

PRESS KIT



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

World-Class Skiing

Charming villages
and iconic slopes

p.6

Anniversary

90 years
of Bellevue

p.12

What's New

Hotspots, activities,
events

p.14

To guide one's body to where the eyes first came to rest." On the gravestone of French alpinist Gaston Rébuffat (1921–1985) in Chamonix's old cemetery, these words from his book Les Horizons gagnés recall the famous guide's fascination with the heights—a fascination shared by all who venture into our valley.

EDITORIAL

Here, the eyes do not simply rest: they rise, naturally captivated by the striking verticality of sharp peaks and dizzying slopes. Ever since the first ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc has strived to tame this verticality of granite and ice walls, which intimidate as much as they draw people in.

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Winter in the Vertical Realm

Two and a half centuries later, through this winter press kit, we embrace this verticality—an integral part of our DNA—as a genuinely accessible way of life:

Thanks to the ski lifts, some of which have been carrying skiers for 90 years to our four main areas—Brévent-Flégère, Grands Montets, Balme, and Les Houches—90% of which lie above 2,000 meters.

Thanks to the Aiguille du Midi cable car, which propels sightseers to 3,842 meters, directly facing the roof of Europe.

Thanks to the high mountain guides, who open the way for those seeking to venture higher and steeper toward the spires or the legendary Vallée Blanche.

And thanks to the new Musée du Mont-Blanc, which, since last July, showcases this vertical heritage across 1,800 m², tracing two centuries of face-to-face encounters between humanity and the peaks.

This press kit also tells the story of how the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley has always welcomed those it inspires to dream: as early as 1770, Mère Coutterand's inn was offering room and board to the very first curious visitors coming to discover the glaciers. This pioneering hospitality is not only reserved for the daring souls who set out to conquer the slopes. It extends to all winter sports enthusiasts and lovers of the Alpine art of living who wish to experience winter in the vertical realm.

Olivier Greber,
President of the Tourist Office
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley
President of the Compagnie des Guides
de Chamonix



Chamonix Valley area:

245 km²

Population density: 63.6 INHAB./km² in 2023



13,842 INHABIT.

Servoz: 1,200

Les Houches: 3,603

Chamonix-Argentière:

9,318

Vallorcine: 462

HIGHEST POINT:
MONT BLANC (4,805 M)

Highest village:

Le Tour (1,462 m)

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

town center: 1,035 m

Lowest village:

Les Houches (796 m)



4 MAJOR
SKI AREAS

- > Brévent-Flégère, Grands Montets, Balme, Les Houches;
- > 308 hectares, 90% of which are located above 2,000 m;
- > 91 slopes (13% beginner, 36% intermediate, 37% advanced, and 14% expert);
- > 82 ski lifts;
- > 169 km of groomed slopes; 50 km of groomed cross-country trails;
- > 1 snowpark.

6 VALLEY-FLOUR
SKI AREAS

See page 7.

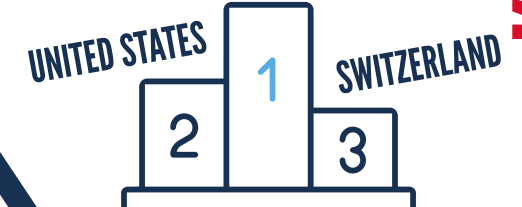


4,1 MILLION

tourist overnight
stays in winter
(including 44.2%
domestic and 55.8%
international)
Nearly 82,300 tourist
beds



