



**ANNECY
MOUNTAINS**

Press release

Winter / spring
2021-2022



 **ANNECY
MOUNTAINS**



— Off the beaten track! —

Annecy and its surrounding countryside and mountains are now combined under the joint venture known as Annecy Mountains. This initiative seeks to promote the outstanding natural destination from a geographical, cultural and tourist point of view. The local partners are united in their determination and pride to reveal all this unparalleled and exceptional destination has to offer.

From the idyllic shores of Lake Annecy to the spectacular summits of the Aravis, Annecy Mountains has timeless appeal. Discover the area in winter, and chance upon unexpected, hidden treasures of natural beauty, abounding with local history and distinct identities. From Lake to Mountains, all you need, is get off the beaten track.

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1/ The stats

Come to
Annecy Mountains



By road

A41 Motorway

exit « Annecy centre »
and « Annecy nord »

A40 Motorway

exit « Bonneville /Aravis »
(35 min.)

By train

Annecy TGV Station

Paris-Annecy Direct
(3h40 - 5 to 7
times per day)

Valserhône TGV Station

(45 min.)

By plane

International Airports
served by several low-cost
and regular airlines.

Geneva

44 km (45 min)

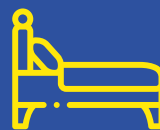
Lyon - Saint Exupéry

125 km (1h30)

Accommodation & Fine dining



10,2 million
the number of tourist
overnight stays



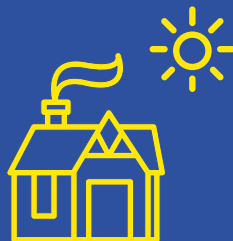
142 500
Tourist beds
within
Annecy Mountains



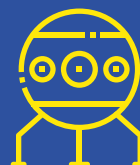
11 stars
(Michelin Guide)

Laurent Petit (3),
Jean Sulpice (2),
Yoann Conte (2),
Marc Veyrat (2),
Florian Favario (1),
Stéphane Dattrino (1),
Eric Prowalski (1),
Vincent Favre Felix (1)

20
Summer
refuges



12
Unusual
places to stay
(cabin, bubble...)



6
5-star
hotels



17
4-star
hotels

1/ The stats

Sports & outdoor



229 km of cross-country skiing tracks

Aravis: 118 km
(La Clusaz et Manigod / Thônes: 50 km, Le Grand-Bornand: 68 km),
Semnoz: 39 km, Talloires Montmin: 16 km,
Glières: 29 km, Val de Tamié: 27 km



A hotbed of champions

Edgar Grospiron
Olympic champion and three-time world mogul skiing champion

Tessa Worley
four-time world downhill skiing champion

Candide Thovex
World Freeride champion

Clémentine Lucine
Several times water skiing champion and record holder

Raphaëlle Monod
Champion and several times vice-world mogul skiing champion

Seiko Fukuoka-Naville
World paragliding champion

Morgane Charre
World MTB downhill champion

Loana Lecomte
4th at the XC MTB World Cup 2021

Stéphane Turreau
Vice-world free diving champion

Benjamin Daviet
6-time Olympic nordic-handiskiing medalist, with 3 golds

Loïc Collomb-Patton
World freeride champion

285 km of downhill slopes



Aravis: 210 km, Semnoz: 35 km,
Sambuy: 40 km

1 467 km of hiking trails



200 000

The amount of **paragliding and hang gliding jumps** per year, in and around Annecy Mountains

18

The number of **cols** to climb on your road bike

4 snowparks

1 biathlon stadium

5 via ferrata sites

3 lake fishing spots

8 canyoning spots

20 climbing spots

3 caving spots

8 skateparks



Altitude

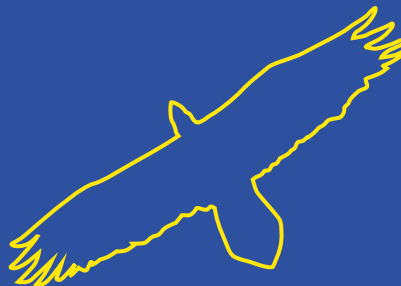
320 m at the lowest altitude and
2 750 m at the highest point in the area
(la pointe Percée, on the commune of Le Grand-Bornand)

Our heritage & natural environment



2 natural reserves

Roc de Chère and Bout du Lac,
managed by Asters



3 couples of Bearded Vultures

Settled and reproducing
in the Bornes-Aravis Massif

7

Natura 2000 sites

A network that identifies
natural sites in order
maintain and protect species
and habitats that may
be under threat.



