



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



PRESS FILE WINTER 2021-2022

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

A LEGENDARY VALLEY AT THE CROSSROADS OF 3 COUNTRIES



©David Matthiesen

The Chamonix valley is located at the foot of the exceptional Mont-Blanc massif. On the borders of Switzerland and Italy, it extends over 28km from west to east and englobes the resorts of Servoz, Houches, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Argentière and Vallorcine.

Authentic **SERVOZ**, with its pastoral architecture, opens the doors to the valley.

LES HOUCHES, is a family village resort, with an unrivalled panorama of the Chamonix “Aiguilles” and its famous black slope «la Verte des Houches», which hosted two men’s downhill World Cup events in January 2021.

CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC, ski and mountaineering capital, is a vibrant alpine town which has preserved its unique architectural heritage, witness to a long and rich history.

ARGENTIÈRE, with the famous Grands Montets ski area, is a favorite spot for freeriders and ski lovers from all over the world.

And finally, **VALLORCINE**, the most “natural” of the villages in the valley, located on the border with Switzerland, is perfect for those seeking a winter retreat that allies sport and contemplation.

Extending over 4 major ski domains, the slopes of the Chamonix valley are located above 2000 m altitude, which ensures optimum snow quality. For those who prefer walks, 20 km of marked trails are available in winter. Several complete circuits offer walkers the opportunity to discover winter alpine nature in its diversity. Many other mountain activities are offered in the valley: paragliding, Nordic skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing...

For contemplatives and non-skiers, the Aiguille du Midi cable car transports its passengers in just twenty minutes to the realms of high mountains. At an altitude of 3,842m the panoramas of Mont Blanc and the Alps are unforgettable. Visitors of all ages can also discover the famous Mer de Glace site (1913m) by taking the little Montenvers train or embark on the Mont-Blanc tramway (1794m) to discover the panorama of the Bionassay glacier. The valley also has outstanding indoor sports facilities open year round: swimming pool, skating rink, tennis, squash and climbing wall.

For après-ski, window-shopping enthusiasts can take advantage of the many boutiques and shops open Monday to Sunday, plus a varied choice of restaurants, ranging from traditional fare to haute cuisine. As for night birds, the cosmopolitan and lively atmosphere in Chamonix centre is highly contagious. For those seeking relaxation and well-being, our top-of-the-range spas have gained international renown!

MUST SEE

RUB SHOULDERS WITH THE GIANTS AT THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI

Inaugurated in 1955, the Aiguille du Midi cable car reaches the dizzy height of 3842 m. From the centre of Chamonix, it allows access to the high mountains in 20 minutes, and offers its visitors a grandiose panorama of the Mont-Blanc massif and the surrounding Alps. The intrepid can take the 'Step into the Void®'. This attraction is a feat of architectural and technical prowess: a glass cage 2.50 m long, suspended above 1000 m of void.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/>



LEGENDARY SKIING THE VALLEE BLANCHE

Accessible from the Aiguille du Midi, the Vallée Blanche is one of the greatest glacier descents in Europe. This unmarked off-piste route of 20 km and 2000 m vertical drop, allows experienced skiers to discover an exceptional setting, surrounded by legendary peaks, whilst descending the Glacier du Géant and the famous Mer de Glace... It is strongly recommended to use the professional services of a high mountain guide.

<https://www.chamoniarde.com/en/your-activities/vallee-blanche>



A JOURNEY TO THE MER DE GLACE

Famous since the visit of the Britons Windham and Pococke in 1741, the Mer de Glace has become an iconic excursion in the Chamonix valley. Formerly accessible by mule, this cog railway which departs from Chamonix, has been transporting visitors to the Montenvers site (1913m) since 1909.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/montenvers-mer-de-glace>



WINTER AGENDA

CHRISTMAS MAGIC IN THE CHAMONIX VALLEY

From December 18, 2021 to January 02, 2022

During the Christmas holidays, illuminations and festive processions will bring a fairytale magic to the streets of Chamonix. There will also be a full programme of events for children in Les Houches, Servoz and Vallorcine.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday December 24 early evening

After the Christmas parade, the arrival of Santa Claus will cause a sensation, as will the astonishing light show proposed by the hip hop dancers and the acrobats of the LIGHT BALANCES group.