UNITED KINGDOM



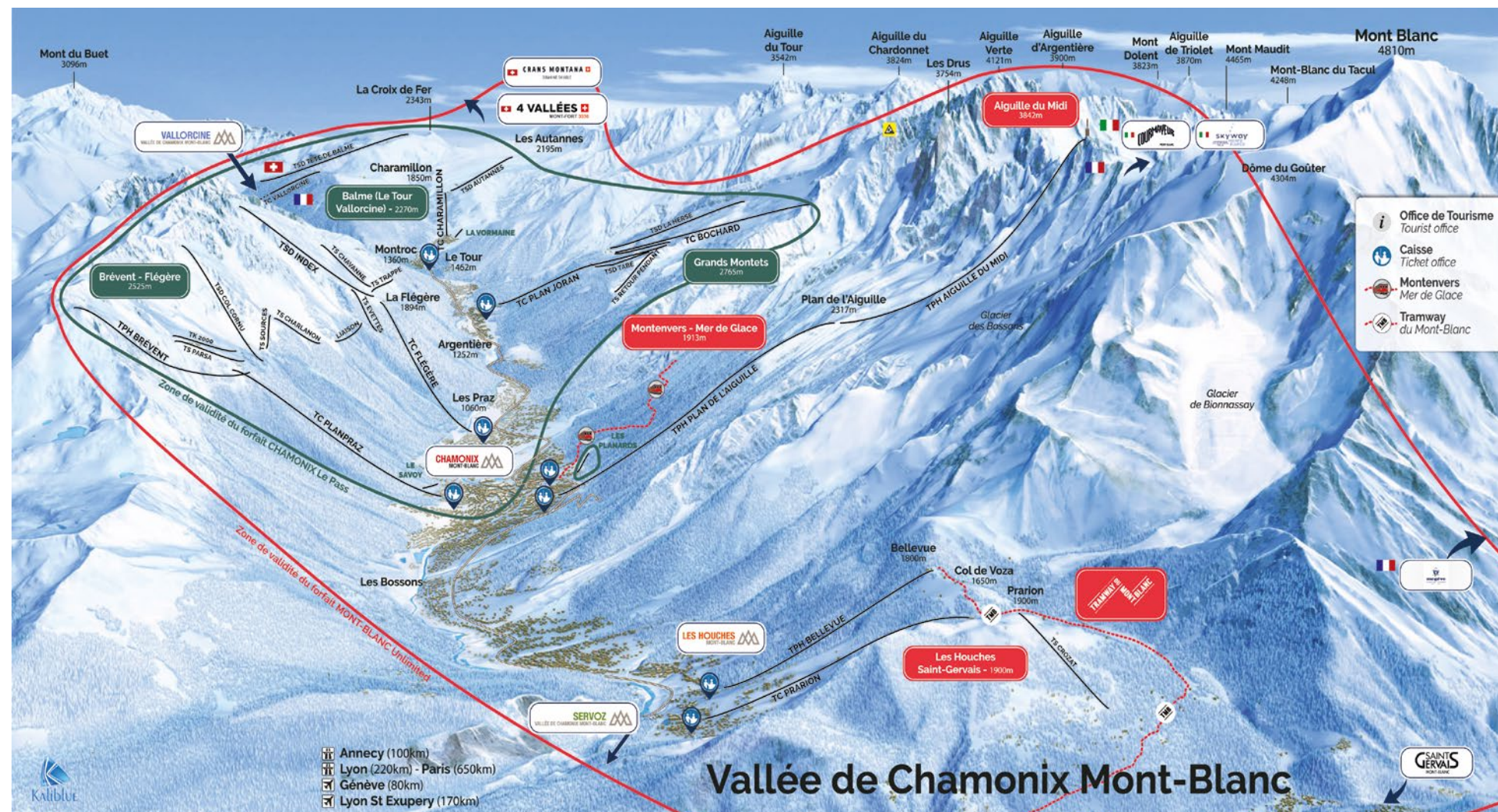
KEY FIGURES



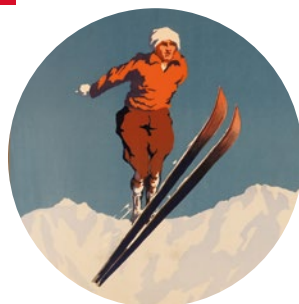
SKI PASSES

- > Chamonix "Le Pass"
(areas of Chamonix except Les Houches/Saint-Gervais and Les Grands Montets summit closed) :
ski pass (3 major ski areas): €76.50/day; €66.50 for 4 hours.
- > "Mont-Blanc Unlimited pass" (4 major ski areas + beginner areas + Évasion Mont-Blanc + Crans-Montana + Courmayeur + Aiguille du Midi + Montenvers train + Mont-Blanc Tramway):
from €104/day.

CHAMONIX: SKIING IN ITS ORIGINAL VERSION



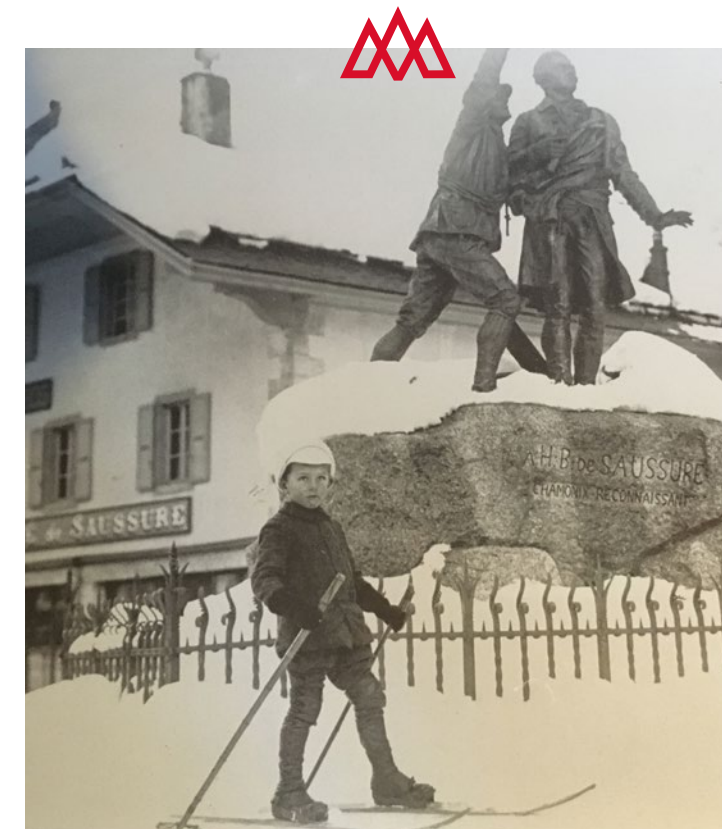
It is sometimes forgotten, but modern skiing was born in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, at the foot of the highest mountain in the Alps. It all began at the end of the 19th century: popular among a wealthy clientele—particularly British visitors—the valley lived to the rhythm of summer tourism. People came to enjoy excursions to the glaciers, mountain walks and climbs that kept many local guides busy, high-society gatherings, and, even then, the refreshing mountain air. Little did they know that a major transition was unfolding, brought about by the arrival of the train and a pair of skis...



Imported from Norway, these first skis were adopted by Dr. Michel Payot, who found them remarkably useful for visiting his patients in winter and skiing down the slopes of the Col de Balme. In January 1903, he put them on to reach Zermatt, establishing—alongside Joseph-Marie Couttet, “Ravelle le Rouge”, and Alfred Simond—the Chamonix-Zermatt Haute Route, which has become one of the most stunning ski touring routes in the Alps.

In late 1907, noting that the arrival of the train six years earlier was drawing an increasing number of tourists to Chamonix-Mont-Blanc year-round, Dr Payot—then president of the local section of the Club Alpin Français—came up with the idea of organizing an International Winter Sports Competition. Held from January 3 to 19, 1908, the event was a resounding success and launched the valley’s first winter season. A few years later, in 1924, hosting the very first Winter Olympic Games firmly established Chamonix-Mont-Blanc as the historic birthplace of winter sports.

As the world capital of mountaineering, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley reinforces every winter—and the upcoming season will be no exception with the staging of the prestigious Kandahar (see page 10)—its position as a must-visit ski destination. It offers enthusiasts of world-class skiing an extraordinary experience: a constellation of ski areas and itineraries for all levels, set against a raw, vertical backdrop where granite spires and hanging glaciers seem to merge with the sky. ||



5 VILLAGES, 4 ALTITUDE SKI AREAS



A multifaceted destination, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley is centered around a mountain town and four resort villages, revealing a geography unique in France. Here, freeriders, expert or beginner skiers, and cross-country skiers do not navigate a single interconnected ski area, but rather a constellation of areas and itineraries with distinct personalities—offering the luxury of choosing one’s slope, intensity, and story each day.

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

Panoramic skiing

More than just a resort, **Chamonix** is a vibrant, cosmopolitan hub nestled at the foot of the roof of Europe. Here, seasoned freeriders taking on extreme slopes cross paths with strollers seeking an authentic alpine lifestyle. The mountain starts right in the town center at 1,035 m and reaches up to 3,842 m at the summit of the Aiguille du Midi.

The ski area: From the heart of Chamonix, the Planpraz gondola rises toward Le Brévent, while the La Flégère gondola in Les Praz serves its twin slope. Together, Brévent-Flégère form the valley’s vast, south-facing area directly facing Mont Blanc—tailor-made for spectacular, scenic skiing.

The slopes: 56 km of runs between 1,030 and 2,525 m.

Opening dates: December 12, 2026, to April 18, 2027.

Highlight: The 2026–2027 winter season will be the inaugural season for the Mont-Blanc Museum, featuring a temporary exhibition (see pages 18 and 20). ||

musée
du mont
blanc
mont
blanc museum
museo del
monte bianco
monte
blanc
co



New 100% Nature Platform

Launched last summer, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley’s new natural spaces portal provides key guidance on how to explore the region responsibly, helping tourism and fragile ecosystems coexist harmoniously. Designed for year-round reference, the website highlights how, in winter, ski tourers and snowshoers share slopes with chamois, ibex, and black grouse—wildlife striving to conserve every calorie to survive the cold. It emphasizes that this delicate coexistence requires adopting simple habits to protect local fauna: staying on marked trails, keeping dogs on a leash, and respecting designated quiet zones. A valuable tool for environmental education and outreach, this initiative is co-funded by the Haute-Savoie Department as part of the Contrat départemental Haute-Savoie Nature. || en.valleedechamonix-nature.fr

GENTLE SKIING

Renowned for world-class skiing set against Mont Blanc, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is equally welcoming to those making their first hesitant turns. Beneath the peaks, low-altitude areas and gentle, sunny beginner zones—complete with dedicated green runs, ski kindergartens, and magic carpets—allow newcomers to learn at their own pace, stress-free.

