### **CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC**



# PRESS FILE SUMMER 2022

SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE

### A LEGENDARY VALLEY AT THE CROSS-ROADS OF 3 COUNTRIES

The Chamonix valley is located at the foot of the exceptional Mont-Blanc massif. On the borders of Switzerland and Italy, it extends over 28km from west to east and englobes the resorts of Servoz, Houches, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Argentière and Vallorcine.

SERVOZ, with its village architecture opens the doors to the valley.

LES HOUCHES, a family village resort, offers an unforgettable panorama over the Aiguilles de Chamonix.

CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC, birthplace of mountaineering, is a vibrant alpine town whose unique architectural heritage bears witness to a long and rich history.

ARGENTIÈRE, is a typical village at the northern end of the valley, with many characteristic old farmhouses and a remarkable baroque church and onion bell tower.

VALLORCINE, located on the border with Switzerland, is particularly close to nature, ideal for both sporting and contemplative holidays.





Since the beginnings of tourism in the 18th century, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley is a place where stories have been written. This is where mountaineering began andwhere mountain tourism developed, where the first Winter Olympics were born and where technical prowess reached new heights.

New altitude sports continue to emerge here and the past and present great literary narratives inspire generations around the world.

Energy, pioneering spirit, commitment, are the strong values that qualify this exceptional territory.

The Chamonix Valley leads the way and invites the visitor to discover its extraordinary history, explore its captivating nature and live unique experiences in this lively alpine capital!



### THE MUSTS



#### RUB SHOULDERS WITH THE GIANTS AT THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI

Inaugurated in 1955, the Aiguille du Midi cable car reaches the dizzy height of 3842m. From the centre of Chamonix, it allows access to the high mountains in 20 minutes, and offers its visitors an impressive panorama of the Mont-Blanc massif and the surrounding Alps. The intrepid can take the 'Step into the Void<sup>®</sup>'. This attraction is a feat of architectural and technical prowess: a 2.50 m long glass case, suspended above 1000 m of void. 500 000 visitor per year.

https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/

#### GUIDED VISIT OF THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI

In order to discover all the facets of this emblematic site, this summer a mountain professional is on hand to accompany visitors. The objective is to enhance the visitor experience whether it be cultural (construction of the site, specificities, constraints), environmental (reading the landscape, fauna, flora, climate change) or sports orientated (history of mountaineering, reading the landscape).

Daily in July/August – dates TBC for June and September. This free service is available for holders of a MONT BLANC MultiPass and Aiguille du Midi return tickets. Lift reservation is compulsory between 9am and 1,30pm

https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/visites-guidees



#### A JOURNEY TO THE MER DE GLACE

Famous since the visit of the Britons Windham and Pococke in 1741, the Mer de Glace is an iconic excursion in the Chamonix valley. Formerly accessible by mule, this cog railway which departs from Chamonix, has been transporting visitors to the Montenvers site (1913m) since 1909. Visitors will enjoy a magnificent panorama of the largest French glacier, the Drus and the Grandes Jorasses. 350 000 visitor per year.

https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/ montenvers-mer-de-glace



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## THE GOOD LIFE IN SERVOZ



Located between the Fiz chain and the Mont-Blanc massif, Servoz opens the doors to the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley. The life of this small village, composed of ten hamlets, has long been punctuated by agropastoralism and the seasons. A walk in Old Servoz allows you to stroll among traditional farmshouses. The many bread ovens - some of which are still in use , the magnificent water troughs - there are said to be around thirty of them in the village, are all testimonies of rural life in" this authentic village, where life is good.

Proposed by the Tourist Office, a <u>nature and heritage quiz</u> invites you to discover Old Servoz and the hamlets of Bouchet and Servoz-le-Lac.

The Maison du Lieutenant is an interpretation center for mountain agriculture. It hosts many cultural events. Its permanent or temporary exhibitions build bridges between the "terroir" of yesterday and today.

The Gorges de la Diosaz, with its five superb cascades offers a refreshing excursion for all the family. The well-euipped paths and footbridges provide access to this impressive site, classified since 1875..

Rich in orchards, the village of Servoz produces apples, pears and plums for the great pleasure of gourmets.

Mid-October, Servoz organizes its annual Sheep Fair, an important local event on the valley's agenda. In addition to the sheep competition, there are activities for all ages: making cider, bougnettes (Savoyard potato fritters), musical entertainment and an exhibition of tractors!



## CAPTIVATING HISTORY



### TOURISM ACROSS THE CENTURIES

The year 1741 remains an important date in the history of the Chamonix valley, for it was when two Englishmen first visited this small market town at the foot of Mont-Blanc changing its destiny forever and creating a summer craze, which was to last close to 170 years; that of visiting its famous glacier 'la Mer de Glace'.

The conquest of Mont Blanc by Jacques Balmat and Michel-Gabriel Paccard in 1786 demystified the peaks dominating the valley and forever sealed the destiny of this small mountain village, whose inhabitants had previous lived as peasant farmers.

The railway arrived in the valley in 1901 marking yet another turning point in the developing trend of tourism, accompanied by the emergence of grander and more comfortable hotels.

The famous Montenvers train was inaugurated in 1909 and the first ever winter Olympic Games were organised in Chamonix in 1924, contributing to the development of winter sports in the valley.

From the 1920s onwards, many ski lifts were built: the Glacier, Planpraz, Bellevue in les Houches and later in 1955 the world-famous Aiguille du Midi cable car.