CHAMONIX LUMIERES

December 2021 and January 2022

Be prepared for a captivating and magical immersion into the history of Chamonix and the Compagnie des Guides, with a 3D sound and light show projected on the facades of Saint Michel church and the Maison de la Montagne in the heart of Chamonix.

Every day, between 7 pm and 8 pm

VITALINI KANDAHAR JUNIOR

From 7 to 9 January 2022

International downhill ski competition – U14 organised by Les Houches

www.kandaharjunior.com/en

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

February school holidays

Every day, from Servoz to Vallorcine, the valley will beat to the rhythm of musical processions and free entertainments.

UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

Now an important date in the winter agenda, the Unlimited Festival brings together skiing and music on mountain tops! The DNA of the event: a lineup of artists from the electro scene in small-scale open-air venues, on the most beautiful sites of the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley!

Dates and programme to follow on:

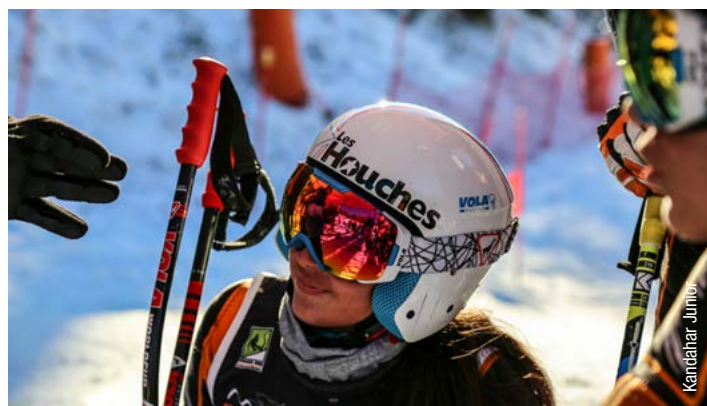
www.unlimited-festival.com/en/

FREERIDE DAY

Early May (date subject to snow cover)

End the season in style at the Grands Montets with the traditional freeride party.

www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/



All major events and entertainments on: www.chamonix.com

FREE SKI LESSONS



GROUP LESSONS, BEGINNERS, INTERMEDIATES AND EXPERTS

For all levels and all types of skiing!

From January 7 to February 4 and from March 7 to April 1, 2022, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers free group ski lessons (minimum 3 persons for a group).

For all ages and all levels of expertise, guests will be able to benefit from free lessons in downhill skiing (both on and off-piste), cross-country skiing, ski touring and even kindergarten skiing.



FREE SKI LESSONS:

- Offer valid for courses of 2 to 6 days for any person staying in commercial accommodation for a minimum of 3 nights in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley.
- Reservation possible within the limits of availability until D-3 directly through our partner ski schools on presentation of a booking confirmation.
- More details and list of partner ski schools available early October on www.chamonix.com

4 SKI AREAS ON 4 MOUNTAIN SIDES

The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley offers a little over 110 km of marked downhill trails, 90% of which are located at an altitude of 2000 m and above. There are also 50 km of marked trails for cross-country skiing. Chamonix attracts some of the world's best skiers and snowboarders, and the reputation of the Grands Montets and the Vallée Blanche is far reaching. But the valley also offers several areas for intermediate and beginner skiers. The season starts late November and ends in early May, with excellent spring skiing conditions.

LES HOUCHES (1008m - 1900m)

Located at the entrance to the Chamonix valley, this is an ideal area for family skiing. There are many picturesque, gentle, tree-lined slopes and the views over the Mont-Blanc Massif and the Aravis mountain range are superb. The area also has some technical descents, not least the famous «Verte des Houches», the Downhill World Cup slope which regularly hosts international competitions, namely the Kandahar.



BRÉVENT - FLÉGÈRE (2525m)

Facing the Mont Blanc range, with a sunny exposition, the Brévent - Flégère ski area offers incredible panoramic views and a variety of slopes suitable for all types of skier and levels of expertise.



LES GRANDS MONTETS (2765m)

Partially located on a glacier, this ski area covers three mountainsides (the Argentière glacier, Lognan and the Pendant) and offers a vast range of on and off-piste skiing with tremendous vertical drop. It is a popular departure point for ski touring.