> **Low-altitude areas:** La Poya (Vallorcine), Les Chosalets (Argentière), La Vormaine (Le Tour), Le Savoy (at the base of the Planpraz gondola in Chamonix), Les Planards (in the town center, near the Montenvers train station), Le Tourchet (Les Houches).

> **High-altitude areas:** Plateau 2000 (at the top of the Planpraz gondola in the Brévent area), the beginner zone at La Flégère (via the Flégère gondola then the La Trappe chairlift), beginner zones in the Bellevue and Prarion sectors (Les Houches Saint-Gervais area), and the new beginner zone at Les Grands Montets (Argentière), accessible for the first time this winter via the new gondola (see page 13).

[Detailed rates and access >](#)



Winter “à la Carte”

In winter, the main train stations along the line remain fully served by the Mont-Blanc Express. By running beneath the Col des Montets pass via a dedicated railway tunnel, the train guarantees seamless travel even when snow blocks the road.

Additionally, the *Carte d’Hôte* (guest card)—provided free of charge by valley accommodation providers—offers free train travel between Servoz and Vallorcine, 50% off bus fares, and discounted rates on parking as well as sports and cultural facilities. ||



SKIAREAS ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN

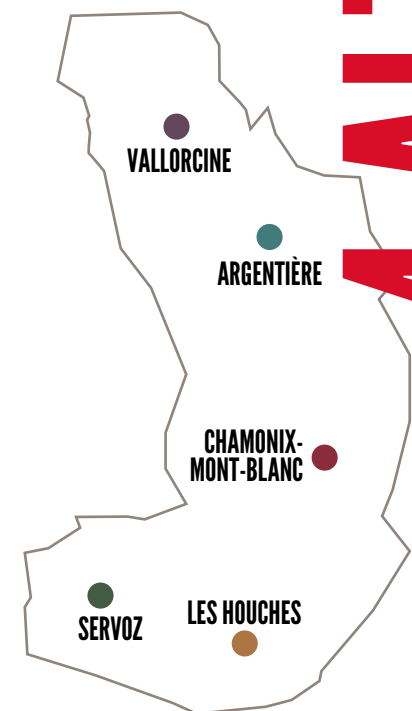
Brévent-Flégère

> Chamonix-Mont-Blanc train station
La Flégère

> Les Praz train station
Les Grands Montets

> Argentière train station
Vallorcine

> Vallorcine train station





Les Houches

Skiing for the Whole Tribe

Nestled beneath the Dôme du Goûter, **Les Houches** offers a quiet, panoramic ski area winding through the pine trees. While skiers of all generations find their place on its slopes, Les Houches—certified Famille Plus—is also a resort of legendary feats. It is home to “La Verte”, Haute-Savoie’s only Men’s World Cup-certified downhill track, first carved out for the 1937 World Championships, where the world’s top skiers regularly go head-to-head.

The ski Area: The Les Houches / Saint-Gervais area is accessible via the Bellevue cable car, celebrating its 90th anniversary this winter (see page 12), or the Prarion gondola, featuring new panoramic cabins starting this winter.

The slopes: 55 km of slopes between 1,000 and 1,900 m.

A hit for families: Certified with the ‘Famille Plus’ label, the resort features a lively play and activity zone dedicated to families—the Ski Camp.

Opening Dates: 12 December 2026 to 11 April 2027.

Main Event: On 30 January 2027, the Kandahar brings the Alpine Ski World Cup back to La Verte in Les Houches for a men’s slalom. ||



Servoz

Authentic Nordic Charm

Servoz is a quiet hamlet standing at the gateway to the valley. With its old farmhouses, peaceful alleyways, and complete absence of high-density resort fronts, winter here at 816 metres moves to the rhythm of cross-country skiing, long snowshoe walks, and cozy fireside evenings. It is a haven for those seeking a peaceful stay and a taste of the gentle pace of winters past.

Nordic area & Trails: There are no alpine slopes or ski lifts in the village itself, but rather a 3 km Nordic loop with panoramic views of the Fiz and Mont-Blanc ranges—part of the valley’s nearly 50 km of groomed trails. The Les Houches ski area is just a few minutes away via shuttle or the Mont-Blanc Express train. ||



DID YOU KNOW?

Just like beginners, Nordic skiing enthusiasts have their own dedicated playgrounds throughout the valley. Down on the valley floor, between Bois du Bouchet and the hamlet of Les Bois, skiers can enjoy around 20 kilometers of cross-country trails alongside a biathlon shooting range.

Other areas in Les Houches, with the Chavants loop (approx. 3 km, free access) as well as skating trails on the Prarion plateau at 1,850 m, offering panoramic views of the Mont-Blanc massif and the Aiguilles de Chamonix.

Argentière is Home to 15 km of trails set against the backdrop of Les Drus, including the iconic 8.5 km La Moraine track and Vallorcine offers 6.7 km of Nordic trails winding along the Eau Noire river.



Good to Know: Night cross-country skiing sessions are held on the Bois Bouchet green trail every Thursday during school holidays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Access is free, with entertainment provided by ESF Chamonix. esfchamonix.com

Argentière

Vertical Skiing

At 1,252 meters at the foot of the Aiguille Verte and its namesake glacier, **Argentière** is an authentic mountain village gathered around a remarkable Baroque church. Home to legendary high-mountain guides and widely considered the French mecca of freeriding, skiers flock here for steep slopes and off-piste itineraries set against wild, majestic scenery.

The ski area: Les Grands Montets, accessible via the Plan Joran gondola, spans three sectors (the Argentière Glacier, Lognan, and La Pendant).

The slopes: Here, happiness is measured in vertical drop, not kilometers. Ranging from 1,235 to 2,800 meters (soon to reach 3,275 meters), Les Grands Montets offers one of the world’s greatest continuous skiable vertical drops (2,000 m).

Opening dates: Late November 2026 – May 2, 2027 (thanks to its high altitude and north-facing exposure, it is both the first area in the valley to open and the last to close).

The event: The inauguration of the first section of the gondola, connecting Argentière to the Lognan plateau starting in December. The reconstruction of the lift network and facilities (food corner and beginner zone) follows the 2018 fire. It will be fully completed next winter with the commissioning of the second section between Lognan and the summit of Les Grands Montets at 3,275 m. ||



DID YOU KNOW?

From Le Tour—long France’s snowiest village land the birthplace of Michel Croz, the guide who led the first successful ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865 with Edward Whymper—you can also access the Balme ski area via the Charamillon gondola.