#### **PIONEERING SPIRIT**

•1091 : First official mention of Chamonix in a legal act of donation by Count Aimon of Geneva

- 1741 : Considered the first tourists, Englishmen William Windham and Richard Pococke, visit the valley
- 1760 : First hotel in the valley (L'auberge de la mère Coutterand)
- 1786 : First ascent of Mont Blanc by two Chamonix men, Jacques Balmat and Dr Paccard
- 1821 : Creation of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix- Mont-Blanc
- 1860 : The Savoy region becomes a part of France
- 1901 : Arrival of the train in the valley
- 1908 : Commissioning of the Montenvers train
- 1924 : First Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix
- 1927 : Planpraz cable car
- 1930 : Brévent cable car
- 1934 : Golf Opening
- 1936 : Bellevue cable car in les Houches
- 1955 : Aiguille du Midi cable car
- 1965 : Opening of the Mont-Blanc Tunnel
- 2021: 200 years of the Compagnie des Guides of Chamonix
- 2022: 90 years of the High Mountain Military School (EMHM)



## PROJECTS



#### THE NEW CHARAMILLON GONDOLA LIFT – BALME

Work began in spring 2021, with the construction of the top lift station and has resumed after the winter 2021-2022 ski season with the reconstruction of the base station at le Tour and the gondola installation. Consequently the lifts will not operate this summer. The future installation will have 39 cabins with 10 places, making it possible to transport 2,200 people/hour (compared to 1,004 at present). The new cabins will cover the 376m vertical drop in 5.26 minutes, at a speed of 6m/second. The new gondola will open in December 2022.







#### THE TRAMWAY OF MONT BLANC

The Tramway du Mont Blanc (TMB) is the highest cogwheel train in France. Departing from Saint-Gervais-le-Fayet, it transports visitors to Bellevue (1,800 m) and continues on to the Nid d'Aigle (2,372 m). Commissioned in 1913, the steam locomotives were replaced in 1956 by electric motors. They were christened Anne, Jeanne and Marie, as a tribute to the daughters of the proprietor. at the time. This spring the TMB has commissioned new locomotives, scheduled to operate for the winter 2022-23 season. Marguerite, named after the 4th daughter of the former owner, will be a new addition to the rail fraternity.

https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/tramway-montblan

## PROJECTS

#### MONTENVERS SITE - MER DE GLACE: HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Explored for the first time by William Windham and Richard Pococke in 1741, La Mer de Glace, the largest French glacier, is a living witness to the climate changes of our time. In order to preserve and enhance the memory of this emblematic site, the Municipal Council of Chamonix has approved an investment programme of over 53 million euros.

25 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a new cable car which will facilitate access on and off the glacier for visitors, alpinists and skiers arriving from the Vallée Blanche. More than 20 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a Glacier and Climate Interpretation Center (CIGC), the objective of which is to inform and educate visitors about climate change.

For the implementation of this project, a 33-year public service concession contract was signed in June 2021 with Compagnie de la Mer de Glace. This newly formed company is held by the Compagnie du Mont Blanc (60%), the Caisse des Dépôts et des Consignations (30%) and the Crédit Agricole des Savoie bank (10%).

An ambitious programme for an exceptional site which will aim to:

- Preserve and enhance the memory of a pioneering site in the history of glacier discovery and access to high mountains.
- Protect both the heritage and the landscape.
- Inform and educate visitors about climate change and its impact on the Mer de Glace glacier.
- Improve the visitor experience in terms of site discovery and access to the glacier.
- Ensure the strictest respect for the natural site of Montenvers (architecture and technical integration).



#### THE MAJOR STAGES OF THE PROJECT:

December 2023, opening of the new Mer de Glace cable car
December 2024, opening of the «Glaciorium» Climate and Glacier Interpretation Centre https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/projet-montenvers.

Work to reconfigure the site began this spring 2022, with the dismantling of the panoramic terrace and restaurant, and will run through to 2025. This summer, the Montenvers site will remain accessible to visitors via the cog railway. The gondola will operate and the ice cave will be open to the public.

## ACCOMMODATION



#### LA VERTICALE\*\*

Located in the historic heart of Chamonix, a stone's throw from the tourist office, the former Hôtel du Louvre has become La Verticale. Now owned by SARL Core Hotels – who also manage the hotel Les Lanchers\*\* in Les Praz de Chamonix – the establishment will reopen after a complete interior renovation in June 2022. The building will have 24 rooms and conference facilities that can be converted into a coworking space. The architectural firm Haag & Baquet from Sallanches have been entrusted with the renovations.

https://hotelverticale.com/

#### PACCARD RENTALS: A FAMILY, A LIFESTYLE

With solid Chamonix roots, the Paccard family has hospitality at heart and, for several generations they have cultivated a certain art of living in the mountains. In addition to their 4-star hotel «The Hermitage Paccard», they now offer top-of-the-range rentals in the vicinity of the hotel in the hamlet of Les Mouilles. Rentals include three apartments, a private chalet and a beautiful village house, combining quality materials, alpine style and modern comforts.

https://paccard-locations.com/en





NEW MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOTEL CHAMONIX\*\* Located opposite the Tourist Office, the picturesque 2-star hotel is now part of the Hameau Faucigny, managed by the <u>Mont Blanc Collection</u> Group.

<u>ttps://hotel-le-chamonix.co.uk/</u>

### ACCOMMODATION



### THE RICHMOND HOTEL – A FAMILY AFFAIR

In 1922, the Chamonix valley had 78 familyrun hotels. Today, there are only 11 remaining, one of them being the the emblematic Hotel Richemond. Built in 1914, this Chamonix institution has been managed by the same family for 5 generations. The magnificent 5-storey high granite building accommodates 52 rooms. Le Richemond exudes an art of living, distilled with passion and professionalism by Claire Sarraz-Bournet and her brother Bruno. They know the sometimes turbulent history of this beautiful establishment by heart. Like all Chamonix hotels it experienced a golden age in the Roaring Twenties, was occupied by the Germans during the Second World War, before finding new life with the advent of winter sports tourism. Next to the hotel is the 19th century Villa Beauséjour, home of the Sarraz-Bournets, which notably hosted the famous mountaineer Edward Whymper in 1896.

https://www.richemond.fr/en



Find out more about Chamonix's family-run hotels on our blog https://en.chamonix.com/blog-chamonix

## **GOURMET NEWS**

#### MAISON BOURDILLAT GOOD BREAD IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Mickey Bourdillat, former Michelin starred chef, officiating at the Matafan (the restaurant of the Mont Blanc\*\*\*\*\* hotel), gives pride of place to local and seasonal products. He is also passionate about making bread and has created his own "respectus panis", kneaded and baked according to the rules of the art. After a more than promising start in pastry, his young son Romain, aged only 19, follows in his father's footsteps. He recently opened his laboratory to produce exceptional bread and pastries. His croissants were even voted "best croissant in Haute-Savoie" in 2021! Romain does not have a shop, but his bread and pastries are delivered to hotels and to a few select addresses in Chamonix: le Refuge Pavot, la Maison Fleurette or Natif Café.



