joue du Loup is lined with charming wooden chalets. Both resorts share one hundred kilometres of alpine slopes, a fun and innovative snow park, and cross-country skiing area spanning nearly 40 kilometres offering a vast panel of activities. The unique off-piste options include a via souterrata (underground climbing route), Roll My Ball course, four-seasons sledding and horse-drawn carriage rides. The O'dycéa spa pampers guests with whirlpool baths and magical panoramic vistas over the iconic Pic de Bure...

→ www.ledevoluy.com/winter



alpes
DU SUD

EVENT

DECEMBER 29TH - 30TH, 2025

OPEN DE SNOW VOLLEY #5 | Dévoluy

One of France's latest sports trends, snow volleyball may even be featured at the next Winter Olympics! This 3 x 3 tournament is organized by Le Devoluy and Gap Volley Ball. The Friday matches are for amateurs, with pros on the courts on Saturday and Sunday.

→ www.ledevoluy.com/winter

APRIL 4TH AND 5TH, 2026

LE DÉVOLUY MIX FESTIVAL | Dévoluy

Le Dévoluy Mix Festival returns in 2026 to get you dancing to electro music with your skis on! Exclusive offers for all-inclusive holidays will be available for this occasion.

→ www.ledevoluy.com/winter



© OT Le Devoluy ↑

BRIANÇONNAIS ÉCRINS



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

On Top of the World Serre Chevalier

Serre Chevalier's 250 kilometres of pistes make it one of France's largest ski areas, perfect for hosting the 2030 Olympic moguls and freestyle events! Most of the slopes stretch up to altitudes of over 2,000 metres on the heights of Guisane Valley, between Briançon and Col du Lautaret, promising mesmerizing views for skiers of all levels. Serre Chevalier is also extremely handy to reach, with easy access from Briançon via the Prorel gondola crossing the town's UNESCO World Heritage fortifications, as well as all the villages dotted around the valley.

NEW

The Pontillas gondola lift on the snow front of La Salle-les-Alpes whisks novices up to the new beginner's area on Méa plateau.

A fun and stylish resort, Serre Chevalier is also pioneering sustainable development and exploring every avenue to reduce its environmental impact. It is currently the first ski resort to produce a third of its own energy requirements using a combination of micro turbines, hydroelectricity and solar power.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com/en



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑



© A. Ghilini ↑

MARCH 20TH - 22ND, 2026

GRAND PRIX DE SERRE-CHEVALIER Saint-Chaffrey

The world's largest gathering of amateur skiers returns this year with a three-day programme of festivities. Skiers aged 6 to 82 and representing more than 10 nationalities come together, often in fancy dress, to hurtle down the slopes in a series of zany events, some of which have become cult classics.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com/en

EVENT



© DR

**NEW****RÉSIDENCE-CLUB SERRA NEVA**** | La Salle-les-Alpes**

Located next to the Pontillas gondola, one of the main departure points for the Serre Chevalier ski lifts, the 4-star Serra Neva MMV Club-Residence features 164 apartments with hotel services for 2 to 8 guests. An electric shuttle takes you to the door in under 5 minutes. The lounge-bar, complete with a fireplace and large terrace, is instilled with a delightful atmosphere. The heated outdoor pool overlooks the surrounding mountains, while the spa offers a sauna, steam room and varied treatment menu (including for children aged 6 years and over), as well as yoga and sophrology classes.

A good entertainment line-up and Kids Club for children aged 4 to 17 years promise a lively stay. A breakfast service is available, although you won't find a restaurant on site. The building itself is eco-certified "Very High Performance", with a boiler room powered with wood pellets and 300 m² of solar panels. The partial green roof houses nesting boxes for swallows and bats. Ski shop available.

Opening: December 20th, 2025, then summer/winter.

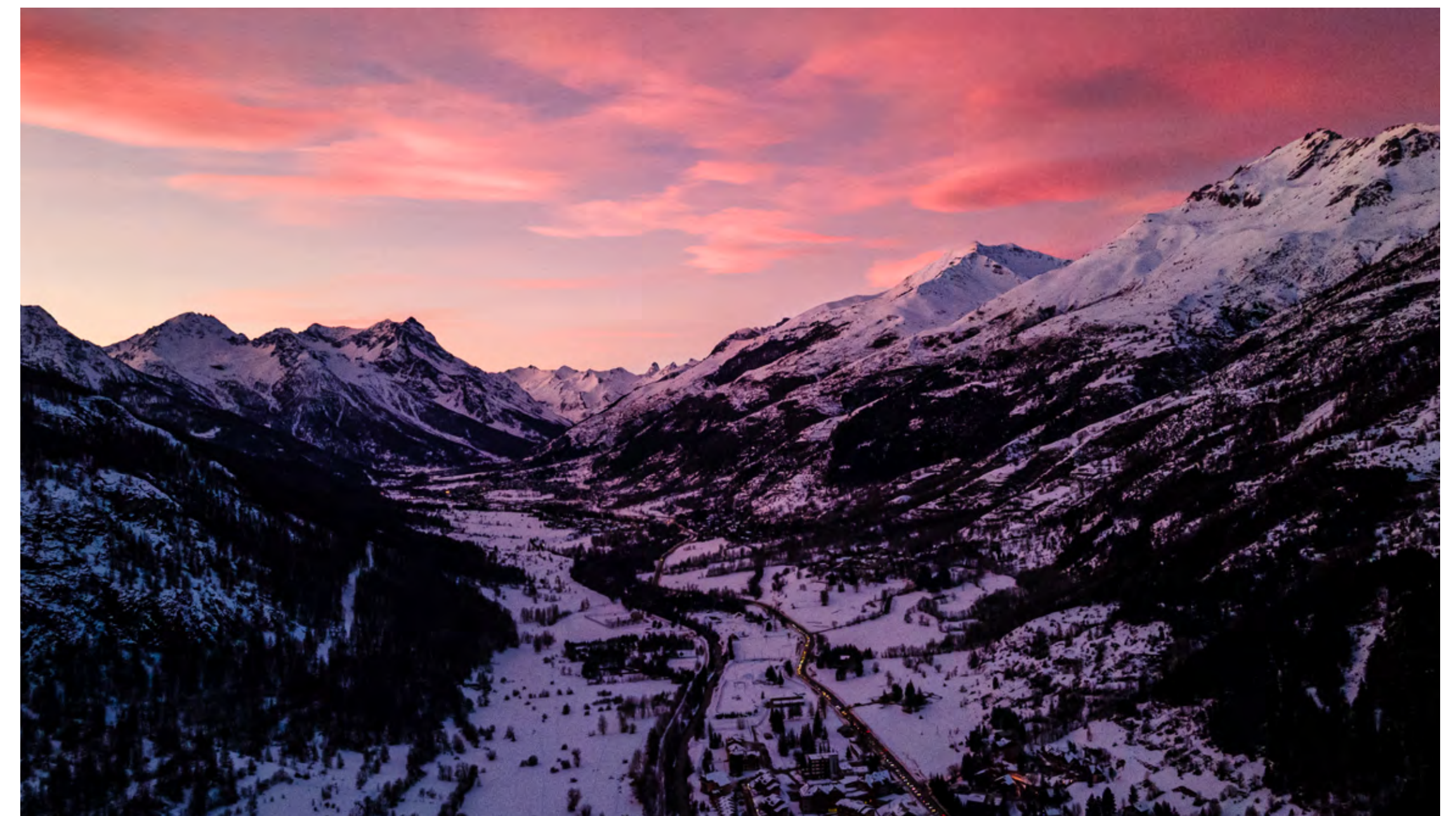
Apartment prices from: €1,554/week

→ www.mmv-holidays.co.uk/en

NEW**MAISON SOYEUSE | Briançon**

Based in the Gard region, The Social Club's three-pronged development strategy encompasses heritage sites, high-impact areas and gastronomy. The group earned regional renown thanks to the Auffo restaurant in the Vallon des Auffes in Marseille. The Social Club's first winter destination, the former Aristide Albert library in the heart of Briançon, has undergone a complete metamorphosis. Architect Nathalie d'Artigues, vice-president of the Association of Heritage Architects (Agence NDA), oversaw the former library's transformation into an intimate 10-room hotel (including one suite and one junior suite) with an elegant, timeless decor, where textiles play a pivotal role. The Boudoir is dedicated to spa treatments, massages and relaxation, with a treatment cabin for two and sauna. The restaurant seating 35 guests indoors and 35 outdoors showcases flagship local gastronomy. Opening scheduled on December 15th, 2025. From €165 per night.

→ www.the-social-club.com/en/destinations/silky-house



© OT Serre Chevalier ↑

NEW

LA CASERNE DE BRIANÇON | Briançon

Nestled in the heart of Briançon, the 15/9 quarter, currently undergoing extensive restoration, was once the headquarters of the 159th Alpine Infantry Regiment, aka the famous "Alpine Chasseurs" or "Snow Regiment", in charge of defending the alpine forts. The Chasseurs played an active role in introducing the French army to the art of skiing. The Colaud barracks, built in circa 1882, are a soon-to-be 4-star hotel sporting the Garrigae banner (Noémys group). Featuring 83 rooms lining long corridors, a 100-seater bistronomic

restaurant and seminar and retreat spaces under the eaves, this new venture combines military heritage and contemporary comfort just a stone's throw from the Prorel gondola serving the Serre Chevalier ski lifts. Boasting a pool, Nordic baths, a sauna, steam room, treatment rooms and sensory shower, the Cinq Mondes wellness space is an invitation to lie back and let go. Opening: December 5th, 2025, then year-round. Prices from €95

→ garrigae.fr/en

© DR



© DR



© N. Dagan ↑

JANUARY 15TH - 24TH, 2026

ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL #19
Serre Chevalier Briançon

A whole week dedicated to jazz, improvised music, international artists and the emerging French scene, with the Théâtre du Briançonnais at its epicentre.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com/en

BODYGO HOSTEL | Briançon

All the advantages of a youth hostel combined with hotel-level comfort, an opportunity to meet new people and affordable rates: the BodyGo Hostel Briançon has just opened in Briançon, in front of the Prorel gondola lift. For its first season, the hostel is welcoming families, friends and backpackers with 44 beds available in private dormitories and one accessible double room for people with reduced mobility. Guests have access to a shared kitchen, while the "La Chaumière" Pub & Food Market serves drinks and fresh, homemade dishes from 8 am to 10 pm and features a lounge area and games. The hostel will additionally be offering double and family rooms for 4/6/8 guests from summer 2026. Options include breakfast / full board / half board / room only. Price per night starting at €25 for a dormitory bed.