Vallorcine

Skiing in nature

The last French village before the Swiss border, Vallorcine—the “valley of bears”—embraces an authentic, traditional winter: wooden hamlets, larch forests, and tranquil silence. This is the valley’s secret side, offering peaceful, untamed skiing.

The ski area: Easy and varied, the Balme ski area (Vallorcine-Le Tour) is accessible via the Vallorcine gondola.

The slopes: 29 km of slopes between 1,453 m and 2,270 m elevation.

Opening dates: From December 12, 2026, to April 11, 2027.

The event: For three days, Café Comptoir transforms into the Comptoir des Légendes du Ski. A delightfully vintage gathering celebrating the spirit of winter sports from the 1930s to the 1970s (retro-costume slaloms, vintage gear and classic car displays, concerts, dinners, meet-and-greets with former champions, and more). ||



LEGENDARY RUNS



Skiing in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley with the Roof of Europe in plain view is an experience like no other. At virtually every turn, breathtaking views reveal soaring peaks and jagged spires rising steeply above a valley that unfolds legendary slopes and iconic routes.

La Vallée Blanche: An Exceptional Off-Piste Experience

Accessible directly from the town center, this is the longest, most famous, and most breathtaking off-piste descent in the Alps.

The run. The adventure begins at the summit of the Aiguille du Midi (3,842 m) with the walk down an exposed ridge—skis strapped to packs, crampons on feet, rope in hand. What follows is an unforgettable 20 km descent across the Géant and Tacul glaciers, leading to the famous Mer de Glace, flanked by the Chamonix Needles and Les Drus. Depending on snow conditions, the route ends on skis all the way down to Chamonix-Mont-Blanc or via the gondola and the Montenvers train.

Who is it for? This unmarked glacier route—featuring crevasses and seracs—is reserved for experienced skiers confident on unpisted black runs, accompanied by a high-mountain guide.

The highlight: Midway through, the stunning panorama from the flat expanse of *La Salle à Manger* (“The Dining Room”), overlooking the north faces of the Grandes Jorasses, the Dent du Géant, and the Aiguille du Dru. || chamonix.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The Combe Lachenal slope was named in memory of Louis Lachenal (1921–1955), one of France’s greatest mountaineers, famous for conquering the first 8,000-meter peak in history, Annapurna, in 1950 alongside Maurice Herzog*. Author of *Carnets du Vertige* and a member of the Chamonix Guides Company, he died in 1955 after falling into a crevasse during a descent of the Vallée Blanche.

* Discover this historic achievement at the Musée du Mont-Blanc.



The Aptly Named Point-de-Vue Run

Considered one of the most spectacular and demanding marked runs in Europe, this slope starts at an altitude of 3,275 meters, just below the summit of the Aiguille des Grands Montets in Argentière.

The descent: Currently accessible via ski touring ahead of the reopening of the Grands Montets cable car’s second section (scheduled for next winter), this ungroomed yet secured black run features a steep 4-kilometer slope (with a 1,303 m vertical drop) plunging toward the valley before a series of technical rocky passages that will put thighs and knees to the test. Return to the resort is via the Pierre à Ric red run.

Who is it for? Seasoned skiers capable of skinning uphill and tackling a mogul-filled descent.

The highlight. A breathtaking face-to-face view of the wall of rock and ice of the Aiguille Verte along the middle section of the run. ||

La Combe Lachenal: Wild and Panoramic

A former off-piste route, this red run in the La Flégère ski area makes high-mountain panoramic skiing accessible to a wider audience while preserving its wild soul. It is reached from the top of the Index chairlift (2,396 m), followed by a short connecting track.

The descent. After an initial 35% pitch, the ski lifts instantly vanish, giving way to a vast, rolling snowfield that alternates between smooth, sustained slopes and gentler flats all the way down to the Flégère plateau.

Who is it for? Intermediate to advanced skiers comfortable handling the steep initial wall.

The highlight. The tipping point, as the Mont Blanc massif suddenly looms directly ahead in all its vertical majesty. ||

La Verte des Houches: A Formidable Black Run

Contrary to what its name suggests (*verte* meaning green), La Verte is a genuine black run—technical, icy, and demanding. Located in the Les Houches/Saint-Gervais ski area, it is one of the few downhill runs in France sanctioned by the International Ski Federation (FIS) to host the Alpine Ski World Cup, the famous “Kandahar”. It is accessed from the top of the Coupe du Monde chairlift (or from the top station of the Prarion gondola) at an altitude of 1,871 meters.

The descent. Long (3.3 km with an 870-meter vertical drop) and extremely varied, it delivers a relentless succession of technical challenges: a steep headwall, the “La Cassure” jump, a narrow chute plunging into the forest, a bumpy, ultra-fast straightaway (reaching over 130 km/h for pros), a series of tight turns, and a spectacular jump just before finishing on the edge of the village.

Who is it for? Expert skiers with strong thighs and sharp edges who are undeterred by gradients up to 61% and hard-packed, icy snow.

The highlight. From the viewpoint before looking straight down the track as it carves into the trees, the panoramic view of the Mont Blanc massif, the Aiguille du Midi, and the seracs of the Bossons Glacier gives a striking sense of the sheer verticality of the surrounding peaks above the valley floor. ||



WHY “LA VERTE ”?

It is often said that **La Verte** owes its name to the fir forest lining the run, giving it a green appearance when viewed from the valley. That is actually a myth. Fred Comte, Director of the Chamonix Sports Club, which organizes the famous Kandahar, sets the record straight: “Back when this run was first created, the color-coding system used to rank alpine ski slopes assigned green to difficult runs. *La Verte des Houches* became a black run in 1965, when the classification evolved into the one we know today.”



HISTORIC SKI LIFTS

At the beginning of the 20th century, in response to the rising popularity of winter sports, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc began building mechanical lifts: the Glaciers “aerial tramway” in 1924, the very first in France to carry passengers; the Brévent cable car in 1930, the highest in France; and the Aiguille du Midi cable car in 1955, the highest in the world... This conquest of verticality is marked by human and technical achievements that are being celebrated this winter.

Bellevue’s 90th Anniversary

In 1936, Charles Viard, head of the Société des Téléphériques du Massif du Mont-Blanc, took on a daring challenge: hauling a cable up to the Bellevue plateau at an altitude of 1,800 meters. The concession was approved in May 1936. Every available worker was hired to clear a wide swath through the forest to accommodate the cables and cabin flight path. Tons of concrete and steel were transported to build the valley station, and on December 25, Léo Lagrange, French Under-Secretary of State for Sports and Leisure, officially inaugurated the lift. This technical and human feat enabled Les Houches to host the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in February 1937, where French skier Émile Allais won the downhill, slalom, and combined events—becoming France’s very first Alpine ski world champion. More broadly, it helped forge a new winter connection between the mountains and visitors, popularizing downhill skiing. Ninety years and two renovations later, Bellevue is one of the few cable cars in the world to have entered the 21st century without undergoing drastic modernization. “It embodies, ahead of its time, a form of ecological (and financial) frugality,” highlights Pierre-Louis Roy, author, speaker, and specialist in the history of cable

DID YOU KNOW?