#### <u>http://maisonbourdillat.com</u>



HAMEAU ALBERT 1ER

Damien Leveau, the young Michelin star chef of the emblematic Hameau Albert 1er\*\*\*\*\*, has just been awarded the «Grand Trophy for tomorrow» awarded by Gault & Millau.

<u> https://www.hameaualbert.fr/en/gastronomic-restaurant</u>



#### THE LOCAL

After studying STAPS, with a specialization in sports product design engineering, and a career as a high-level handball player, Antoine turned to his second passion: gastronomy. This love of good food, he inherited it from his mother and grandmother. In February 2022, Antoine opened «Le Local». Its concept: to offer fast dining with slow-cooked traditional dishes (beef bourguignon, coq au vin, blan-quette...). Every lunchtime, the Local offers a vegetarian, a meat and a fish dish, with a broad appeal. The menu changes every week according to the seasons. Antoine mainly uses local products: meat from the Ferme de Maneguet (Taninges), coffee and chocolate from Shouka, cheeses from Jérôme Garcin (Les Houches).

https://www.instagram.com/le.local.chamonix/ 06 48 76 16 48

### **GOURMET NEWS**



#### L'INDEX, CUISINE AND CULTURE

Nestled in the Bois du Bouchet, a few minutes walk from the centre of Chamonix, the Index replaces the old Robinson creamery. Brimming with projects, the young managers William Le Roux and Thibaut Colomb, previously show producers and amateur cooking enthusiasts, aspire to create a convivial address which mixes cuisine and culture. The new bistro-style decor, with its black and wooden tables and red and white checkered tablecloths, sets the tone. William is in the kitchen and makes it a point of honour to offer his grandmother's recipes (signature cassoulet, calf's head, etc.), favouring local and regional products. Once a month, the chef will highlight a French region through ephemeral dishes. The restaurant has a capacity for 42 covers and a superb terrace with a view of the Mont-Blanc range and the Index. This summer, on the strength of their expertise and thanks to their address book, William and Thibault will be organising festive events: concerts, plays, comedy shows...

309, promenade des Crèmeries 74400 Chamonix-Mont-Blanc 07 88 69 48 25

#### DA LUIGI: HUNGARIAN BRIOCHE SPECIALTIES

This summer, a new gourmet address on Avenue Ravanel Le Rouge in Chamonix, will specialise in homemade ice creams and delicious Hungarian brioches «Kurtos Kalacs». Carla, the owner is of Hungarian origin, and wished to honour this traditional Carpathian pastry, created 800 years ago in Transylvania, and eaten especially at harvest time.

The famous brioches come in several flavours and are made on site by Carla's mother, according to a well-kept family recipe.

From €4.50. Da Luigi – Avenue Ravanel Le Rouge - CHAMONIX





### NEW MANAGER AND NEW CHEF AT THE CLUB HOUSE – CHAMONIX GOLF COURSE CHALET

Located in the heart of the magnificent 18-hole golf course of Chamonix, the Club House is now managed by SERAC. Golfers and non-golfers are welcome to enjoy a moment of tranquility in a charming location. The new chef Franco lovino, of Italian origin, but a long-standing Chamonix native, concocts cuisine based on products from the Alps with Italian influences, and offers a special dish every day.

The Club House is open daily- on golf opening dates - at lunchtime or simply for a drink.

## **GOURMET NEWS**



#### L'ARVEYRON - OPEN HOUSE

Led by the young and dynamic hotel manager Massimo, of Sardinian origin, the new Arveyron team has put spring into the step of this 32-room establishment, which now also proposes 2 dormitories for 8 people.

The restaurant is open daily - minimum lunchtimes - and chef Virgil Désailloud, a native of the Chamonix valley, is brimming with creativity, elaborating original dishes with Savoyard and Sardinian accents: Savoyard spring rolls (st Marcelin stuffed spring rolls and potatoes, confit cabbage salad), «tacots diots» (wheat pancakes garnished with Diots de Savoie candied in red wine, cabbage red, red onion and mustard cream) or «Cubanos de l'Arveyron (revisited Cuban sandwich with confit pork shoulder, ham with herbs, wild garlic mustard, pickled gherkins and Tomme de Savoie).

This summer, the chef wants to take advantage of the rural setting of the Arveyron to set up an outside bar offering street food with Savoyard influence, tapas and a salad bar in a hippy chic atmosphere. https://www.arveyron.com/en

#### MA KANTOCHE

Daughter of Italian restaurateurs, and a Spanish mother born in Morocco, Karell Gnoni developed a love for spicy, colorful and flavoursome cuisine from a very early age. In 2018, then an employee at Chamonix Tourist Office, Karell began preparing meals for her colleagues. The success of this new enterprise opened up new horizons and Karell decided to start her own catering business.

She now has 150 customers in the Chamonix valley, and also offers home deliveries. Orders are made via WhatsApp with a choice of 2 menus per week (dish + dessert between €9 and €12), based on fresh and seasonal products, delivered in returnable jars. Among the signature dishes: braised beef poke bowl, Moroccan salad as a starter and carrot cake or lime cheesecake for dessert.

Karell has also developed a mobile catering service for a maximum of 30 covers. https://www.facebook.com/Ma-Kantoche-279277842760027/about 06 13 51 03 48



#### LA FOLIE DOUCE HOTELS CHAMONIX - A UNIQUE CABARET DINNER IN THE ALPS

This summer, La Folie Douce Hotels continues to put on a show with cabaret evenings 6 days a week. The highlight of the evening is the famous cabaret dinner.