→ www.serre-chevalier.com/en



© Alpes Photographies ↑



Intense La Grave-La Meije

The majestic and iconic Meije, soaring to an altitude of 3,984 metres in the Écrins massif, overlooks the upper Romanche Valley and villages of Villar-d’Arène and La Grave. This is the beating heart of the high mountains, and a legend among freeriders the world over who come here to practise their art on the high-altitude off-piste terrain. You'll only find groomed slopes on the Girose glacier, at an altitude of 3,200 metres. However, you don't need to be a thrill-seeker to appreciate La Grave-La Meije. Simply hop on the Meije Glaciers cable cars to lap up the view and enjoy comforting cuisine and lively conversations at the local auberges and refuges, visit the churches and museums of La Grave and Villar-d’Arène, and discover authentic villages and hamlets rich in history and traditions. What's more, you can learn to ski at the charming resort of Chazelet, at the foot of the Emparis plateau, at a heartwarming price and away from the crowds.

→ www.hautesvallees.com/la-claree/en



© OT Montgenèvre ↑



Dolce vita Montgenèvre

Poised on a mountain pass on the Italian border, generously sprinkled with snow sweeping up from Po Valley, Montgenèvre is one of the Olympic Centres for the 2030 Winter Games.

APRIL 4TH - 5TH, 2026

LA COURSE DE LA MILLE PATTES #38 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. Children, parents and coaches alike will be cheering on the competitors at France's largest meeting of young skiers!

→ montgenevre.com

NEW

Starting this winter, skiers will be able to test their skills on the Citadelle slope at the top of the Gondrans chairlift. This fun run, featuring arches, posts equipped with bells, and even fake detonators, is a fitting testimony to the nearby Maginot Line. Mount Chenaillet is topped with a fort, set facing the resort. This 2,650-metre mountain, part of the Queyras massif, is an internationally renowned geological treasure. Holidaymakers can enjoy whooshing down the Colette green run to sample sausage and polenta at an Italian mountain refuge. Montgenèvre also offers a seductive 50,000 m² beginner's area, accessible free of charge, plus new-generation gondola lifts, a panoramic toboggan run, and the Durancia spa and balneotherapy centre. The six-day ski pass allows you to venture beyond the 110 km local slopes and explore the Via Lattea ski area, boasting an impressive 400 km of snowy slopes.

→ montgenevre.com

EVENT



© T. Blais ↑



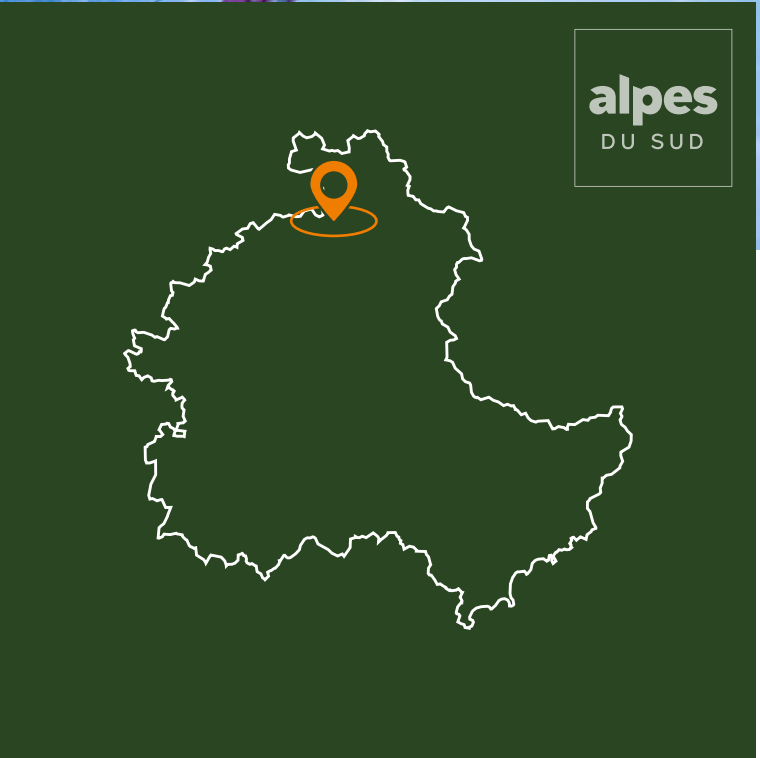
Authentic
Pelvoux-Vallouise,
Pays des Écrins

Nestled at the gateway to Écrins National Park, this resort encompasses two villages bearing the "Village d'Alpinisme" (Mountaineering Village) label: Vallouise, at the confluence of the Gyr and Onde rivers, and Pelvoux. Famed worldwide, the adjacent hamlet of Ailefroide is an international mountaineering hub. The Préron chairlift whisks skiers up from the snow front in Pelvoux to a panoramic barbecue area with spectacular views over the summit of mount Pelvoux at an altitude of 3,946 metres and mount Rouya, at 2,730 metres - a coveted ski touring location. Behind the the arcades of Vallouise and narrow lanes of Puy Aillaud hide some coveted foodie addresses.

→ www.paysdesecrins.com/en



© R. Van Rijn ↑



Sheltered
Puy-Saint-Vincent

Puy-Saint-Vincent's superb Panoramic sports complex, featuring a skating rink, bowling alley, climbing wall, games room and concert hall, is part of the Résidence La Voile. A prime example of the integrated resorts built in the 1970s, the building cascades down in terraces, following the contours of the slopes. Its architecture, coupled with the presence of the Barre des Écrins mountain range which shelters it from winds, makes Puy-Saint-Vincent a very handy ski resort, with most accommodation located around 200 metres from the snow front. The ski area offers 75 kilometres of slopes, suitable for all levels. More than half of the runs are located above 2,000 meters, with the highest point at La Pendine at an altitude of 2,700 metres. From there, a piste measuring over 9 km winds its way down through larch forests.

NEW

And the 16 new gondola cabins on the Télémix des Prés lift make it even easier to access the Nordic ski area.

→ www.puysaintvincent.com/en

JANUARY 22ND - 25TH, 2026

ICE CLIMBING ÉCRINS #36
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, various festivities and an alternative Mountain & Adventure film festival!

→ ice-climbing-ecrins.com

JANUARY 29TH-31ST, 2026

EUROPEAN SNOWBOARD CROSS CUP
Puy-Saint-Vincent

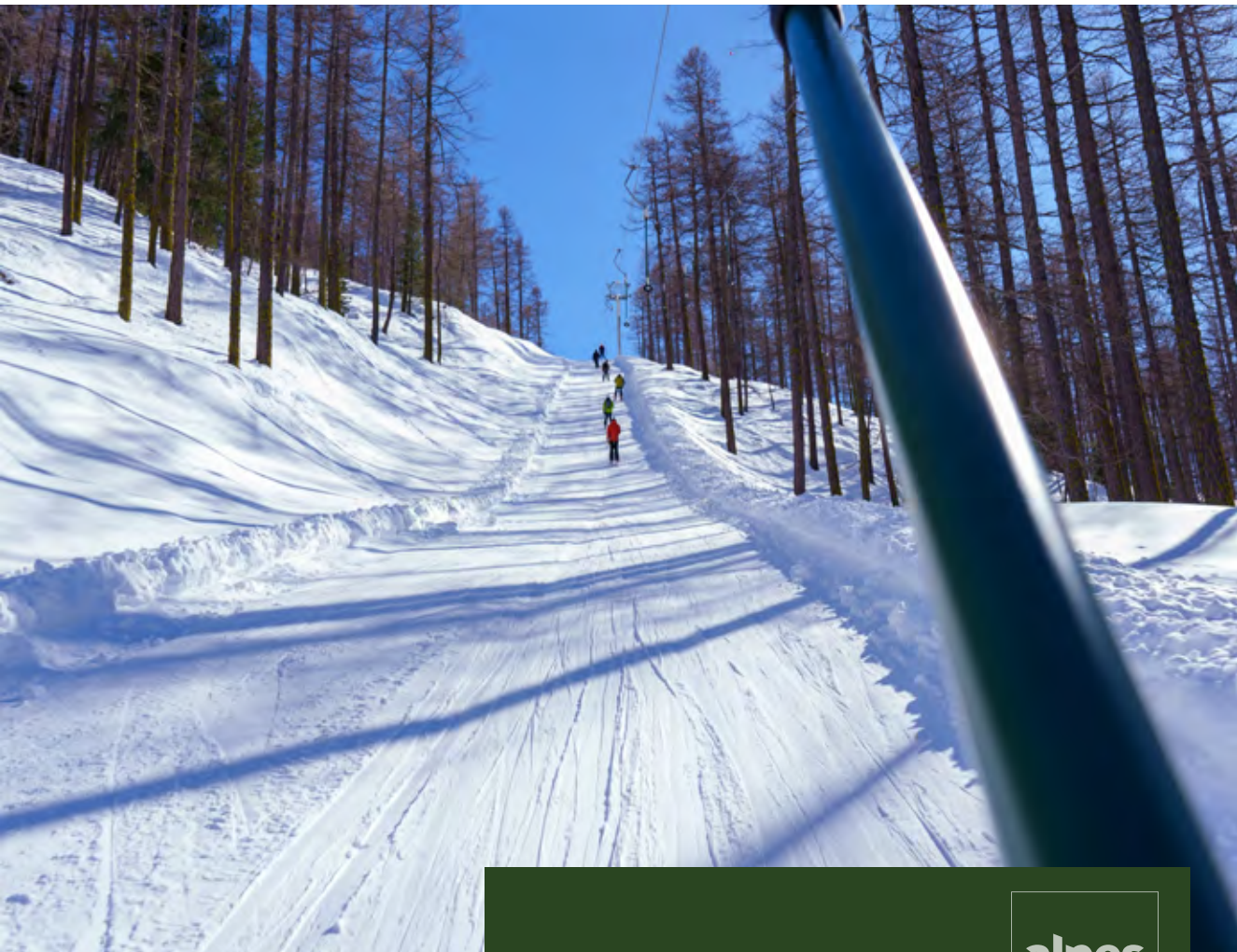
For three days, the world's best will be competing and battling for the podium on the resort's boardercross course, located at an altitude of 2,300 metres. Around 100 riders are expected to take part, including some big names.

