

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR

WHAT'S NEW?

SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

Spring
Summer
Autumn
2026

SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

RÉGION
SUD
PROVENCE
ALPES
CÔTE D'AZUR



TOURISM
BOARD



A little corner of France home to 5 million inhabitants, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region welcomes tourists from the world over in all seasons, come to savour our climate, 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, meaning the climate emergency is an important factor in every investment decision.

The Southern French Alps comprises 40 % of our region. This beautiful area is a genuine benchmark in sustainable tourism, with countless preserved natural areas (6 reserves including 2 national parks), pastoral traditions listed as UNESCO Intangible Heritage and eco-friendly agriculture. It is home to France's largest number of certified-organic farms.

Once again this summer, major events including the Tour de France and "Ça, C'est le Sud" tour will be lighting up our mountains, promising delightful moments of fun and togetherness amid breathtaking alpine scenery. This unique destination, boasting some of Europe's purest air, invites visitors to reach for the stars too, with iconic meetings such as the AstroValberg Festival taking place in the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve.

Our mountains and valleys are a must-do paradise for cyclists and mountain bikers, offering a stunning array of routes such as the "Durance à Vélo" or "Grande Route des Alpes à Vélo", winding their way between mythical mountain passes and magnificent mountainscapes.

In collaboration with Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, we are also getting ready to welcome the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games: an extraordinary opportunity to build the mountains of tomorrow today, with easier access, more sustainable transport modes and accessible activities that respect our environment throughout the year.

An ode to our youth, the upcoming Games will be inviting an entire generation to get involved, innovate and fly the flag of our values.

A haven of nature, sport, culture, local produce and tranquillity, the Southern French Alps is an astonishing destination; a place where everyone can live at their own pace – whether it be fast or slow.

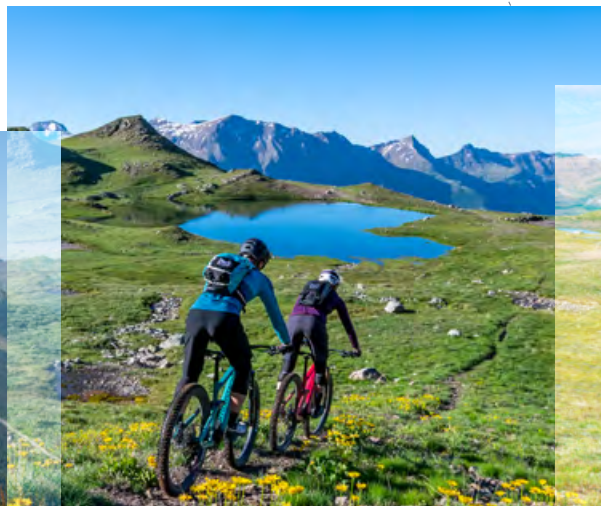
An invitation to get away from it all, whatever the season.

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 the French Tourism Institute
Mayor of La Londe-les-Maures



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SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