Aperitifs from 6pm with a signature cocktail followed by a 3-course dinner: €58/person https://lafoliedoucehotels.com/en/hotel-chamonix/

### **CRAFTSMEN & ARTISTS**

#### **DIDIER SIMOND : SHARP AS A KNIFE**

A native of Chamonix, Didier Simond is both carpenter and ski instructor. Approximately ten years ago, he had the idea of creating a unique knife, the shape of which evokes the form of Mont Blanc and engraved with the line taken for the first ascent of the summit in 1786: «The Chamonix « knife was born.

He set up a workshop in the garage of his house in Les Pelerins and soon developed a whole range of knives using different essences of wood for the handles: walnut, juniper, birch, heart of ash, pine, ebony ... Never short of ideas, he even makes knives with fossil wood that he finds on the Mer de Glace glacier

New for summer 2022: a cheese knife, the handle of which represents the summit of Mont Blanc. The shape of the blade follows the contour of Mont Blanc du Tacul, the Col du Midi and ends in two points which form the summit of the Aiguille du Midi.

Didier Simond sells his knives at Chamonix market on Saturday mornings.

https://www.lechamoniard.com/



### SIMON CHARRIERE, AN ILLUSTRATOR WHO MAKES HIS TRACE

An artist on skis, pencil in hand. Originally from Fribourg, Simon Charrière settled in the Chamonix valley 5 years ago. His inspiration? He finds it in the mountains and in the valley, the ski lines and the personalities he meets. This is also the subject of his latest book published by Editions Paulsen Youth: Zian on the Mont Blanc. In collaboration with his friend, Hervé Dupied, Simon addresses children from 6 to 99 years old, by telling the adventures of a little bird, driven by the desire to climb the mountains! Zian will show courage and daring to achieve his dream and discover the meaning of friendship!

https://www.simoncharriere.com/\_



#### BÖ - ARTISANAL POTTERY WORKSHOP IN SERVOZ

Cécile Ballauri, an artisan potter, opened her workshop in Servoz a few months ago. Cécile is also a high-mountain guide and member of the Cie des guides de Chamonix. She wishes to devote more time to her profession of ceramicist, even though the mountains remain her inspiration.

"When I am modelling earth, I rediscover the sensations of when I am climbing rock faces. This mineral contact, the grain, the diversity, continually surprises me. Its contact is soothing and energizing and it gives meaning to my life ». Cécile produces ceramics in soft, pastel colors. She uses sand from the Arve as a render, or incorporated into the earth. "Granite" plates, flake mugs, water jugs, salad bowls, dishes, boxes ... the range is growing. Cécile's Italian husband Simone is passionate about woodworking and he makes a valuable contribution to certain pieces, such as tailor-made carved wooden lids. Discover her new collection and the on-line boutique:

https://www.ballauriofficine.com/



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### **ACTIVE SUMMER**



#### **HIGH MOUNTAIN BIVOUAC**

This summer, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is offering a nocturnal high-mountain experience. Spend a night in a bivouac beneath the stars, in the heart of the Vallée Blanche, at an altitude of more than 3000m. Ascent and descent by cable car. 100m of elevation gain per day. From 330€/person.

#### All information on:

https://www.chamonix-guides.com/en/activities/ details/mountaineering\_high-mountain-bivouac

#### SINGLE-SURFACE PARAGLIDING COURSES WITH LES AILES DU MONT BLANC

Created over twenty years ago by Sandie Cochepain (ex-paragliding world champion) and counting Cyrilde Pic (ex-French speed-riding champion) among its team, Les Ailes du Mont Blanc has acquired solid experience teaching paragliding in Chamonix.

This summer, the paragliding school is offering «single-surface paragliding courses» to help people discover these small, ultra-light wings designed for mountain flying and adventure.

The courses are aimed at everyone, beginners or young pilots in search of new sensations. €365/day for private lessons / €675 for 5 days of group training. https://www.lesailesdumontblanc.com/en/ homepage-lesailes-du-mont-blanc





### MTB: NEW ROUTE SIGNAGE AND MAP

This summer, classic and electric mountain bike enthusiasts may easily find the route that suits them best, thanks to new signage and a new dedicated bike map (available in all Tourist Offices in the Chamonix valley ).

In the exceptional setting of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, bikers may enjoy a large number of circuits, ranging from easy fun routes, through moderately difficult trails to more technical and sporty itineraries: FAMILY, CROSS COUNTRY, ALL MOUNTAIN, CHALLENGE, ENDUROS...

https://en.chamonix.com/activities/summer/ mountain-bike

## **ACTIVE SUMMER**

#### ETHNOBOTANICAL WALK

Mountain leader and journalist, Sébastien Perrier chose to settle in Les Houches, in the Chamonix valley, to satisfy his love of the mountains. His attraction for nature and his inquisitive mind led him to pursue a degree in ethnobotany.

Through his knowledge of plants, he explains how they define local traditions and how the vegetation has evolved since the agro-pastoral way of life to the present day. From anecdotes to recipes, plants tell the life of a hamlet and our link to the plant world.

Ethnobotanical walk in the hamlet of Les Chavants (Les Houches): Duration: About 3 hours. From 10 years old.  $25 \in /$  person. Next outings: July 12 and 25, 2022 and August 8 and 23, 2022 at 2pm.

Alongside his guided outings Sébastien's ethnobotanical research into the uses of plants within the Espace Mont-Blanc, has led to the publication of a book with Glénat Editions in June 2022.

https://www.montagnenature.com/sorties-et-ateliers-plantes-sauvages-comestibles/?utm\_source=google&utm\_medium=cpc&utm\_campaign=plantescomestibles





#### NEW FUN AREA FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS IN THE VILLAGE OF LES BOIS

15 different modules include: slalom, beams, root passage, tunnel, seesaw, jumping boards, bumps, scree slope, ramp, trial area... https://chamonix.fr/actualites/1922-nouvel-espace-ludigue-pour-les-vtt-aux-bois.html