→ www.puysaintvincent.com/en

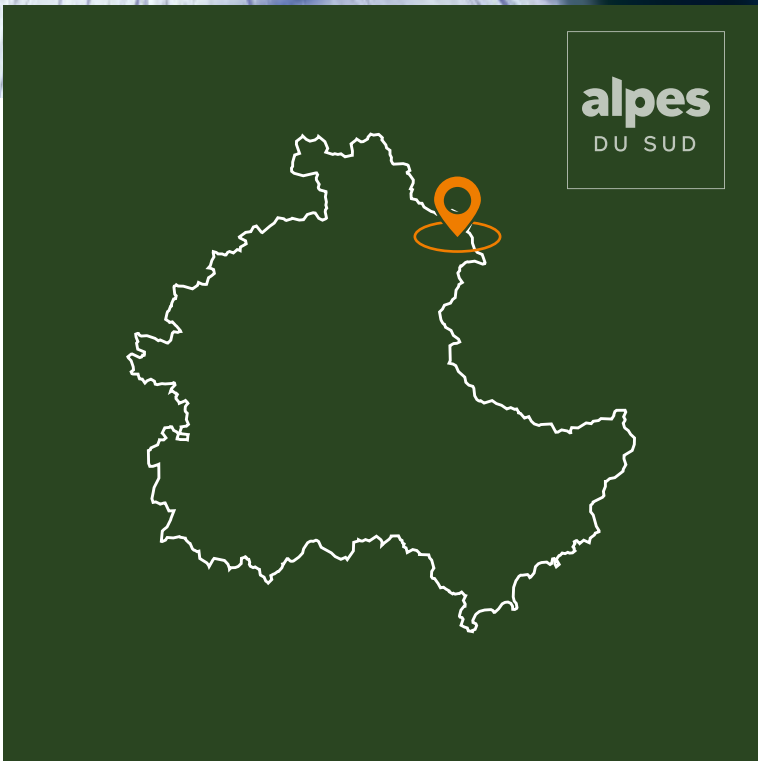
EVENT

EVENT

**GUILLESTROIS
QUEYRAS
FORÊT BLANCHE**



© A. Benard ↑



**An Oasis of Peace
Le Queyras**

Resembling a little island on the Italian border, the Queyras area, part of the Queyras Regional Nature Reserve, is a world-renowned ski touring, and ruißeling (hiking with crampons along frozen streams) hotspot. Le Queyras offers 4 alpine areas : Arvieux, Ceillac, Molines and Saint-Véran. Perched at an altitude of 1,550 metres, Abriès is a charming village resort, offering families the promise of comfort and a refreshing change of scenery. The 21 km of slopes extend down from 1,550 to 450 metres, from the summit of mount Gilly. The La Brune ski lift, departing from the Bouchet mountain stream, allows you to return to the resort on skis.

NEW

The La Brune black run has now been redesigned, along with the connecting trail crossing woodland between Ruibon and Valpréveyre.

→ lequeyras.com/en



© R. Van Rijn ↑

DECEMBER 22ND, 2025 - JANUARY 2ND, 2026

TAKE REFUGE AT THE REFUGE THIS CHRISTMAS! | Saint-Véran

What could be better than Christmas in a mountain village complete with a Christmas market, elf hunt, torchlight descent and fireworks?! Queyras invites snow aficionados to take to the heights for a resolutely different Christmas Eve. Slip your snowshoes on and head to the La Blanche refuge, nestled at an altitude of 2,500 metres in the middle of a wild mountain cirque. A guide leads the way on the climb from Saint-Véran to this cosy cocoon, where you will revel in a refined and glittering Christmas Eve to the sound of music, before enjoying a good night's sleep in your peaceful room.

→ lequeyras.com/en

EVENT



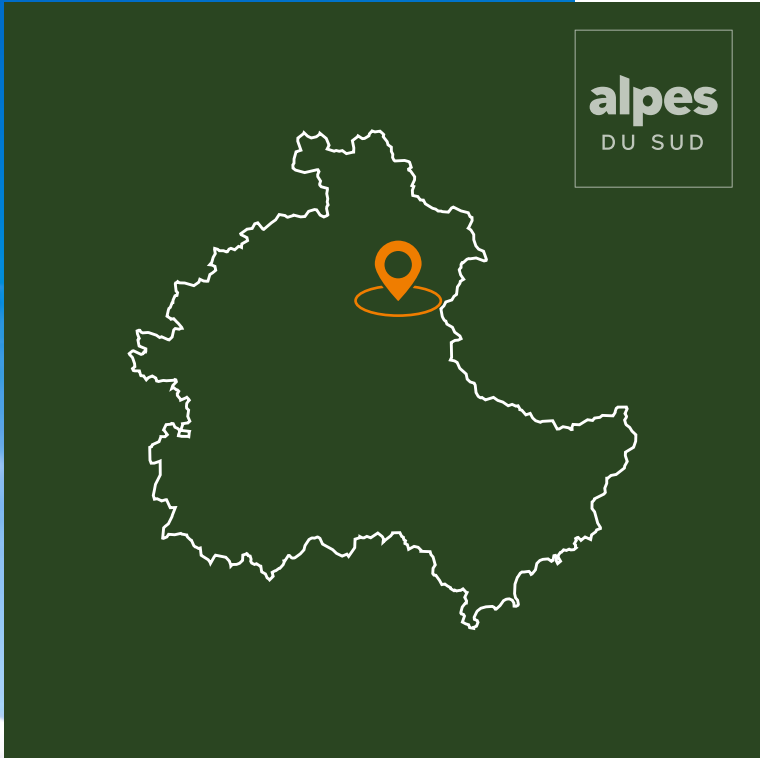
Mont-Dauphin – © PEMA ↑



© OT Risoul ↑



© MJ One Diffusion Risoul Station ↑



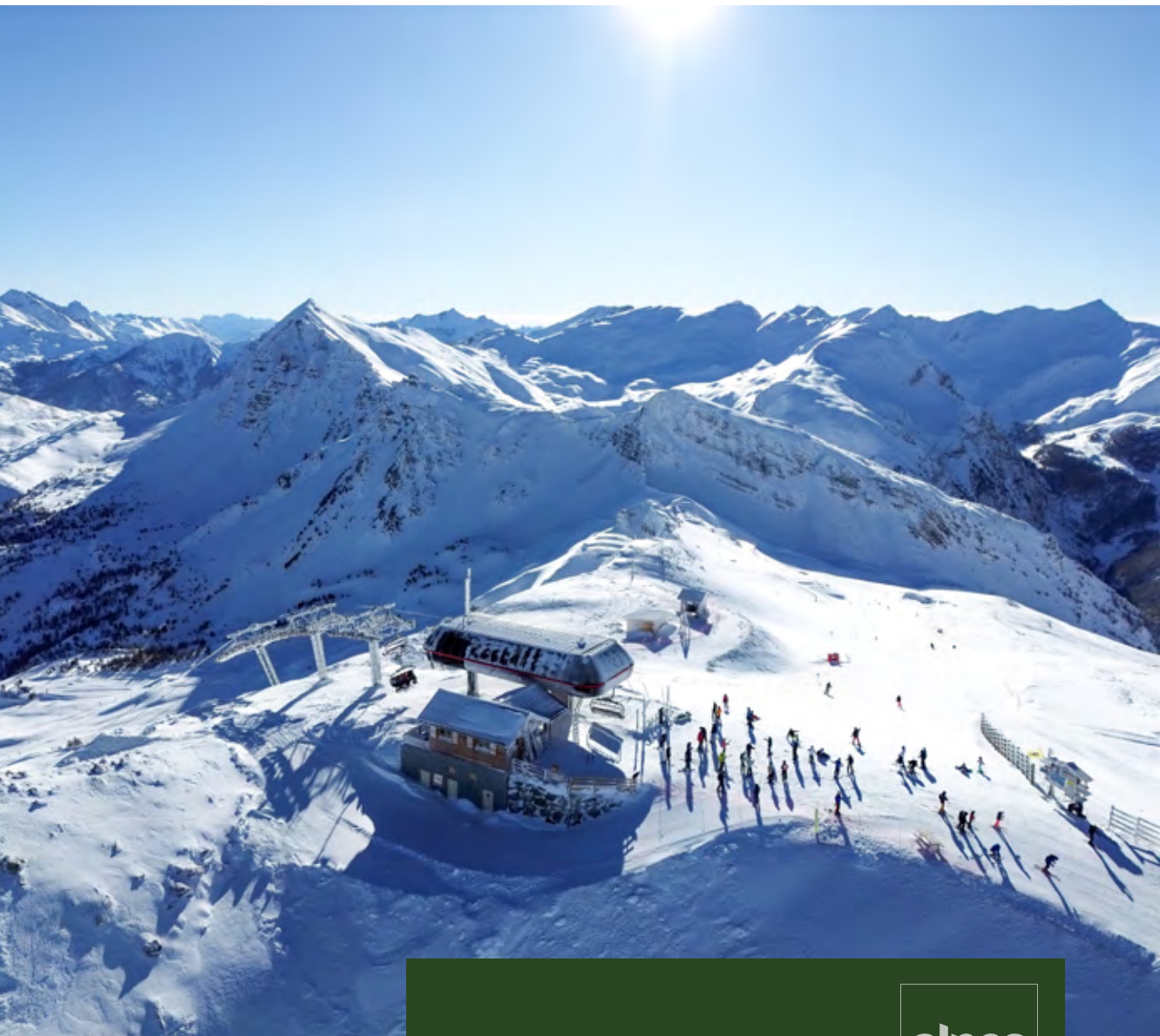
Playful Risoul

The Homme de Pierre and Pointe de Razis viewpoints, respectively located at altitudes of 2,360 and 2,550 metres, offer breathtaking panorama vistas over Serre-Ponçon lake and the peaks of the Écrins massif. A pretty little resort, bedecked with wood-clad buildings, Risoul 1850 is popular with families, youngsters and novices, who appreciate the resort's "Labellemontagne" label and amenities including the Opoualand fun space and blue and green slopes leading to scenic viewpoints. The Clos Fournier chairlift serves a large, free, beginner's area, but the resort also caters to seasoned skiers, with 185 km of slopes in the Forêt Blanche ski area connecting with Vars. Risoul's many delightful high-altitude terraces, including the K2, Valbelle and Auberge de l'Homme de Pierre, are a real highlight. Fun and lively, Risoul attracts young skiers from throughout Europe.

