



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



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PRESS KIT

SUMMER 2025

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

A LEGENDARY VALLEY AT THE CROSSROADS 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 typical village architecture and its hamlets, is the gateway to the valley.

LES HOUCHES, a family 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 traditional village at the upper end of the valley, is known for its old houses clustered around the church, whose magnificent bulb-shaped steeple is one of the most remarkable in the region.

Last but not least, 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 was born, where mountain tourism took shape, where the first Winter Olympics were held 101 years ago, and where technical feats reached new heights.

Innovative high-altitude sports continue to emerge here, and timeless literary legends inspire generations around the world.

Energy, pioneering spirit, and commitment are the core values that define this exceptional destination.

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



EVENTS

CHAMONIX FILM FESTIVAL

From June 10th to 15th 2025

5th edition of the Chamonix Film Festival, an exceptional week dedicated to all mountain and adventure enthusiasts.

<https://www.chamonixfilmfestival.fr>

ARC'TERYX ALPINE ACADEMY

July 3rd to July 6th 2025

In Chamonix, outdoor master classes on mountaineering, cinema evenings, concerts, professional demonstrations, climbing modules, and even more free activities for all levels of ability.

<http://chamonix.arcteryxacademy.com>

ARGENTRAIL

July 20th 2025

3 race formats, a 14 km and a 27 km either individually or in relay!

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

NIGHT OF THE BEAR

From August 8th to 12th 2025

Artistic and environmental event in Vallorcine

<https://nuit-des-ours.com/>

101ST GUIDES' FESTIVAL

From August 12th to 15th 2025

The famous mountain guide's festival. Traditional ceremony, parade, induction of new guides, spectacle

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr/nos-engagements/solidarite/fete-des-guides>

INTERNATIONAL COW MEETING

September 27th and 28th 2025

10th international cow meeting from the Espace Mont-Blanc region in Chamonix.

<https://www.facebook.com/reinesdespacesmontblanc>

CHAMONIX PHOTO FESTIVAL

From October 31st to November 2nd 2025

3rd edition of a photo festival which unites both amateur and professional photographers, as well as visitors from far and wide.

<https://chamonixphotofestival.com/>

MARATHON DU MONT-BLANC

From June 26th to 29th 2025

8 races for this major trail event - 90km, 42km, Young Race Marathon, 23km, 10km, KM Vertical, Starry Duo, and Mini Cross. «Trail Camp» exhibitor village in Chamonix.

www.montblancmarathon.net

CLIMBING WORLD CUP

From July 11th to 13th 2025

A competition as renowned as it is spectacular in downtown Chamonix. Speed and difficulty on the agenda.

<https://www.coupe-du-monde-escalade.com/>

COSMOJAZZ

From July 22nd to 27th 2025

The festival invented and directed by André Manoukian takes over the entire Chamonix Valley. Concerts in the mountains and in the town center as well as jam sessions in the evening

www.cosmojazzfestival.com

UTMB®

From August 25th to 31st 2025

A fantastic trail adventure on a legendary route around the Mont-Blanc massif, at the crossroads of France, Switzerland, and Italy's borders.

www.utmbmontblanc.com

TRAIL DES AIGUILLES ROUGES

September 28th 2025

The Trail des Aiguilles Rouges closes the trail season in the Chamonix Valley.

<http://www.aiguillesrouges.fr>

SCIENCE FESTIVAL : FOCUS ON OUR GLACIERS

From October 3rd to 13th 2025

Focus on the glaciers from the Chamonix Mont Blanc valley. Program coming soon.

www.chamonixglaciers2025.com

Find all the major events and entertainment on :

www.chamonix.com

2025 : INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE GLACIER PRESERVATION



The year 2025 has been declared by the United Nations as the “International Year of Glacier Preservation” and marks the beginning of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences.

In the Chamonix Valley, where glaciers are ever-present, this initiative holds particular significance.

Glaciers have helped shape our landscapes, our culture, our activities, and our sports practices.

They are part of our daily lives, and their changes are at the heart of our concerns—whether it's the issue of water resources or the management of natural hazards.

To better understand, preserve, and adapt, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley has decided to take action throughout the year alongside scientists, civil society, athletes, and the artistic and cultural communities.

In the face of the climate emergency, we have a shared responsibility: to protect these natural monuments for future generations. This initiative is based on three main pillars:

Preserve and Protect : Support concrete actions to reduce the impact of human activities on glaciers.

Raise Awareness and Educate : Engage citizens on climate issues through events, workshops, and educational programs.

Unite and Innovate : Bring together researchers, citizens, and local stakeholders in a spirit of collaboration.



THE HIGHLIGHTS

-SUMMIT FOR A SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN (2nd edition) : June 20, 2025 / *Sommet pour une Montagne durable II — Chamonix Glaciers 2025*

-SCIENCE FESTIVAL : October 3 to 13, 2025 / Glaciers in the Spotlight — *Chamonix Glaciers 2025*

These key events will be complemented throughout the year by performances, lectures, workshops, activities, debates, film screenings, nature outings, guided tours, and more.

Events are organized and supported by the community of communes and municipalities, as well as by businesses, associations, scientists, sports clubs, and local organizations.

Find the full program here : ***Programme — Chamonix Glaciers 2025***

Rejoignez la cordée — Chamonix Glaciers 2025

Glacier of Chamonix Mont Blanc Valley

ICE & LIFE : PROTECT THE GLACIERS

Ice&Life was developed and launched by glaciologist Jean-Baptiste Bosson, in partnership with researchers from the Université Savoie Mont-Blanc, INRAE, ETH Zurich, the Universities of Bern and Fribourg, with support from the Haute-Savoie Department and the Kilian Jornet Foundation.

This project provides a framework for the protection and sustainable management of glaciers and glacial margins—areas where glaciers have retreated. Since its inception, Ice&Life has enabled the collection of extensive field data and the creation of groundbreaking models to simulate the evolution of glaciers and their margins for each of the 220,000 glaciers on Earth.

It also contributed to the scientific foundation that led the French government to establish the Arrêté de Protection des Habitats Naturels (APHN) for Mont Blanc in 2020.

Ice&Life

GLACIOLOGISTS SPEAK : REVELATIONS FROM THE ICE

We interviewed three prominent glacier experts of the Chamonix valley : Ludovic Ravel, Sylvain Coutterand and Luc Moreau.

What is the most innovative tool you use in your glacier studies?

When it comes to glaciers, I mainly work on those found on permafrost-covered rock faces. In particular, this involves hanging glaciers, which can pose destabilization risks, and ice aprons. These ice features are still largely unknown, despite their importance both for mountaineering and for understanding past environments. In fact, ice aprons contain ice that is several thousand years old, and many of them are doomed in the short term. As a result, we are losing invaluable archives of the past!

We need to act quickly, and to that end, we developed a special ice corer designed to extract samples from extremely steep faces. On the north face of the Grandes Jorasses (4,208 m), we managed to drill through the entire thickness of the "Linceul" icefield, extracting an ice core 9 meters long!

What discovery in the ice has surprised you most with its level of preservation during your glacier expeditions?

At the Triangle du Tacul (3,970 m), not far from the Aiguille du Midi, we discovered ice that was 6,250 years old!

This ice, found in contact with the rock during coring, disappeared during the heatwaves of 2022 and 2023.

In this ancient ice, we detected a chemical compound indicating that vegetation once existed before the ice formed, at an altitude of 3,650 meters, on a north-facing slope.

However, the natural warming that had allowed this vegetation to grow lasted 900 years. Today, we are reaching the same result in just 30 years of human-induced climate crisis...

Ludovic Ravel – Labex ITEM



Luc Moreau is a geographer, mountain guide, and glaciologist. He has been taking measurements of the Argentière glacier for over 35 years. It is the only glacier in the world that is monitored continuously throughout the entire year. Thanks to tunnels dug by EDF (Electricity of France) beneath the glacier as early as 1972, Luc is able to take measurements from underneath the ice using an unusual tool: a bicycle wheel!

https://youtu.be/WkgsFiQvl_M

Luc's credo : measure, observe, teach, and share knowledge.

He is passionate about conveying messages that change the way we see Alpine glaciers. The majesty of these ice giants that shape the Chamonix Valley contributes not only to our physical and mental well-being, but much more than that.

«Alpine glaciers are the water source for our rivers, our groundwater, our taps, our agriculture, our energy production—even the cooling of our nuclear power plants.

We must stay connected to these natural gardens, because it is thanks to this nature and these glaciers that we are able to live. Everything is connected: the glaciers, the flora, the vegetation, the wildlife, humans, and water.»

