



PRESS KIT

Spring Summer 2020

 **ANNECY
MOUNTAINS**



THE NEW destination for cyclists between lake and mountain

Annecy, its lake and the surrounding mountains have come together under a unique initiative known as «Annecy Mountains». This brand name combines the outstanding nature of the destination from a geographical, cultural and tourist point of view. The local partners are united in their determination and pride in this unparalleled and exceptional destination

This summer 2020, Annecy Mountains intends to fully establish itself as a new, must-go destination for cyclists with a double offer of lake and mountains. From the slow pace of life around Lake Annecy to the legendary Cols of the Aravis, some of the iconic battlegrounds of the Tour de France, Annecy Mountains appeals to both bike tourists looking for pleasant rides and adrenalin seeking riders. The area is a champion of sustainable tourism in their support of ecological and eco-friendly initiatives and invites you to come off the beaten track for new encounters with the men and women striving to maintain and preserve the authenticity of the area, to continue to develop sports and the overall intense creativity. From Lake to Mountains, one single watchword: get back in the saddle and off you go into Annecy Mountains!



ANNECY, a contemplative ride along the lake

Nestled between lake and mountains, Annecy is a place where anything is possible. As you ride along the cycle path experience the luxury of a peaceful cycle ride along lanes dedicated almost only to cyclists!



RIDE WITH A VIEW

As you meander along Lake Annecy, take your time to enjoy the view over the emerald waters of the lake and stop off for a quick dip at one of the many swimming spots. Every few kilometres, take time to pause for contemplation as you cool off in the purest lake in Europe. Or why not opt for a more active ride and take a detour up to the Col de la Forclaz, a 700m climb to 1147m which is well worth the extra effort, once up there you have a breath-taking view over the surrounding mountains of the Bauges, the Dents de Lanfon and the Tournette. For an even better experience, ride up towards the end of the day to watch the sun go down over the lake

www.lac-annecy.com



...THEN HAVE A SNACK AT THE CAFÉ VÉLO !

Nathalie welcomes all types of cyclists to her Café vélo at Veyrier-du-Lac. The family home on the edge of the cycle path is open for refreshing snacks or a cool drink, where you can sit back and relax as you look out over the lake. You can also use the «bike first aid» garage to clean your bike, do a bit of maintenance or fill up your water bottle. Educational workshops are organised throughout the summer to learn about bicycle maintenance and repair.

Le Café Vélo - La Petite Reine : 29 route d'Annecy, Veyrier-du-Lac

STOP OFF AT A SHADED GARDEN IN A FAIRY TALE CASTLE

Easily recognisable for its silhouette reminiscent of the castle of Sleeping Beauty, the château de Menthon is in constant evolution. Gardener, Hugues Devries, has created a biodynamic kitchen garden in the south facing garden of the castle using permaculture techniques and on the other side of the old garden wall there is an aromatic herb garden, full of astonishing scents all developed in respect of natural processes in a global approach. The 100% naturally produced garden produce is on sale from the castle shop. There are also DIY workshops organised where visitors can make their own concoctions using the medicinal plants direct from the castle garden.

www.chateau-de-menthon.com



4

The number of times the Tour de France has come to Lake Annecy between 2009 and 2020.



10

The number of bike-friendly « Accueil Vélo » places, including accommodation and restaurants in and around the Sources du lac d'Annecy.



THE SOURCES du lac d'Annecy, the art of cycling...

Awarded the « Accueil Vélo » status and mountain bike base, in recognition of its bike-friendly practices, there is a pedestrian and cycle path running direct through Les Sources du lac d'Annecy from north to south linking it to Annecy and Albertville along the lake and the adjoining rivers. It is also surrounded by many outstanding peaks with panoramic views, such as the cols de l'Épine and Tamié. It offers more than 120km of marked paths.

« BIKE FRIENDLY » CAMPSITE AT MARLENS-VAL DE CHAISE

Make a stop at Champ Tillet at Marlens-Val de Chaise! A charming campsite along the cycle path with a restaurant and the bike-friendly « Accueil Vélo » award, with everything a cyclist may need from healthy menus to a repair workshop, secure garage and a wash and air station nearby.

www.champtillet.com

THE TOURIST OFFICE ON TWO WHEELS !

At the Sources du lac d'Annecy, the tourist office takes the information to their clients at their accommodation or places to visit. The team travel round the seven villages that make up the district from north to south along the cycle path or east to west along a network of smaller roads.

www.sources-lac-annecy.com



THÔNES Cœur des Vallées : the must-go mix and match!