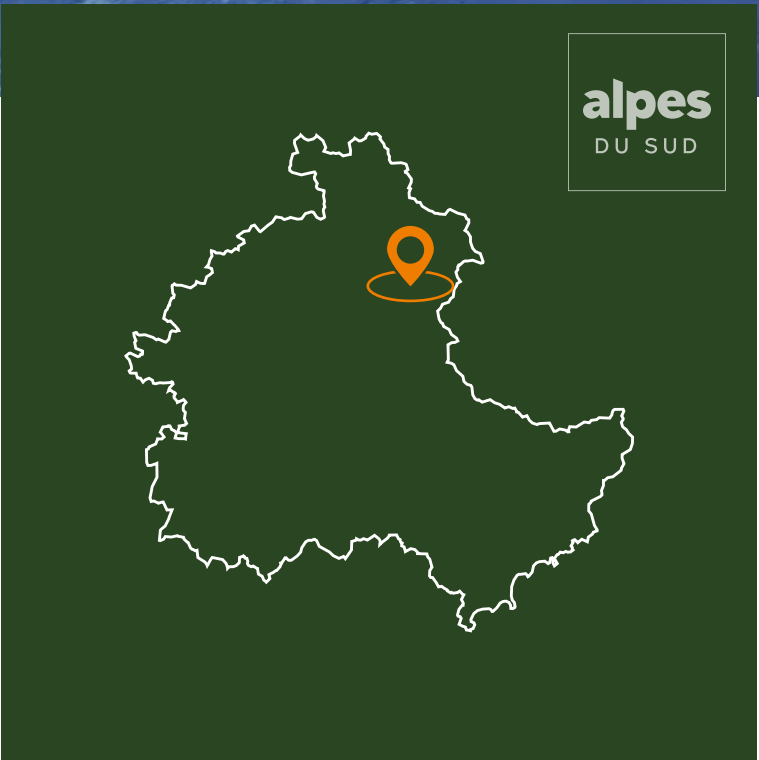
NEW

The village of Risoul is situated just 7 km de Mont-Dauphin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site recently awarded the "Plus Beaux Villages de France (Most Beautiful French Villages) label.

→ en.risoul.com/hiver



© L. Scappini ↑



Stunning Vars

NEW

Following on from the resort's refurbished ski lifts, a new tourist office and two new accomodations - Sowell Hotels L'Alpe Blanche and Sowell Family Vars - mark the stylish completion of Vars' modernization project. This year's visitors will enjoy a variety of new facilities including the Vars Speed Master chairlift, climbing 2,750 meters to the summits in under ten minutes. Magnificent views over Mont Ventoux, Mont Blanc, the Écrins massif and Serre-Ponçon lake await, as well as the natural amphitheatre harbouring the heart of the resort - Les Claux - and the hamlets of Sainte-Marie, Saint-Marcellin and Sainte-Catherine, at an altitude of over 1,850 metres. Boasting 185 km of slopes crisscrossing the Forêt Blanche ski area and a unique speed skiing run, Vars is now a major freestyle hotspot, with amenities including the Varspark snow park with 3 different areas, 4 boardercross courses and various training facilities and clubs.

→ www.vars.com/winter



Vars en Scène - © R. Morel ↑



DECEMBER 13TH, 2025

VARS EN SCÈNE

Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals Concert

To celebrate the opening of the ski area, Ben Harper, accompanied by The Innocent Criminals, will be lighting up Var with a concert that promises to be unforgettable, in a spectacular setting at an altitude of 1,850 m at the foot of the majestic Eyssina peaks.

→ www.vars.com/winter

APRIL 3RD - 5TH, 2026

GLISS MIX FESTIVAL | Vars

Marking the last weekend of the winter season, with a top DJ magicking the snow front into a dance floor!

→ www.vars.com/winter

EVENT

**NEW**

SOWELL HOTELS L'ALPE BLANCHE & SOWELL FAMILY VARS

The story of the **Sowell Hotels & Résidences** group is rooted in the Southern Alps, where it all began with a family-owned hotel in Pra Loup called Les Bergers. Today, Sowell Hotels & Résidences manages 42 establishments in France under four brand names. The secret of their success? Sowell offers friendly-priced stays for winter sports fans, with a So'Inclusive package including accommodation, meals, drinks and leisure activities, as well as an XXL Pack with a ski pass delivered on arrival.

The latest establishments, **Sowell Hotels L'Alpe Blanche and Sowell Family Vars**, sit side by side on the slopes of Vars-Les-Claux. The à la carte restaurant serving mountain specialities, buffet restaurant, Eliospa spa, two seminar rooms and covered car park are shared by both hotels.

The all-inclusive package includes on-site lunches or takeaways for a picnic on the slopes, buffet dinners, afternoon snacks and drinks from 10 am to 10 pm.

Sowell Family Vars offers 96 double, triple and quadruple rooms, ranging from 28 to 35 m². Bright and airy, their well-designed amenities include modular spaces, practical storage and quality bedding. The decor combines wood, gentle hues and cosy touches to create a soothing cocoon. Locked ski room available.

Sowell Hotels L'Alpe Blanche offers 53 rooms for guests seeking comfort and a beautiful mountain lifestyle setting.

Price per night for two guests from €65.

→ www.sowell.fr/en/vars

SERRE-PONÇON LES ORRES



© W. Camus ↑



© A. Bellet ↑

Radiant Les Orres

Consisting of two resorts perched respectively at 1,650 and 1,800 metres, together with nine hamlets, Les Orres basks in a natural amphitheatre of forests overlooking Serre-Ponçon lake. The northwest-facing ski area spans altitudes of 1,650 to 2,720 metres. Starting at 2,650 metres, the blue run on the pass winds its way down 1,000 metres, with stunning vistas over Serre-Ponçon lake. Les Orres 1650, awarded the "20th-Century Contemporary Architecture" label, is at the heart of the action. The Sports & Innovation Centre on the snow front features a sloping carpet unique in France for beginners and experienced skiers alike, as well as five simulators and a climbing wall. The gorgeous old village at the origin of the resort is lined with ancient granaries, stone houses, fountains, watering troughs and charming restaurants.

→ www.lesorres.com/en

DECEMBER 20TH - 26TH, 2025

FÉERIES D'HIVER I Les Orres

How about celebrating Christmas in the mountains this year, with your feet in the snow and head in the stars?! Les Féeries d'Hiver promises a plethora of magical moments, including illuminations, drone shows, the arrival of Father Christmas (in a snow groomer and dog sled no less!), ski shows, and night skiing.

→ www.lesorres.com/en



© A. Bellet ↑

EVENT



Réallon © F. Thibault ↑

Balcony Over the Lake Réallon

Elected "Europe's Most Affordable Ski Resort" in 2024-2025, by the Holidu website, Réallon, a delightful family destination, further expands its offering.

NEW

This season, Réallon is adding 3 black runs to its current 40 km of slopes, plus new Fun Land cabins, and renovating the Gourniers

leisure centre, which provides access to the Nordic area. Two chairlifts whisk skiers and hikers to the summit of the ski area at a height of 2,150 metres, while five viewpoints dotted along the ridge offer expansive views over Serre-Ponçon lake, the Alps and Mont Ventoux.

→ www.serreponcon.com/en/reallon

Wild mountain Crévoux

Poised at the gateway to Écrins National Park and blessed with abundant sunshine, Embrun invites freeriders to hop on a shuttle to the Crévoux ski area - the place to be for off-piste skiing, freeriding and ski touring. A permanent route leads to the Ratelle ridge without crossing any ski slopes, and skiers can whoosh back down on safe and signposted slopes.

→ www.serreponcon.com/en/crevoux

© F. Thibault ↑

UBAYE BLANCHE VAL D'ALLOS



© OT Blanche Serre-Ponçon ↑



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

The little, triangular buildings of Montclar-les-Deux-Vallées, resembling jutting mountains, form the heart of this entirely pedestrian village. The 50 kilometres of ski runs snake down two magnificent facing slopes overlooking Serre-Ponçon lake and Ubaye Valley. The Blanche-Serre-Ponçon region is often referred to as a little corner of Switzerland lost in Provence; many people come here to meet with local farmers and lap up the magnificent heritage including Seyne-les-Alpes fort and its escape game. But that's not all: a superb Fun Zone at the heart of the ski area makes this resort a genuine outdoor leisure park. Montclar is the closest mountain resort to Marseille, with plenty of winter shuttle services on offer.

→ www.montclar.com

For Little Skiers Le Sauze, Ubaye Valley

NEW

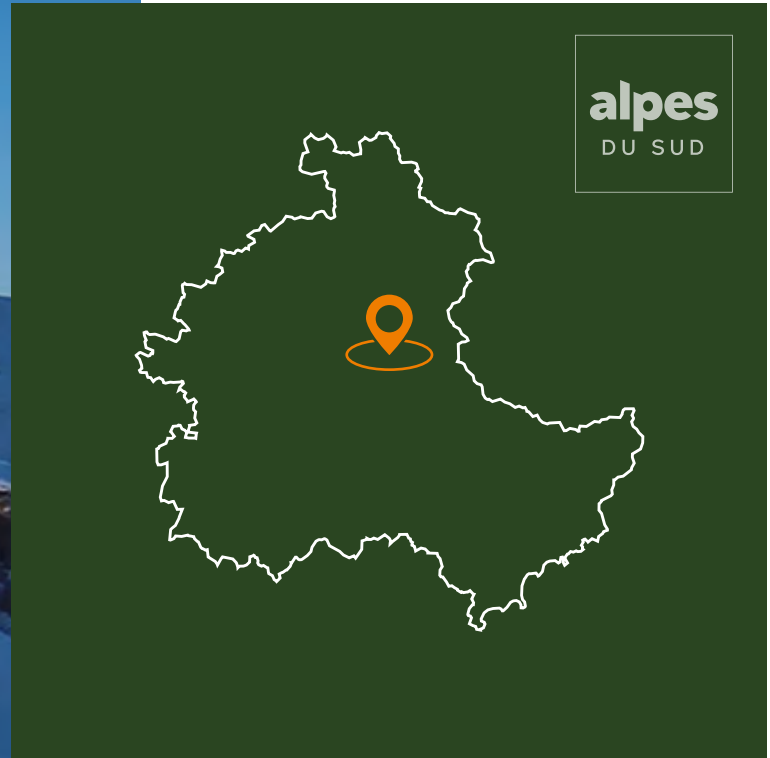
Regular visitors and newcomers alike will be delighted to discover the resort's new and improved snow front facilities for children, including dedicated slopes, treasure hunts, a baby snow park and playground. Not to be missed too: the giant, 2,000-metre zipline divided into two sections, whizzing down

from the summit at 2,400 metres, offers 3 minutes and 20 seconds of guaranteed pure pleasure. Alternatively, how about enjoying breakfast with the ski patrol and helping them open up the 65 km of slopes for the day? Or taking a ride on a MoonBike, an electric snowmobile designed in the Alps? In short, a plethora of new offerings and a whole new face for Le Sauze - one of France's oldest ski resorts founded in 1935.