Le reblochon

130 farms
10 cheese maturers
5 200 cows
6 million Reblochon per year

Lac d'Annecy

Average
depth: 41 m
Maximum depth: 80 m
Length of shoreline: 40 km



1 Geopark

Regional Nature Park
in the Bauges massif
(UNESCO 2015)



2 historic sites

to commemorate
the Resistance:
Plateau des Glières
& Morette

2/ *Deep in nature*

The Great Outdoors is right here. Here are some of the best ways to get your fill of fresh air and nature whether you seek contemplative relaxation, wellness or fine dining, under the stars or accompanied by music.



1/ Dog sledding, a polar activity in the Aravis

Comfortably installed in your sled, experience an exhilarating hour-long glide through the snowy landscapes with an expert musher. Get to know about life with the pack, enjoy a break in the middle of your trip to take memorable photos, stroke the dogs and learn about life as a musher.

More info: tel. +33 (0)4 50 44 92 44.

www.manigod.com

2/ Enjoy a nordic week at L'Auberge Nordique***

Deep in the far-flung valleys of Le Grand Bornand, Nordic living has become a way of life. Considered one of the most beautiful winter sports destinations in France, the village is proud of the 68 km Nordic skiing domain and the 81 km of groomed snowshoe walking trails, where the emphasis is as much on the performance as the experience. In this privileged atmosphere, L'Auberge Nordique*** holiday village has been awarded the Chouette Nature label in recognition of its waste management and sustainable purchase policy and have developed themed week-long holidays in partnership with qualified professionals including cross-country skiing, snowshoe walking and biathlon.

www.auberge-nordique.com



3/ Experience a snowshoe walk under the stars!

Your feet in the snow and head in the stars, this is the promise made by the cross-country French Ski School in Grand Bornand. Under a starlit sky high above the resort, far from any light pollution, on foot or snowshoes spend 2 hours stargazing and learn about the stars, planets and constellations. Step back from the world to get some perspective of our place in the universe for a physical and sensorial torchlit experience accompanied by the cracking of snow under your feet.

www.esf-skidefond.com

4/ Experience wild camping in winter on the Plateau des Glières

Annecy Guides Bureau are offering a full immersion experience in the winter wilderness on the Plateau des Glières, a pivotal stronghold of the French Resistance. After a snowshoe hike, you need to find the best spot to set up camp for the night, followed by an evening round the campfire and a fondue under the stars. Wake the next morning in your bivvy after an amazing and unforgettable experience out in Nature.

More info: 4 people minimum – from 255 €/per person for 8 – bivouac equipment hire & meal included – intermediate level required.

www.annecyguidesmontagne.com



5



6



8



5/ A night in a Tipi under the full moon

An unforgettable experience under the new moon in mystical surroundings. 2 words describe a ski touring experience in the light of the moon: calm and serenity. The tipi is set up in the heart of the mountains where you will spend a starlit night after a delicious Savoyard fondue.

More info: from 130 €/per person.

www.guides-des-aravis.com/fr/bureau-des-guides-de-thones

6/ Wellness, when I want where I want

A pretty gypsy caravan, sauna and/or massage cabin that can be transformed or adapted according to your wishes, wherever you decide: in a garden for an evening or beside the lake by day for a dip in clear, fresh water during the autumn months. Marc and Caroline offer a wide range of services from massages to relaxation, adaptable and accessible to all, from friends to family.

www.laroulottedumasseur.fr

7/ A new photo gallery for Bastien Morel, photographer of out mountains

"Every photo has its own story" this is the philosophy of Bastien Morel, photographer and fervent defender of his home territory, the mountains, the lake and its surroundings. He has spent years communicating his passion for the mountains through his photos and has now decided to set up a partnership to open a photo gallery in the former Hôtel de la Tournette in Saint-Jorioz with Baptiste, his childhood friend. It is open to all, throughout the year.

www.bastienmorel.com

8/ Trail running in any season

Novices or professionals can now discover the snowy valley in a different way. There is something for all levels in Manigod from advanced trail runners to beginners ! A great way to have fun discovering trail tracks along steep climbs and gentle slopes. Trail running is possible in both summer and winter in Manigod in the beautiful landscapes of the Aravis.

More info: Manigod village trail.
Tel. +33 (0)4 50 44 92 44.

www.manigod.com



9/ 3 days of winter raid at the heart of the snowy peaks

Ski raid combines the fun of winter sports, plus some extra exertion all in breathtaking scenery far from the crowds. The 3-day itinerary takes you from the mountains of Thônes across the snowy peaks of the surrounding area. The cherry on the cake: spend the night in chalets far from the world where you can warm up around the fire and share a delicious meal with the guide.

More info: from 390 €/per person for 3 days

www.guides-des-aravis.com/fr/bureau-des-guides-de-thones

10/ The reblochon track: education, naturally

The ever-popular Envers blue slope is changing. Along the 2,5 km slope and 250 m vertical descent, you can now find out all about local fauna with a mixture of challenges, fun activities and information boards. Discover the history of agro-pastoralism in La Clusaz through the work of the farmers, their impact on the alpine environment and of course all about the history of Reblochon.