Thônes Cœur des Vallées, is a spectacular crossroads linking Lake Annecy to the villages of the Aravis range of mountains. Nestled into the different valleys, it is an ideal base camp all year long for nature adventures, cultural visits, sports and history!

CYCLE ALONG THE WATERWAYS

A brand-new cycle path now means you can cycle to the many picturesque villages along the banks of the river Fier among the extensive diversity of fauna and flora. The 71.9km Fier starts in the Aravis range in Mont Charvin, then runs past Manigod and other villages in the Thônes Cœur des Vallées district before arriving in Annecy.

www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com



FABIEN A TOUCH FOR WOOD...

Fabien, 35 is a cabinetmaker with a difference! As a big fan of the seventies and Californian surfboards, he has combined his two passions with the F. WOODSKATE BOARDS brand. He makes surfboards, skateboards or longboards 100% "made in Thônes". Each board can be personalised from the choice of wood, format or style and can be engraved. He uses oak, ash and birch that he mixes with exotic woods. Every creation made by Fabien in his garage/workshop, far from prying eyes, is totally unique and made from natural products.

Price: up to 250€
f @ F.woodskateboards



7

The number of refuges currently housed in the Thônes Cœur des Vallées district.



The number of metres of vertical ascent to climb the mythical col de la Croix Fry.

842

A FUN TRAIL TO GET BACK TO NATURE

La Tête de Cabeau has a breathtaking view over the Manigod valley and a free, fun, nature trail through the forest. Great family fun throughout the summer with games and workshops! More and more city-dwellers are attracted to life in the countryside to the wide-open green spaces and life at a slower pace. The nature trail is an ideal opportunity to switch off and get back to nature in a magical setting.

MANIGOD a preserved valley

Get away from it all, feel rejuvenated and take advantage of a multitude of activities in Manigod with one of the best panoramas in Haute-Savoie. It couldn't be more authentic with its green meadows and traditional chalets. There is something for everyone here from entertainment, festive events, hiking, cycling, heritage visits, fun activities and fine dining.

THE TOUR DE FRANCE, A FREQUENT VISITOR TO THE COL DE LA CROIX-FRY

Since 2000, the Tour de France has passed over the col three times. Follow in the pedals of some of the best international cyclists and attempt the 842m vertical ascent from Thônes to the col de la Croix Fry. Whether you choose speed or a more leisurely ride, the col de la Croix Fry remains a challenge with its over 9% slope!



The « mountain ride culture » reigns in LA CLUSAZ

The Aravis mountains have a touch of the eternal here, sharing a drink while listening to music, an outdoor adventure always leading to another, you feel naturally re-energised.

Welcome to the La Clusaz summer break !



ALPS BIKE FESTIVAL 3RD EDITION

From 12th to 14th June 2020

The big MTB event is back for a third year in La Clusaz, full of new surprises for even more fun for mountain bikers. If you love to pedal, you are sure to find something at the Alps Bike Festival with XC, all-mountain, endure and trail riding, for competition or just for fun. There is also E-biking on gentle trails to discover this emerging discipline. This home-grown MTB event is a great combination of fun, excitement and sport!

Prices: from 8€ to 105€ depending on selected race - www.alpsbikefestival.com



...AN ALPINE GARDEN AT THE VIEUX MADRIER

Nestled in an idyllic setting on the Confins plateau, Jacques and Martine extend a warm welcome to guests to their gîte, «Le Vieux Madrier» and their garden, «Aux Confins des Sens». Their magnificent farm has been entirely renovated and equipped with solar panels and geothermic heating. There are several events organised here during the summer such as guided tours to discover medicinal plants, alpine flowers and the general biodiversity or twice weekly, free visits around the garden in the afternoon.

<http://confins.free.fr>

BIKE-FRIENDLY CHALET LES RHODOS...

The Rhodos have a lot to offer, from the themed hotel rooms in a «Sport Vintage» or «Music Studio» style, for example to the gourmet restaurant, the outstanding preserved, natural environment of the Col des Aravis and the exceptional bike-friendly welcome, recognised by the award «Accueil Vélo», found throughout La Clusaz. Everything is on hand to make your stage as easy as possible here from: e-bike battery charging, water bottles, rain jackets, fresh lemon water given to any passing cyclist, air pump and bike repair kits and special discounts for cyclists on drinks and food.

www.rhodos.fr



The number of kilometres of signposted cycle trails around La Clusaz.

KMS

125

LE GRAND-BORNAND

a long history, of biking!