→ www.sauze.com/en



© Grip Média ↑



JANUARY 23RD - 25TH, 2026

SKY MOUNTAIN FLY | Pra Loup

A spectacular precision landing competition unique in Europe, combined with a good-natured skiing event. The parachutists take off from the Saint-Pons airfield, perform a heart-stopping freefall then land on the snow front, on a target the size of a 2 euro coin!

→ www.praloup.com/en

EVENT

© OTPL ↓



© OTPL ↓

© OTPL ↑



**Sunny Side Up
Pra Loup, Ubaye Valley**

Forming a balcony over Ubaye Valley, Pra Loup is set at the gateway to a vast ski area, the Espace Lumière, with 180 km of sun-drenched slopes (80% above 2,000 meters) culminating at La Grande Séolane, at a height of 2,909 metres. An official International Dark Sky Reserve, the Alpes Azur Mercantour area invites visitors to admire its exceptionally pure night skies. Another unique feature: a railway sledge at the heart of the resort, run by a former ski champion! Pra Loup is built around a semi-circular gallery

overflowing with shops, restaurants and sun loungers, but you'll also find the peaceful hamlet of Molanès there, complete with its 12th-century priory, now transformed into a 4-stars hotel. The ski area offers plenty of variety and two of its summits are easy to reach even for beginners, with two blue and green slopes for the return journey.

NEW

Last but not least, the museums, shops and new observatory of Barcelonnette, the charming capital of Ubaye Valley, are just seven kilometres away on the free shuttle buses.

→ www.praloup.com/en



NEW

CHIC MOUNTAIN STYLE: LE PRIEURÉ IN PRA LOUP

The gorgeous Hôtel Le Prieuré is reopening after two years of refurbishment work in the hamlet of Molanès, part of the Pra Loup 1500 resort, a stone's throw from the Molanès gondola lift, whisking skiers up to an altitude of 1,800 meters. A larch shingle roof crowns this former 12th-century priory, now offering nine elegant suites adorned with natural materials and gentle colours. The lounge complete with exposed stone walls and a fireplace captures the mood to perfection, with stone, wood and airy volumes adorned with a few paintings, objets d'art and cosy wool fabrics. Some rooms can accommodate

families and friends, while others offer a solarium terrace with direct access to the heated outdoor pool. Outside, a wood-fired Nordic bath promises a warm embrace, while the sauna boasts views over the peaks of Pain de Sucre and Chapeau de Gendarme. The restaurant serves tantalising dishes celebrating local produce around a crackling fire, with trout, Ubaye Valley goat's cheese and Sisteron lamb in pride of place.

Menu: €65. From €350 / night, minimum two nights stay in high season.

→ www.hotel-leprieure-praloup.fr/en



Secretive
Sainte-Anne-La-Condamine

With a snow front at an altitude of 1,830 metres, tucked away inside an immaculate white cirque, this resort, located a skip and a jump from Italy, offers the combined pleasures of affordable prices, a family-friendly atmosphere and superb skiing conditions. Thanks to easterly winds from Italy and a northeast exposure, it boasts exceptional snow cover and countless freeriding and ski touring opportunities. The ski area, featuring no less than seven ski lifts, boasts six green, four blue, two red and one black run, spanning 35 km in all. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the resort on a snow groomer, relax on the terrace of La Résinière restaurant, try your hand at off-piste freerando skiing on the slopes of Mastrètes or Arpillon while lapping up the views, or slip into your snowshoes to roam among the fir trees of Bousqueton forest.

GOOD DEAL

Sainte-Anne is a great choice for beginners, with a day pass priced at an unbeatable €26!



© Ubaye Tourisme ↑

At the Source of the Verdon Val d'Allos, Mercantour National Park

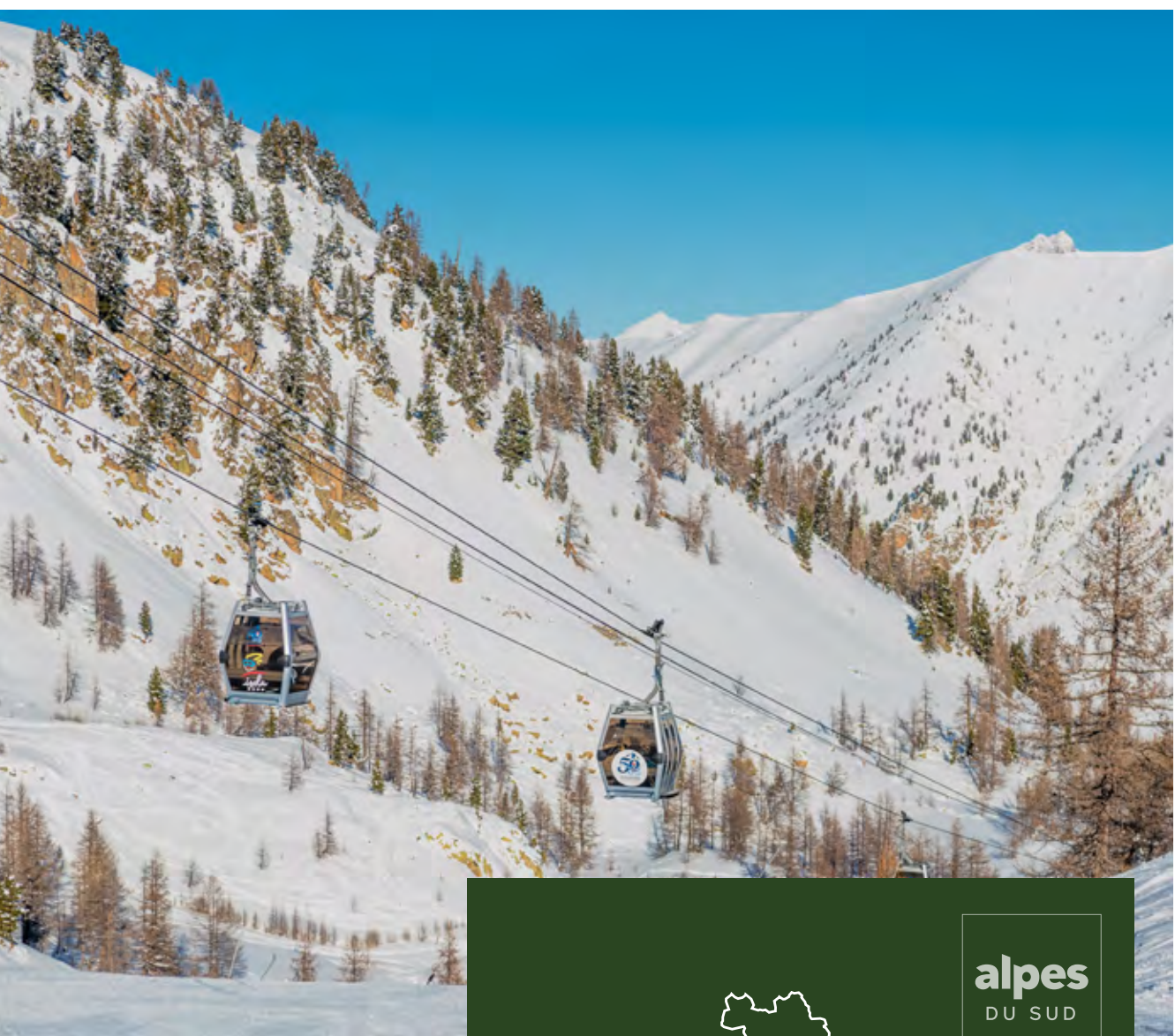
Just before you get to Val d'Allos, the two-hour bus service from Aix-en-Provence or Marseille passes through the fortified town of Colmars-les-Alpes, recently awarded the "PlusBeauxVillagesdeFrance" (Most Beautiful French Villages) label. The delights continue in the village of Allos, with the 13th-century Notre-Dame-de-Valvert church, old farms and two satellite resorts, La Foux and Le Seignus - the former featuring low constructions set next to the source of the Verdon and the latter dotted with chalets at the edge of a forest. The slopes span an impressive five mountains, under the watchful gaze of the Grande Séolane. Skiers keen to explore enjoy a novel choice of mountain experiences. For example, how about setting off for a tour with the ski patrol in the early morning, before the slopes open? Experienced skiers can wind their way to Pra Loup across the vast Espace Lumière ski area, crowned with 180 km of slopes.

→ en.valdallos.com/winter



© R. Palomba ↑

ISOLA 2000 AURON VALBERG



OTMNCA ↑



Multifaceted Isola 2000 Mercantour National Park

In January 2026, Isola 2000 will be hosting the Snowboard Cross World Cup - a first for the Alpes-Maritimes area. And it's no surprise: Isola 2000 is a premier resort for alternative snow sports, boasting a myriad of snowboarding amenities including Tony's Snowland snow park, the Biopark and Back to Back: a competitive snowboard club with over a hundred national titles. Set between Mercantour National Park and the Parco Alpi Maritime, Isola 2000 is a ski-in/ski-out resort sporting 120 km of slopes. 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 mountain range. Isola 2000 also features a renowned ice driving track. The resort is naturally a favourite meeting place for thrill-seekers, but families also love the teen-friendly evening entertainment and new orienteering courses perfect for exploring the area while having plenty of fun.