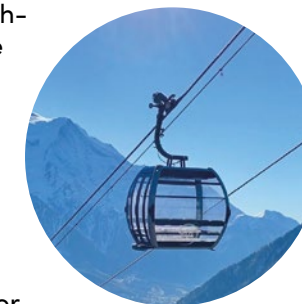
While downhill skiing began taking off in the 1930s, paid leave in France was what truly democratized the sport. In 1936, The Popular Front government made leisure a state policy: Léo Lagrange—the very official who inaugurated the Bellevue cable car—at the helm of the new Under-Secretariat for Sports, granted French workers their first paid holidays (two weeks) alongside discounted train tickets to make use of them. “Sport for all” was no longer just a slogan; gradually, city dwellers flocked to the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley to experience the joys of the slopes.



La Flégère: 70 Years of sunshine

La Flégère was born from a clear ambition: to open a high-altitude ski area on the sunny, untouched slopes of the Aiguilles Rouges, accompanying the post-war ski boom in the valley. Originally scheduled for Christmas 1955, the cable car was delayed: construction wrapped up in the snow during the brutal winter of 1956, as temperatures plummeted to -17 °C. It was not until March 1956 that the cabin finally ascended toward the natural balconies of the Aiguilles Rouges, facing Mont Blanc.

An iconic landmark for six decades, the lift made way for a modern gondola in 2019. To mark its 70th anniversary, the platforms and top station at La Flégère will showcase a permanent exhibition bringing the rich history of this lift back to life. ||



Rebirth of Les Grands Montets

Closed since the 2018 fire, the first part of flagship Grands Montets lift is back. In December 2026, the first section of the new Argentière-Lognan gondola opens: featuring 10-seater cabins and glass, pyrite-shaped stations designed by the famous Italian architect Renzo Piano Building Workshop, born from an exemplary construction project engineered to protect the classified Mont-Blanc site. A beginner area and a dining space will welcome skiers and sightseers at Lognan (1,972 m). The upper section set to connect Lognan to the summit of Les Grands Montets at 3,275 m is scheduled to reopen in December 2027. ||

€15.11 MILLION

The total investment planned to modernize the Les Houches/Saint-Gervais ski area by 2030. Objectives: improve visitor comfort, enhance equipment reliability, and maintain the area’s appeal in a challenging climate context.



WHAT’S ON

December 22, 2026: Free lecture by Pierre-Louis Roy, organized by Les Houches dans l’Temps (see page 23).

January 14, 2027: The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office hosts a screening of archive footage from 1936 to 1938 at the Espace Animation in Les Houches, focusing on skiing during the era of the first cable cars (limited seating, reservation required).

Through May 22, 2027: The exhibition *Téléphériques et compagnie*, presented by the Musée Montagnard in Les Houches, traces the history of cable transport throughout the valley.

Through July 2027: The exhibition *Bellevue sur le fil: 90 ans d’exploitation* displays a dozen photos from the Musée Montagnard archives along Passage Chagall, behind the Les Houches church.

All winter long: Visitors and skiers riding the cable car can discover the history of Bellevue, displayed across the walls in an inspiring, large-scale collage of photos and memorabilia.

NEW BASE CAMPS



The lobby of the new Morgane

Since the mid-18th century and the dawn of tourism, Chamonix has welcomed mountain lovers from around the world, cultivating a centuries-old, cosmopolitan art of hospitality. Here is our curated selection of brand-new spots for après-ski.

Le Morgane Moves Upscale

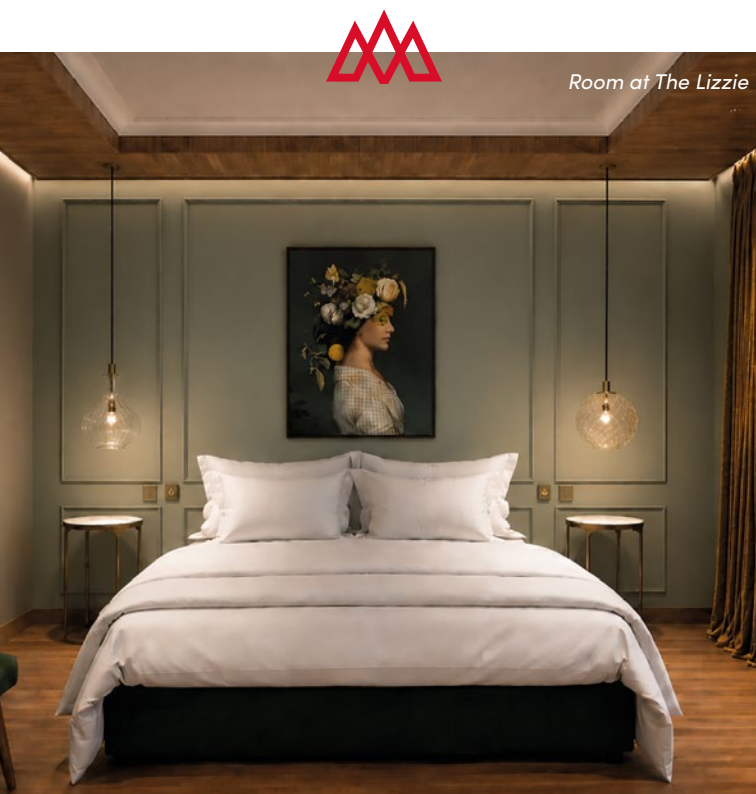
Completely redesigned by Madrid-based Astet Studio, Hotel Morgane—owned by the Temmos group—reopens in December with its sights set on earning a fifth star.

Its 54 rooms and suites, its restaurant (set to welcome a new chef), and its Spa by Codage now feature a mid-century design blending warm tones, wood, granite, and slate. The result is understated luxury, a reimagined alpine identity, and an even more personalized approach to service. ||

145 avenue de l'Aiguille du Midi, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc
morgane-hotel-chamonix.com

Lizzie: Victorian Charm Facing Mont Blanc

An elegant 1900s Belle Époque building set in Les Tines, slightly away from the town center, L'Excelsior is getting a complete makeover. Now under the Montagnettes banner, it is reborn under a new name: Lizzie.



Room at The Lizzie

It pays tribute to Elizabeth Hawkins-Whitshed—also known as Lizzie Le Blond—an Irish writer, photographer, and mountaineer who first discovered Chamonix in 1881 during a health retreat. Consumed by a passion for mountaineering, she climbed Mont Blanc twice and spent the next two decades scaling peaks in trousers while others were taking afternoon tea.

Fully renovated, the hotel embraces a warm Victorian style featuring crown moldings, classic woodwork, and rich, deep tones. It offers 74 redesigned rooms, two restaurants, a spa, and an outdoor pool for sunny days. What remains unchanged: the view of Mont Blanc. Opening in December 2026. ||

251 chemin de Saint-Roch,
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.
www.montagnettes.com



A New Chapter for Le Touring

Closed for more than thirty years, the historic Hotel Le Touring is reopening its doors as Le Touring Apart'Hôtel. Brought out of its long hibernation by Core Hotel Group—which also owns the

neighboring hotel La Verticale, with which it will share a front desk—this former family-run property carries on an alpine tradition dating back to 1850.