Luc Moreau Glacier scientist

What are the unique geological features of the glaciers in the Mont Blanc Massif?

From a geographical perspective, Mont Blanc represents the greatest elevation gain between the Sallanches basin and its summit. It is a partly granitic massif that has well preserved glacial erosion features. These traces have allowed me, as part of my scientific work, to reconstruct the entanglement of the massif during the last glaciation.

The erratic boulders transported by the glaciers are remarkable witnesses to the ancient extent of the glacial systems originating from the Mont Blanc Massif—particularly the erratic blocks found on the summit of the Salève, or the granite boulders perched on the slopes of the Arve Valley (such as at Pointe d'Andey and Môle).

In this respect, erratic boulders are considered a form of geological heritage.

The glaciers of the Mont Blanc Massif originate above 4,000 meters in altitude. These are what we call polythermal glaciers—for example, at the summit of Mont Blanc, the ice is at a temperature of -16°C , whereas further down, below 4,000 meters, the ice becomes temperate, meaning it's at 0°C . These characteristics are remarkable indicators of a constantly evolving climate—especially in the context of current global warming.

In fact, due to this warming, for which we are responsible, the glaciers of the Mont Blanc Massif will be among the last to disappear.

Sylvain Coutterand Glacier scientist



GLACIERS THROUGH THE LENS OF LITERATURE

Since the beginning of tourism in the Chamonix Valley in 1741, and with the enthusiasm of the Romantic era, mountain travel became fashionable. Famous visitors—painters, poets, writers—came one after another to admire the spectacular ice rivers that elevate the beauty of the landscape.

Among the great authors, let us mention Goethe (1779), François-René de Chateaubriand (1805), Percy Shelley (1816), Byron (1816), Mary Shelley (1816), Victor Hugo (1825), Alexandre Dumas (1832), John Ruskin (1833), George Sand (1836) or even Charles Dickens (1846), who made the journey to see the « See of Ice ».

VICTOR HUGO

During his visit to the Valley of Chamonix, at a time when the glaciers were advancing significantly, the young Victor Hugo was filled with wonder and left us with magnificent descriptions of the Bossons Glacier and Mer de Glace (See of Ice).

“Lower down, at the end of a vast bluish mantle that Mont Blanc lets trail into the greenery of Chamonix, appears the jagged profile of the Glacier des Bossons, whose marvelous structure at first seems to the eye something unbelievable and impossible [...]”

Imagine enormous prisms of ice—white, green, violet, azure—depending on the angle of the sunlight, tightly bound together, taking on a variety of postures: some leaning, others standing upright, their dazzling cones standing out against a background of dark larches. It looks like a city of obelisks, steles, columns, and pyramids—a city of temples and tombs, a palace built by fairies for souls and spirits; and I am not surprised that the earliest inhabitants of these regions often believed they saw supernatural beings flitting between the spires of this glacier at the hour when daylight restores brilliance to the alabaster of their pediments and color to the mother-of-pearl of their pilasters.”

“Above this forest, the end of the Mer de Glace, extending beyond the Montanvert like a bending arm, leans forward and hurls its marble-like blocks, its immense blades, its crystal towers, its steel dolmens, its diamond hills; it raises sheer walls of silver and opens in the plain this terrifying mouth, from which a river is born, only to die a mile later as a torrent.”

From « En voyage, tome II (Hugo, éd. 1910)/Fragment d'un voyage aux Alpes »



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MARY SHELLEY AND FRANKENSTEIN

In July 1816, accompanied by Lord Byron and her future husband Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley visited the Mer de Glace and was filled with awe.

«I recall the profound impression that this prodigious, ever-moving glacier made upon me when I first beheld it. It filled me with a deep ecstasy, lifting my soul on wings and carrying it far from this world, toward light and joy...»

At Montenvers, she was caught in a storm that inspired these lines : *« I felt the presence of God, and I understood what the chaos must have been, out of which this wondrous world was formed.»*

It is surely no coincidence that the creator of Frankenstein chose to set part of her story amid the haunting landscape of the Mer de Glace.

THE HALLUCINATED MOUNTAIN

As part of the International Year for Glaciers Preservation, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office has produced an original four-episode podcast, aiming to share the rich heritage of mountain storytelling while raising awareness about the current fragility of glaciers. Each 10-minute episode invites listeners to explore the myths, legends, and imaginations surrounding glaciers and the high mountains. Recorded outdoors and enhanced with an original electronic music composition, the episodes weave together ancient tales and contemporary testimonies from local figures, viewed through the prism of their activities and their deep connections to these ever-changing landscapes. **The podcast is set to be released in July 2024.**

GLACIERS, SOURCES OF ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Since the mid-18th century, the glaciers of the Chamonix Valley have been a true source of inspiration for artists, as seen through various examples across different periods.



GABRIEL LOPPÉ (1825 - 1913)

Loppé is the first painter to work at very high altitudes, taking advantage of his expeditions and earning the right to be considered the founder of the school of Alpine painters, which was established in Savoy at the end of the 19th century. He excels in depicting snow and glaciers.

While awaiting the reopening of the Mont Blanc Museum (scheduled for early 2026), visitors can admire a monumental painting of the Mer de Glace at the entrance of the Chamonix Crystal Museum.

Gabriel Loppé (1825-1913), artist, alpinist, photograph and traveller : Chamonix Mont Blanc



MARC-THÉODORE BOURRIT (1739-1819)

Marc-Théodore Bourrit was a Geneva-born draughtsman, as well as a painter, engraver, and writer, who worked extensively to promote Chamonix and Mont Blanc.

In 1766, he visited the Mer de Glace for the first time. His drawings of the glaciers with their jagged forms left a lasting impression on the imagination of the early tourists and are among the first visual sources depicting the region.

<https://www.mountainmuseums.org/>



FRANÇOIS RAVANEL (1931)

This print, created in 1995 by the contemporary Chamonix engraver François Ravanel, depicts the terminal tongue of the Argentière Glacier. The artist immerses the viewer in the high mountains and plays with the succession of planes.

For him, the mountain landscape is more than just a scene—it reflects man's thoughts on nature, his environment, and the impact it can have on the imagination.

The glacier here serves as a bridge, linking «the high mountain of mystery and the unspeakable with the middle mountain— or the approachable mountain—controlled and named.»

François Ravanel, Gravures de montagne, 2005, p.21.

<https://www.mountainmuseums.org/>

EXPLORING GLACIERS OF THE MONT BLANC VALLEY

Glaciers shape the stunning landscape of the Mont Blanc Valley, creating a breathtaking backdrop and offering a glimpse into the powerful forces of nature.



GLACIER DU TOUR - ALBERT 1ER

Hiking to the Albert 1st Refuge from the Col de Balme, is a stunning journey through the alpine landscape of the Mont-Blanc massif.

This trail offers hikers an opportunity to experience both the rugged beauty of the mountains and the serenity of the high-altitude environment. As you ascend, the view expands, showcasing the glaciers of the Tour and the Aiguilles Rouges.

The trail is relatively accessible, making it ideal for those looking for a moderate challenge. Along the way, the panoramic vistas of the Mont-Blanc range are simply breathtaking.

Once at the Albert 1st Refuge, hikers can relax and savor traditional mountain dishes while taking in the surrounding peaks. A perfect escape for nature lovers and adventurers seeking tranquility in the heart of the Alps.

Hiking to Glacier du Tour :
Albert 1er : [practical information](#)

GLACIER DES BOSSONS

Among these icy giants, the Glacier des Bossons — also known as The Mont-Blanc Glacier — stands out for its striking beauty, accessibility, and rich history.

Take a chairlift to 1400m and enjoy stunning views of the glacier, known as the Mont-Blanc glacier — the «largest ice fall in Europe.»

At the top, a cozy chalet with a terrace offers refreshments and panoramic views of the glacier's terminal tongue and the seracs of the Plateau des Pyramides. A thematic trail shares the glacier's history, covering topics like the Little Ice Age and its evolution.

The chalet is also the starting point for hikes : the Pyramids trail, showcasing ice falls and seracs, and the famous Jonction hike, reaching 2589m — the last rocky outcrop before the high mountains, with breathtaking views of the Bossons and Tacconnaz glaciers. This historic route was used by J. Balmat and Dr. Paccard during the first ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786.

The glacier descends directly from Mont Blanc's summit (4807m) in a spectacular ice cascade, dropping 3670m — the world's largest continuous vertical drop for a glacier. Various viewpoints highlight the ice's vibrant color, moraines, and dramatic seracs.