→ isola2000.com/en



OTMNCA ↑



Chic Auron, Mercantour National Park

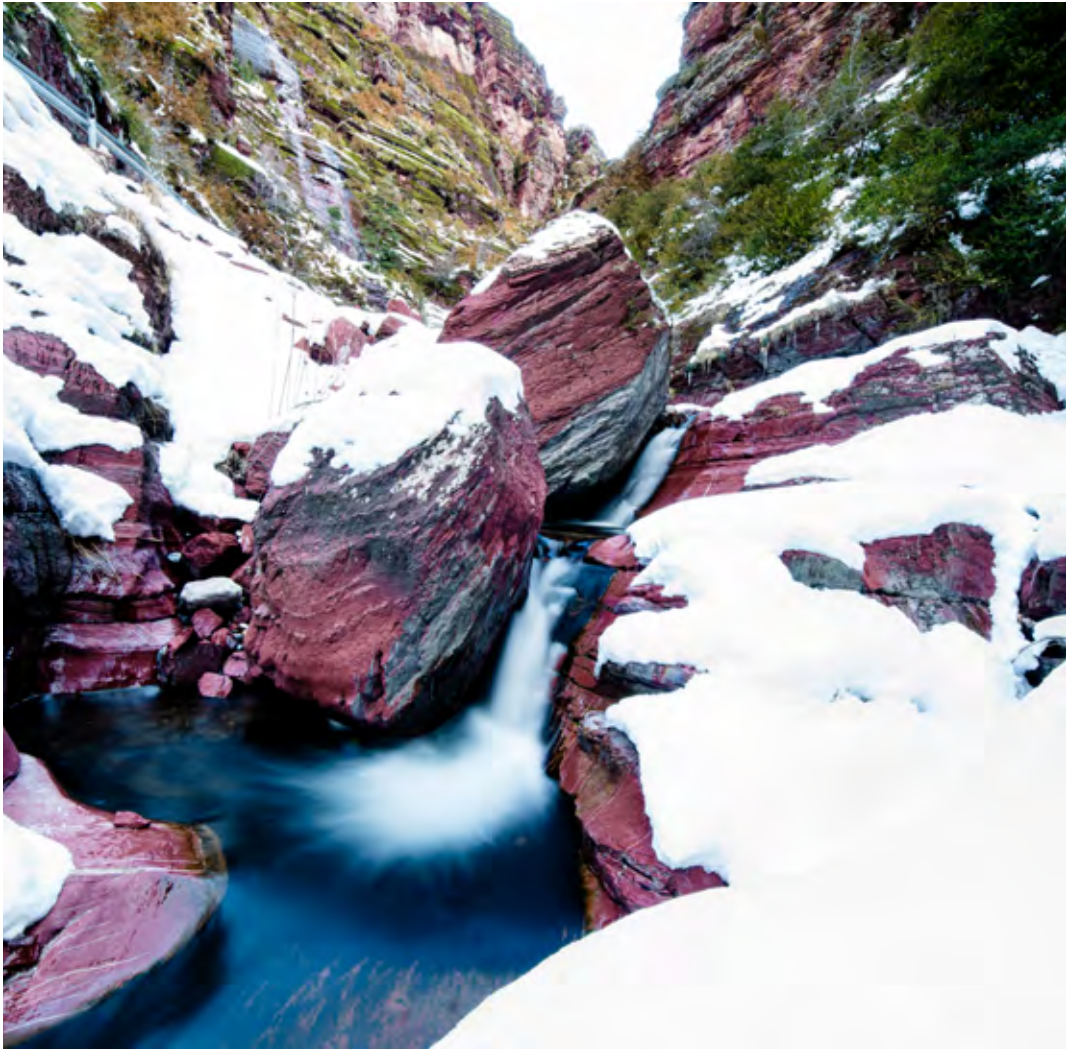
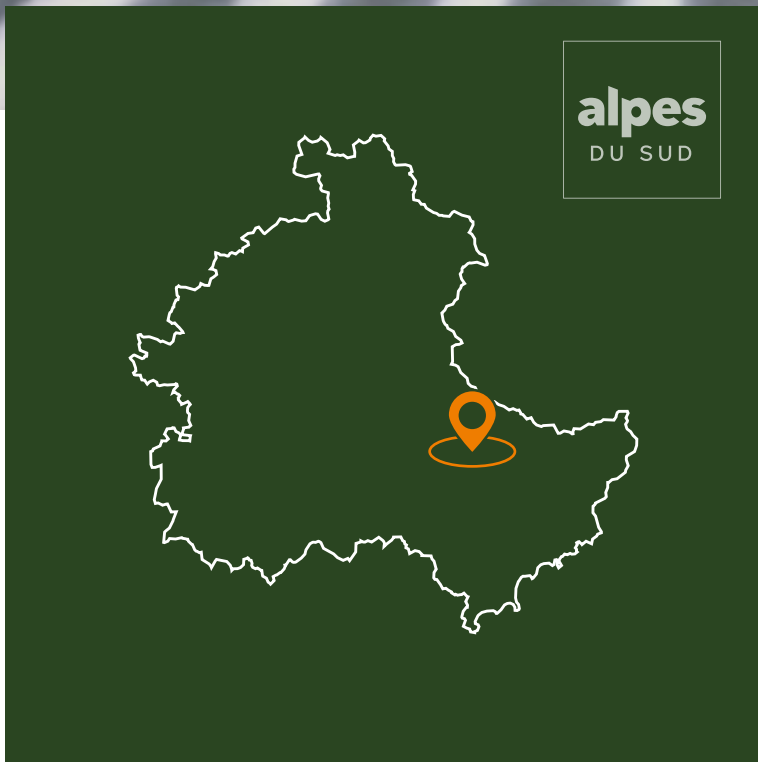
Kitted out with brand-new panoramic glass walls, the legendary "Las Donnas" cable car, inaugurated in 1937, is more popular than ever. And now, the breathtaking views over the surrounding mountains, up to an altitude of 2,400 metres, are even more spectacular!

Las Donnas is located in the historic quarter, at an altitude of 1,600 metres opposite the resort of Chastellarès, where you'll find pistes for all levels from green to Olympic black, as well as two slalom courses. Poised on a sunny plateau in the hills above Saint-Étienne-de-Tinée (shuttle service available), at the edge of Tinée Valley, Auron is continuing to upgrade its amenities with a swimming pool and two five-star establishments, although ski passes for its 135 km of slopes - the largest ski area in the Alpes-Maritimes - remain resolutely friendly-priced.

→ auron.com



© OT Valberg ↑



Gorges du Cians ↑



© R. Bienvenu ↑

Raining Stars
Valberg
Mercantour National Park & Alpes Azuréennes

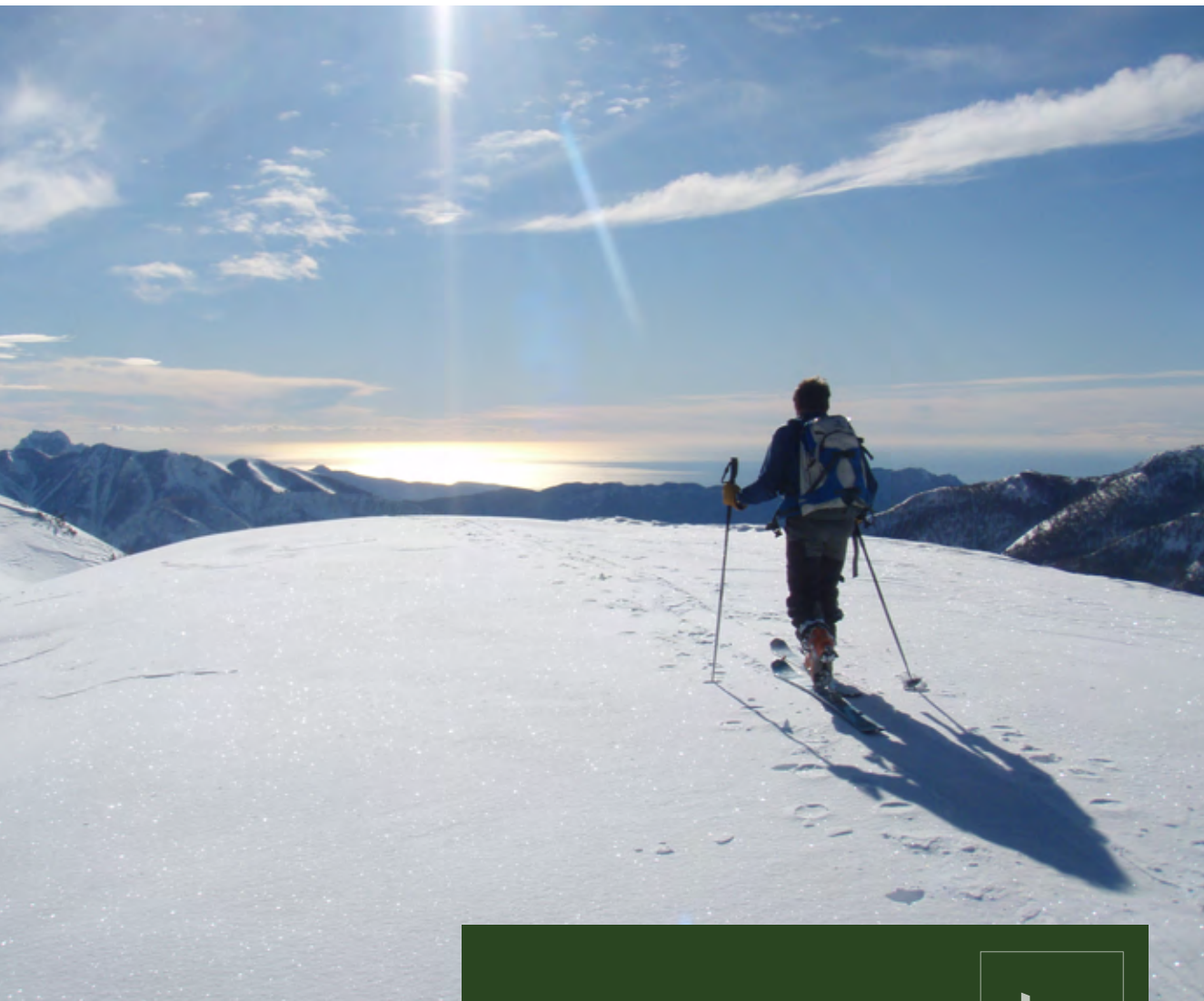
NEW

Opening in January 2026, the Valberg Observatory features southeastern France's largest planetarium - in short, a stargazer's paradise! The Côte d'Azur's oldest winter resort is perched on a pass between the Saint-Honorat mountain range and Mount Mounier. It is a proud holder of the International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) label, as well as the Flocon Vert (Green Snowflake) and Famille Plus (Family Plus) distinctions. Astronomy is

just one of the many non-ski activities on offer in this village home to 1,000 inhabitants, situated at the gateway to Mercantour National Park, near the gorges of Cians and Daluis. Mainly pedestrian, with a fully-redesigned car-free central square, electric shuttles and a great choice of light activities in addition to skiing, Valberg is a genuine wellness resort.