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High-speed train stations

Airports

RIVERS

6 NATURE RESERVES

Main towns

Valleys

ALPINE & NORDIC SKIING

VAL D'ALLOS } Espace
PRA-LOUP } Lumière

LE SAUZE

SUPERDÉVOLUY } Le Dévoluy
LA JOUE DU LOUP }

ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE 1850

LES ORRES

RISOUL } La Forêt
VAR } Blanche

PUY-SAINT-VINCENT

BRIANÇON / SERRE CHEVALIER VALLÉE

MONTGENÈVRE

LA GRAVE

AURON

ISOLA 2000

VALBERG

VILLAGE RESORTS

Alpine & Nordic skiing

NORDIC SKI AREAS

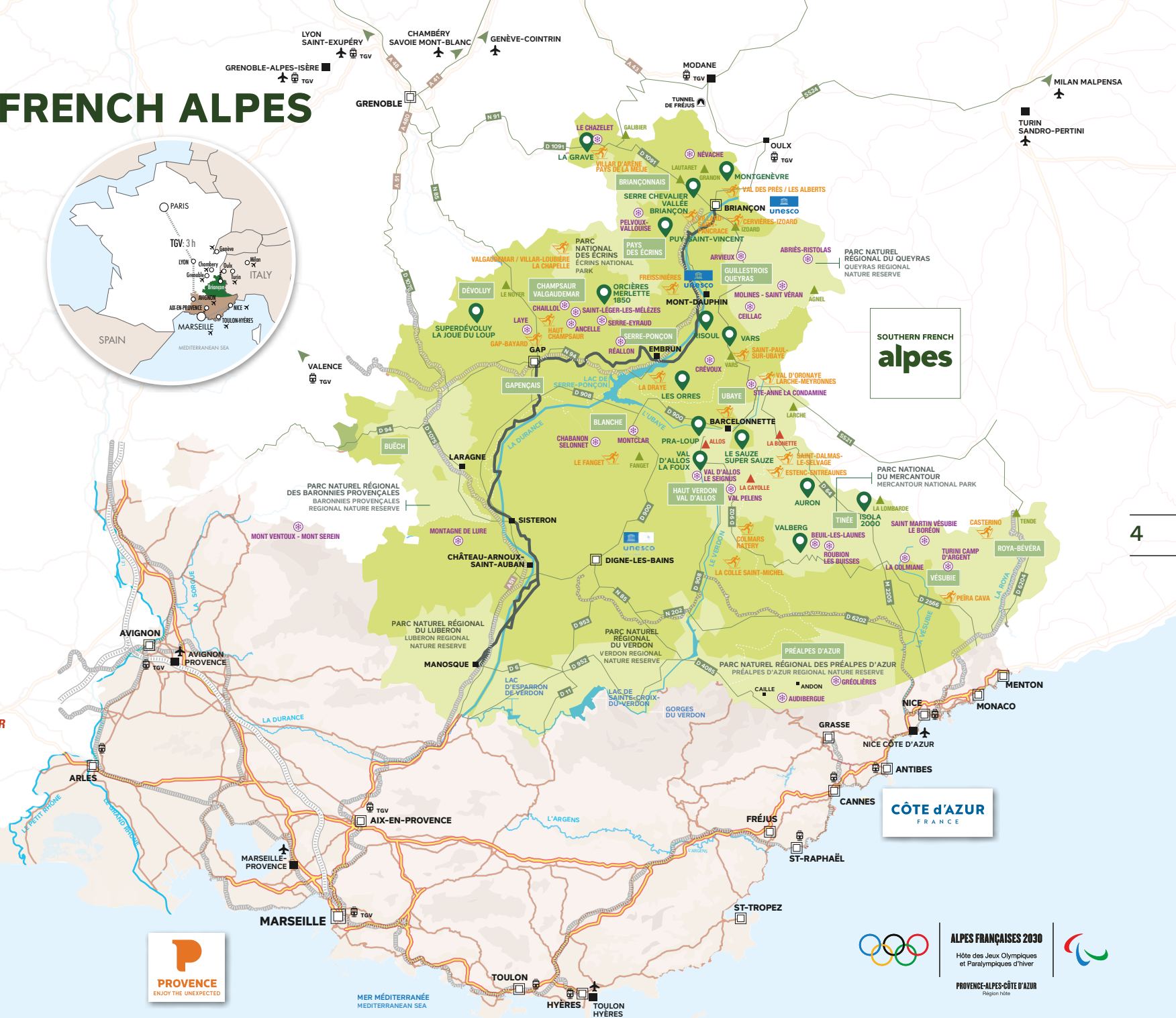
PASSES

PASSES PERMANENTLY CLOSED IN WINTER

UNESCO World Heritage

UNESCO Global Geopark

La Durance à Vélo



SOUTHERN FRENCH
alpes

CÔTE D'AZUR
FRANCE



HOW TO GET THERE?

50 KM



MER MÉDITERRANÉE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA



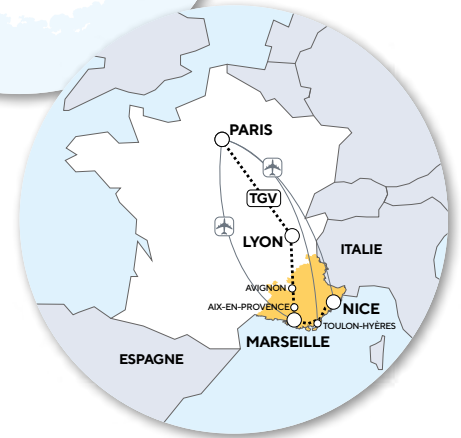
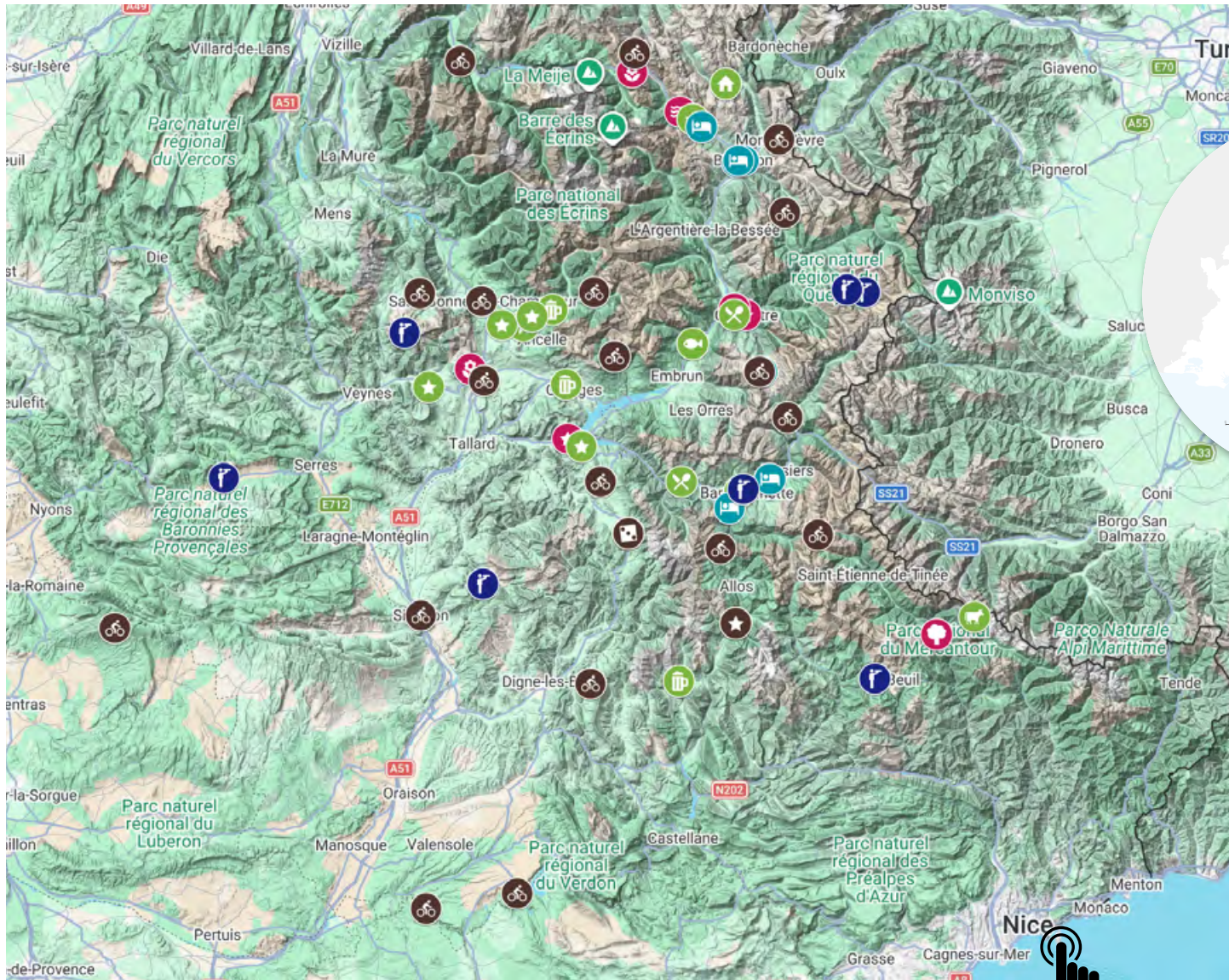
ALPES FRANÇAISES 2030
Hôte des Jeux Olympiques
et Paralympiques d'hiver



PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR
Région hôte

WHAT'S NEW?

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CLIQUEZ ICI

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SPEED UP



PEDAL LIKE A CHAMPION

Pedal like a champion in the wake of the heroes of the Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes, currently revving up to conquer the Southern French Alps' most impressive mountain stages. Gravel and mountain bikes are great options here too, thanks to the many ski lifts available to whisk cyclists and their gear up to the summits. Last but not least, opt for an electric bicycle (e-bike) if you're seeking a more soothing ride uphill and down dale.