## **SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### CHAMONIX FILM FESTIVAL

From 14 to 19 June: The second edition of the Chamonix Film Festival holds the promise of an exceptional week dedicated to mountain enthusiasts. Christophe and Morgane Raylat are the organisers of this event which pays tribute to mountaineers, climbers and explorers. On the agenda are the best productions of the year with around fifteen films which explore all the facets of adventure. In addition to film screenings, the festival offers mountain outings supervised by the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, conferences & meetings at the Maison des Artistes, photo and video courses and high-mountain bivouac organized by the brand Petzl, major sponsor of the event.

https://www.chamonixfilmfestival.fr/en/welcome/

#### ARC'TERYX ALPINE ACADEMY

From 30 June to 3 July 2022: Now in its 11th year, the Arc'teryx Alpine Academy has become a major international event for mountaineering amateurs. The programme offers a wide variety of workshops in the Mont-Blanc massif, supervised by high mountain guides and professional sportsmen. The Alpine Village, set up in the heart of Chamonix hosts illustrated talks, film previews and free entertainment.

https://chamonix.arcteryxacademy.com/

#### **CLIMBING WORLD CUP**

From 8 to 10 July 2022: Among the biggest worldwide climbing events, Chamonix Mont-Blanc once again hosts the World Cup difficulty challenge.

A spectacular event in the centre of Chamonix with the Mont-Blanc massif as a unique backdrop

https://www.chamonixsport.com/en/sections/ coupe-du-monde-d-escalade/presentation

#### COSMOJAZZ FESTIVAL

23 to 30 July 2022: Chamonix saw the birth of the Cosmojazz festival in 2010 and this unique celebration of jazz in the mountains has gone from strength to strength - an extraordinary human adventure combining superb landscapes and cosmic sounds.

This festival brings together musicians from all walks of life who perform in natural mountain amphitheatres throughout the Chamonix valley and as far as the Trient Valley in Switzerland. In addition to the free concerts at altitude, there are many concerts and jam sessions in Chamonix centre from 6pm

www.cosmojazzfestival.com









## **SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### ARTOCÈNE

From 18 June to 17 July: The Artocene festival is an encounter between architecture and contemporary art . This year, the chosen theme is «Glaciers and the Fluidity of Time». The 2022 programme showcases several exhibitions in the town centre but also in the mountains, notably at the arrival station of the famous Montenvers train overlooking the Mer de Glace.

https://www.artocene.fr/



#### GÉOFESTIVAL

From 19 July to 2 August 2022 : For its 6th edition, the Geo Festival has chosen the Chamonix valley and the region around Mont-Blanc. This year, the theme will be «Where do the Alps come from?» On the programme: a travelling conference for the general public in 7 municipalities, from Chamonix to Courmayeur, as well as 32 «Géorandos» to attract a large «nature-curious» public. The conferences are free and without registration, however, to attend the georandos, registration necessary online from May 1, 2022.

https://www.geofestival2022.com/

#### NIGHT OF THE BEARS

From 1 to 13 August 2022: Born in Vallorcine, the valley of bears, in 2019, this event takes place every year in the heart of summer. Between Servoz and Finhaut (just across the Swiss border), it offers workshops, meetings, debates, concerts and artistic creations. New this summer «The evening for little bears» for an audience of 3 to 7 years old.

https://www.valleedutrient.ch/en/festival-la-nuit-des-ours-fp478

#### FÊTE DES GUIDES

From 12 to 15 August 2022: Created in 1821, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is the largest and oldest guiding company in the world. It is also the most emblematic and whilst remaining attached to its founding values of respect and sharing, it is constantly evolving to move with the times. On the programme of the traditional Fête des Guides: parade, induction of new guides, concerts...

https://www.chamonix-guides.com/en/

#### THE «GRANDS» MUSIC FESTIVAL

From 9 to 11 September 2022: At the foot of the Grands Montets in Argentière, the «LGMF» showcases this legendary site, known worldwide for a certain «art de vivre»: live simply and enjoy life as it comes!

https://www.lesgrandsmusicfestival.com/









## TRAIL VALLEY



In an exceptional natural setting, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley is a favorite place for trail running, with a multitude of varied and spectacular routes. From beginners to experts, there are 18 marked trails between Servoz and Vallorcine. Descriptions and topos on <a href="http://valleedutrail.com/en">http://valleedutrail.com/en</a>

#### CALENDAR OF RACES

#### MARATHON DU MONT-BLANC

#### From 23 to 26 June 2022

No less than 8 races are programmed, for a total of 10,500 runners from 85 nations for this first big meeting of the season: 90km, 42km, 23km, 10km, Vertical KM, Young Race Marathon, Star Duo and Mini Cross. New in 2022: the finish of the 42 km race will be Place du Triangle de l'Amitié, in Chamonix town centre;

There is also a "Trail Camp" exhibitor village in Chamonix. https://www.marathonmontblanc.fr/en/

#### ARGENTRAIL

#### 24 July 2022

Trail organized by the Argentière Sports Club. Trail organised by Argentière Sport's Club. This 5th edition takes trailers through the Villages of Argentière and Le Lavancher, the alpine pastures of La Pendant and finishes on the mountain of Peclerey with a breathtaking view of Mont-Blanc, La Verte and Les Drus.

<u>https://www.argentrail.com/</u>

#### **UTMB® - GLOBAL TRAIL SUMMIT**

#### From 22 to 28 August 2022

An epic trail on a legendary route around the Mont-Blanc massif, at the crossroads of France, Italy and Switzerland. New this year is the Experience Trail Cours (ETC): 15km and 1300m V+. Kilian Jornet, a legend in himself, makes his comeback for the 2022 edition.

#### TRAIL DES AIGUILLES ROUGES

#### 25 September 2022

The last meeting of the trail-running season in Chamonix is popular amongst nature-lovers. It has two variants: Trail des Aiguilles Rouges & P'Tit Trail des Aiguilles Rouges, with a Mini-TAR version. https://www.aiguillesrouges.fr/





### **TEAM CHAMONIX**



Le Team Chamonix-Mont-Blanc brings together 12 athletes representing various disciplines , who are supported by the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley. They participate in the biggest national and international competitions.

Two new recruits have joined Team Chamonix: Juliette Willmann in freeride skiing & mountain biking and Grégoire Curmer in trail running.

