



 **ANNECY  
MOUNTAINS**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

*Summer / Autumn 2023*







## *The way to get away !*

Annecy Mountains... a French way of life, but above all a green haven, with the turquoise waters of Lake Annecy and the spectacular peaks of the surrounding mountains, including the legendary Aravis range, which needs no introduction. The region is more than just a destination. It has a variety of landscapes, activities, traditions and people who make the area vibrant. Annecy Mountains guarantees authenticity, nature and unspoilt scenery. Annecy Mountains is also an endless playground where everything is possible, and a destination for lovers of fine food and sports enthusiasts alike. In season or out of season, there only one word to describe it: a trip with style...

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# The key figures



## Come to Annecy Mountains

### BY CAR

#### **Autoroute A41**

exit « Annecy centre » and « Annecy nord »

#### **Autoroute A40**

exit « Bonneville/Aravis »  
(35 mins)

### BY TRAIN

#### **Annecy TGV Station**

Direct line Paris-Annecy  
(3 hours 40 mins - 5 to 7 times per day)

#### **Valserhône TGV Station**

(45 mins)

### BY PLANE

International airports for regular  
and low cost airlines

#### **Geneva**

44 km (45 mins)

#### **Lyon - Saint Exupéry**

125 km (1 hour 30 mins)

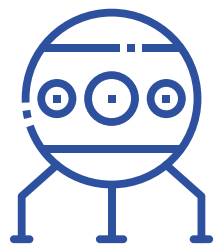
## ACCOMMODATION & FINE DINING



**6**  
5-star  
hotels



**21**  
4-star  
hotels



**13**  
Unusual  
places to stay  
(cabin, bubble...)

**20**  
summer  
refuges

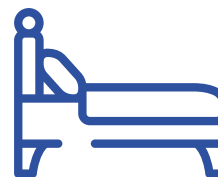


**11,9** million  
the number of tourist  
overnight stays





**12** stars  
(Guide Michelin)

Laurent Petit (3)  
Jean Sulpice (2)  
Yoann Conte (2)  
Florian Favario (2)  
Stéphane Dattrino (1)  
Eric Prowalski (1)  
Vincent Favre Félix (1)

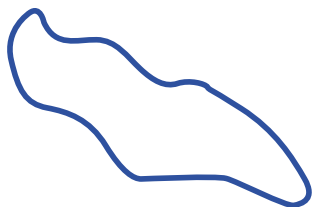


**142 900**  
Tourist beds  
within  
Annecy Mountains

## SPORT & OUTDOOR

<b>5</b> via ferrata sites	 <b>ALTITUDE</b>	<b>1 467</b> km of hiking trails
<b>3</b> lake fishing spots	<b>320 m</b> at the lowest altitude	
<b>8</b> canyoning spots		
<b>20</b> climbing spots	<b>2 750 m</b> at the highest point in the area (la pointe Percée, on the commune of Le Grand-Bornand)	 <b>200 000</b> the amount of paragliding and hang gliding jumps per year, in and around Annecy Mountains
<b>3</b> caving spots		
<b>8</b> skateparks		
<b>40</b> sport and cycle tourism routes, including 4 gravel routes	<b>1</b> cycling guidebook on sale in the tourist offices	<b>18</b> the number of cols to climb on your road bike

## OUR HERITAGE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



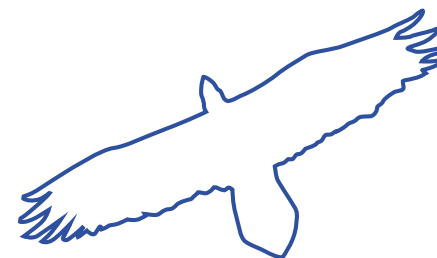
### Lac d'Annecy

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

2

### Historic sites

to commemorate the Resistance:  
Plateau des Glières & Morette



3

### Couples of bearded vultures

settled and reproducing in  
the Bornes-Aravis Massif



### Reblochons

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

1

### Geopark

Regional Nature Park  
in the Bauges massif

(UNESCO 2015)



2

### Natural reserves

Roc de Chère and Bout du Lac,  
managed by Asters

7

### Natura 2000 sites

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

# Immersion in the great outdoors

With activities and experiences to be enjoyed night and day, you can take your time, switch off, be surprised, be bold and unwind - in other words, reconnect with what is important, i.e. nature!