© JL Armand



Jeune cycliste Hautes-Alpes, Mont-Dauphin - © R. Van Rijn

JULY 23 - 25, 2026

TOUR DE FRANCE 2026: SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES STAGES

Ever-loyal to its origins and mythical mountain passes, the 2026 Tour de France will be crossing the Champsaur-Valgaudemar, Dévoluy, Gapençais, Briançonnais and Oisans areas, with three spectacular stages on the menu.

→ www.letour.fr/en

AUGUST 7 - 9, 2026

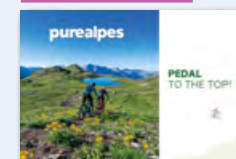
TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES #5

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region will be welcoming three stages of the palpitating women's Tour de France road cycling race this year: On the programme: Mont Ventoux, Sisteron, plus a final stage finishing on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice.

→ www.letourfemmes.fr/en

EVENTS

MUST-READ



Our article
**Pedal
to the top!**
page 17



© L. Terrail

P'TITES ROUTES DU SOLEIL® GRAVEL

Les P'tites Routes du Soleil is a 650-km gravel bike route crossing most of the pre-alpine massifs, including Les Baronnies, Le Buëch and Les Préalpes de Digne. Accessible to all levels, the itinerary alternates forest trails, rural lanes and little roads, for an authentic immersion in the beauty of southeastern France.

Featuring modular stages and adapted logistics, the route promises to please adventure-seeking cyclists who enjoy a change of scenery. A great way to enjoy a new angle on the region!

→ en.routedesgrandesalpes.com

MYSTERY GAMES IN VALLÉE DE LA BLANCHE

📍 GRAND PUY

Located around 2 hours and 20 minutes from Marseille by car, the ski resort of Grand Puy resort is perched at an altitude of 1,300 metres, amid mountain pastures and the gorgeous scenery of Blanche valley. Armed with your game kit, head out onto the slopes in search of clues to solve the mystery - a variety of scenarios are available for all levels. For extra excitement, the challenge can be timed!

Game kit available free of charge (with a deposit) every day in July and August.

→ lechalet04.fr/enquete-game

Not to be missed too: the village of Seyne-les-Alpes, a holder of the "Villages et Cités de Caractère" label.

→ www.blancheserreponcon-tourisme.com

© DR

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ALL ABOARD THE TRAIN OF WONDERS

The very best way to explore the Vallée des Merveilles and its many and varied discovery and hiking trails, the iconic Train des Merveilles (TER ZOU 22991) runs from Nice to Tende. The ride offers awe-inspiring panoramic views over the valleys of Paillon, Roya and Bévéra, as well as the summits of Mercantour National Park. The icing on the cake? A tour guide accompanies the 9.32 am departure from Nice every day from June to September, or on weekends and public holidays in other months.

→ www.menton-riviera-merveilles.co.uk

Tende © A. Brusini



© Adobe Stock

TAKE TO THE HEIGHTS IN COLMARS-LES-ALPES

📍 COLMARS-LES-ALPES

Recently awarded the **"Plus Beaux Villages de France"** (France's Most Beautiful Villages) label, Colmars-les-Alpes' new Belvédère de la Colletta trail allows walkers to admire the village and its fortifications from above, as well as the villages of Allos, Villars-Colmars and Beauvezer and the mounts of the upper Verdon Valley. Developed in conjunction with Mercantour National Park, the trail is dotted with bird and animal silhouettes with QR codes you can scan to hear their various calls. The one-kilometre round trip winds through underwoods to the rocky spur of La Colletta, boasting breathtaking panoramic views.

→ www.verdontourisme.com/en

CELEBRATING THE TRANSHUMANCE

The UN has declared 2026 the "International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists", so this year is the perfect time to slip into your walking shoes and roam the **GR®69 La Routo® long-distance hiking trail!**

Spanning nearly 540 km, the **GR®69 La Routo®** long-distance trail runs from Italy to Provence along the old transhumance routes. The route walks in the footsteps of shepherds and their flocks, fostering encounters, traditional farming events such as sheep fairs and the discovery of ever-changing pastoral landscapes through the seasons. It takes a good thirty days to complete the entire route from France - Plaine de La Crau - to Piedmont in Italy, but you can of course opt to walk just a few sections. The name "La Routo" comes from the Occitan phrase "far la routo", meaning to set out, now intrinsically associated with the ancient art of the transhumance...

→ larouto.eu/en

© P. Fabre



© Ferme Lautaret - P. Domeyne

MUST-READ

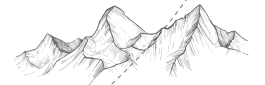
Plunge into the fascinating history of pastoralism in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, an ancient art and intrinsic part of Provence's heritage.

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



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SLOW DOWN



SAVE OUR FISH!

With the "No Kill" philosophy, fishing enthusiasts are free to indulge in their favourite techniques - barbless, crushed-barb, fly, live bait, lure - as long as they release their catch! Systematically putting fish back in the water has transformed fishing into a different kind of sport in which observation takes a leading role. Anglers are the guardians of our rivers and the first to raise the alarm if the water quality is under threat, making them a precious asset for the Southern French Alps' fragile ecosystems. Home to 8,000 kilometres of rivers, many crystal-clear high-altitude lakes and mountain streams considered by fly fishermen as the Holy Grail, the Southern French Alps is the perfect place to practise this contemplative outdoor sport, currently undergoing a genuine revival. Prime your rods!

© AD 05



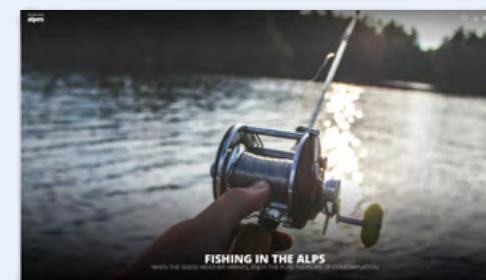
© AD 05

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MUST-DO

A selection of top fishing hotspots in the Southern French Alps

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com





© AD 05 - B. Bodin

OBSERVING BIODIVERSITY

Here, lavender and veteran larch trees grow virtually side by side...