- Blaise GIEZENDANNER, alpine skiing, 3rd downhill at Kitzbühel 2022, 4th Super G at the Olympic Games, PyeongChang

- Léo SLEMETT, freeride skier, 2017 Freeride World Tour world champion

- Merlin SURGET, snowboard cross, 3rd overall in the 2021 World Cup, 5th at the 2022 Olympics, Beijing

- Coralie BENTZ, cross-country skiing, 16th in the 2022 World Cup - Martin COLLET, cross-country skier, 3rd overall OPA
- Marget RAVINEL ski mountaineering 2rd overall in

- Margot RAVINEL, ski mountaineering, 3rd overall in the U20 World Cup 2020/2021, 3 medals at the Youth Olympic Games in 2020 - Juliette WILLMANN, freeride skiing, 4th general classification FWT 2021, mountain biking, 1st French Enduro Cup Les Houches 2021

- Baptiste ELLMENREICH, ski mountaineering, 3rd U23 World Cup 2020/2021

- Iloé RAVANEL, telemark, 2021 Junior World Team Champion - Rémi BOURDELLE, paraglider, 13th World Cup
- Grégoire CURMER, trail running, 7th UTMB, double winner of the
- Diagonale des Fous 2019 - Laurine LUGON-MOULIN, alpine skier, French U21 Super Combined Champion and French U21 Vice-Champion of Slalom 2021

#### JULIETTE MASTERS TWO COMPETITIVE SPORTS

As comfortable on skis as on a bike, Juliette Willmann is a promising young athlete who has obtained excellent results in her two favorite disciplines.

On skis: 4th overall FWT 2021 2x 2nd FWT Andorra 2021.

Mountain biking: 1st French Enduro Cup Les Houches 2021 1st Jura Regional Cup 2021 Her favorite mountain biking spot in the Chamonix valley is Le Prarion, in Les Houches.





#### **REMITAKES OFF**

Local boy Rémi Bourdelle is an accomplished sportsman, passionate about different practices: speed-riding, skiing, run & fly, climbing, kite-surfing, mountaineering... He discovered paragliding at the age of 11. In 2014, he graduated as a physical education and sports teacher. Having competed on the national circuit for a long time, Rémi has taken part in the biggest international competitions since 2017 and regularly reaches the top 20 of the World Cups. For training in the Chamonix Valley, Rémi loves La tête de Balme (Le Tour), a paradise for paragliders. «In winter you can train there with small wings and skis taking advantage of the southerly winds to soar just above the slopes. In summer it is a magnificent starting point for making distance flights. In the autumn, its perfect for «hike and fly» excursions. The playing field is ideal, vast and without obstacles.»

### GREGOIRE RUNS TOWARDS

Grégoire moved to Chamonix at an early age and quickly fell in love with the valley and its exceptional environment. Passionate about sports, he practices skiing, mountaineering, ski mountaineering, hiking, paragliding... and trail running, a discipline in which he excels. After a victory in 2019 on the Diagonale des Fous, he finished 7th in the UTMB<sup>®</sup> in 2021. At the same time, this high-level athlete works as second in the kitchen at the Cap Horn restaurant in Chamonix.



Press File Summer 2022 - 19

## ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL HERITAGE

As part of the «Espace Valléen» program, the objective of which is to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the territory, the Municipalities of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley are leading a process of tourist diversification.

This approach aims to provide a better understanding of the natural ressources and assets of our valley, and to encourage individual and collective commitment to sustainable development. This summer, several new initiatives may be discovered :

#### **5 NEW THEME TRAILS**

On the theme of Climate Adventure, 5 scientific and entertaining routes offer a scenario and an intriguing plot. Visitors are invited to follow in the footsteps of the emblematic scientist Joseph Vallot and members of his family, who, in the 19th century, were already questioning the evolution of the climate and the landscapes of the Chamonix valley.

A digital application makes it possible to download all the information and a kit of games (5 notebooks, mini interpretation tools, etc.) will be distributed free of charge in all tourist offices in the Chamonix valley, at the Maison du Lieutenant in Servoz, or at the Col des Montets chalet. The epilogue of the plot takes place in the centre of Chamonix. The five trails are united by a common thread, but may be discovered separately.

Available at the end of June 2022

- Flowers in Servoz
- Forests in Les Houches
- Wild gardens in Chamonix
- Torrents in Vallorcine
- Epilogue in Chamonix centre

#### **CREATION OF 10 BELVEDERES:**

Orientation tables, totems or didactic panels, these 10 belvederes will allow visitors an «intelligent» reading of the landscape or shed light on the history of these emblematic natural sites.

SERVOZ: Alpage de Pormenaz, Tête de la Fontaine, Château St Michel

LES HOUCHES: Alpage de Chailloux

CHAMONIX: Cerro viewpoint, Glaciers and Para stations, Chapeau viewpoint

VALLORCINE: Crest of the Posettes, Tête de la Chevrette Croix de Loriaz

This summer, visitors will appreciate the 5 new panels on the summit terrace of Le Brévent.





## ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL HERITAGE



#### NEW SCENOGRAPHY AT THE COL DES MONTETS CHALET

Gateway to the National Nature Reserves of the Aiguilles Rouges massif, the Col des Montets chalet welcomes nearly 50,000 visitors each summer. It proposes exhibitions, events and field trips dedicated to the fauna and flora of our mountains.

First opened to the public in 1976, the visitor centre has undergone a thorough renovation. It will re-open to the public this summer with a new scenography, relief map of the reserve; images illustrating fauna, flora, landscapes; films and sound documents in an immersive room; 3D models; naturalised animals, microscopes and binoculars for observations, tablets with digital content, games...

The two thematic paths around the chalet du col are also being renovated as part of the "Espaces Valléens" programme: the botanical trail and the path leading to the Vallon de Bérard.



## UP ON THE MOUNTAIN...

#### **BLAITIERE BLEATS AGAIN**

Nestled on the northern slope of the Chamonix valley, the Blaitière mountain pasture, located at an altitude of 1708m, welcomes a new couple of shepherds and their flock of sheep this summer.