BALME - LE TOUR (2270m)

The snow-covered mountain pastures of Balme can be reached both from the village of Le Tour and from Vallorcine. Wide and gentle sunny slopes offer exceptional views of the Mont-Blanc Massif and on the Vallorcine side, tree-lined descents with many variants appeal to all levels of skier.

LIFT PASS DEALS



MONT-BLANC
NATURAL RESORT

NEW THIS WINTER

ChamSki
Deal

Book your ski pass in advance,
it makes the difference !

Enjoy it

www.chamskideal.com



CHAMONIX LE PASS

A pass 100 % ski to enjoy the three major areas of Chamonix.

- 104 km of slopes
- 14 green runs
- 31 blue runs
- 23 red runs
- 13 black runs

GOOD TIP: from 107€ for the purchase of a 2-day pass

MONT BLANC UNLIMITED

Visits & ski safari in 3 countries: France, Switzerland and Italy!

- 1003 km of slopes
- 62 green runs
- 134 blue runs
- 179 red runs
- 65 black runs

GOOD TIP: from 67 € for the on-line purchase of a 1-day Chamskideal

FORFAIT LES HOUCHES

This is the first ski area on arriving in the Chamonix Valley, with a 360 ° view of the surrounding peaks.

- 31 km of slopes
- 2 green runs
- 7 blue runs
- 12 red runs
- 2 black runs

GOOD TIP for advanced online purchased no later than the day before the 1st day of skiing:

- 5% discount on all 1 to 9 day adult, youth and senior passes.
- 6 days for the price of 5, 7 for the price of 6, 8 for the price of 7, 9 for the price 8, for adults, young people, seniors and families.
- Family: 20% discount on 1 to 3 day passes. From 208 € for a 6-day adult pass with the exclusive web rate
- From 201,40 € for a 6-day pass with the exclusive web rate



CHAMONIX
Le Pass



MONT BLANC
Unlimited



LES HOUCHES
Forfait

All rates can be found on: <https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/nos-forfaits>

LIFT PROJECTS



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Abrial

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GRANDS MONTETS

Following the fire that ravaged the Grands Montets in 2018, the redevelopment of the future lifts and site is guided by a long-term vision for this unique high-mountain site. The municipality of Chamonix continues to work closely with the lift operator (Compagnie du Mont-Blanc) in laying down the specifications for this ambitious project. Both parties rely on the guidance and expertise of [AdaPT Mont-Blanc](#) Mont-Blanc with regards to the geology of the site, the stability of permafrost and the project's environmental impact.

The Lognan plateau at the mid-station will be less imposing than the former station, even though it will still accommodate the two lift stations, reception areas and customer services. The top Grands Montets station, located on a classified site, will be positioned slightly lower than the existing one, thus providing direct access to the Col des Grands Montets. With regards to reaching the Grands Montets ski area, priority will be given to public transport and soft mobility. The existing car park will be landscaped to make it more visually attractive and integrated into its surroundings. This project is a golden opportunity for the community to rethink the entire base station area, improving transport links with the outlying hamlets and a better access from Argentière railway station and village.

Opening scheduled for 2024.



© Cie du Mont Blanc - Clément Farcy



© Cie du Mont Blanc - Clément Farcy

NEW LE TOUR CHARAMILLON GONDOLA LIFT (BALME SKI AREA)

Work to replace the Charamillon gondola lift began in spring 2021 with the construction of the upper station. Work has continued throughout 2021, but the construction site will be put on hold during the winter of 2021-2022 and the ski area will be accessible as usual. The reconstruction of the lower station and the development of the surrounding area is scheduled from spring 2022, which means the existing lift will not be operating in summer 2022. The future installation will have 39 cabins with 10 places, making it possible to transport 2,200 people/hour (compared to 1,004 at present). The new cabins will cover the 376m vertical drop in 5.26 minutes, at a speed of 6m/second.

The new gondola will open in December 2022.



MONTANVERS SITE - MER DE GLACE: HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Explored for the first time by William Windham and Richard Pococke in 1741, La Mer de Glace, the largest French glacier, is a living witness to the climate changes of our time.

In order to preserve and enhance the memory of this emblematic site, the Municipal Council of Chamonix has approved an investment programme of over than 53 million euros. 25 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a new cable car which will facilitate access on and off the glacier for visitors, alpinists and skiers arriving from the Vallée Blanche. More than 20 million of the budget will be allocated to the construction of a Glacier and Climate Interpretation Center, the objective of which is to inform and educate visitors about climate change.