Boasting an exceptional climate, relief and geology, the Southern French Alps is a genuine kingdom of biodiversity. The mountain range lies at the confluence of three major geographical influences: Mediterranean, bringing heat and summer droughts, Alpine, bringing cold and altitude, and Continental, featuring marked temperature ranges. You'll find around 2,500 plant species here, i.e. around half of total French flora. The Southern French Alps is one of the rare places in Europe where major predators such as wolves and golden eagles live side-by-side with Mediterranean microfauna.

MUST-EXPLORE

"Les Rendez-Vous Nature" organised by the Regional Agency for Biodiversity and the Environment, complete with a diary and interactive map.

→ www.arbe-regionsud.org



© AD 05 - P. Domeyne

JARDIN DU LAUTARET

📍 VILLAR-D'ARÈNE

Perched at an altitude of 2,100 metres, one of Europe's oldest alpine parks (created in 1899) harbours a phenomenal collection of 2,000 plant species from mountainous areas worldwide (Southern French Alps, Caucasus, Himalayas, Andes, Rocky Mountains, etc.), with the Himalayan blue poppy as its undisputed star.

→ www.jardindulautaret.com



© S. Vialatte

JARDIN ALPIN DE GAP-CHARANCE

📍 GAP

Situated above Gap, this park focusing on the Southern French Alps showcases 20 natural and seminatural environments (wetlands, scree slopes, dry grasslands, forests, etc.). Not to be missed: France's largest collection of heirloom roses.

→ www.terresdegap.fr/en

SHARING OUR FARMING KNOW-HOW

The farmland of the Southern French Alps is resolutely authentic - and often organic -, with over 40 % certified organic growing areas. Many local farms continue to fly the flag of traditional, eco-friendly extensive agriculture - and did so long before it became fashionable. Farming here is all about flexibility - and passion of course.

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

MUST-READ



Behind the scenes artisan & company tours

Various sectors: farmers, nougat makers, engineers, winegrowers, perfumers, craftspeople.

© Alpes photographies



Fort Queyras, Guillestrois-Queyras © DR

OUTDOOR MUSEUM

📍 SERRE-PONÇON • 📍 GUILLESTROIS-QUEYRAS

The Serre-Ponçon and Guillestrois-Queyras areas are now proud holders of the national "Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire" label. Awarded by the French Ministry of Culture, this label has been supporting and promoting territories committed to understanding, preserving and handing down their heritage with a focus on sustainable development for the last 40 years. Its deployment revolves around the development of discovery tools such as guided tours. Following on from Provence Verte Verdon and Alpes Provence Verdon, the Serre-Ponçon Guillestrois-Queyras area is also set to uphold the label with pride.

→ www.serreponcon.com/en

→ lequeyras.com/en

ADMIRE FRANCE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES

📍 MONT-DAUPHIN • 📍 COLMARS-LES-ALPES

Mont-Dauphin and Colmars-les-Alpes, new members of the "France's Most Beautiful Villages" club.

The fortified towns of **Mont-Dauphin and Colmars-les-Alpes**, respectively perched at altitudes of 1,050 and 1,250 metres, have now joined the very select ranks of the **"Plus Beaux Villages de France®"**.

Crossed by the Verdon river, Colmars-les-Alpes - the venue for one of Mercantour National Park's largest markets held every Friday - formerly watched over the border between Provence, the Kingdom of France and Savoy. Enjoy a stroll along the walkway of Fort Vauban, leading to the ancient ramparts, bastioned towers and guardroom.

The stronghold of Mont-Dauphin is very much alive too. Perched on a rocky spur, above the river Guil, its old fortifications and military buildings, featuring the Lunette d'Arçon, arsenal, powder room and Rochambeau barracks, now harbour cafés, accommodation and craftspeople, and host fascinating exhibitions including "Little Big Horn" by sculptor Ousmane Sow.

→ lequeyras.com/en

→ www.verdontourisme.com/en

Mont-Dauphin - © B. Bodin



Colmars-les-Alpes © A. Simon

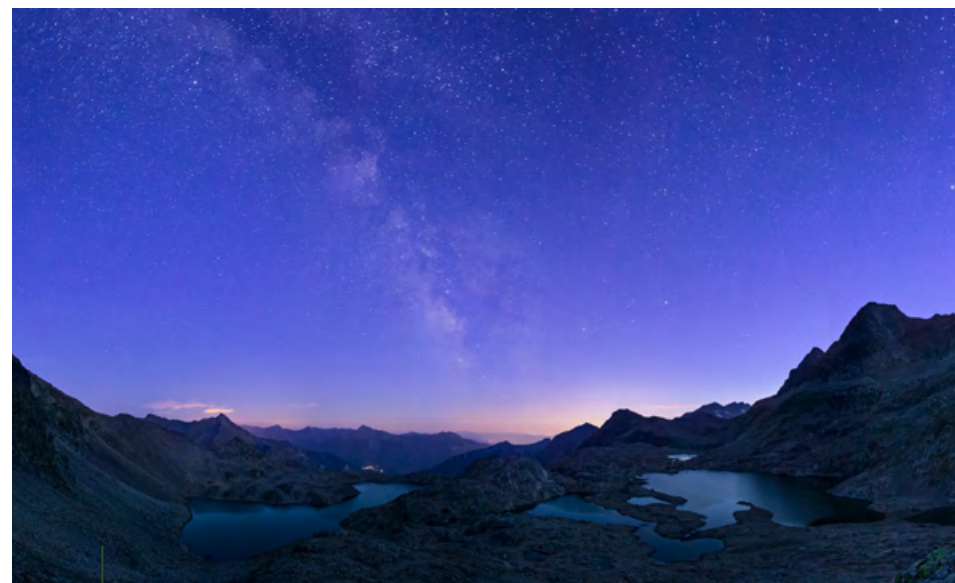
RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES ON THE SUMMITS

📍 LE MONËTIER-LES-BAINS

Eighteen years after its inauguration, **Les Grands Bains du Monêtier, the Southern Alps' only spa complex**, is enjoying a facelift! Heated naturally to a temperature of 44°C, its mineral-rich thermal waters already supplied the site's indoor and outdoor pools as well as various jacuzzis, Roman baths and a musical grotto. Today, they also irrigate La Rotonde Spa, bathed in natural light and gazing out over the surrounding summits, featuring outdoor jacuzzis, a sensory pool and sparkling water pool, in addition to the 42°C natural waterfall fed by the Monêtier natural spring - an absolute must-do wellness destination in the Southern French Alps.