Hiking to the Chalet du Glacier :
[Bossons Glacier chairlift : practical information](#)



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

1955 – 2025 : 70 YEARS OF THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI CABLE CAR

Inaugurated in 1955, the Aiguille du Midi cable car, which reaches an altitude of 3842m, was for a long time the highest in the world. Built without the aid of helicopters, its construction was a true technical feat.

Allowing access to the high mountains in less than twenty-five minutes, it welcomes thousands of visitors every year, eager to enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the Mont Blanc massif and the surrounding Alps.

In 1910, the Compagnie des Funiculaires de Montagne decided to build a cable car to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi.

A first section, from the Gare des Pèlerins to the Para (located at an altitude of 1696m), was inaugurated in 1924, and during the first Winter Olympics, it was used to transport bobsleighs via a service cable car.

On June 15, 1924, the cable car welcomed its first passengers and became the first aerial funicular in France to transport travelers!

A second section to the Gare des Glaciers, at 2414 meters, was opened to the public on August 18, 1927.

In 1940, a service cabin reached the Col du Midi, at 3630 meters.

Finally, the original route was modified to allow the construction of the current cable car, directly linking Chamonix to the Plan de l'Aiguille (2200 m), then to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi (3842 m).

Hats off to the 6 Chamonix and Valdôtain mountaineers who achieved the feat on June 29, 1949, of stretching a cable between the Plan de l'Aiguille and the North Piton of the Aiguille du Midi !

And what about the 30 workers, nicknamed «the Spiders of the Sky,» who worked and lived at the summit of the Aiguille du Midi to offer the world and Chamonix the highest cable car in the world?

The first section became operational on July 25, 1954, and the second section was inaugurated on June 24, 1955.



This summer, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of this iconic cable car, a photo exhibition will be displayed on various floors of the site, retracing the epic story of its construction, with a tribute in images to the forces that made this technological feat possible.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to pose in front of the restored cabin of the second section, painted in the colors of the time, which will be installed on the plaza at the Aiguille du Midi.

[More information on Aiguille du Midi - Cable car, Panoramic Mont-Blanc](#)

JOSEPH VALLOT – SCIENCE ON THE MONT-BLANC (1854-1925)

Joseph Vallot, a scientist, alpinist, naturalist, and botanist, initiated environmental research at high altitudes.

He climbed Mont Blanc 34 times and dedicated forty years of his life to the study of high mountain environments.

As a visionary scientist, he established the idea that this research could be multidisciplinary (meteorology, glaciology, medical studies, photography, cartography, etc.) and applied.

In 1890, he built the first observatory near the summit of Mont Blanc, which was replaced in 1898 by a new building at an altitude of 4,350 meters.

At the age of 70, during his last ascent, he wrote in the guestbook of the Grands-Mulets Refuge: «[...] I say goodbye to Mont Blanc, to which I have devoted my life. The observatory is still there, and expeditions will continue with younger people, that is my consolation!»

After some incidents, the observatory was returned to France in 1931 and entrusted to the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in 1973. It is now managed by the CNRS in Grenoble, which renovated it in 2018.

A citizen of honor in Chamonix, which he ardently defended, as well as a selfless patron, he was also recognized by his scientific peers (Grand Prix of the Academy of Sciences) and mountaineers (President of the French Alpine Club).

100 years after his passing, Joseph Vallot continues to inspire science at Mont Blanc, particularly the scientists of the Mont-Blanc Ecosystem Research Center (CREA Mont-Blanc), who occupy his observatory in Chamonix.



RENAISSANCE OF THE VALLOT OBSERVATORY IN CHAMONIX

In 1880, nearly one hundred years after the first ascent of Mont Blanc, Joseph Vallot, a pioneer of scientific research in the valley, reached the summit himself. Struck by the massif, he decided to build two observatories for any scientist wishing to study this legendary peak: one perched on the shoulder of Mont Blanc, and its twin down in the valley in Chamonix, the Mont-Blanc Observatory.

Bequeathed to the State upon Joseph Vallot's death, with the obligation to preserve its scientific mission, the Mont-Blanc Observatory in Chamonix successively housed the Paris Observatory, the CNRS, the Astronomy Club, and later the Centre for Research on High-Altitude Ecosystems (CREA Mont-Blanc), which has been based there since 2002.

In 2013, when the State put the site up for auction, it sparked an unprecedented mobilization involving Chamonix residents, researchers from across France, the press, and anonymous supporters of CREA Mont-Blanc. As a result, the site was purchased by the municipality of Chamonix in 2015. In March 2023, the town granted CREA Mont-Blanc a 25-year emphyteutic lease, enabling the association to carry out its renovation and transformation project to rehabilitate the site and make it accessible to all.

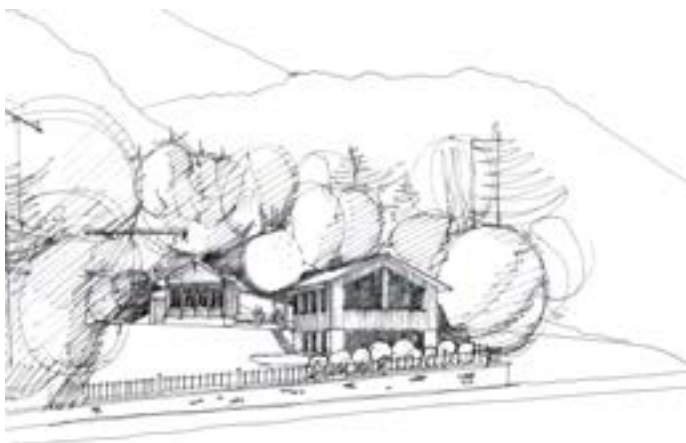
Recognized by the United Nations for its work in biodiversity and climate action, CREA Mont-Blanc is a research center dedicated to high-altitude ecosystems. A pioneer in citizen science, the association combines new technologies with a passion for field observation.

Every year, thousands of citizen-observers are invited to collect and interpret data, helping to drive research efforts into mountain ecosystems, especially the unique and emblematic environment of Mont Blanc.



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« THE NEW OBS » OF MONT BLANC IN 2025



To modernize this scientific research center dedicated to alpine ecology, CREA Mont-Blanc has carried out an ambitious renovation and expansion project of the Vallot Observatory, thanks to the support of public partners, such as the Haute-Savoie Department, and private partners, such as the Fondation de France and the Fondation du Patrimoine. The renovation of the historic perimeter wall will be undertaken by the municipality of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. <https://www.fondation-patrimoine.org/les-projets-chalet-vallot-crea-mont-blanc-chamonix>

A multi-purpose site on an iconic scientific location:

THE OBSERVATORY (CHALET VALLOT):

Renovated and reimagined, the chalet will offer a spacious work and meeting area for numerous professionals gathering for scientific stays and training sessions.

THE NEW LABORATORY:

An exemplary response to energy and climate challenges, this newly designed facility will host the research activities of the CREA Mont-Blanc team and provide space to welcome the scientists collaborating on its projects.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL GARDEN:

This sensory and experimental space will serve to inform businesses, mountain professionals, and the general public about mountain ecology and participatory science approaches. It will feature exhibitions, scientific instruments used by the CREA Mont-Blanc teams, and participatory science protocols available for testing.

observatory-vallot-histoire-scientifique-chamonix-patrimoine/

REDISCOVER JOSEPH VALLOT



SATURDAY 19 JULY AND SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Joseph Vallot's death, CREA Mont-Blanc is offering two days of events.

A botanist, geologist, meteorologist, physiologist, and glaciologist, this tireless naturalist devoted his life to studying the Mont-Blanc massif and was the first, as early as 1887, to demonstrate that it was possible to sleep and work on the roof of the Alps.