## **1/ NEW: EXPERIENCE A UNIQUE NIGHT AT THE NEW GRAMUSSET REFUGE HUT**

Gramusset, also known as the Pointe Percée refuge hut, the highest point in the Aravis mountain range in the commune of Grand-Bornand, is the latest major project undertaken by the CAF (French Alpine Club) as regards its refuges. It has just undergone an extensive renovation programme, with the construction of a brand-new chalet and with 36 beds shared with the historic refuge dating from 1928, which has been improved. The outdated wing built in the 1970s has been removed. Thanks to a budget of €2,650,000, the Gramusset refuge - which is both a hiking destination for families and a stopover point on the routes which criss-cross the Aravis mountain range and the surrounding lapiaz (classified as a Natura 2000 site) - is now virtually self-sufficient in terms of energy as a result of a renovation project of high environmental quality which has been hailed as exemplary.

**[www.refugelapointepercee.ffcam.fr](http://www.refugelapointepercee.ffcam.fr)**





## 2/ LE CHEMIN DES TYROLIENNES

This unusual activity, which combines walking and aerial activities, is located about thirty minutes from Annecy in Talloires-Montmin. A guide accompanies the brave through our forests and mountains, and to the foot of La Tournette in particular - the highest peak around Lake Annecy. The hike starts at the Pré Verel refuge, at an altitude of 1,200 m in the heart of the mountain pastures, and is accompanied by crossing the woods via several zip lines: two on the way up and three on the way down. Optional during the activity: Visit to the Col de l'Aulp farm with lunch in the restaurant.

**Price:** 1 hr 30 min round trip (single) - Adults: €28 - Children (40kg minimum): €22 - Group (6 people and more): €25 - Specialist equipment provided: Helmets, harnesses, lanyards, pulleys. [www.chemin-des-tyroliennes.com](http://www.chemin-des-tyroliennes.com)



## 3/ NEW: TAKE TO THE HEIGHTS IN A GONDOLA SUSPENDED... FROM A LARGE BALLOON

Starting from La Clusaz, experience the pleasure of free flight while admiring the Aravis mountain range from the sky! This is a unique opportunity to soar above the Alpine peaks and admire breathtaking sights such as Mont Blanc, the Col des Aravis and the Pointe Percée! *Flight duration: approx. 1 hr 15 min. Allow a morning for the whole activity*

**Price:** adult from €280, child from €195. [www.montgolfieres-du-mont-blanc.fr](http://www.montgolfieres-du-mont-blanc.fr)



## 4/ SEVEN MOUNTAIN REFUGE HUTS IN THE THÔNES CŒUR DES VALLÉES REGION

There are seven mountain rescue huts dotted around the mountains in the vast Thônes Cœur des Vallées region, which extends from La Tournette to Le Parmelan, the Plateau de Beauregard, Le Charvin and Les Dents de Lanfon. They open their doors to hikers looking for a night away from it all or for multi-day treks! Lasting from two to four days, and depending on your level of fitness, the itineraries suggested allow you to reach the high altitude refuges. These are timeless places where the wardens are always happy to provide a good rest and to share and offer advice to hikers to help them tackle the gradients in the peace and quiet of unspoilt surroundings! *The seven mountain refuges: Aulp de Marlens, Les Fontanettes, Alpage du Freu, Lindion, Larrieux, Praz d'Zeures, Parmelan..* [www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com](http://www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com)





## 5/ A FREE, OPEN-ACCESS NATURE TRAIL IN THE FOREST

Manigod is a great playground for families. Starting from the Col de Merdassier reservoir, you can set off to explore the natural world! Numerous activities are offered from mid-June to mid-September by the Manigod tourist office, which will challenge young and old alike. The activities offered on this trail are designed to develop children's physical skills, as well as to allow them to spend an afternoon with their family in the middle of nature and to recharge their batteries. Suitable for families with young children, this free trail to the Tête de Cabeau offers breathtaking views. *Further information from the Manigod tourist office.*