→ lesgrandsbainsdumonetier.fr/en

© T. Blais



Lacs de Crupillouse © Fabien Thibault

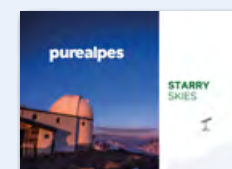
STARRY NIGHTS

📍 PARC NATIONAL DU MERCANTOUR

Stroll under the twinkling Milky Way, wish on a shooting star and gaze through binoculars or a telescope to observe nebulae, comets and planets. You won't find any light pollution here to spoil the show!

Home to the Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve, this exceptional destination, boasting some of Europe's purest air, invites you to reach for the stars... What's more, the Southern French Alps' impressive seven observatories promise some of the most memorable nights out you're ever likely to experience.

MUST-READ



Our article
Starry skies
page 21

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PEDAL TO THE TOP!



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.

© G. Baron



Dévoluy © - K. Kestler

TOUR DE FRANCE 2026: SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES STAGES

- 📍 ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE - 📍 GAP
- 📍 LE BOURG-D'OISANS

Ever-loyal to its origins and mythical mountain passes, the 2026 Tour de France (July 4th-26th) will be crossing the Champsaur-Valgaudemar, Dévoluy, Gapençais, Briançonnais and Oisans areas, with three spectacular stages on the menu.

- **Stage 18, July 23rd: Voiron-Orcières-Merlette (185,5 km)**

The peloton will be taking to the Route Napoléon, with climbs to Chauffayer, La Fare-en-Champsaur, Chabottes, Saint-Léger-les-Mélèzes and Pont-du-Fossé, before ascending to the ski resort of Orcières-Merlette in Champsaur valley.

- **Stage 19, July 24th: Gap-L'Alpe d'Huez (128 km)**

After Gap, the start line for the 28th time this year, the route will tackle the ascent of Col Bayard, Col du Noyer and Col d'Ornon, with its 21 forbidding hairpin bends.

- **Stage 20, July 25th: Bourg d'Oisans - L'Alpe d'Huez (171,5 km)**

Crossing Villar d'Arêne and La Grave beneath the majestic slopes of La Meije, before tackling Col du Lautaret and Col du Galibier - the highest point of the 2026 race, with a total elevation gain of 54,450 metres.

→ www.letour.fr/en/overall-route

TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES 2026

📍 SISTERON

Celebrating its 5th edition this year, the Tour de France Femmes, a multi-stage road cycling race reserved exclusively for women, will be featuring three stages in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, including a triumphant finish on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice - the stunning Mediterranean venue for the men's finale just 2 years ago. Divided into 22 teams of 7, the 154 riders will be competing over a distance of 1,175 km, with a total elevation gain of 18,795 metres. The race kicks off on August 1st in Lausanne, Switzerland.

- **Stage 8, August 8th, Sisteron - Nice (175 km)**

The longest stage of this year's race along the Route Napoléon encompasses the stunning heritage and natural treasures of Sisteron, Entrevaux, Lake Castillon and the Durance and Var valleys.

→ www.sisteron-alpesprovencales.fr



© R. Van Rijn

ROUTE DES GRANDES ALPES® BY BIKE

The Route des Grandes Alpes is a legendary 700 km cycling route connecting Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean and crossing 16 iconic mountain passes, including Galibier, Izoard and Bonette (2,802 metres). Reserved for experienced cyclists, this challenging itinerary combines sporting prowess and breathtaking scenery, with alpine lakes, virgin valleys and authentic villages along the way. There's even a gravel bike option for thrill seekers!

→ en.routedesgrandesalpes.com



© L. Terrail

"COLS RÉSERVÉS"

SUMMER 2026

During the "Cols Réservés" operation held every summer in the Southern French 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!

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



© C. Tempier



© C. Tempier

LA DURANCE À VÉLO, AT THE WATER'S EDGE

The "La Durance à Vélo" cycle route is getting longer and more beautiful every day! Spanning 485 km, the route follows Provence's longest river, the Durance, from its source in the hills above Montgenèvre in the Southern French Alps to its confluence with the Rhône in Avignon, Provence. After the Sisteron-Manosque stage, cyclists now enjoy a new 10 km section connecting Pertuis and Villelaure in the southern Luberon, partly on dedicated cycle lanes. The section between Mallemort and La Roque d'Anthéron is now signposted. Various train stations allow cyclists to join the route at any stage, by road, gravel or mountain bike.

→ laduranceavelo.fr

TOUR DU VERDON

What better than a scenic cycling loop 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.

→ uk.veloloisirprovence.com



© A. Noat

EVENTS

JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2026

GRAND RALLYE VTT TRANSVERDON #11

5 days of exhilarating mountain biking on a selection of stunning trails in the Upper and Mid Verdon areas.

→ www.verdontourisme.com/en

JUNE 27, 2026

LE DÉFI DES FONDUS DE L'UBAYE #23

Take up the gauntlet and head out to conquer the mountain passes of Ubaye from spring through to autumn. And if you really want to test your limits, you can opt for the expert challenge consisting of 1 to 5 mountain passes and 7 ascents in a single day.

→ www.ubaye.com/en



Ubaye © M. Molle

SEPTEMBER 6 - 13, 2026

ALPES EPIC

An exceptional cycling experience in the wake of the Grande Traversée VTT des Hautes-Alpes mountain bike challenge.

A genuine mountain biking marathon with an optional timed version.

→ www.Alpesepic.com

APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2026

TROPHÉE ENDURO DES ALPES

A physically and technically demanding MTB race for experienced riders only.

May 8-9: Montclar Vallée de la Blanche #2

July 4-5: Vars MTB TeamUp Enduro #9

September 5-6: Enduro Réallon Serre-Ponçon #1

September 18-20: Enduro des Terres Noires (Digne-les-Bains) #7

→ endurodesalpes.com

EVENTS

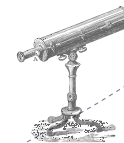


VTT Enduro © G. Baron

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STARRY SKIES



Welcome to a festival of constellations worthy of a Palme d'Or at Cannes! The world's foremost astronomers have sought to pierce the mysteries of the infinite universe since the 19th century. The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region actively combats light pollution and one of France's seven International Dark Sky Reserves - "Alpes Azur Mercantour" - is located right here in the Southern French Alps, home to an impressive six temples of astronomy...