While its exterior reflects late 19th-century Chamonix architecture, complete with granite features and wrought-iron balconies, Le Touring combines private apartments with full hotel services to deliver refined, contemporary comfort. ||

95, rue Joseph-Vallot, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



FAMILY HOSPITALITY: A WOMEN-LED LEGACY

Ever since Chamonix's very first inn was opened in 1770 by Madame Cutterand to host travelers coming to admire Mont Blanc, a new generation of women has continued to embody a family-style art of hospitality that makes guests feel right at home. At **Hameau Albert 1^{er}**, a five-star Relais & Châteaux in the heart of town, Perrine Carrier carries the torch as the fifth generation. At **Hôtel de la Prairie** in Les Bois, Geneviève Lohet watches over a charming hotel “where you can leave it all behind”, which her daughter Loraine is preparing to take over following a major makeover. At **Aiguille du Midi** in Les Bossons, Marie-Laure Farini and her family carry on a five-generation tradition of hospitality beneath the watchful eye of the eponymous glacier. At **L'Oustalet**, Agnès and Véronique Durban run a 15-room hotel, restaurant, and tearoom as a family—a true oasis of tranquility right in the town center. Finally, at **Hermitage-Paccard**, young sisters Perrine and Myrtille Paccard are taking over the century-old property established by their family in 1920.

hameaualbert.fr ; laprairiechamonix ; hotel-aigilledumidi.com ; hotel-oustalet.com ; hermitage-paccard.com



A FRESH NEW LOOK FOR THE NUXE SPA AT L'HELIOPIC

The Nuxe Spa at Hotel Hélicopic underwent a makeover this past autumn, introducing a fourth duo treatment room, a relaxation room and herbal tea lounge featuring a salt wall, and a new Japanese-inspired decor across all treatment rooms. The wet area remains unchanged, still offering the 15-meter pool, sauna, hammam, whirlpool bath, and ice cave.

Visible from the lobby bar, the spa is also open to non-hotel guests with a treatment booking.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 610, route Blanche.
helicopic.com

THE SPA AT LYKKE SLOW HÔTEL: NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE

The Cinq Mondes Spa at Lykke Slow Hôtel—a Scandinavian wellness haven in the heart of Chamonix—now welcomes non-hotel guests. With every booking of a 50-minute treatment, enjoy two complimentary hours of spa access. Facilities include an indoor pool, sauna, steam room, hot tub, and mountain-facing relaxation areas, with the option to privatize the venue for two hours from 8:30 PM.

39 rue des Allobroges, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.
lykkechamonix.com

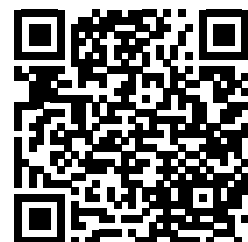


A table full of promise for Le Morgane

This coming December, as Hotel Le Morgane unveils its newly redesigned setting, it will also launch its brand-new dining experience. Renamed for the occasion, the former Comptoir des Alpes is turning a page with the arrival of a new chef—whose identity remains top secret—to offer bistronomic French cuisine true to the venue's spirit. The ambition is clear: to earn a Michelin Bib Gourmand. ||

First Winter Season for L'Étranger d'Ici

Opened in March 2026 in Argentière, the restaurant L'Étranger d'Ici is preparing for its very first winter season. At the helm of this under-the-radar address is Bulgarian chef Teo Hadzhiyski, a mountain lover deeply attached to the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley. Having worked at Les Chalets de Philippe, the bistronomic Rosebud at Hôtel du Jeu de Paume, and in private Swiss chalets, he crafts inventive cuisine rooted in Alpine terroir. Using herbs, spices, and locally sourced seasonal produce (such as Tome cheese from the Vallorcine farm), he puts a fresh twist on the classics. You won't find fondue or raclette here, but rather a focused menu featuring three starters, three main courses, and a single dessert. The result is an intimate 20-seat dining venue adorned with wood, granite, and delightfully mismatched tableware, seamlessly managed by Teo's partner, Boryana (aka Bobby). ||



Lunch menu: €30. 368 rue Charlet-Straton, Argentière.



Jeannot: A New Audiophile Hotspot

In mid-December, Le Carrousel restaurant on Rue de la Tour will take its final spin to make way for Jeannot. Conceived as a natural continuation of Le Pèle—a unique venue combining music, food, and warm hospitality—this new spot will take the form of an audiophile restaurant, where music plays an integral role in the overall experience.

As for the atmosphere, Jeannot will cultivate the spirit of an elegant, cozy mountain bistro featuring white tablecloths, woodwork, marble, mirrors, and soft, dimmed lighting. On the menu, guests will find generous, refined Franco-Italian cuisine centered around classic dishes such as vitello tonnato, veal milanese, and roast chicken.

Owner Tom envisions the space as "lively, elegant, and unpredictable"—just like his grandfather, Jeannot Claret-Tournier, to whom the new restaurant pays tribute. A prominent Chamonix figure and renowned freestyle skier, his antics on the slopes even caught the eye of Walt Disney himself. ||

27, rue de la Tour, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



Good Boy: A Cafe with Real Character

Open since June 2026, this neighborhood cafe with a laid-back, locavore spirit is gearing up for its very first winter season at 219 Avenue Michel-Croz in Chamonix. Drop by Monday through Sunday for a quick lunch, brunch with friends, or simply an après-ski coffee. And of course, man's best friend is warmly welcomed. ||



On a ski holiday, le *gôûter* (afternoon snack) is a cherished ritual that gently rounds off a day outdoors. Whether you have a sweet tooth or prefer something savory, dining in or taking away, here is a selection of five spots to seek refuge for a well-deserved afternoon treat.