**[www.manigod.com/a-vivre-en-famille/parcours-ludique-nature-en-foret.html](http://www.manigod.com/a-vivre-en-famille/parcours-ludique-nature-en-foret.html) • +33 (0)4 50 44 92 44**



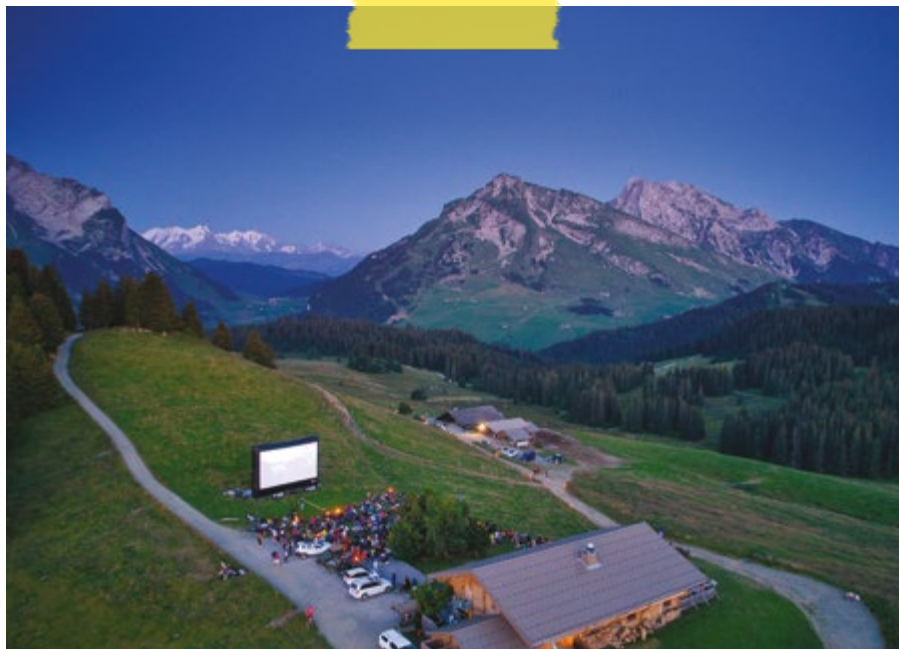
## 6/ HORSES ARE THE PERFECT WAY TO GET AROUND!

Exploring the Sources du lac d'Annecy area on the trails, accompanied by Lysiane, an enthusiastic horse rider, is a pleasant and rewarding way to learn about the destination. Riverbanks, forests, country lanes and hamlets hold no secrets for horse riders. The rides on offer are accessible to all (from 12 years old).

**Price:** from €35 per person (for a 1-hour ride).

**[www.lesecuriesdechevaline.com](http://www.lesecuriesdechevaline.com)**





## 7/ SCREENING UNDER THE STARS WITH MONT BLANC AND THE ARAVIS RANGE

On a beautiful summer evening, the audience will walk to and take their seats in the mountain pastures around the Auberge des Matins Clairs, a magnificent Savoie chalet in the middle of the Plateau de Beauregard. Once the sun has set and night has fallen, and with an incredible panoramic view of the Mont Blanc range and the Aravis mountain chain, a giant 12m x 8m screen will project Mathieu Le Lay's magnificent film 'Yukon, un rêve blanc' (Yukon, a dream in white) which will transport the audience off to the great Canadian North.

*Monday 31 July - Auberge Les Matins Clairs - Plateau de Beauregard - Thônes. Free evening event. Catering is available on site (at a charge). Access on foot from the Col de la Croix Fry car park: 3.2 km and 150 m elevation gain.*

**[www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com](http://www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com)**



## 8/ CLOSER TO THE STARS

For several years now, the Saint Jean de Sixt Tourist Office has been offering its visitors the chance to leave planet earth for an evening during the summer. From the hills of Saint Jean de Sixt, overlooking the Aravis mountain range and located between La Clusaz and Le Grand-Bornand, enjoy getting 'closer to the stars'. Under the guidance of a professional, this immersion into the infinitely vast will delight young and old alike. With the help of a telescope, you will be guided through the solar system and become familiar with the rings of Saturn and see the moon as you have never seen it before.