© Patrick Domeyne



THE HIGHEST OBSERVATOIRE DE SAINT-VÉRAN PAUL FELENBOK

📍 SAINT-VÉRAN , QUEYRAS

How about spending a night at an altitude of almost 3,000 metres, in an awe-inspiring face-to-face with the galaxies? You can have fun trying to spot the Saint-Véran asteroid discovered here too, and the views of Mont Viso at sunrise are simply breathtaking. What's more, France's highest observatory boasts 150 clear nights a year... How to get there: 3 to 5-hour walk from Saint-Véran with a 900-metre elevation gain, in both summer and winter.

Price: €95/person – Children 8 years and upwards from June to November – Children from 14 years and upwards from December to May.

→ lequeyras.com/en



© Patrick Domeyne

THE MOST ICONIC OBSERVATOIRE BARCELONNETTE-MERCANTOUR

📍 BARCELONNETTE

This brand new Observatory invites visitors on a voyage back in time to the pioneering spirit of astronomers in the 1920s. The Father Josset telescope was built in 1929 for a British billionaire, and subsequently purchased by a missionary in China. A true gem, open to the public, it is Europe's largest amateur telescope. The observatory also offers an educational trail dedicated to nocturnal fauna and biodiversity. It is the first French "Station de Nuit" (Night Station) – a distinction recognizing quality amenities and educational value awarded by the French Astronomy Association – located in an International Dark Sky Reserve.

→ obs-bm.com



©OBM Yar

THE MOST FUTURISTIC NOEMA ON PLATEAU DE BURE (2 552 M)

📍 DÉVOLUY

A radio astronomy hub: twelve 15-metre diameter antennas on Bure Plateau, above Super Devoluy, allow enthusiasts to observe the birth of stars and galaxies. The antennas all point towards the same star or galaxy, simulating a giant radio telescope measuring 1.7 km in diameter.

How to get there: 4 hour climb approx. Tour of the maintenance hall, control room, computing centre and living quarters (please book in advance with IRAM).

→ visitesinsolites.cnrs.fr



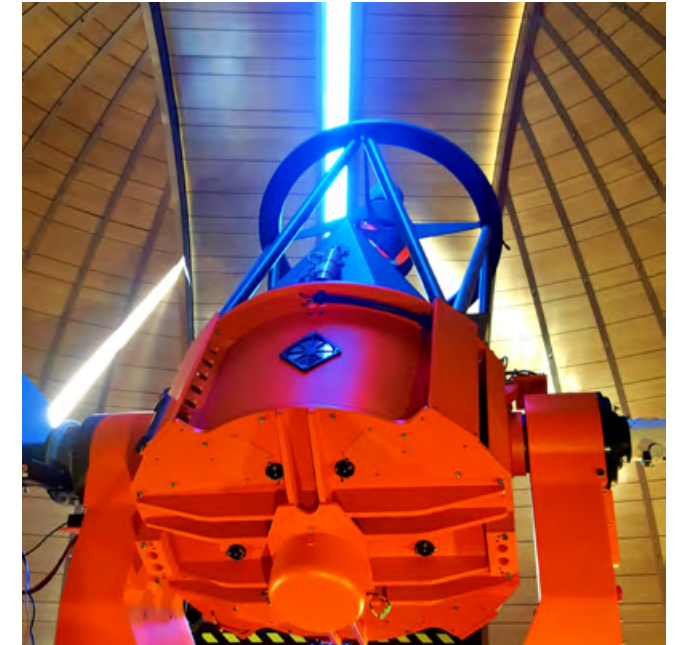
© E. Chapillon

THE MOST WIDE-REACHING OBSERVATOIRE DES BARONNIES PROVENÇALES

📍 MOYDANS

Welcoming amateur enthusiasts and professional astronomers alike, this observatory invites visitors to admire various extraordinary instruments operated by an astrophysicist (820 mm telescope, 1,140 mm Dobson). On-site accommodation available in converted sheepfolds – aptly named Mars, Jupiter and Neptune - with views over Risou mountain. Observation session postponed free of charge in the event of cloudy weather. A holder of the "Station de Nuit" label.

→ www.obs-bp.com



© Office de Tourisme Sisteron Buéch

THE MOST INTIMATE OBSERVATOIRE DU MASSIF DES MONGES

📍 SAINT-GENIEZ, SISTERON
ALPES PROVENCALES

The work of fervent astronomer Jean-Louis Dumontier, this brand-new observatory tucked away in the Massif des Monges, in the **UNESCO Haute-Provence Global Geopark**, invites groups of up to 6 people to observe the sun by day and the constellations by night, with on-site accommodation available in two gites and a guest room. The Observatory features a 4.10 metre dome and telescope fitted with both classic and digital eyepieces, reproducing the magnificent colours of distant galaxies and faint objects. During the day, a solar telescope using H-alpha light allows observers to view solar filaments and plasma jets, as well as sunspots. What's more, a short walk from the observatory leads to stunning panoramic views over the summits of the Écrins, Ventoux and as far as the sea on very clear days.

→ www.sisteron-alpesprovencales.fr/en



©J.L. Dumontier

THE MOST RECENT PLANÉTARIUM DE VALBERG

📍 VALBERG

Crowned with 16 petals forming a dome, Valberg's planetarium forms the beating heart of the new Maison Departementale de l'Environnement et de l'Observation (Local Centre for the Environment and Observation) - a hub of knowledge, sharing and discovery hosting many year-round activities on the themes of sustainable development, environmental conservation and our exceptional starry skies. Part of the "Alpes Azur Mercantour" International Dark Sky Reserve, Mercantour Valberg already boasts a planet trail and annual astronomy fair.

→ lequeyras.com



© Wilmotte & associés

JULY 5 - 6, 2026

RENCONTRE EN CIEL PUR #7

📍 SAINT-VÉRAN

Spend a day in Europe's highest village and a night gazing at a stunning array of stars. On this year's menu: get-togethers and exchanges on the theme of the universe and its many colours...

→ lequeyras.com/en



© Images et rêves - OTGQ

JULY 17 - 19, 2026

FESTIVAL ASTROVALBERG #5

📍 VALBERG

Three days dedicated to fervent stargazers and curiosity-seekers keen to pierce the mysteries of the universe... Learn all there is to know about our starry skies thanks to a varied programme including sky and sun observation, get-togethers, talks, night walks, activities to promote relaxation and shows.