→ www.valberg.com/en

ROYA VALLEY



© Bureau
des guides
de Tende ↑



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

→ www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk



© Bureau des guides de Tende ↑



© G. Veran ↑

NOVEMBER 30TH, 2025

JANUARY 4TH, 2026

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES | Lucéram

UNIQUE: Circuit des crèches de Lucéram #27
For the last 27 years, the little medieval village of Lucéram has been inviting visitors to enjoy a Christmas tour featuring over 450 crib scenes on show at the local church, Musée de la Crèche and ancient oil mill. Lucéram is located just one hour from the valleys of La Tinée and La Roya, in the Nice hinterland.

→ www.maisondepaysdeluceram.fr

EVENT

READ MORE on Christmas traditions and festivities in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

PAYS DE GRASSE



© D. Matteoli ↑



Sea Views Gréolières

NEW

This small, family-style ski resort - just 22 km from the Mediterranean coast as the crow flies - is enjoying an extra dash of pizzazz this year with the addition of a brand new four-seasons toboggan run! Its 30 km of slopes lie on the northern slopes of the Cheiron massif. From the summit of Cheiron, the majestic panorama unveils Provence, the Alps and Côte d'Azur in all their glory, with breathtaking sea views all the way to Corsica on clear days. Located at altitudes ranging from 1,400 to 1,800 metres, amid Scots pines, it is the perfect pick for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, plus a plethora of novel, non-ski activities. 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.

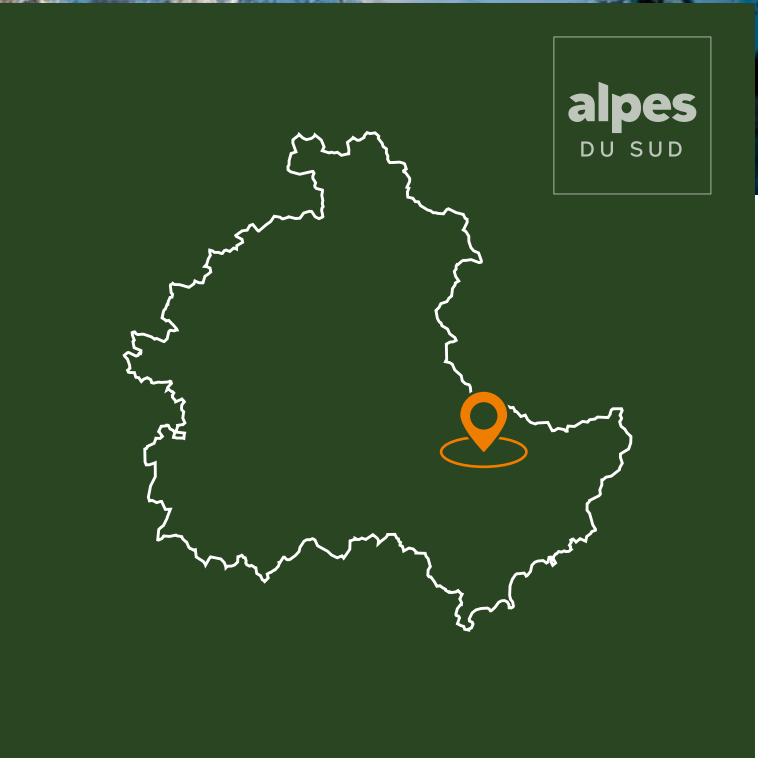
www.envibus.fr

→ stations-greolieres-audibergue.com

VALLÉE DE LA TINÉE



© Roubion ↑



Contemplative Roubion-les-Buisses

Set at altitudes ranging from 1,410 to 1,920 metres, Roubion-les-Buisses is located 70 km or just one hour from the city of Nice. This "nature" village resort offers all the charm of hilltop villages crisscrossed with ski slopes snaking through larch trees. From Mont Pommier, at an altitude of 1,920 metres, the view encompasses the Mercantour mountain range and sometimes stretches all the way to Corsica.

NEW

Roubion is ranked by Holidu as Europe's 5th most affordable ski resort.

The resort cultivates a different kind of mindset, encouraging peaceful and even contemplative skiing in a human-scale ski area designed for families. The 30 kilometres of slopes, Petite Ferme complete with goats and donkeys, picturesque village with colourful painted doors and 300 beds available at the local gites, apartments and chalets benefiting from the "Esprit Parc National" quality label, are conducive to an enchanting winter weekend, far from the hustle and bustle of the big resorts. If your children are budding adventurers, Roubion is home to the first "Adventure Hike" mountain school, welcoming kids and teens aged 8-18. Last but not least, it is easy to reach on the number 91 "Nice-Auron" snow bus. Simply get off at Saint-Sauveur-sur-Tinée and hop on the shuttle to Roubion-les-Buisses.

→ www.roubion.com



Southern French Alpes

An affordable and accessible mountain range

Authenticity, kindness and gentle prices.... Every year, the Southern Alps' ski resorts are ranked among the most affordable in France and Europe! So how do they manage it, while still offering sunshine galore, exceptional snow coverage, pure air, quality amenities, a unique heritage, magnificent natural scenery and varied activities?! Not to mention easy access thanks to the new TGV high-speed train services, ZOU! buses and Snow Trains (Trains des Neiges) instigated by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council...

Some of Europe's most affordable ski resorts

With one-day ski passes ranging from €10 to €65 and excellent value for money when it comes to accommodation, meals and activities, visitors to the Southern Alps definitely won't break the bank! And the offering is expanding every year. This winter 2025-2026, **Réallon** is adding a host of exciting new features to its 40 km of slopes, including three new secure and signposted ungroomed black runs, a Freestyle area and more Fun Land cabins for kids. This winter, the adult one-day ski pass is priced at €29.50, or €23 on Fridays and in March (children and seniors €26.50). Réallon has been rated as Europe's most affordable ski resort by the Holidu website since 2024, with **Chabanon, Le Chazelet, Crévoux, Pelvoux-Vallouise, Roubion-les-Buisses** and **Sainte-Anne-La-Condamine** bringing up the rear.



© Ubaye Tourisme ↑

By the way! With its temperate climate and gentle rates, the Southern Alps is an excellent place to learn how to ski. You'll find numerous beginner's areas there available free of charge or for a nominal fee. **Roubion-les-Buisses** offers a "Front de neige" (Snow Front) package for novices priced at just €10 per day or €9 if you purchase online. You can also opt for a combined skiing experience in **Puy-Saint-Vincent** thanks to their 4-hour pass.

On weekdays outside school holidays, **Auron and Isola 2000** offer half-price Nice Price passes available at www.auron-skipass.com/en and www.isola2000-skipass.com/en

Last but not least, the Southern Alps encourages visitors to try something new. For example, if you purchase a ski package in **Auron or Isola 2000**, you can enjoy the other ski area free of charge. In **Puy-Saint-Vincent**, the Galaxie pass includes free access to **Serre Chevalier Briançon Vallée and Montgenèvre**.

And one more thing! The ZOU! regional bus network offers efficient services at truly unbeatable prices.

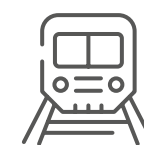


© Kinaphoto ↑



© Serre-Chevalier – Briançon ↑

Marseille-Briançon & Paris-Briançon: the stars of the show!



The Briançon-Marseille train stops off in **Dévoluy** (Veynes railway station) **Les Orres, Crévoux, Réallon** (Embrun railway station), **Champsaur and Ubaye** (Gap railway station), **the Ecrins** (l'Argentière-La-Bessée railway station), **Queyras** (Guillestre railway station) and finally the **Briançon area** (Briançon railway station).

And thanks to the **Paris-Briançon night train**, you can go to sleep in Paris-Austerlitz and wake up at the foot of the slopes!



All year round: [the ZOU!](https://www.zou-maregionsud.fr) Pass Journée day pass allows families and friends (up to 9 people) to hop on a regional express train for under €8 per person!

WINTER DEAL: THE ZOU! TRAIN DES NEIGES (SNOW TRAIN)

Return trip to the foot of the slopes in 17 resorts from Marseille-Saint-Charles, Aix-en-Provence and Manosque (Regional Express Train + Coach Shuttle).

Price: Adults €20 - Children 4-12 year €7.50 (free for under 4's).

Information and tickets

→ [zou-maregionsud.fr](https://www.zou-maregionsud.fr)

Oulx TGV high-speed railway station

Serre Chevalier is located less than 30 km from Oulx TGV railway station (in Italy), and 4 hours from Paris on the TGV high-speed train. Bus services run from Oulx to Serre Chevalier.

ZOU! buses



Provide transfers to the various ski resorts from Marseille-Provence and Nice Côte d'Azur airports, as well as numerous railway stations along the TER (regional express train), TGV (high-speed train) and Paris-Briançon lines, and various town and city centres (Nice, Grasse, Antibes and more).

The BlaBlaCar Bus service from Paris also serves Gap and Montdauphin-Guillestre.

→ [zou-maregionsud.fr](https://www.zou-maregionsud.fr)

The Côte d'Azur's very own snow bus!

Operated jointly by Lignes d'Azur and the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office, this service whisks you up to La Colmiane, Auron and Isola 2000 in less than two hours.

→ www.lignesdazur.com/en





Southern French Alpes

A festive and vibrant mountain range

Relaxed, smiling and caring... Welcome to the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region! Our Provençal traditions, handed down through generations, foster a spirit of togetherness. Our motto? Less screens, more real-life experiences. Less fuss, more simplicity. The Southern Alps' 62 ski resorts celebrate Christmas with pomp and splendour, while continuing to honour their age-old artisan legacy.



© A. Bellet ↑

In **Les Orres**, a team of local artisans designs, creates and stages **Les Féeries d'Hiver** (Winter Wonderland). And inside the cosy domes of **Pelvoux-Vallouise**, the **Pelvoo Village** promises a festive yet poetic winter experience.

Strolling the local market stalls piled high with local creations is a genuine delight: you'll find "santon" clay figurines and local wool items here, together with fruit juices, spirits and the famous thirteen desserts that are part and parcel of Christmas in Provence, including nougat, brioche, dried fruit, calisson candies and grapes... Escorted by luminous drones or ski instructors bearing flaming torches, the intrepid Father Christmas whooshes down the slopes to greet all the family.



© T. Blais ↑

The many high-altitude terraces offer lofty perches perfect for chilling in the sunshine, with or without a DJ set! The seasonal calendar promises an exciting, non-stop line-up of events sometimes staged at beautiful heritage sites. For example, this year's opening of the **Altitude Jazz Festival in Briançon** will be taking place in front of the newly-restored pipe organ adorning the collegiate church of Briançon...