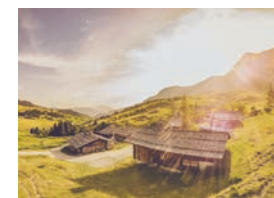
Le Grand-Bornand is proud of its pedal-powered culture, for classic or e-bikes. Follow in the pedals of the heroes of the Tour de France in the ultimate in bike-friendly resorts, awarded « Accueil Vélo » status and seven times host and stage town for the Tour de France since 1995.

« RIDE LIKE A PRO ! »

COURSE With AG2R LA MONDIALE
From 11th to 14th June 2020

Spend a week in the company of the reserve competitors and technicians from the AG2R LA MONDIALE team. Enjoy rides for all levels, advice and themed meetings and take advantage of mechanical assistance, a bike truck and an assistance car on each ride. Also included are headsets and power meters as well as a ticket to the mythical « Time Megève Mont-Blanc » and a full AG2R outfit!

Price: 640€ Also includes accommodation and meals in the hotel/Spa La Croix Saint-Maurice*** Le Grand-Bornand, recognised as bike-friendly with an « Accueil Vélo » award.
www.legrandbornand-reservation.com



THE FAMOUS REBLOCHON KEEPS ROLLING!

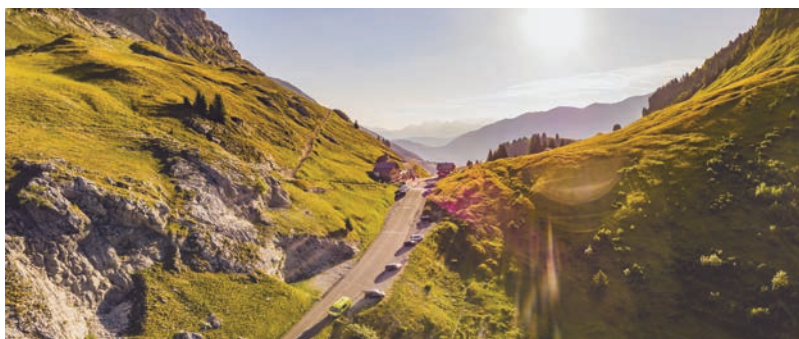
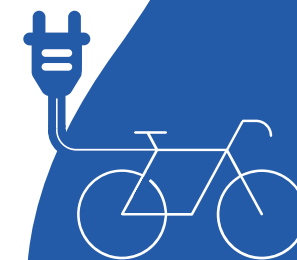
There are almost as many cows as inhabitants in Le Grand-Bornand, the village with the highest production of the famous round, creamy cheese with a nutty taste. Visit a farm in the commune, easily done as there are 50 of them, to taste Reblochon Fermier, recognisable by its green casein and made twice daily from the milk of a single herd. Another option is to follow the « Art Vache » trail and its hundreds of works of art that honours all things cow-like around Le Grand-Bornand, taking you up hidden passageways with the promise of original and unusual photos.

Prices: farm visit plus tasting session 5,50€/ 3€/ children (6 to 12 years) - www.legrandbornand.com



over 100

The number of e-bikes for rental from service providers and accommodation providers in Le Grand-Bornand. The resort is an essential stage on the Route des Grandes Alpes, a scenic sightseeing trail that links Lake Lemman with the Mediterranean over some of the most beautiful cols, including the Col de la Colombière, ranked as a category 1 climb over 12km and 11% from the resort.





BY CAR

- **Paris:** 5h / 550 km > A6
- **Lyon:** 1h30 / 150 km > A43 / A41
- **Marseille:** 4h / 430 km > A7
- **Grenoble:** 1h10 / 100 km > A41
- **Chambéry:** 40 min. / 50 km > A41
- **Geneva:** 40 min. / 40 km > A41
- **Chamonix:** 1h10 / 100 km > A40

ACCESS TO THE RESORTS

BY CAR

- **Annecy > Aravis**
(La Clusaz, Le Grand-Bornand, Manigod, Saint-Jean de Sixt):
40 min. / 30 km by car
- **Annecy > Thônes Cœur des Vallées** 20 min. / 20 km by car
- **Annecy > Semnoz**
20 min. / 15 km by car
- **Annecy > La Sambuy**
45 min. / 30 km by car
- **Annecy > Plateau des Glières**
30 min. / 20 km by car

BY TRAIN

- **Paris:** 3h45
- **Lyon:** 2h
- **Marseille:** 4h

BY PLANE

- **Paris:** 1h
> Annecy - Mont-Blanc Airport (business airport)
> Geneva Cointrin Airport
- **London:** 1h30
> Geneva Cointrin Airport
- **Barcelona:** 2h
> Geneva Cointrin Airport
- **Berlin:** 1h30
> Geneva Cointrin Airport

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