Re discover Joseph Vallot, — Chamonix Glaciers 2025



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JADE : CREATING A SCIENTIFIC, ALTERNATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM EXPERIENCE

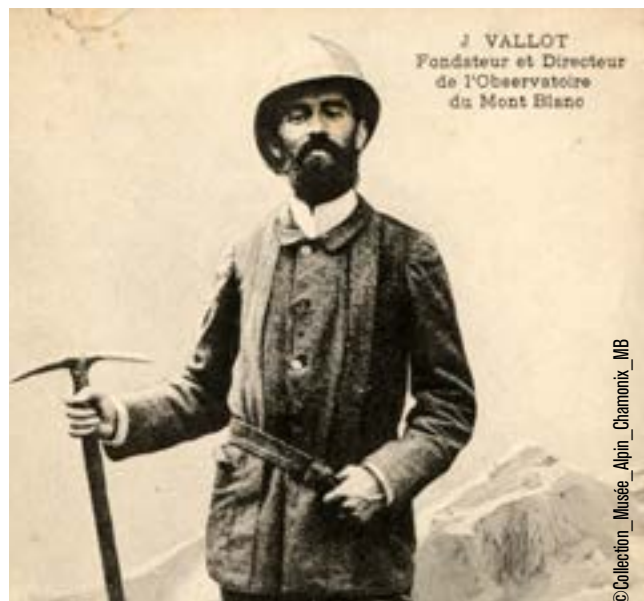
Launched in 2025 by CREA Mont-Blanc and the Jean-Marcel Aubert Foundation, and supported by the Interreg France–Switzerland program, this project aims to promote sustainable, scientific, and participatory tourism in the Alps.

Co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), it will connect the Flore-Alpe Botanical Garden in Champex-Lac, Switzerland, with the Mont-Blanc Observatory in Chamonix—an important hub for scientific research on mountain ecosystems.

By developing a scientific hiking trail, the project encourages a different kind of tourism—one that raises awareness of alpine ecosystems and inspires hikers to deepen their scientific and naturalist understanding. Along the route, themed observation points and tailored educational tools invite visitors to actively contribute to ongoing ecological research in the Alps.

This immersive and participatory experience offers a fresh approach to discovery, designed for travelers seeking meaning, while enhancing the existing tourism offering in a responsible and innovative way.

Project JADE | CREA Mont-Blanc



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14 AUGUST 2025 VALLOT'S LIGHTS : THE TRIBUTE OF THE MOUNTAIN GUIDES FROM CHAMONIX

To commemorate the centenary of Joseph Vallot's passing and celebrate the longstanding partnerships between high mountain guides and scientists, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is organising a luminous tribute as part of the traditional Fête des Guides.

Torches will be lit simultaneously at three emblematic sites: the Vallot Refuge (4,300 m), the Balmat Shelter (2,500 m) — or, if conditions permit, the Grands Mulets Refuge (3,100 m) — and finally in Chamonix, at the Place du Triangle de l'Amitié, in front of the Maison de la Montagne.

From these various locations, scientists and guides will speak to share their perspectives on glacier protection issues. These interventions will be filmed.

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr/nos-engagements/solidarite/fete-des-guides>



©OTChamonix-Mont-Blanc_MR

VICTOR HUGO ON ICE

200 YEARS AGO... VICTOR HUGO DISCOVERED THE CHAMONIX VALLEY

In 1825, at the time of his only stay in the Chamonix valley, Victor Hugo was only twenty-three years old, but his literary career was already well under way, placing him at the forefront of the new Romantic poets, of whom he was on the way to becoming the undisputed leader.

Between 2 August and 5 September 1825, the Hugo family and the Nodier family travelled from Fontainebleau to the south, to stay near the Alps, at the foot of Mont Blanc. After the Alpine accounts of Rousseau, Chateaubriand, Saussure and Senancour, Victor Hugo also took notes, first published in the *Revue de Paris* (1829) and then in the *Revue de Deux Mondes* (1831), also presented under the title « Deux fragments d'un voyage aux Alpes ».

The young Victor Hugo arrived in Chamonix on 15 August 1825. He travelled with his wife Adèle and their little daughter Léopoldine (then aged one), accompanied by their governess, the Nodier couple and their daughter Marie.

At the time, young Hugo 'with his blond hair, feminine complexion and the grey couil suit he wore on his travels' ... looked like 'a student on holiday'.

The visitors spent 3 days in Chamonix, staying in the former Hôtel d'Angleterre, not far from today's Place des Alpes.



BIG SCARE ON THE SEA OF ICE

No trip to Chamonix is complete without an excursion to Montenvers. And no Montenvers without a few steps on the glacier.

On 16 August 1825, with his friend Nodier and their respective wives, they hired two guides with their mules to spare the ladies the fatigue of walking. After a 3-hour climb, the little party arrived at Montenvers.

While the ladies found refuge in the Temple de la Nature, where a guide sold kirsch-flavoured milk, stones and rock crystals, the future author of *Les Misérables* almost deprived the world of his emblematic literary work by falling into a crevasse!

To cross the glacier, he took as his guide Michel Devouassoux, a newcomer to the profession, who chose the wrong route and led him down 'a thin slice between two abysses'.

At the time, the glacier was huge, wide and very crevassed, and there was no regular path. It's not extraordinary that the young guide should have made a mistake, but in the end he showed composure and brought his client back safe and sound.

Everyone was very frightened: Nodier, his daughter, Hugo and his wife vied with each other in the horrific details of their descriptions.

The poet wrote on his guide's booklet: 'I commend Michel Devouassoux who saved my life', and the emotion was at its height!

Despite this 'big scare', Victor Hugo enjoyed his discovery of the Chamonix valley and has left us some beautiful descriptions of the landscapes and glaciers.

'THE CHAMONIX VALLEY IS A TEMPLE' [...] you will think, on entering the Chamonix valley, that you are entering [...] nature's cabinet of curiosities, a sort of divine laboratory where Providence holds in reserve a sample of all the phenomena of creation, or rather a mysterious sanctuary where the elements of the visible world rest.

En voyage, tome II (Hugo, éd. 1910)/Fragment d'un voyage aux Alpes - Wikisource

Colette Cosnier, Hugo et le Mont-Blanc, éditions Guérin, « La Petite Collection », Chamonix, 2002, 195 pages.

WELLNESS AT THE TOP

Between the majestic peaks and the mighty glaciers, between the raw mineral power and the serene panoramas, the valley OF Chamonix-Mont-Blanc invites you to relax and recharge. It is home to a myriad of exceptional spas and wellness treatments.



©Hôtel_Mont_Blanc_Chamonix

NUXE®

With its 500 m² Nuxe spa, the 4-star Héliopic Sweet & Spa Hotel is a haven where comfort meets well-being.

The spa's immersive sensory journey is designed to awaken the senses through a refined contrast of hot and cold: an ice grotto, bubbling whirlpool, hammams, sauna, and an indoor swimming pool invite guests to unwind in total serenity. It's the perfect retreat after a day of adventure in the valley.

Signature treatments and massages by Nuxe—an iconic name in French cosmetics—elevate the experience even further. Among its most celebrated products, Huile Prodigieuse stands out as an essential for nourishing and enhancing both skin and hair. Known for its unique blend of natural ingredients, sensorial textures, and proven efficacy, Nuxe offers indulgent rituals where every scent and sensation is designed to soothe and revitalize.

[Link Spa Hôtel](#)

CLARINS®

Since its founding in Paris in 1954, Clarins has established itself as a benchmark in premium beauty.

A pioneer in phyto-cosmetology, the brand favors plant-based ingredients, carefully selected for their efficacy and extracted using environmentally respectful methods.

Since 1849, Hôtel Mont-Blanc has been a legendary address in Chamonix. Its Spa by Clarins offers a peaceful interlude in a warm and inviting setting, where wood and mosaic accents create a refined haven ideal for relaxation. The treatment menu reflects the brand's golden rule: gentle, expert care using formulas enriched with plant extracts and essential oils. Every product embodies the elegance and excellence of French savoir-faire.

The outdoor heated pool and whirlpool bath, with breathtaking views of the Mont Blanc massif, ensure a unique and enchanting sensory experience.

[Link Spa Hôtel](#)

WELLNESS AT THE TOP

CINQ MONDES ®

The Best Mont-Blanc group has chosen the prestigious Cinq Mondes brand to elevate the wellness experience at its new space within Lykke Hôtel & Spa.

Beneath a light-filled glass canopy facing Mont Blanc, this serene sanctuary invites guests to unwind with its indoor pool, soothing jacuzzis, sauna, enveloping hammam, and sunlit solarium.

Three dedicated massage rooms offer Cinq Mondes treatments, inspired by ancestral rituals from Asia, the Orient, and the Amazon. Crafted with natural, paraben-free ingredients, these treatments combine expert techniques with captivating fragrances to deliver a truly unique sensory journey.

<https://www.lykkechamonix.com/le-spa>

PURE ALTITUDE ®

The 5-star Cristal de Jade residence and its Montagnes du Monde Spa offer treatments in partnership with Pure Altitude®—a brand that combines expert techniques with the power of Alpine plants.

Easily recognized by its emblematic Edelweiss flower, Pure Altitude has specialized for nearly 20 years in high-performance skincare using rare natural ingredients and mountain botanicals.