Chez Richard (Chamonix-Mont-Blanc)

Founded in 1998, this shop is home to THE iconic cake of the valley, the aptly named Chamonix. A pinnacle of indulgence to take away and share, made with extra-dark chocolate mousse, a praline crunch, and a macaron biscuit base. ||
Open daily, 7:00 am – 7:30 pm. 10 rue Dr Paccard, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. patisseriesrichard.fr



Tête à Thé (Argentière)

Opposite the old church in Argentière, this charming café offers a selection of 100% homemade cakes and pastries. Every day, Inès bakes as inspiration strikes—always using as many local ingredients as possible—crafting cookies, carrot cake, financiers, *pastéis de nata*, Guinness cake, and more. Highlights include the artisanal feel, vegan and gluten-free options, a selection of 23 teas and herbal infusions, and specialty coffees. ||
Open 8:15 am – 6:00 pm. 120 route du Village, Argentière.
@teteathe_argentiere



L'Alpage de Balme (Vallorcine)

For lovers of authentic alpine chalets, this spot—located in the Le Tour/Vallorcine ski area just below the Aiguillette des Posettes—serves delicious, generous blueberry or raspberry tarts. The perfect way to recharge before heading back down. ||
Open daily, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Le Tour/Vallorcine ski area.
f Restaurant-Alpage-de-Balme



Les douceurs de la Sauvageonne (Servoz)

Come for the pastries and French viennoiseries—including the must-try Rocher Chirves, named after the locals of Servoz in the regional dialect—crafted by the pastry chefs of La Sauvageonne restaurant, and stay for pre-dinner drinks. Valéry, a former sommelier, added a wine cellar and gourmet delicatessen last summer, perfect for raising a glass on-site or picking up items to go. ||
Open daily except Wednesday, 6:30 am – 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm;
Sunday, 6:30 am – 2:00 pm. 95 rue du Bouchet, Servoz.
f DouceursdelaSauvageonne

Chez Jacquier (Les Houches)

This local establishment features two locations: one in the town center (106, rue du Mont-Blanc) for those who want to sit back and relax, and another opposite the Bellevue cable car departure station (place de la Fruitière) for those grabbing treats to go. Either way, you won't be able to resist the house specialty, the Houchard—a brioche filled with pastry cream, chocolate chips, and icing. ||
Open daily except Wednesday, 6:00 am – 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm (town center shop); daily, 7:30 am – 6:00 pm (Bellevue).



DID YOU KNOW?

In the late 19th century, *Pâtisserie des Alpes* delighted all of Chamonix with its rich hot chocolates and its macarons, which were shipped all over the world. Proof of a success that lasted 101 years: during the winter months, the snowbank lined up outside 117 Rue Joseph-Vallot bristled with a forest of ski tips! Though the institution closed in 1961, its memory lives on through a trompe-l'œil mural created at the initiative of the owner of the Super U supermarket, the building's current occupant.



A world-renowned ski destination, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is also a vibrant mountain town offering all the culture and vitality of a true city right at the foot of the slopes. Museums, Boutiques open every day of the year, fine dining, indoor activities, and leisurely strolls easily fill the days when you choose to leave your skis behind.

The Mont-Blanc Museum: Heritage Brought to Life

The perfect prologue to a stay in the valley, the new Mont-Blanc Museum—inaugurated last July—provides context, meaning, and key insights into a world changing before our eyes. Designated an official “Musée de France” and home to 18,000 pieces, including nearly 500 recent acquisitions shedding light on the period from the 1950s to the present day, it presents a captivating journey structured around three themes bridging past and present: local history (Adaptations), the relationship with high mountains (Feats), and representations of the landscape (Landscapes). Set within a lively, inclusive layout accessible to all, historic artifacts, photos, and paintings sit alongside digital interactive displays, audiovisual media, and hands-on activities, balancing key highlights with quieter, contemplative moments. It is a must-visit to grasp the magnetic appeal the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley has exerted on visitors ever since its tourism origins in 1741, when two young English aristocrats first explored the region. ||

Opening hours and admission fees >



Swing House: Indoor Golf

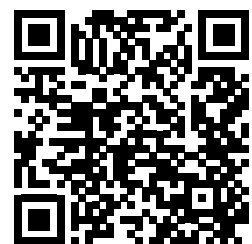
At Swing House, Chamonix’s first indoor golf venue, three latest-generation TrackMan simulators offer access to over 400 of the world’s most iconic courses. Golfers can play through the greens of famous Scottish links, legendary American layouts, or sunny resort courses—all from the warmth of the indoors. No prior experience is required to work on your swing, and introductory coaching sessions with a pro are available by reservation. || swinghouse-chamonix.com



Aiguille du Midi: Pure Verticality

There is a way to experience the high mountain realm that requires neither skis nor crampons: taking the cable car up to the Aiguille du Midi. In just 20 minutes, visitors leave the town center behind to ascend to an altitude of 3,842 meters, where the air turns crisp and Mont Blanc feels almost within reach. To complete the experience, *Step into the Void (Pas dans le Vide)*—a glass box suspended over a 1,000-meter drop—delivers the ultimate thrill, while an immersive 4D cinema at the departure station plunges viewers into heights usually reserved for birds. ||

Opening hours and rates >



CHAMONIX BEYOND SKIING

Mountaineer and crystal hunter **Georges Moreira** regularly embarks on expeditions into the Mont-Blanc massif in search of rare quartz and crystals, which he turns into handcrafted jewelry. From €40. Available at the Christmas Village. [@georges.moreira6](https://www.instagram.com/georges.moreira6)

To track down a unique ski outfit that—much like the valley itself—boasts history, character, and a story to share, head over to **After Ski** (48 Rue Paccard, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc).

[@afterski_chamonix](https://www.instagram.com/afterski_chamonix)



Artisan knifemaker **Didier Simond** expands his “Le Chamoniard” range with a new Nakiri vegetable knife, featuring a handle shaped to match the contours of Mont Blanc and a blade engraved with the silhouettes of Balmat and Paccard, the first to conquer the summit. €119. Available at the Christmas Village. www.lechamoniard.com



Replacing the Landru bookstore, which closed in late September, Laetitia Bérille is opening her new boutique, “**Les Curiosités de Francis**”.

Within this architecturally striking venue whose soul she has carefully preserved, she will offer clothing and accessories starting in mid-December—including a kids’ line highlighting environmental protection—all inspired by the animal-themed universe of her father, the painter Francis Bérille.

74, rue Joseph Vallot, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. www.lescuriositesdefrancis.fr

SEASONAL SHOPPING



Moments d'histoire brings together articles from **Christine Boymond Lasserre's** blog on Chamonix’s heritage. This first volume, *Aux temps anciens*, retraces the valley’s key founding moments from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. €20. On sale at the *Sauvage* bookstore and *Maison de la Presse*.



Developed by Chamonix-based company Blue Ice, the **Yagi 28** (28 L, 840 g) is ideal for day ski trips. €160. Available at *Snell*, *Technique Extrême*, *Intersport*, and on blueice.com

EVENTS



“Metamorphoses of Vision: The Alps Magnified”

December 2026 – April 2027

Reopened last July following a five-year renovation, the Musée du Mont-Blanc (MMB) is presenting its first temporary exhibition starting in December 2026: “Metamorphoses of Vision: The Alps Magnified”.

Complementing a completely redesigned permanent display, this inaugural exhibition offers a fascinating artistic look at the changing landscapes of the Mont-Blanc massif from the 18th century to the present day. While the earliest works and documents depict a harsh and perilous environment, the 19th century—marked by the boom in tourism—presents a new visual reality in which hotels and infrastructure become part of the Alpine scenery.

Beyond the aesthetic and scientific dimensions of works by Gabriel Loppé, Charles Bertier, Georgette Agutte, Edgar Bouillette, Henri Contencin, and contemporary artist Thomas Ostoya, this journey through depictions of the mountain highlights the remarkable adaptability demonstrated early on by mountain communities.