More info: Accessible only with a ski pass.

www.laclusaz.com

11/ Snowshoe walking on the Danay

A gentle climb through stunning, snowy landscapes to take you up to the tête du Danay for one of the most outstanding panoramas of the Aravis range, with 3 orientation tables and a 360° view. A guaranteed WOW effect !

More info: tel. +33 (0)4 50 02 70 14.

www.saintjeandesixt.com

12/ Good vibes week, the spirit of zen in the mountains

The wellness week is one of our best-kept secrets. The first edition mostly brought together local practitioners and a wider audience were attracted to the second and third edition with distance lessons. The fourth edition of the Good Vibes Week will continue to grow to accommodate instructors and local participants. During the event several yoga and meditation lessons are organised as well as ayurvedic workshops and candle creation using essential oils in cooperation with Les Claires Idées candle makers. It is an event full of good vibes organised by kind-hearted souls from the village.

More info: From 21 to 25 April 2022.

www.laclusaz-yogafestival.com



3/ Life in the mountains

From down in the valley, up to the summits the people here have so many stories to tell. Some of them have chosen to give you an insight into their way of life in order to fully appreciate your experience in Anecy Mountains.

1/ Didier saddles up

Local artisan Didier Perrillat, has an ancestral savoir-faire in leather working and still uses age-old tools. His workshop and shop is in one of the oldest chalets in Grand Bornand where he proudly defends his noble and ancient art, as well as all things "made in France", with cosy workshops on leather-working around the fire, to keep the fire burning of his craft.

www.bourrelier-hautesavoie.com

2/ The la Perrière farm reveals the secrets of the fabrication of Reblochon

Located in Saint Jean de Sixt at the entrance to the Aravis, la Perrière farm will reveal all the secrets of Reblochon making. You can follow all the steps of the fabrication of the eponymous cheese of the Aravis in their production workshop.

More info: tel. +33 (0)4 50 02 70 14.

www.saintjeandesixt.com





3/ David Zilber makes his own honey... straight from the summer meadows !

David Zilber is passionate about being a "sustainable beekeeper". 6 years ago, he created "Miels des Z'alpages" installing 200 hives at the heart of the exceptional habitat of the Aravis. He produces delicious honey in a sustainable balanced way which involves extracting only a surplus amount of honey from the hives, he has also developed a breed of bees that resists the alpine seasons with only a 10% loss rate during winter.

He exclusively supplies the honey pot at "Aux Comptoirs des Alpes" delicatessen and you can find it on the bescoin, a traditional bread from Grand Bornand made with aniseed and saffron, on sale every Sunday from the bakers in the village.

www.auxcomptoirsdesalpes.fr





4/ Régis Bozon, The bronze-crowned king of saucisson

At the age of 13, Régis started out as an apprentice in the slaughterhouse in Thônes, where he started his career in charcuterie. He then went on to win the bronze medal at the International Saucisson Awards. He is the unique producer of saucissons in the valley, everything is made by him in his premises in Thônes, he smokes his hams, saucisson and cured meats made from specially selected pork from the Jura. His products can be found on the markets around the Aravis and on Saturday at the market in Thônes.

www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com

5/ The Paccard brothers - time well spent

It took thousands of years for the beautiful cheese farms to develop in the mountains, and it took decades to invent the unique know-how of cheese refining. The Paccard cheese cellars are a fine example. Brothers, Bertrand and Jean-François Paccard followed in the family tradition of cheese refiners and now spend all their time listening to and taking care of their cheeses, choosing them one by one for a unique taste experience.

www.reblochon-paccard.fr



6/ Distillation in the Aravis

Sarah and Romain, brothers and sisters and children of distillers will give you a glimpse of the distillation process of its authentic Génépi liqueur in the Distillerie des Aravis, made here in a traditional way since 1876. Romain will tell you all about the distillation and bottling process and Sarah will be present to open the doors of the shop and invite you for a tasting session.

www.distilleriearavis.fr





7/ Hand thrown pottery by Laurence



Polkadot is a small pottery that produces everyday and decorative objects for tableware or around the house that bring colour and poetry to daily life. Her creations are imagined, hand-turned, shaped then illustrated by Laurence in her workshop and studio, located in the former communal cheese cellar in Manigod. Laurence André welcomes you to her workshop to discover how she creates and decorates her unique glazed pottery.

www.atelierpolkadot.com

4/ Immerse yourself in local culture

Travel through time, through water, wood, earth, stone or outdoors in the fresh air and discover local secrets and natural treasures waiting to be unearthed in Annecy Mountains.