Meanwhile, the **"Ça, c'est le Sud" tour** continues with regional talents and comedians topping the bill at intimate venues.



© R. Palomba ↑

And let's not forget this year's **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**: in 2026, **La Joue du Loup** is celebrating its 50th anniversary, **Superdévoluy** its 60th anniversary, and **Le Seignus, Valberg and Le Sauze** their 90th anniversary. Meanwhile, **Montgenèvre** - France's oldest ski resort and future 2030 Olympic Cluster - is getting ready to blow out 120 candles.

Here in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, wintertime is party time!

**CHECK OUT THE SEASON'S
MUST-DO EVENTS HERE:**


→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/en

SOUTHERN FRENCH **alpes**

 France's **2nd** largest ski area

 **27** million overnight stays, including **82%** French (**53%** regional clientele) **18%** International visitors

 €**1.8** billion economic spinoffs

The Southern Alps represents  **65%** of the regional territory and **15%** of its population.

 **4.55** million stays / visitors

 Average length of stay **6** days

 Average budget: €**996**

Distribution of nights spent

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

Customer survey – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and partners

- **62 ski resorts:** 15 major resorts, 27 village resorts, 20 Nordic ski areas
- **7 National Parks and nature reserves 2 UNESCO Geoparks and national geological reserves**
- **26 lakes** including Europe's largest high-altitude lake (Lac d'Allos) and one of France's largest lakes (Serre-Ponçon)
- **Europe's highest village:** Saint-Véran (2,042 m)
- **European Community's highest town:** Briançon (1,326 m)
- **France's highest administrative area:** Hautes-Alpes (05) Barre des Ecrins 4,102 metres
- **One of Europe's leading renewable energy sources:** River Durance & Serre-Ponçon dam
- **Vauban fortifications listed by UNESCO:** Briançon and fortified village of Mont-Dauphin
- **Sightseeing routes:** Route des Grandes Alpes®, Route Napoléon
- **Major mountain passes:** Izoard, Galibier, Granon, Agnel, Noyer, La Bonnette
- **8 "Famille Plus Montagne" family-friendly resorts:** Auron, Isola 2000, Le Dévoluy, Les Orres, Montgenèvre, Orcières Merlette, Val d'Allos, Valberg
- **3 resorts with the Flocon Vert** (Green Snowflake) **label:** Valberg (two snowflakes), Valdeblore and Auron (one snowflake)



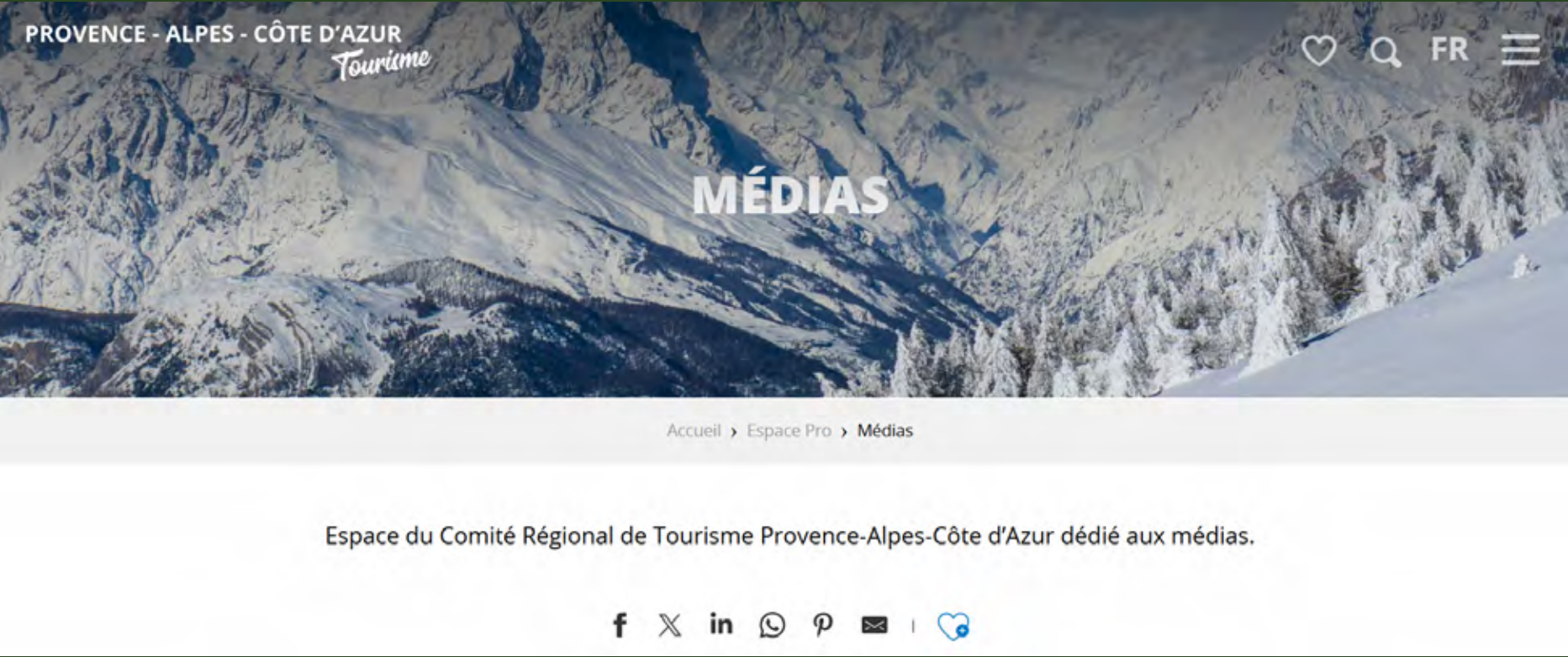
Strength in numbers

Fostered by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency, the **"Alpes du Sud" collective** was set up in 2018 in the aim of promoting tourism in the Southern French Alps.

The objective? To develop a shared strategy and budget for the **"Alpes du Sud" ("Southern French Alpes") destination brand** and strengthen the brand's name and visibility vis-à-vis markets and visitors alike. Since its launch in January 2018, the "Alpes du Sud" brand has been co-managed by the **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Tourist Board and Hautes-Alpes Development Agency**. Today, the **Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Tourist Office** and **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence Development Agency** have also joined forces with this ground-breaking initiative.



→ SOUTHERN ALPES
Stay connected



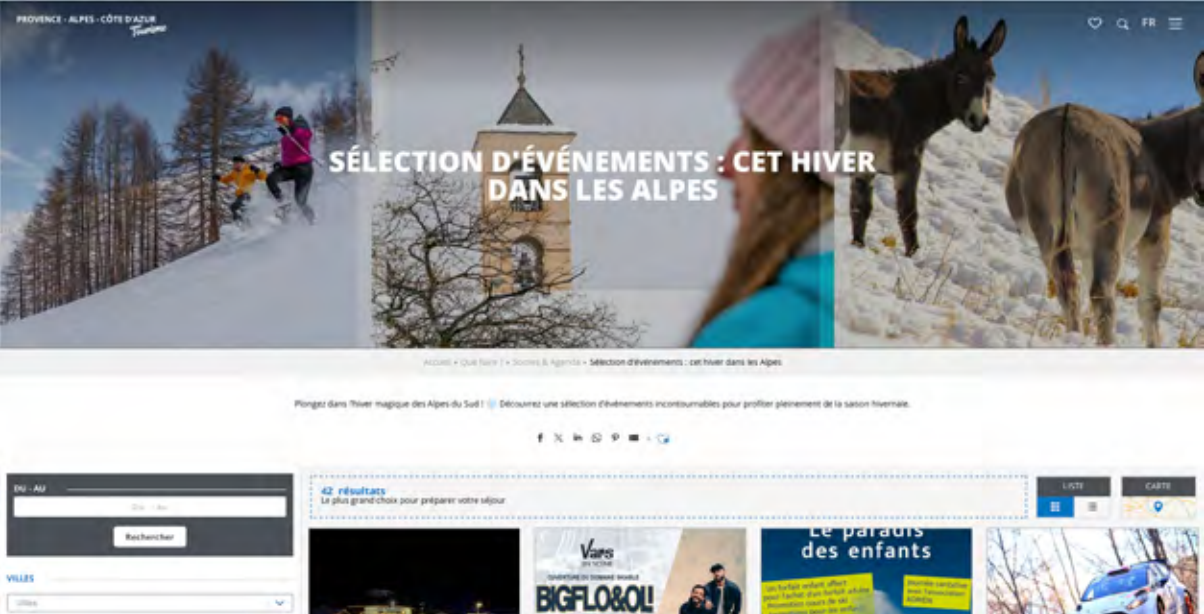
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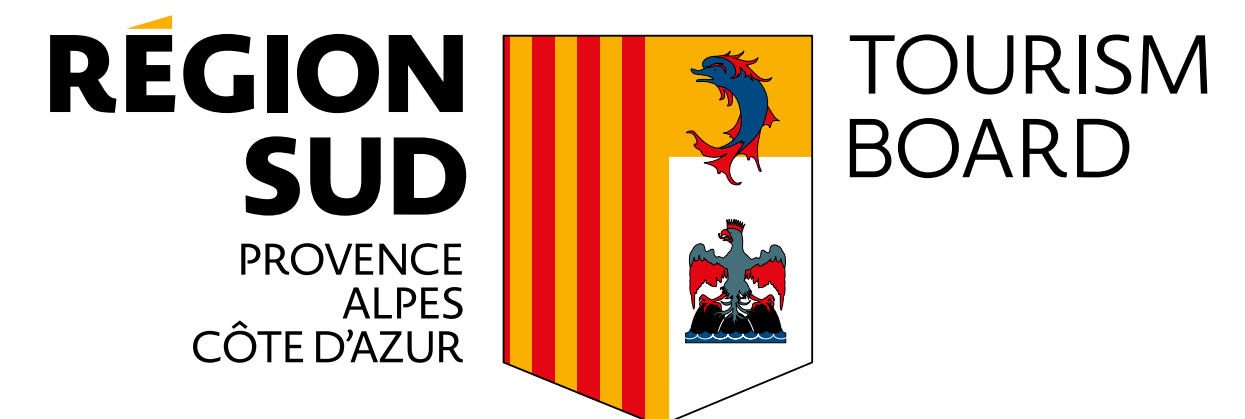
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