Highly motivated, Carine and Thomas Gardiennet decided to change their lives to become alpine farmers. Carine was an intensive care nurse and Thomas a project manager, but their passion for the mountains and agro-pastoralism took over. After a first experience in the mountain pastures of the Pyrenees, this summer they are bringing around fifty ewes to the heights of Chamonix.





This first season will be an opportunity for the young couple to get their bearing, but there they are not short of ideas. From this summer, visitors will be able to buy and taste fresh cheeses, made by Carine with sheeps milk, and gourmet dishes and drinks. Member of an association for the promotion of wool, she also plans to make items with the wool of her sheep (headbands, hats, etc.). A felting workshop will be offered on site on July 11 and August 18 (8 people maximum).

Thomas makes his own soap and wants to develop a range of soaps with the milk of his sheep.

Thanks to the Blaitière mountain association, the farm buildings were expanded in 2021 thus increasing capacity fro the animals, with a new sheepfold, a milking parlor and a secure barn to protect the animals from wolf predation. As part of the Territorial Pastoral Plan, two events will be offered to the general public this summer:

Two events will be offered to the general public this summer:

June 18: seasonal migration to Blaitière to accompany the shepherds and their flock

August 4: open day on Blaitière mountain pasture

The alpage of Blaitière is accessible in two hours on foot from the centre of Chamonix, but it is also a possible stopover when hiking down from the Plan de l'Aiguille.

https://en.chamonix.com/activities/hiking/hiking-trails/the-alpine-pastures-of-blaitiere-dessous-and-dessus

BUT ALSO...The 9th international meeting of black Queens (the combative Herens cows) which takes place on 17 and 18 September in Chamonix. Facebook : reinesdelespacemontblanc

### ENVIRONMENT





### THE CHAMONIX VALLEY: A LABORATORY FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Global warming affects large mountain ranges two to three times faster than elsewhere. In the Mont-Blanc Massif, the temperature has increased by 2°c since the 1930s, compared to 0.74°c globally in the 20th century.

Aware that it is essential to preserve this environment, which is as exceptional as it is fragile, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley has been resolutely engaged for several years in multiple challenges to actively organize an ecological transition.

https://www.cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.tr/ documents/environnement/energie\_climat/pdf/ dossier\_presse\_environnement\_mai\_2021



#### GENTLE MOBILITY

Electric shuttles, hybrid and gas buses, renovation of the railway line, cycle route, pedestrian paths: the Chamonix valley is developing and structuring its eco-mobility. Since the year 2005, rail and bus public transport within the valley has been free of charge for our guests and residents and accounts for over 3 million passengers per year. More than 11 km of cycle paths have been developed between Chamonix and Les Houches over the past four years and this programme continues. Electric mobility is encouraged through free charging stations.

#### TWENTY NEW ELECTRIC CHARGING SOCKETS INSTALLED IN JUNE 2022

The Chamonix municipality gives its full support to electric mobility.

In June 2022, 20 new electric charging sockets will be added to the 10 existing ones, both in the town centre P+R and in the Saint Michel car park.

http://chamonix.fr/actualites/2113vingt-nouvelles-prises-de-rechargeelectrique-seront-installees-enjuin-2022.html



#### CITIZEN PEDALLERS: ECOTRIVELO ASSOCIATION

Ecotrivelo is a young association, which collects bio-waste from professionals in the valley in order to make compost. A virtuous approach, since all collections are carried out by bike! The association now has about twenty clients, including Plan B and Cosmiques hotels, La Panière, L'ENSA... and also intervenes during one-off events (UTMB, film productions...). The waste is composted locally in the valley. https://www.ecotrivelo.fr

#### ZFE PROJECT (LOW EMISSION ZONE)

In order to restrict the circulation of polluting thermal vehicles, the Community of Communes of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley and the Arve valley are looking to establish by 2023 Low Emission Zones in specific geographical areas, accessible according to their "critairs".

## THE CRYSTALLIERS VALLEY

#### THE MULTIPLE FACETS OF CHAMONIARD CRYSTALS

Until the middle of the 18th century, the mountains of the Chamonix valley were considered cursed and only chamois hunters and crystal seekers dared to venture into their realms.

Carrying out daring feats to bring back quartz or fluorite, the first mountaineers were none other than crystal-hunters, like Jacques Balmat, who made the first ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786. In the 17th century, in the Mont Blanc valley, the demand for crystals was high! They were supplied to manufacturers, particularly in Geneva and Turin, where rock crystal was used for jewellery, chandeliers, items of decoration, snuffboxes etc. Nowadays, the gathering of minerals is often a family tradition, which is perpetuated by a few enthusiasts.

#### Find out more on the Chamonix blog:

https://en.chamonix.com/infos-et-services/espace-presse/chamonix-mont-blanc-terre-des-cristalliers





### LITERARY: CRISTALLIERS, BY JEAN-FRANCK CHARLET

Descendant of a family of mountaineers whose presence in the Chamonix valley has been attested for more than four centuries, Jean-Franck Charlet has inherited two passions: he is a high mountain guide and a crystal hunter. In this autobiographical book, he recounts his passion for «fire in stone» which leads him to tirelessly survey the mountains, from the Alps to the Himalayas. And since he is also an engineer, he narrates the life of crystals, many of which were formed a few million years ago, several kilometers beneath the Earth's surface. Jean-Franck Charlet is a figure of the Compagnie des guides de Chamonix. Publication May 2022 by Guérin Paulsen publishers

#### CULTURAL: THE CHAMONIX VALLEY CRYSTAL MUSEUM, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MINERALOGICAL MUSEUMS IN FRANCE

The crystal museum of the Community of Communes of the Chamonix Valley, located in the Espace Tairraz, reopened to the public in December 2021 after having benefited from a major expansion. Thanks to the legacy of Michel Jouty's mineralogical collection to the city of Chamonix, and that of the Ducarre collection to the Mineralogy Club of Chamonix, the Crystal Museum now exhibits an extraordinary compilation of Alpine and indeed global rock minerals and gems.