1/ The Château de Menthon is open for visits in winter

Known for having inspired Walt Disney for the castle of Sleeping Beauty, the Château de Menthon has been in the same family for over 800 years and this year for the first time, is opening to visitors during winter. With magnificently preserved centuries-old architecture and exceptional period furniture, visitors are plunged into the universe of the Menthon family. Discover items such as the 15 m-long food hatch dug into the rock, the library that houses over 12,000 books from before the 1789 French Revolution or the bedroom of the lady of the house and its Aubosson tapetries and even the Pilgrim's Hall.

More info: Every Friday – Saturday and Sunday afternoons - 11 € / adult - 6 € child.

www.chateau-de-menthon.com





2/ Touch wood !

Boasting nearly 500 old chalets in the commune of Le Grand Bornand, the alpine village has the most conserved vernacular, traditional architectural heritage in France ! The oldest chalet dates back to 1664 and continues to be inhabited by the same family. Some of the oldest chalets, now converted into Gîtes and comfortable and even luxurious hotels, artist's studios and picturesque traditional restaurants, can be dated back to the time of the construction of the Château of Versailles. The Local "bornandins" are proud to preserve their stunning traditional landscapes and traditional way of life.

www.legrandbornand.com

3/ Beneath the Sources of the Lake Sources du lac: Verthier through history

This village, one of the oldest that makes up Doussard, owes its creation to the dead water and the lake. The area has inspired painters such as Prosper Dunant and Firmin Salabert. Follow a circuit to go back in time to when the old 14th century bridge was a toll bridge, to when the mills were powered by the millstreams and when the main means of transport to get to Annecy was by boat. Discover a former chapel and traditional houses with 4/12 pitched roofs and the Maison Blain, a fine example of a 15th century bourgeois house.

www.sources-lac-annecy.com





4/ The Wood and Forest Eco-museum

Discover the world of alpine wood in this former hydraulic sawmill from the 19th Century, located in the heart of the Montremont valley at the foot of the majestic Tournette ! Enjoy a lively and interactive visit for all ages with sawing demonstrations as well as Nature exhibitions and walks around the theme of local flora, fauna and countryside.

www.ecomusee-bois-foret.com

5/ The inter-generational ambassadeurs at the heart of the village

During the winter, the residents of the village of La Clusaz are very active and work together with the tourist office, especially during the busy period during the school holidays. They are present at strategic points in the village to welcome, inform and help holidaymakers as they arrive in the village. They are always keen to share their knowledge of the village and of course are well known for their bonhomie and sense of humour !

www.laclusaz.com





6/ Fabwé: The fabrication of traditional wooden sledges in Thorens Glières

Carpenter by trade, Fabrice tailor-makes paret: traditional wooden sledges that children used to go to school. From his workshop in Thorens Glières he can personalise the sledges with a detachable part, to make it easier to transport, compared to a Yooner or a traditional paret. You can choose from a recycled ski or all-in-wood options, each paret is stamped and personalised on request.

More info: for detachable paret: children: 80 €, adult: recycled ski version 140 €, tardy wooden ski 219 €.

<https://paret-fabwe.jimdofree.com>

7/ Spend a torchlit evening in the Maison du Patrimoine to experience how we used to live...

Former farm, the maison du Patrimoine bears witness to centuries of life in the village of Grand Bornand. It houses an impressive display of everyday objects and furniture where visitors can experience life in the village as it was centuries before. Creep round the chalet by night by the light of a torch, in the gloom and the creaking of the wood and crackling of the fire, can you find the date on the oldest beam of this outstanding abode, it is hard to believe ! Here's a clue, take the stairs to the barn !

www.patrimoine-legrandbornand.com

8/ The house of the village that stood the test of time as La Clusaz changed around it

On the church square, the house of the village has witnessed the changes to La Clusaz since the 18th century. Well before the village became a ski resort, the house was first home to a family of bakers, the Gallay family, before becoming home to the Pollet family, butchers and owners of the Brasserie Centrale. The butcher's has since disappeared, but the Pollet family are still going strong and brother and sister Jean-Marie and Stéphanie are continuing to build on the family history with the creation of 2 apartments in the former barn. They have ingeniously worked round the existing structure which includes the mythical elements used in the construction of the church bell tower in 1761 and the stonework used by the monks in the construction of a château, while creating a contemporary and spacious living space.

www.lamaisonduvillage.fr





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AnnecyMountains

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Credits photo : L. André - Paccard - L. Scaturro - M. Dalmaso - J. Mugniery - P. Aubert - C. Hudry - A. Chemin - C. Cattin - C. Chabod - T. Valtard - T. Vattard - T. Nalet - Esprits outdoor - Alpes-Blvouac - Versant Montagne Annecy - Vieux Madrier - Sarah conte ses aventures - OT Thônes - Tas2Cailloux - Pays de Fillière - SIMA - S.L.A. - M.A. Verpaelist - Illustrations : The Noun Project - X.