*Booking and payment at the tourist office +33 (0)4 50 02 70 14 or at: [infos@saintjeandesixt.com](mailto:infos@saintjeandesixt.com) [www.saintjeandesixt.com](http://www.saintjeandesixt.com)*





# Immersion into the life of a mountain dweller

Imagine for a moment that you could be a farmer, a craftsman or a maker... which one would you be? What would inspire you to create or to innovate? To discover the secrets of these talented people, as well as the skills they are happy to share, let's go and meet them:

## 1/ FROM 'TAILLANDIER' TO KNIFE-MAKER... A DESTINY WAITING TO HAPPEN!

*Stephen Taillandier worked on knives in restaurants in the area for a long time. He now welcomes visitors to his workshop nestled in the hills of Saint-Jean-de-Sixt, where he shares his passion for knife-making. A self-taught craftsman, he talks as much about the techniques of working iron to create his blades in their thousands of shapes and patterns as he does about the different types of wood, from the rarest to the most common, which he finds, collects or buys. The magic of working with the material works, and his ideas result in truly unique pieces. An unusual experience hosted by a true St. John-style figure and person which the region has adopted as one of its own, who does not hesitate to remind us that his destiny was ultimately a foregone conclusion.*

*'Taillandier': n.m. A person who makes cutting tools and knives. (Le Petit Robert)*

*74450 Saint-Jean-de-Sixt. Visit by reservation +33 (0)6 88 34 77 14*

## 2/ LEARNING THE SECRETS OF MAKING GÉNÉPI

Sarah and her brother Romain moved to the Aravis distillery three years ago. Since then, they have become an essential part of any stay in La Clusaz. Brother and sister and children of distillers, they take visitors behind the scenes of the Distillerie des Aravis and into the world of the still and their genuine Génépi liqueur, which has been made in the traditional way since 1876. The two devotees are keen to pass on their knowledge to reveal the secrets of their profession, which is packed with flavour.

**[www.distilleriearavis.fr](http://www.distilleriearavis.fr)**



## 3/ NEW: LEARN HOW TO MILK GOATS IN A MOUNTAIN CHALET...

This summer, the Bureau des Guides du Grand-Bornand is offering the chance to experience a mountain tradition which feels a little like an initiation ceremony. They are challenging the most intrepid hikers to reach a mountain pasture chalet where they will herd up the goats and lead them to a barn to be milked following a short hour and a half walk. A well-deserved reward awaits the apprentice shepherds: a snack shared with the mountain farmers... along with a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains.

*Friday afternoons, from 2.00 pm to 6.30 pm*

**Price:** €38 per adult - €30 per child aged 6 to 12 years

**[www.guides-grandbornand.com](http://www.guides-grandbornand.com)**



## 4/ EXPERIENCE A MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF A MOUNTAIN DWELLER

Cattle breeders, goat breeders, producers and farmers have all agreed to open their doors and share their enthusiasm and sense of pride in what they do. Craftspeople are keen to do likewise. As a result, Les Sources du Lac d'Annecy have created 'La boucle des Savoir-Faire' (The Skills and Expertise Trail) which offers workshops, tours and experiences accessible to all.

**Price:** €0 to €30.

**[www.sources-lac-annecy.com](http://www.sources-lac-annecy.com)**



## 5/ ANTOINE MESNAGE, THE TIGHTROPE WALKER

Over the years, Antoine Mesnage, an artist, photographer, videographer and filmmaker, has become a top-level athlete in highlining. At the age of 28, the tightrope walker from Annecy has travelled through more than fifteen countries, but he always enjoys his best highlines in Annecy. Never without his harness, he is always on the lookout for new ones and has opened more than twenty lines around the lake. His goal is to bring a poetic and philosophical dimension to highlining. To do this, he makes his own films so that he can share this unusual activity with as many people as possible. His future project is to install a highline over one kilometre in length between Les Dents de Lanfon and La Pointe de Talamarche, at a height of over 500 metres.