It invites visitors to discover the centuries-old tradition of quartz harvesting in the Mont-Blanc Massif, a tradition which is still alive today. The crystal-seekers were the first mountaineers in the valley; not only did they reveal the extraordinary natural resources of the Mont-Blanc massif but they gave their support to scientists in the 18th century and henceforth. Among the major exhibits of the museum, we find an exceptional collection of pink and red fluorites from Mont-Blanc, an Alpine treasure unique in the world. There is also a rich variety of minerals from the Alpine Arc, making this dedicated exhibition a point of excellence of international level.

https://en.chamonix.com/activities/cultural-activities/ museums-exhibitors/tairraz-centre-crystal-museum

### THE CRYSTALLIERS VALLEY



#### PRECIOUS: THE LOST CRYSTALS

Fascinated by crystals and admiring the profession of crystal hunter, the young designer Marine Petroff was keen to develop a concept to enhance the crystal by transforming it into a jewel. She creates unique pieces, by setting raw crystals from the Chamonix region, onto precious metals. Marine has set up her workshop in Chamonix Sud, Place Edmond Désailloud

ttps://www.thelostcrystals.com/story



#### GOURMET: CHOCOLATES AND CRYSTALS FROM CHALET 4810

Located in rue Vallot, in the centre of Chamonix, this former mineral boutique was transformed a few years ago into a cozy tea room, with a stunning crystal-inspired decoration.

Gourmets can enjoy all the great classics of French pastry but also sample original creations,. The chocolate 4810 (Award for Creative Research at the Salon du Chocolat de Paris 2014) and extra fine chocolate bonbons are inspired by prestigious summits - Mont Blanc, the Drus, the Aiguille Verte... and emblematic crystals - pink fluorite, quartz...

http://www.petitsgourmands.fr/index.php/patisserie/ evenement-chalet-4810





#### EPICUREAN: LE BISTROT DES CRISTALLIERS

François-Régis Thévenet and Etienne Baron are both passionate about mountains, wines and of course crystals. Sample artisanal products from the region, accompanied by exceptional wines, in a warm alpine ambience. Here, no blingbling, no marketing, «just» good, real and passionate.

<u>https://www.instagram.com/</u> bistrotdescristalliers<u>/</u>



## **EXHIBITIONS & CULTURE**

#### EXHIBITION AT THE MOUNTAIN MUSEUM IN LES HOUCHES: MONT BORREL, LE MANCHOIR, FORGOTTEN PASTURES

From July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 : From the end of the Middle Ages, the mountain pastures of Mont Borrel and Manchoir were occupied in spring and autumn, according to an organization punctuated by the seasonality of agricultural work. With the decline of agropastoralism, they were gradually abandoned in the 1950s and are now a pleasant destination for walkers. The exhibition recounts the memory of these spaces and those who lived there, enabling visitors to better understand their current situation.

https://en.chamonix.com/activities/cultural-activities/museums-exhibitorsmusee-montagnard



#### PHOTOGRAPHER MONICA DALMASSO EXHIBITS AT HAMEAU ALBERT 1ER

Ecole Trained at the Nationale Louis Lumière in Paris, Monica Dalmasso spent several years in the French climbing team before settling in Chamonix to devote herself to her career as a photographer. She likes to transcribe all that is primordial and poetic in so-called hostile universes: wild or human nature, raw elements, rugged spaces. Different themes are addressed through this exhibition at the Hameau Albert 1er: The wild mountain and a graphic red and white vision of mountaineers, magical forests around the world but also, an alpine and dreamlike vision of the tale «Little Red Riding Hood».

https://coyotecity.myportfolio.com/personal-work



## **EXHIBITIONS & CULTURE**

#### PIOLET AND RIFLE. 90 YEARS OF MILITARY MOUNTAIN PRACTICES IN CHAMONIX

From June 18 to November 11, 2022 at the Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine in Chamonix

The High Mountain Military School (EMHM) celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2022. Established in Chamonix since 1932, it has become one of the important institutions of the valley. Thanks to numerous archives, photographs and collectibles, visitors may discover the fascinating history of this military training centre, where soldiers develop the skills necessary for mountain combat and resistance to severe conditions. Within the school, the High Mountain Military Group represents the world elite of military mountaineering and the French Military Ski Team.



#### REBIRTH OF THE MAISON DES ARTISTS

La Maison des Artistes reopens its doors on June 9, 2 years after its closure.



Faithful to its cultural vocation, it responds to new objectives: encouraging the practice of all the arts, creativity, training, production, artist residency...

Two studios with high quality equipment and a small equipped stage are available for hire, as well as the services of a sound engineer.

On the stage, the eclectic and multidisciplinary programme will broaden its music appeal. Privatizations are also possible for any type of event.

https://maisondesartistes-chamonix.com/

### RAIL AND TRAIL – A NEW NATURE AND HERITAGE QUIZ IN VALLORCINE

The Chamonix Valley Tourist Office invites visitors and residents to discover its villages, hamlets and landscapes through five fun treasure hunts, to do independently, at one's leisure, with family or friends. The common thread of these trails is the historic Mont-Blanc Express. This panoramic train has been travelling the Chamonix valley for over one hundred years, and travel is free of charge for anyone staying between Servoz and Vallorcine.

This new nature quiz sets off from the Buet SNCF station, at the foot of the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve, and finishes at Vallorcine station. The trail is easy, bucolic in all seasons and lasts only an hour. It passes through timeless hamlets, sometimes alongside the Eau Noire torrent, sometimes crossing pasture lands beneath larch-covered slopes. This is an opportunity to discover the unique heritage of the «Valley of Bears», the last French village before the Swiss border.

The four other quizzes available are :

- SERVOZ: accessible all year round (also possible by bike)
- LES BOIS LES TINES: from April to November (also possible by bike)
- ARGENTIERE: accessible all year round
- TRELECHAMP LES AIGUILLES ROUGES: from June to September

https://en.chamonix.com/activities/orientation-itinaries







#### Official Partnership

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### BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CHAMONIX VALLEY WITH<u>OUR</u> BLOG

https://www.chamonix.com/blog-chamonix



SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE

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