→ www.valberg.com/en

EVENT

purealpes



A LAND OF PLENTY

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BISTROT DE PAYS, A NEW ARRIVAL

The "Bistrots de Pays" quality label rewards establishments located in rural communities offering tasty and affordable, local specialities - with plenty to satisfy hungry explorers. The "Bistrots de Pays" are also delightfully lively places, perfect for getting to know the locals, offering a variety of entertainment and activities - a must-have in every village!

→ www.bistrotdepays.com

BISTROT LOU FRESC

📍 MÉOLANS-REVEL, UBAYE

Basking in the village of Méolans-Revel in Ubaye valley, just before Barcelonnette, this charming establishment crafts delicious cuisine and social ties alike with a fun line-up of karaoke, board games, and writing and philosophy workshops - all the ingredients you need to forge a strong community spirit. You can dine there on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings - please book ahead.

→ loufresc.com



© F. Kolandjian

AUTHENTIC FARMS

From the soil to the plate... Shop directly from our local producers to benefit from the shortest possible distribution circuit. In addition to producing food, the Southern Alps' farmers help maintain our mountains. Milk a cow, feed the lambs or admire the work of the local sheepdogs as you get back in touch with nature and switch off from the stresses and strains of everyday life. Many farms are holders of the "Bienvenue à la Ferme" (Welcome to the Farm) label, or are part of the "Accueil Paysan" (Farm Welcome) network.

→ www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com

FARM TOURS

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com

AN EXCEPTIONAL FARMHOUSE INN

📍 VALLÉE DE NÉVACHE

"We don't just do local, we are local!" The Kornak family story truly is a magnificent adventure. Franco-Americans Kristina and Benoît helped birth the locavore movement in California before settling with their four children at the Clarée farmhouse inn in the hamlet of Ville-Haute, in Névache. Perched at an altitude of 1,600 metres, they are now at the helm of an organic and regenerative tourism project. On site, trout are bred in a pond fed by a mountain stream, cows graze in 25 acres of meadows, and edible flowers and herbs are pampered with compost from the farm. The five very comfortable guest rooms are located above the cheese cellar and below the hay barn, as was the tradition in days gone by. The table d'hôtes, also welcoming outside guests subject to prior booking, is one of the Southern French Alps rare Ecocert-certified organic restaurants, serving only farm and partner farm produce cherry-picked by Kristina. More than just a place of stay, the Clarée farmhouse inn is a genuinely delightful experience.

€89 per person in double room including breakfast and dinner, €39 for dinner only.

→ www.farmedelaclaree.com



© L. Fine

CHAMPIONS OF LOCAL TASTE

Medals galore for the Southern French Alpes specialities!

The Southern French Alpes sweeps up a plethora of medals at the prestigious Concours Général Agricole agricultural fair every year. Beers, cheeses and dairy products, cured meats and honey are in the spotlight in 2026 - here's just a little selection for the perfect meal or picnic!

- **Brewed with talent. Craft and organic breweries in the limelight:** La Walpine, the Serre-Ponçon craft brewery, the Cordoeil brewery and more.
- **Authentically simple and tasty dairy produce:** Sacré Willy rice pudding, yoghurts by Deux Bégüe and Ebrard, fromage blanc from the Ubaye dairy cooperative and Capriraclette cheese by the Fromagerie de la Durance.
- **Meats and cured meats:** Sisteron lamb of course, as well as high-altitude Charolais beef!
- **And to wind up your feast, how about a herbal tea** made with medicinal plants or a dash of herbal liqueur courtesy of Grand Rubren, the proud winner of no less than seven medals!



© P. Domeyne

HONEYS WITH UNIQUE AROMAS

The Southern French Alpes' honeys swept up an impressive 20 medals at the 2026 French Honey Competition organized by the French National Beekeeping Union in Paris. Congratulations to France's 400-500 registered beekeepers, a quarter of whom welcome the public into their "honey houses". And we especially applaud the millions of worker bees that travel thousands of kilometres to bring us the subtle aromas of wild plants...

The Provence and Southern French Alpes Honey Syndicate lists several specialities, including lavender honey, transhumance honey and rosemary honey (producer Paul Negrel recently won a medal at the Concours Agricole). Other rare delicacies such as larch honey from the Miellerie de Serre-Chevalier, rhododendron honey from the Miellerie Challet, or dandelion honey by Luc Marchand in Orcières are musts on your honey wish list!

→ provence-alpes-cotedazur.com



© P. Domeyne

MUST-DO

"100 % VALEURS DU SUD" LABEL

This label rewards Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional producers committed to virtuous farming practises. Its founding values - quality, transparency, eco-friendliness and fair trade - aim to promote local, responsible consumption.

→ www.maregionsud.fr



© JC Verchre

THE SECRET OF TROUT IN THE SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPES

TROUT FROM THE PISCICULTURE DES ÉCRINS FISH FARM

📍 PARC NATIONAL DES ÉCRINS

Rainbow trout raised in Écrins National Park owe their firm flesh and subtle aromas to the water they grow in. The pure waters of the Rabioux torrent spring from the Écrins mountains and join up with the Durance river in Châteauroux-les-Alpes. The trout is so good that the inhabitants of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region have awarded the farm a "Trophée Région Sud" trophy.

→ www.pisciculture-des-ecrins.com



© F. Dou

FUMOIR DE L'UBAYE

📍 VALLÉE DE L'UBAYE

Trout from the Écrins fish farm are string-smoked and hand-sliced here according to time-honoured methods, similarly to Scottish Red Label salmon. The Fumoir de l'Ubaye in Barcelonnette, headed up by Antony Lacanaud, is the Southern French Alpes' new temple of artisan fish smoking. The secret? A fragrant blend of beech, cherry, apple and apricot wood sourced in the Southern French Alpes...

→ [f Le Fumoir de l'Ubaye](#)



© Pisciculture des Ecrins

EUROPE'S HIGHEST CHEESEMAKER!

📍 ISOLA 2000

Perched at an altitude of 1,900 metres, at the gateway to the Isola 2000 ski resort, you'll find Europe's highest cheesemaker set inside a gorgeous farm, La Vacherie de Chastillon. Jordan Chabert and his wife take care of a herd of about sixty cows. Their milk, nourished with alpine flowers, produces six original cheese including the Isolien, to be relished fresh or in a raclette. You'll find carefully sourced Italian charcuterie there too. And every evening at 6.30 pm, you can watch the cows being milked, while your little ones give the calves their bottle.