**[www.antoinemesnage.com](http://www.antoinemesnage.com)**

**Instagram page @antoine.mesnage**



## 6/ ÉLISE VEYRAT FOLLOWS IN HER FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS WITH 'LE HAMEAU DE MON PÈRE'

Élise Veyrat, 25, has the full confidence of her father, Marc Veyrat, who is happy to entrust her with the keys. After attending the Vatel school, the CFA in Groisy, and working several months in the kitchens of the Paul Bocuse auberge under the guidance of MOF chef Olivier Couvin, Élise, who has a strong character, easily made the transition from the dining area to the kitchen. She has remained faithful to the family spirit of the place, while adding her own personal touch to the décor. "My father is a legendary figure in the world of gastronomy. I'm resolved to keep alive the traditions of this crazy, beautiful cuisine which I love with a great sense of humility. It will be creative, genuine, warm and welcoming and will put the spotlight on our region and its produce." Together, they create a cuisine inspired by nature and authentic products from Savoie.

**+33 (0)4 50 60 00 00 • [www.lehameaudemonpere.com](http://www.lehameaudemonpere.com)**



## 7/ THE PACCARD BROTHERS SEEK TO GIVE TASTE TIME

It has taken thousands of years for the beautiful cheese-making farms to be developed in the mountains. It has taken decades to perfect the unique expertise of a cheese maturer and the Paccard maturing cellars are a fine example of this. The Paccard brothers, Bertrand and Jean-François, have followed previous generations and became refiners. They spend most of their time monitoring and caring for the cheeses, as well as selecting them one by one. It is a unique experience in taste.

**[www.reblochon-paccard.fr](http://www.reblochon-paccard.fr)**



## 8/ THE SECRETS OF FARMHOUSE REBLOCHON ARE REVEALED IN THE COOLNESS OF CELLARS...

Some forty alpine farms housing 2,000 cows (almost as many as there are inhabitants in the village!) contribute to the success of La Grand-Bornand, the leading production area for the famous round cheese with its smooth, hazelnut taste... One farm opens its doors to the public each week. It is an opportunity to learn in situ about the different stages of producing Reblochon cheese. From the milking of the cows to the maturing stage in the cellar, the 'cream of cheeses' prized by hikers reveals the secrets of its flavour and unmistakable texture during a final tasting with the producer.

**Price:** €6.50 per adult – €3.50 per child (6 to 12 years)

**[www.legrandbornand.com/visite-d-une-ferme-a-la-decouverte-du-reblochon](http://www.legrandbornand.com/visite-d-une-ferme-a-la-decouverte-du-reblochon)**



## 9/ A HARNESS-MAKER TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN THÔNES

Audrey Pechoux has a long-standing passion for the arts and for creating with her hands. She is one of the few women to practise this profession, which she learnt on her own at home and through meetings with other harness-makers. She makes and decorates leather bell straps for the agricultural world. Each piece is unique and delicately decorated. They are offered as prizes for agricultural, family, sporting or cultural events, or used for the traditional moving of livestock up to the mountain pastures. Specialising in 'la poya' (taking herds to the summer pastures), Audrey decorates her creations with the handmade decorations which are so typical in our mountainous region. Custom-made bells on request. Small leather items (dog collars, wallets, etc.) **Facebook: Ô COEUR DEZ' ALPES**





# Immersion in local culture

Experiencing all the region's traditions and special features is possible in 'Annecy Mountains'... Discover the soul of the region and fully immerse yourself in the local culture...

## 1/ THE 200-YEAR-OLD ETOUVIÈRES SAWMILL HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ECOMUSEUM AND A FOREST SCHOOL.

For 30 years, the Écomusée du Bois et de la Forêt has been offering visitors a journey back in time to discover this former 19th century hydraulic sawmill over the course of a lively tour which includes sawing demonstrations. A special anniversary will be celebrated on the weekend of 1 and 2 July with numerous free events for all ages. At the same time, a 'school forest', in collaboration with Thônes Town Hall, is being created at the sawmill's entrance. This multi-educational forest aims to be a place of experimentation which addresses the different aspects of the forest and the needs and/or aspirations of local stakeholders, including environmental education, forest management, vocational training, agriculture, citizen participation, environmental protection and the local economy.