All Pure Altitude products are also available at a dedicated 40 m² boutique located in the heart of Chamonix. There, guests can discover the brand's full range of face, body, ambiance, and beauty accessory collections—immersing themselves in a world where skincare meets mountain-inspired lifestyle.

<https://www.mgm-hotels-residences.com/fr/spa-montagnes-du-monde>

FOREST BATHING

Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, forest bathing invites you to slow down, reconnect with nature, and fully embrace the regenerative power of the Alpine forest—by walking mindfully beneath the trees and breathing in the pure mountain air.

The benefits are numerous: reduced stress, improved sleep, a strengthened immune system, and renewed energy.

The valley offers a wealth of trails perfect for this experience, such as the Bois Forest or the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve. The soothing surroundings—rustling leaves, birdsong, and mountain silence—encourage deep relaxation and a true sense of harmony with nature.

Guided sessions include breathing exercises, mindfulness practices, and gentle yoga.

Specialist guides also offer personalized immersions for a deeply restorative experience in perfect harmony with the mountain environment.

<https://www.ide-o>



ACTIVITIES



KOALA GRIMPE – FIRST STEPS IN CLIMBING

Since 2017, Koala Grimpe Climbing School has specialized in teaching children and offers a wide range of climbing camps and tailor-made activities in the Chamonix Valley.

The course for 4–5-year-olds is a great opportunity for young kids to discover climbing while having fun. Through playful and progressive activities, they will learn to move confidently on the rock faces. A different treasure hunt is organized every day to keep these budding climbers excited and motivated!

The camps run from Monday to Friday during Zone A school holidays (France), between April and November. They take place at various sites throughout the valley: Chamonix, Les Houches, Servoz, and Col des Montets.

New this summer: the Koala Grimpe welcome area will be set up at the base of the Gaillands crag, in a vintage 1978 Renault van!

From €200

Koala Grimpe

ÉVOLUTION 2

5 Days of Adventure in Chamonix: sports, discovery, and fun in the great outdoors!

Supervised by the experienced and passionate instructors of Evolution 2, this multi-activity camp offers young adventurers the chance to try out a variety of sports while building self-confidence and team spirit. Every day brings a new experience—exploration, laughter, challenges, and pure fun—all set against the breathtaking backdrop of Chamonix.

An outdoor immersion that combines sport, nature, and unforgettable moments of connection and discovery.

More information : **Evolution 2 Chamonix - Ski school and adventure**



VISIT OF THE FERME DE VALLORCINE

Victorien, both a farmer and a certified hiking guide, invites nature lovers to experience the essence of his profession through a visit to his farm in Vallorcine, nestled at the top of the Chamonix Valley.

As part of this immersive experience, he also offers a walk to his herd's mountain pasture—an opportunity to learn more about the many aspects of alpine farming, including the winter life of cows and the rhythms of mountain agriculture.

Available from 4 people minimum / Approx. 2-hour visit

Reservation by SMS : +33 (0)7 86 72 51 37

Farmers and activity at Vallorcine

Find a selection of activities available for online booking on our website :

Link booking

ACCOMMODATION

HÔTEL LYRET

Hotel Lyret begins its first summer season in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc following a successful reopening this winter.

The hotel features a fully redesigned terrace with vintage second-hand furniture, as well as a pool open throughout the summer. Staying true to its concept as an art hotel, it permanently showcases works by six international artists inspired by Chamonix. The hotel also strengthens its commitment to sustainable tourism, having earned the Betterfly Tourism label!

More information on www.hotel-lyret.com



FIRST SUMMER SEASON FOR LES AIGLONS AFTER ITS RENOVATION

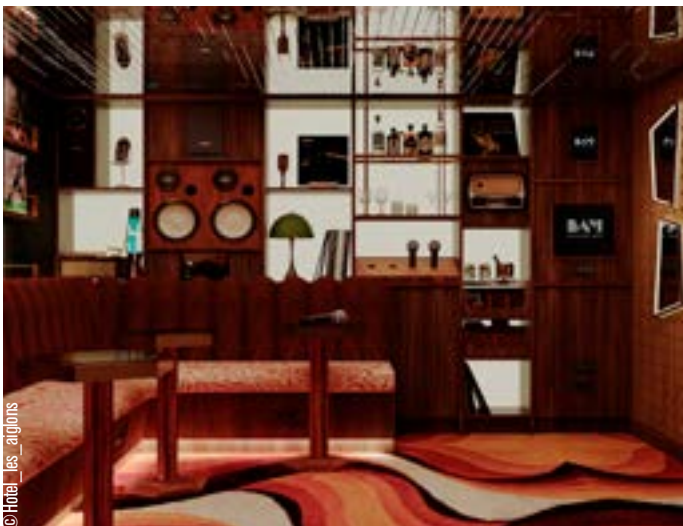
The former Hôtel Le Refuge Des Aiglons and its 107 rooms have been transformed into the 4-star Hôtel Les Aiglons. This renovation project was entrusted to SZ Design, who reimagined traditional alpine style with a warm, inviting atmosphere and elegant modern touches. In the rooms, ochre tones, soft materials, natural light, and pale wood alcoves evoke the serenity of a mountain forest. The hotel features a Deep Nature spa with a sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, and a heated outdoor pool open year-round.

Restaurant Casa Nonna, with its panoramic views of Mont Blanc and the Aiguille du Midi, offers a lively yet intimate setting where French Alpine cuisine meets Italian culinary surprises.

Outside, the garden terrace provides a breathtaking view of the surrounding mountains.

Looking for a festive experience? BAM Karaoke Box has set up in the heart of the hotel. With three private rooms, both guests and locals are invited to let loose and enjoy unforgettable evenings filled with music and laughter.

Les Aiglons | Luxury 4 stars hotel at Chamonix Mont-Blanc



TABLES' NEWS

DANIELE RAIMONDI IN L'AKASHON

A talented and respected chef in Chamonix, Daniele Raimondi joined the kitchen team at Restaurant l'Akashon of Héliopic Hôtel & Spa**** this winter.

Originally from Bergamo, Italy, his passion for cooking began in childhood.

After graduating with honors from the San Pellegrino hospitality school, he launched his career in London at a five-star hotel, before moving to France, where he worked seasonally at several prestigious establishments : Hôtel du Cap Eden-Roc, Alain Ducasse's Bar & Bœuf (1 Michelin star) in Monaco... and later, at Chamonix's own Hameau Albert 1er (2 Michelin stars).



For nearly 10 years, he led the kitchen at Le Comptoir des Alpes, one of Chamonix's standout restaurants.

His cuisine reflects his transalpine heritage, blending the finesse of French gastronomy with the heart and soul of traditional Italian dishes. He places great emphasis on using fresh, high-quality ingredients, and takes particular joy in reimagining risottos with the seasons and crafting homemade pasta.

Daniele Raimondi brings all the right ingredients to carry forward the spirit of Restaurant Akashon, which has held a Bib Gourmand distinction since 2020.

Contact | Restaurant Akashon | Chamonix Mont-Blanc

LE P'TIOT MONCHU

Just steps from the Montenvers level crossing, Le P'tiot brings fresh energy to Chamonix's culinary scene. As the younger brother of the iconic Monchu—a local favorite for Savoyard specialties for nearly 50 years—this newly opened spot blends tradition with a modern touch.

Housed in a fully renovated building, Le P'tiot welcomes guests into a cozy, warm atmosphere that feels both intimate and timeless.

Everything here is homemade, from the classic regional dishes to the chef's more refined creations. Don't miss the signature «Potence»: a showstopping assortment of beef cuts flambée with cognac, served at the table.

From Monday to Friday, a set lunch menu including a starter, main course, and dessert is available for €24.

Instagram



AT THE MONTENVERS, LE PANORAMIQUE IS BACK

Perched at 1913 meters, Le Panoramique offers its standout feature: a magnificent terrace overlooking the Mer de Glace, with the iconic Grandes Jorasses watching over.

The perfect setting to sip a drink while soaking in the glacier-inspired ambiance.

The "Pasta Bar" take over the kitchen, offering a lively experience and flavors reminiscent of the past.

Access via the Montenvers Train. - [Montenvers train](#)

Restaurant Le Panoramique : <https://www.refugedumontenvers.com/restaurants#le-panoramique>



DELICACIES

THE NEW MONT-CHOCO BY ZANIN

Master Chocolatier & Pastry chef since 1999, established in the heart of the Mont-Blanc region and the Arve Valley, La Maison Zanin has been a trusted name in the world of fine chocolates and pastries.