→ isola2000.com

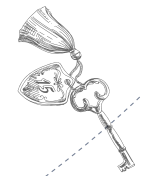


© Alpes Photographies

purealpes

HOSPITALITY AU NATUREL

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HÔTEL LE PRIEURÉ****

📍 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



© Hôtel Le Prieuré



© Sowell Family Vars

SOWELL HÔTELS L'ALPE BLANCHE ET SOWELL FAMILY VARS

📍 VARS

The story of the Sowell Hotels & Résidences group is rooted in the Southern French 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.

From €65 per night for two guests.

→ www.sowell.fr/en/vars

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, a skip and a jump from 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. Dormitories from €25.

→ www.bodygobriancon.com/en



© Galimey

HÔTEL 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 name Drapiers refers to the ancient textile expertise that forged the Briançon area's economy in days gone by. 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 outdoors showcases flagship local gastronomy.

From €165 per night.

→ www.the-social-club.com



© DR

HÔTEL 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. Their former barracks have now been converted into gardens, shops and offices. The Colaud barracks, built in circa 1882, are now a 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, hammam, treatment rooms and sensory shower, the Cinq Mondes wellness space is an invitation to lie back and let go.

Open all year round. Prices from €95

→ garrigae.fr/en



© DR

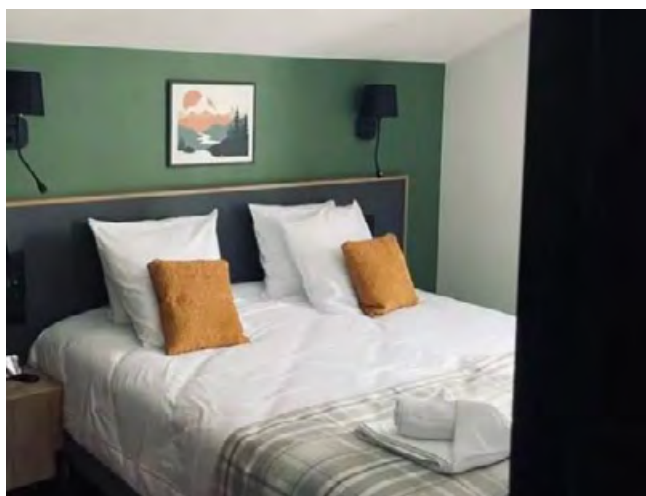
LA RÉSIDENCE-CLUB**** SERRA NEVA

📍 SERRE CHEVALIER - 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, hammam 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.

Apartments from €1,554/week.

→ www.mmv-holidays.co.uk/en



© DR

LE MILLE100-47

📍 FAUCON-DE-BARCELONNETTE

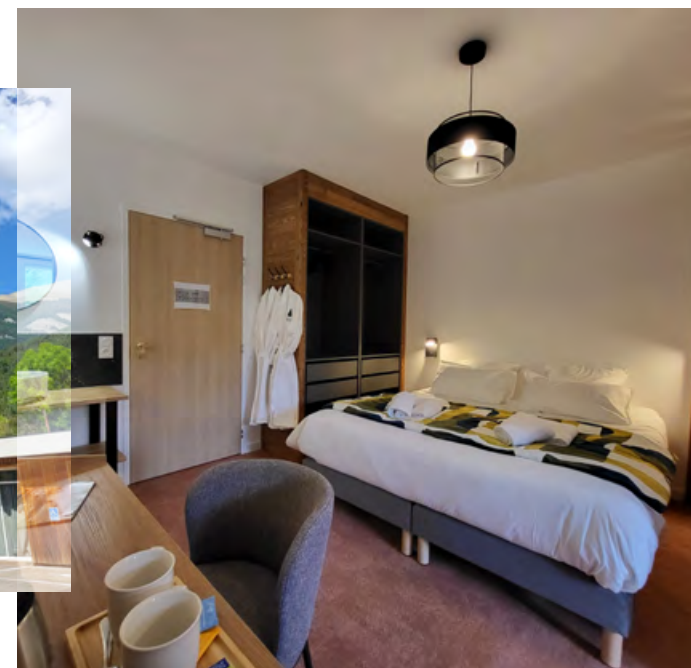
Pronounced "mille cent quarante sept", this premium new base camp in the heart of Ubaye valley is dedicated to mountain and outdoor sports. The name is a nod to the 1,147 metres that separate the camp from Col de la Cayolle, forming part of a trio of legendary Tour de France mountain passes in the Southern French Alps alongside the nearby Bonette and Allos. This gite-come-hotel set in 12 acres of fields was created by brothers and cycling fans Romain and Antoine Marceau. The building measures 1,500 m² and features 44 beds divided among 12 modular rooms with bathrooms, as well as 4 self-catering gites including the very spacious Gîte des Cimes (186 m² - 4 to 16 guests) and Lodge des Hauts de Provence (84 m² - 2 to 6 guests). Groups can opt for a mix of rooms and gites, making this an ideal choice for sporty and artistic getaways, retirees and private or professional events alike. The rooms offer excellent soundproofing and heating, together with balconies, premium bedding and high speed Internet. The ensemble also includes two meeting rooms, an events room, sauna and salt cave, with a cycling pro shop and cafeteria coming soon.

Two nights minimum. Opening May 16th, 2026.

→ mille100-47-ubaye.fr/en



© DR



© DR

KEY FIGURES & DATA



40 % of the region's surface area



8 % of the region's population

2nd French mountain destination

(15% of French mountain tourism)



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



1.8 billion direct economic spinoffs

Distribution of nights spent

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

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)

■ Breathtaking night skies:

- Alpes Azur Mercantour International Dark Sky Reserve (RICE)
- 5 mountain observatories: Barcelonnette-Mercantour, Baronnies Provençales, Saint-Véran in Queyras, Plateau de Bure in Le Dévoluy and the Valberg Planetarium.

➤ 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, Colmars-les-Alpes, Mont-Dauphin, Saint-Véran, Saorgue, Coaraze, Sainte-Agnès, Gourdon.

■ **Novel:** Barcelonnette and its historic ties with Mexico, Prehistoric cave paintings in the Vallée des Merveilles.

➤ RENOWNED SPORTS VENUES

■ **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-gliding 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, Route des Grandes Alpes by biketrail, Tour du Verdon.

■ **Hiking:** GR5, La Routo, Route Napoléon.

➤ THIS SEASON'S EVENT LINE-UP

➤ [PUREALPES.COM](#)

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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

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