*Saturday 1 July and Sunday 2 July: 30th anniversary weekend for the Écomusée du Bois et de la Forêt. Free.*

**[www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com](http://www.thonescoeurdesvallees.com)**







## 2/ LA SOURCE, A FUN AND OFFBEAT EXPLORATION OF THE ALPS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY...

In the setting of a traditional farm in Le Grand-Bornand, La Source has three levels with various spaces for mediation and workshops, an educational farm, and exhibition and performance rooms. There are also works in permanent residence which enliven the site. The 'Arbre à jouer' (play tree), the centrepiece of the outdoor spaces, houses free and cooperative games which follow one after another from log to log, inviting young and old alike to have fun together based on life in the mountains. Milk churns, coffee grinders and old skis are used as mediums - often in different ways - to create funny and instructive challenges... as well as two ecological rides powered by parents!

Some of what's new for 2023: another upcycled ecological ride, the exploration of a giant marmot burrow designed, like all the structures in the park, by specialists in active education, two monumental works of art including a tribute to Swiss cuckoo clocks and an imaginary depiction of the giant Gargantua's stay in the Alps, etc...  
1 June to 17 September

**Price:** La Source pass from €9 (includes a free visit to the Heritage Centre). Booklet of 10 entry tickets for €80.

**[www.lasource-legrandbornand.com](http://www.lasource-legrandbornand.com)**





### 3/ EXPERIENCE A MANIGOD EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT AS IN THE PAST

The Les Sapins hotel and restaurant, located in the Col de la Croix Fry in Manigod, is offering the opportunity to taste its Savoie specialities in a friendly, welcoming and unique atmosphere, including costumes, songs and accordions, etc. so that visitors can rediscover the spirit of the mountain evenings of yesteryear and experience a Manigod-style evening as in the old days. Getting immersed in the habits and customs which shape the traditional soul of Manigod is a commitment to remember the past on the part of this hotel and restaurant. It is a real moment of sharing created by the family of Renée, the grandmother on vocals, who is accompanied by her son Christophe on the accordion and her grandchildren on vocals and accordion. How can you not succumb to the charm of a beautiful evening containing all these different elements? *Wednesday evening 7.30 pm.*  
By reservation **+33 (0)4 50 44 90 29 • [www.les-sapins.fr](http://www.les-sapins.fr)**

### 4/ A TOUR OF ALBY-SUR-CHÉRAN

This old medieval village situated at the foot of Le Semnoz and on the banks of the river Chéran offers a tourist trail called 'Suivez la mouche' (Follow the fly) which reveals this village's natural and architectural heritage in 12 sections. The itinerary includes stops at the Musée de la Cordonnerie (museum of shoemaking), Notre-Dame de Plaimpalais church and the river Chéran, where gold panning was developed. The village of Alby-sur-Chéran is particularly well known for its shoemakers, weavers and tanners. The route takes about an hour and is about 2 km long.

*Additional information: A free edutainment course is available on two platforms: ViAnancy and izi.TRAVEL. There are also information boards in the village - the Musée de la Cordonnerie is free.*







## 5/ SOURCES DU LAC D'ANNEY

Saint-Jean-Baptiste, a church full of surprises. Archaeological excavations have brought to light some surprising things in the church at Faverges-Seythenex. Behind its austere Romanesque façade from the second half of the 12th century, it contains many treasures, including a crypt in which traces of a Roman building estimated to have been built between the 1st and 4th centuries can be seen, as well as traces of early churches.

*Self-guided or guided tours.*

**Price:** from €3 per person

**[www.archeoviuz.fr](http://www.archeoviuz.fr)**



## 6/ EXPLORING LA CLUSAZ WITH GISÈLE

Every Thursday, Gisèle, a heritage guide in Haute-Savoie, accompanies all those who want to discover the nooks and crannies of the village on a timeless tour.

**Price:** €5 - Book and meet at the tourist office

**<https://www.laclusaz.com/agenda/a-la-decouverte-de-la-clusaz-avec-gisele/>**





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**PRESS CONTACT**

[presse@annecymountains.com](mailto:presse@annecymountains.com)

   AnneyMountains

[annecymountains.com](http://annecymountains.com)