Since December 2024, this family-owned brand has opened a new boutique on Avenue Michel Croz in Chamonix, bringing its delectable creations to a wider audience.

In addition to its delicate pastries, La Maison Zanin is renowned for its sweet indulgences, including the signature chocolate box “Mon Blanc Bonnet”—an assortment of praline chocolate bonbons in a variety of flavors such as Pecan, Almond, Peanut, and Hazelnut.

This summer, chocolate lovers will fall for the new creation, «Mont-Choco», crafted exclusively for the Chamonix boutique. Paying tribute to the mountain peaks of the valley, this treat features two chocolate bars shaped like mountains, presented in a charming vintage box.

One bar is coated in milk chocolate, filled with passion fruit pâte de fruits, gianduja, and feuillantine. The other bar is coated in dark chocolate, with a Linzer biscuit base, gianduja, and crunchy hazelnut pieces.

ZANIN



« COULOIR » SPECIALTY COFFEE AND ARTISAN SANDWICHES

No larger than a hallway, this new café—whose name is a nod to the nearby mountain corridors—is located at 204 Avenue Michel Croz and offers a range of true gastronomic gems: brunch, café lattes, matcha, brioche, and an assortment of sweet and savory pastries to take away or enjoy on-site.

Nick Renn, Chef at the renowned Dusty Knuckle Café in London, always dreamed of opening his own café in Chamonix, where he could share his delicious recipes with a focus on bold flavors and local products.

Teaming up with Moody Coffee Roasters, he has been able to enrich the menu with delightful specialty coffees roasted right here in Chamonix and expertly brewed by experienced baristas.

A special mention goes to the hearty hot sandwiches, made with fresh, flavorful ingredients and changing with the seasons.

Nick would be thrilled to see his café and sandwiches reach the peak of every mountain!

Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 8 AM to 5 PM.

<https://couloirchamonix.com/>

BAR STORIES



BIG MOUNTAIN BASECAMP

Founded in 2014 by Jack Geldard and Matt Livingstone in Chamonix, Big Mountain was born from their desire to craft hoppy, artisanal beers. After years of perfecting their recipes, their first IPA, the Simcoe and Chinook Pale Ale, have become classics.

In 2018, responding to growing demand, they launched their commercial brewery.

By 2019, Big Mountain moved to Passy, and in 2020, production reached 35,000 liters.

In 2023, the brewery moved to Cluses, increasing its capacity to 12,000 hectoliters.

A new bar, Big Mountain Basecamp, opened at the entrance of Chamonix, offering a spacious venue with a beautiful terrace overlooking the Mont-Blanc massif. The Blonde Mountain Lager was also introduced.

In 2024, Big Mountain released NANO, a non-alcoholic, gluten-free IPA inspired by athlete Hillary Girard!

Big Mountain offers a unique experience for visitors with its on-site microbrewery. Beer lovers can sample exclusive, limited-edition brews and enjoy freshly produced beers, directly served from the adjacent tanks for unmatched quality and freshness. For those curious and passionate about brewing, Big Mountain also hosts special days where participants can «brew together» with the team—an immersive dive into the world of craft brewing.

<https://www.bigmtbrew.co/fr/lp/big-mountain-basecamp/>

THE DISCOPIK

Tucked away on Rue des Moulins, DiscoPic is a bar that seamlessly blends retro elegance with the vibrant energy of disco, offering a unique ambiance right in the center of Chamonix.

The vintage décor mixes Italian and Alpine influences, with every detail—from glowing neon lights and 1980s ski gear to sparkling disco balls and vinyl records—transporting guests to a lively and timeless era.

On the menu, you'll find exquisite signature cocktails, carefully selected Italian wines, exceptional local liqueurs, and generous sharing platters filled with Alpine flavors.

The playlist will have you dancing, set against an atmosphere that's both chic and electrifying.

[DiscoPic Chamonix-Mont-Blanc](#)



INTERNATIONAL BATTLE OF THE QUEENS

On September 27 and 28, Chamonix will host a major alpine event: the International Gathering of the Queens of the Mont-Blanc Area.

This spectacular celebration will spotlight the Hérens breed of cow—and especially those who keep it alive here in the valley: Jérôme Garcin, Pierre Choupin and Gérard Berrux, three passionate breeders deeply rooted in this land.

When they speak of their «blacks,» borders vanish. Whether from Savoie, Valais, or the Aosta Valley, breeders understand each other with a glance, a word, a shared memory. They speak the same language: one of prestigious bloodlines, fiery temperaments, and legendary queens.

You'll hear them mention Saphir, queen of the Comptoir many years ago, or Caribou, a mythical bull whose daughters still impress both in pastures and in the arena.

Among insiders, La Gazette des Reines or Herens.ch is read like the morning paper.

Photos of their animals sit proudly alongside those of children and elders—because here, the Hérens cow is much more than livestock. She is family. She is loved, cared for, understood.

The Hérens is more than a breed—it is a living legacy. Beautiful, powerful, proud.

They seek thick horns, a round and short neck, a massive and dignified presence.

And above all, they want her to be *connaissante*—close to her master, attentive, loyal.

She isn't trained. She is earned.



Organising this gathering is not just about setting up an arena and bringing in animals. It's about creating a moment of transmission, sharing, and pride.

It's about bringing families together around a shared passion and a mountain culture where the bond between humans and animals is at the heart of everything.

When the breeder enters the arena, the audience can see in their eyes the entire story of that relationship.

There is tension, emotion, pride. Months—sometimes years—of careful attention, thoughtful breeding, and quiet hopes.

And then the fight: ancestral, instinctive, codified. The Queen may win or lose, but the story goes on.

These international encounters are nothing new. They were already stirring passions in 1917 at the Col de Balme, when Swiss and French breeders met. These events, held annually in the Mont-Blanc region, continue to attract great enthusiasm.

The public comes in search of more than just a show: they seek a connection to the land, to tradition, to a way of life.

It is this joy of being together, of sharing a living and deeply rooted passion, that drives Chamonix and its valley—its breeders, its associations, its local officials—to host this great Alpine celebration.

Event Schedule :

Saturday afternoon : Parade of the queens through the streets of Chamonix

Saturday evening : Country dance

Sunday : Local and international matches starting at 10 AM

All day Sunday : Local producers' market / Antique tractor exhibition / Refreshments & food stalls

COMMITTED ASSOCIATIONS

EN PASSANT PAR LA MONTAGNE - Barbara Comte-Peyronnard : portrait of a mountain enthusiast

Founded in 1995 by mountaineer Marc Batard, the association En Passant par la Montagne aims to support the integration of young people facing various challenges by introducing them to high-altitude mountaineering.

While the association's activities extend throughout France, they have notably intensified in recent years in Haute-Savoie. «We realized there was a real need,» notes Barbara Comte-Peyronnard, the association's director..

Originally from northern France, Barbara settled in the valley about twenty years ago after working with an international solidarity organization in Les Houches.

There, she met her future husband, a passionate guide already involved with the association. Drawn to the inclusive climbing club's dynamic, Barbara became actively engaged.



When the association faced a challenging period, Barbara offered her expertise in partnerships and funding, revitalizing relationships with social structures and financial supporters. She subsequently became the Director, convinced that the mountains serve as a powerful educational tool for youth.

To celebrate the association's 30th anniversary, a major festival promoting an inclusive, educational, and supportive mountain experience is organized, featuring a series of exceptional events from May 16 to 18 in Chamonix. Additionally, on September 20, an event titled «La Montagne partagée» («The Shared Mountain») will take place in Chamonix, bringing together a collective of associations advocating for inclusion.

<http://www.montagne.org>

À CHACUN SON EVEREST - Christine Janin : an exceptional career, a message of surpassing oneself



Christine Janin is a pioneering figure in both mountaineering and humanitarian work. In 1990, she became the first French woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, a remarkable athletic achievement that also marked the beginning of her commitment to helping others.

A doctor, she subsequently dedicated her experience and public profile to supporting children with cancer.

In 1994, she founded the association «À Chacun Son Everest!» to offer young patients the opportunity to experience mountain adventures as a means of rebuilding themselves and regaining self-confidence.

Since 2011, the organization has also provided retreats for women in remission, creating a unique space for healing and solidarity.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in November 2024, the association continues to support patients during the crucial post-cancer phase. It uses the mountain as a metaphor for the healing journey, organizing stays in Chamonix where participants can reinvent themselves through physical activities, supportive care, and workshops aimed at restoring self-esteem.

These retreats are fully funded and supervised by a dedicated team of volunteers.