Set against this backdrop is a topic more relevant than ever: climate warming, increasingly noticeable every day in the Alps, is reshaping the face of the massif and compelling its inhabitants to adapt once again. ||



Chamonix photo festival

October 23–25, 2026

This winter, at the foot of Mont Blanc, photography becomes a universal language: telling the story of landscapes, revealing wildlife, and bearing witness to the transformations of our environment. For its fourth edition, themed around baby animals, the Chamonix Photo Festival reaffirms its ambition: to turn the valley into a major gathering for mountain and nature photography, and a venue where imagery highlights both the beauty of the living world and its fragility.

Over three days, 25 photographers, explorers, scientists, and enthusiasts will gather to share nearly 800 images of deserts, savannas, forests, and high mountains, alongside their personal experiences and convictions. The festival will take over the entire valley: starting in late September, Servoz will feature a large outdoor exhibition on baby animals along the Arve River and through the forest, showcasing over 100 large-format banners. In the town center, the Héliopic Hotel will host informal coffee talks to meet and engage with guest photographers, while masterclasses atop the Aiguille du Midi offer a chance to reach new heights. Behind every image lies a single conviction: to showcase the beauty of nature in order to better understand its fragility and raise awareness for its preservation. ||

chamonixphotofestival.com

It's Pretty Damn Nice !

December 19, 2026 – March 28, 2027

Located in Les Bossons between Chamonix and Les Houches, easily recognizable by its charming painted facade, the family-run Hotel Aiguille du Midi is exhibiting photographs by Fabian Bodet in its lounges throughout the winter.

A lifelong mountain photographer based at the foot of Mont Blanc and a passionate snowboarder, Bodet presents a ten-year retrospective of skiing and freeride riding, captured between the Saas-Fee glacier and the slopes of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. Visitors will discover renowned riders in action against a backdrop of mountains with striking textures and colors. ||

hotel-aiguilledumidi.com





The Kandahar

January 30, 2027

On January 30, 2027, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley will host the men's Alpine Ski World Cup slalom event: the Kandahar, the historic name for the Chamonix stage, held since the late 1960s on the legendary *La Verte des Houches* slope. This formidable black run—3,343 meters long, with an 870-meter vertical drop and top speeds reaching 140 km/h—is one of only three FIS-approved downhill tracks in France. A rare privilege stemming from the expertise of the Club des Sports de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, founded in 1905, which is second to none when preparing the course to achieve the dense, hard-packed snow surface required for the world's top athletes to compete. While the slalom takes place on a reduced section of the run, the skiers' relentless commitment—constantly pushing the limits to shave off thousandths of a second—is remarkable.

Beyond the thrilling spectacle, attending the legendary Kandahar means witnessing the unique bond forged between a valley, a century-old sports club, and an iconic slope that has stood the test of time. It is also a chance to take part in the region's

biggest winter festival: during the last edition, up to 40,000 spectators, 204 million TV viewers, 120 journalists, and 600 volunteers were brought together. || chamonixworldcup.com

Christmas Village

December 17, 2026 – January 3, 2027

This year, Chamonix's traditional Christmas Village is moving from Place du Triangle de l'Amitié to set up its winter quarters in Place du Mont-Blanc, directly facing the mountain peaks. Around thirty chalets featuring local artisans, live music, street performances, and late-night openings will bring the holiday season to life. || chamonix.com



**UNTIL
MARCH 7,
2027**

In a nod to the ice rinks that once adorned hotels in the early 20th century, an outdoor real-ice rink will be set up on this very square. Open daily from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, through March 7, 2027 (subject to weather conditions).

Lecture: 90 Years of Bellevue

December 22, 2026

To mark the 90th anniversary of the Bellevue cable car in Les Houches, author and speaker Pierre-Louis Roy—a specialist in the history of the Mont-Blanc massif and the rise of ski lifts—retraces the story of this extraordinary installation.

Drawing on over 600 pages of archives rescued and preserved by the local association Dans l'temps (co-organizers of the event), he highlights a pivotal moment: in December 1936, Léo Lagrange, Under-Secretary of State for Sports under the Popular Front, traveled in person specifically for Bellevue, praising an installation that, more than its predecessors, brought the mountains within everyone's reach.

This public lecture offers insight into how this particular cable car helped democratize skiing throughout the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley. It is also an opportunity to appreciate that riding Bellevue—one of the world's last three cable cars preserved in its original state*—is the rare luxury of stepping back in time. A privilege that only a valley steeped in authentic history can offer. Free admission at the Salle d'Animation in Les Houches (booking required). ||

* Alongside the Kohlern cable car above Bolzano (Italy, 113 years old) and Burgberg (Germany, an exact replica of Bellevue soon turning 100).



Exhibition: Winter Dreams

December 12, 2026 – April 18, 2027

For the third consecutive year, painter Cat Kartall—a member of the *Société des Peintres de Montagne* and founder of the Art School in Les Houches—is exhibiting twenty-five paintings of skis and mountain scenery across the three dining rooms of the Altitude 2000 restaurant, facing the valley's finest view of the Mont-Blanc range. Access is via the Planpraz gondola, followed on foot or on skis, combining art, panoramic views, and lunch on the terrace. || Private tours with the artist are available by appointment (+33 (0)6 33 02 17 61). catkartall.com

Chamonix Unlimited Festival

March 25–29, 2027

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Chamonix Unlimited Festival cements its status more than ever as THE Alpine event for electronic music. Over five days, around forty of today's most influential international artists will electrify ten exceptional venues—from the Aiguille du Midi to Montenvers and the Planpraz plateau. Daytime skiing, high-energy open-air sets, and intimate late-night sessions: an experience like no other. || www.unlimited-festival.com





CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

OPEN THE WAY

**TOURIST OFFICE
CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC VALLEY**



PRESS CONTACTS

Nathalie Tortora
press.en@chamonix.com

Cécile Gruffat
c.gruffat@chamonix.com

Astrid Lanceau
presse@chamonix.com

Best of the Alps ↻

PARTNERS

celio



▲ DYNASTAR



OT VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

Conception éditoriale-rédaction : Atelier les Éclaireurs – Crédit photo Une : Morgan Bodet. Photos : OT Vallée Chamonix-Mont-Blanc (Morgane Raylat, Salomé Abrial), Morgan Bodet, Collection Musée du Mont-Blanc, Collection Gérard Simond, Compagnie du Mont Blanc BVT BF, Eric Courcier, Gaëtan Haugeard, Fabian Bodet, K. Gafanesh, C. Gruffat, MBNR, Hôtel Lizzie, Hôtel Morgane, Collection famille Claret-Tournier, Niki Nikolov, Adrien Rui, G. Moreira, Tête à Thé, Alpage de Balme, Didier Simond, ML. Farini, F. Bérille, PL. Roy, C. Boymond-Lasserre, Esope, ChatGPT, DR. Mise en page : Joanna Perraudin © Tous droits réservés – Hiver 2026-2027.