«À Chacun Son Everest!» thus embodies a model of support where solidarity and self-transcendence go hand in hand.

A Chacun son Everest, Support association for children and women in cancer remission

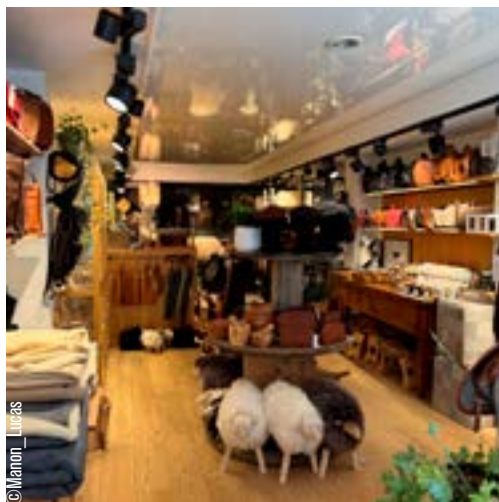


MADE IN CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC VALLEY

L'ATELIER DES ALPAGES

In this new boutique nestled in the heart of Chamonix, Manon Lucas showcases French craftsmanship by offering a delightful selection of artisanal products.

Tableware, scented candles, home décor, exceptional cutlery, leather goods, and ethically crafted jewelry made from crystals sourced from the Mont-Blanc massif by two local artisans from the Chamonix Valley.



©Manon_Lucas

**Atelier
des
Alpages**
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

The creations of Charles Centhuit

Artist and artisan, specializing in crystal, jewelry making, and gemstone cutting, Charles has perfected his craft—from searching for minerals in the mountains to the artisanal creation of high-quality jewelry.

Today, he is one of the few jewelers who masters the entire process, from harvesting crystals to the final polishing.

Atelier des Alpagnes – Hand made shop at Chamonix



©Charles_Centhuit



©My_Cham

MyCham: the energy of glaciers

Delphine creates unique pieces by enhancing quartz from the Mont-Blanc massif, harvested by crystal hunters who have subscribed to the code of honor established by the Chamonix town hall.

Each piece is meticulously handcrafted using Fairmined-certified gold or silver, a certification that collaborates with the Chopard House, ensuring environmentally and humanely responsible production.

My Cham



©My_Cham

ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DESTINATION



©OTChamonix-Mont-Blanc_MR



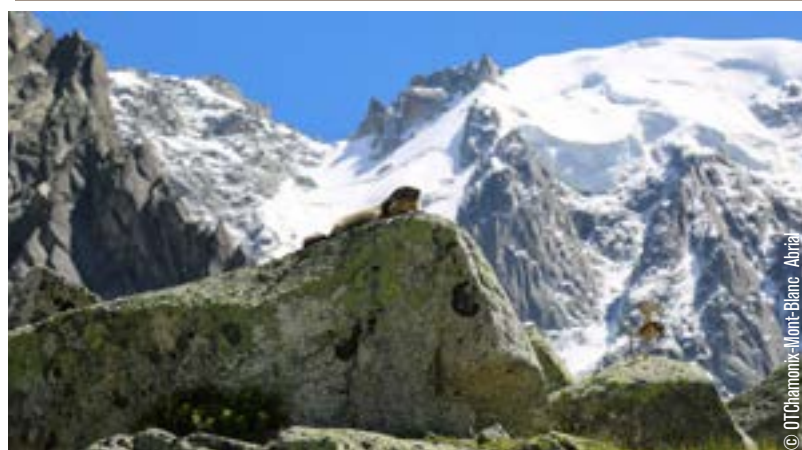
On the Tourist Office website, visitors can discover dedicated pages detailing the environmental initiatives and specific efforts undertaken by socio-professional stakeholders in the Chamonix valley.

Sustainable Mountain Destination : Chamonix Mont Blanc

A DEDICATED WEBSITE FOR HIKERS TO DECLARE THEIR BIVOUAC NIGHT

In order to contribute to the respect and preservation of natural sites, and to offer the best experience of a night under the stars, hikers are advised to reserve their bivouac night as early as June.

<https://bivouac.nature-haute-savoie.fr>



© OTChamonix-Mont-Blanc_Abrar

ENVIRONMENT

MONT BLANC MARATHON 2025 : FOCUS ON COMMITMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Mont Blanc Marathon is entering a new era in 2025 with New Balance as its title partner for the next five years.

The event aims to enhance its international appeal while accelerating its ecological transition.

Environmental Initiatives :

Transportation Incentives : To reduce the environmental impact of the event, 40% of race bibs are now reserved for participants who commit to traveling by train or bus. This initiative is accompanied by mandatory carbon offsetting for all participants' journeys to Chamonix.

Young Race Marathon :

New Format : The Young Race Marathon introduces a more challenging course with separate routes for U18 (7 km) and U20 (13 km) categories, both starting and finishing in the heart of Chamonix.

New Balance Athlete Contracts : The top male and female finishers in the U20 category will receive New Balance athlete contracts, providing a unique opportunity for emerging trail running talents.

These developments position the Mont Blanc Marathon as a pioneering event, blending performance, sustainability, and youth development at the heart of Chamonix.

Infos : <https://www.marathonmontblanc.fr/>



OPENING OF THE LAGOPED SHOP : Focus on this highly committed outdoor brand



The French brand Lagoped, which recently opened a store in Chamonix, perfectly embodies the values of eco-responsibility and sustainability in the outdoor sector.

With the tagline «One with nature,» Lagoped highlights its commitment to nature by producing clothing that combines performance with environmental respect.

Founded in 2018 by Christophe Charbonnier, a mountain enthusiast, the brand sources and manufactures its products in Europe, positioning itself as one of the few brands to prioritize short supply chains and use recycled materials.

Lagoped's first products were designed for ski touring, featuring Sympatex membranes certified without PTFE and PFC, chemical substances commonly used in other waterproof membranes but harmful to the environment and human health.

The brand now aims to expand its range by venturing into segments such as hiking, trail running, and gravel biking (off-road cycling), continuing to affirm its values of innovation and environmental respect.

<https://lagoped.com/pages/our-engagements>

THE ARTISTS' CORNER

Sonia Saguez-Bozon, mosaic at the top

Born in Chamonix and raised in families deeply rooted in the mountain and sporting world, Sonia lives, works, and draws constant inspiration from her valley and its peaks for her contemporary mosaic artworks.

A curious and creative spirit, inspired by nature, its colors, reflections, and hidden treasures—attuned to the vibration of rocks, stones, and raw materials—she turned to mosaic art more than 20 years ago as a self-taught complement to her original artistic profession: hairdressing.

By studying the foundations and history of mosaic art with renowned artisans in Ravenna and at the Scuola Spilimpergo in Italy, she has been able to channel her passion into her work, reviving ancient mosaic traditions through the meticulous cutting of marble, smalt, glass, slate, and rock crystals into tiny, precise pieces known as tesserae.

To create some of her compositions, the artist incorporates slate fragments collected in the valley or crystal shards discovered on hikes through the mountains.



"In general, artistic creation nourishes both my spirit and soul. In my small studio, I've made my own this quote by Thomas Merton: 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.'"

"To me, this thought holds just as true for the artist as it does for the viewer, the observer, the lover of art."

After exhibiting this winter at the Les Houches Tourist Office, Sonia is climbing higher this summer to showcase a beautiful selection of her works at the Refuge du Plan de l'Aiguille, from May 29 to October 4, 2025.

Sobo

Plan de l'Aiguille refuge

FIGURES – SUMMER 2024

82 282

NUMBER OF BEDS RESORT



19 930

professional beds



16 211

privates rentals



44 813

holiday homes

TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITANTS VALLEY : 14 209

CHAMONIX 8 998
SERVOZ 1 154
LES HOUCHEs 3 617
VALLORCINE 440

4 454 700

NUMBER OF ANNUAL BEDNIGHTS

SUMMER PODIUM :

UNITED-KINGDOM



UNITED-STATES



NETHERLANDS



THE CHAMONIX VALLEY BACKSTAGE... REPORTING IDEAS FOR THE MEDIA



Histoire et patrimoine

Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire - les grandes constructions



Histoire et patrimoine

Chamonix, l'histoire extraordinaire - l'aventure scientifique



Histoire et patrimoine

Mont Blanc & alpinisme

Our aim is to convey the passion that animates Chamonix-dwellers and how a mountain journey, which spans the centuries, has shaped the valley and its inhabitants.

Chamonix is a multi-cultural melting pot, a hive of inspiration and a grain of « folie ». Mont Blanc is the object of dreams, whether it be to climb a peak, to ski a « couloir », to fly from a cliff top, or simply to contemplate its extraordinary beauty.

What Chamonix people have in common is the desire to protect the heritage of this unique destination for future generations, and we hope that this ambition will transpire through the blog.

<https://www.chamonix.com/espace-presse#block-espacepropress>

In addition to our press kit, don't hesitate to seek inspiration on our media blog.

Articles cover tourist news, innovations, environmental initiatives, historical features, who's who and anything that we feel might be of interest to the press.

PROJECTS

THE ALPINE MUSEUM OF CHAMONIX WILL BECOME THE MONT-BLANC MUSEUM



PARTICIPATE TO THE RENOVATION OF THE ALPINE MUSEUM

To support the funding of its renovation, a fundraising campaign has been launched through the French Heritage Foundation :

<https://www.fondation-patrimoine.org/les-projets/musee-alpin>

OPENING PLANNED FOR BEGINNING 2026

The Alpine Museum is currently undergoing a major renovation aimed at expanding its reserve and exhibition spaces, enhancing their appeal through updated scenography, and making the museum more accessible to a wider audience.

With an 1800m² extension to the current site, it will offer 3 permanent exhibition spaces on 3 different themes: Adaptations (History of the region, from agropastoralism to tourism), Exploits (conquest of high mountain) and Landscapes (artists' views on the mountain).

There will also be a temporary exhibition space.

This renovation project, costing an estimated 7.6 M€, is being carried out by the Communauté de Communes de la Vallée de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, with substantial support from public and private partners.



PROJECTS

GRANDS MONTETS : A REBIRTH SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF 2026

The reconstruction of the Grands Montets ski area, which was severely affected by the fire in 2018, is now underway, with opening scheduled for December 2026.

The resort will be equipped with a new state-of-the-art lifts, designed by Doppelmayr, and modern infrastructure, including an upper station inspired by pyrite crystals, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano.

One lift, two sections, three stations

The first section will be equipped with a 10-seater gondola to provide the first link between Argentière and Lognan, a single building will house the arrival station for the first installation and the departure station for the second section, completed by a catering area, an office area reserved for operations and a space for ski patrols and rescue services.

Access to the summit will be provided by a disengageable 3S cable car seating 24 people.

Inspired by nature and crystals, the lift stations take the form of glazed volumes housing the cable car machinery. Their structures are made of high-tech modular steel components, with a design reminiscent of a pyrite crystal.

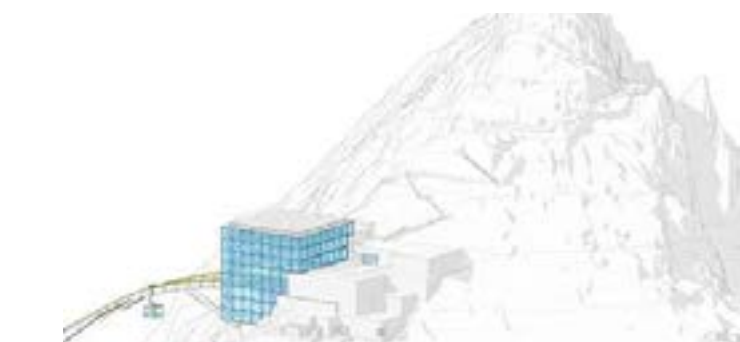
This is a responsible construction project, fully aligned with the protected Mont-Blanc site.

A comprehensive logistics system was put in place to limit the use of helicopters and ground transport. Two 10-ton material cableways ensure the transport of all materials and equipment from Argentière to the various work sites.



As for personnel, access to the Aiguille des Grands Montets is provided by a dedicated service cable car, built specifically for the project, running from the top of the Herse chairlift to the summit at 3,300 meters. These temporary infrastructures will be dismantled once the permanent installations are operational.

Grands Montets Project | Ski Area Reconstruction



JOURNALISTS CHARTER



THE PILLARS OF THE BRAND CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

A Captivating Nature

A place where nature reveals its unmatched intensity.

An Extraordinary Story

A timeless connection between the mountains and humanity.

A living capital

The heart of mountain culture.



COME BY TRAIN

Why?

Because we want to promote this mode of transport to help preserve the unique natural environment that surrounds us.

Benefits:

- Take your time,
- Enjoy breathtaking landscapes,
- Work comfortably on the train,
- > The journey starts here!

Financial Contribution:

50% coverage of the train ticket (upon presentation of proof).



GIVE-AND-TAKE PRINCIPLE

Press reception:

Following a press visit, the media agrees to share the following with the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office with:

- the print article,
- the TV feature,
- the radio or podcast report.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS JOURNALISTS [FR]

Financial & on-site support:

- Train ticket coverage up to 50% (upon presentation of proof)
- Accommodation for 2 nights and 3 days (excluding weekends and school holidays, except in specific cases)
- A tailor-made program based on a chosen topic by and with the journalist.

JOURNALISTS [OUTSIDE-FR]

- Train ticket coverage up to 50% (upon presentation of proof)
- Accommodation for 3 nights and 4 days (excluding weekends and school holidays, except in specific cases)
- A tailor-made program based on a chosen topic by and with the journalist.

HOW TO GET HERE?



THE MOST DECARBONIZED WAY THE TRAIN

Some key figures:

- 57% of a mountain resort's greenhouse gas emissions are linked to transportation*.
- On average, 85% of visitors travel to resorts by car, while only 10% use the train**.
- > Let's reverse the trend!



CONNECT CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

Paris > Chamonix
[via Bellegarde-sur-Valserine]
Approximate time: 6h 30

Genève Cornavin > Chamonix
Time: 2h 40

Annecy > Chamonix
Time: 2h 40

Lyon > Chamonix
Time: 5h

Useful links:

<https://www.powmobility.com/en>
www.googlemaps.com
<https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

More information on our website:
<https://en.chamonix.com/infos-et-services/comment-venir>

* 2010 study carried out by ADEME, ARMIN & Mountain Riders
 ** 2021 study carried out by the GSA Consulting firm

WHO ARE WE ?



WRITING HISTORY FOR OVER 250 YEARS

Birthplace of alpinism, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley has been writing mountain history since the beginnings of tourism in 1741. Through the identity of 5 villages (Servoz, Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière et Vallorcine) (re)discover the multiple facets of this unique valley.



THE PILLARS OF THE IDENTITY CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

Captivating nature
A place where nature is of an intensity beyond measure.

An extraordinary history
A never-ending story between mountains and people.

A vibrant capital
The epicenter of mountain culture.



OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS IN FIGURES

Facebook
225 215
Community (April 2022)
6,8 Millions
Page covers

Instagram
190 918
Community (April 2022)
2,2 Millions
Page covers



OUR SIGNATURE OPEN THE WAY

At the foot of Mont Blanc, 4810m, the highest peak of Western Europe, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley is a temple of the mountain tourism. In the face of such sacralized landscapes, we must be both humble and audacious. This birthplace of legends and exploits is worthy of absolute respect, whilst inspiring the pioneering spirit. Impelled to the heights by its needles and summits, bordered by rivers and glaciers, this exceptional environment calls for a high sense of responsibility.



INFLUENCERS KEY INFLUENCERS OF INTEREST TO US

Today, the reputation of the Chamonix Valley is far-reaching. In addition to inspirational content, we wish to relate the stories which have made, make and will make the identity of the Chamonix valley, via the following axes:

- Nature
- Sport
- Culture & heritage



NATURE

Discovery of local wildlife and flora, raising awareness to this fragile ecosystem that must be protected.

- Good practices to adopt in our mountain environment, living harmoniously and with minimal impact.
- Raising awareness to the effects of climate change.
- The Chamonix valley, sustainable mountain destination.

<https://en.chamonix.com/la-vallee/destination-montagne-durable>



SPORT

An amazing playground to be consumed with moderation. Whatever one's approach and level of commitment, the Chamonix valley offers everyone an opportunity to live their personal adventure.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

Alpine, scientific, architectural, artistic, musical, literary, audiovisual... The Chamonix Valley has also been a place that inspires. Much more than a ski resort, Chamonix is a mountain capital, full of authentic personalities who are the soul of this cosmopolitan place.



An influencer is a "person who, due to their popularity and expertise in a given field, is capable of influencing the consumer practices of internet users through the ideas they disseminate" (source Larousse). For us, the influencer is also a content creator who combines creativity and analytical skills to relate their experience, with authenticity and objectivity, to a specific audience.

PRESS CONTACTS :

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celio
be normal.*



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