For the implementation of this project, a 33-year public service concession contract was signed in June 2021 with Compagnie de la Mer de Glace. This newly formed company is held by the Compagnie du Mont Blanc (60%), the Caisse des Dépôts et des Consignations (30%) and the Crédit Agricole des Savoie bank (10%).

An ambitious programme for an exceptional site which will aim to:

- Preserve and enhance the memory of a pioneering site in the history glacier discovery and access to high mountains.
- Protect both the heritage and the landscape.
- Inform and educate visitors about climate change and its impact on the Mer de Glace glacier.
- Improve the quality of visitor's experience in terms of site discovery and access to the glacier.
- Ensure the strictest respect for the natural site of Montanvers (architecture and technical integration).

THE MAJOR STAGES OF THE PROJECT:

- December 2023, opening of the new Mer de Glace cable car
- December 2024, opening of the «Glaciorium» Climate and Glacier Interpretation Centre

Video:

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/projet-montanvers>



SKI TOURING: ON THE UP!



©Christophe Raylat

LA CHAMONJARDE

The Chamoniarde is a mountain rescue and prevention association which organizes courses for adults to raise mountain safety awareness.

Weekend ski touring courses enable customers to acquire better knowledge of the mountains in order to gain autonomy and better awareness of potential risks.

Price: 110 € for 2 days.

More information: [Wsecuskiderando.pdf](http://www.wsecuskiderando.pdf)



©La Chamoniarde

Over the past few years in the Chamonix Valley, ski touring has become more and more popular. In order to facilitate training and practice, there are now four marked routes of different lengths and difficulty. After the effort, the reward is a gentle ski down the slopes!

Four marked itineraries (not patrolled) for different levels of ski tourers. Descent via the ski slopes.

- **LES HOUCHES / Prarion** : elevation 841 metres
- **ARGENTIÈRE / Lognan par La Trapette** (not recommended for beginners) elevation 730 metres
- **ARGENTIÈRE / Refuge de Lognan** : elevation 800 metres
- **LE TOUR / Charamillon** : elevation 358 metres



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Christophe Raylat



FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Due to increased interest for this activity, the Mountain Guides' company offers group or private outings for beginners and confirmed ski tourers.

From 135€ pp for a group outing

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/en/activites/details/ski-de-rando-journee>

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY

Today, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley has a Nordic ski area of about fifty kilometres – both classic and skating pistes – in the resorts of Les Houches, Chamonix, Argentière and Vallorcine.

A detailed map of cross-country skiing trails is available at tourist offices or cross-country ski centres throughout the valley.

FREE NOCTURNAL SESSIONS ON THURSDAYS

Beginning in December, the green track of the Bois du Bouchet is free for evening sessions from 18:30 to 20:30. The track is not floodlit so headlamps are recommended.

ON THE TRACKS ...

The first ever Winter Olympic Games took place in Chamonix from 25 January to 5 February 1924. At the time, downhill skiing had not gained momentum or recognition. Only six sports were on the Olympic programme: ice-hockey, ice-skating, speed skating, curling, bobsleigh and skiing of course, but not downhill! The Olympic ski disciplines were cross-country (50km and 18km), ski jumping, combined (jumping and cross-country) and a 30km military four per team race where they shot with real bullets.



EN FAMILLE



LES HOUCHES : A FAMILY PLUS RESORT

A family reference for the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, the resort-village of Les Houches is labeled «Famille Plus». Everything is done to welcome families: adapted activities, multiple entertainments, nurseries, promotional family rates and dedicated professional services.

<https://www.leshouches.com/label-famille-plus.215.fr.html>

SNOWSHOEING WITH A VIEW AT PRARION

The Prarion plateau (1800m), at the top of Les Houches ski area, is the ideal place to discover snowshoeing with the family in a safe environment. Several marked trails offer a gentle introduction to the activity, with the added bonus of a 360 ° panoramic view of the Mont-Blanc range.



©Pierre Raphoz

ALPINE COASTER

After skiing, hop on board this Alpine Coaster for a thrilling 1300m ride at the speed of your choice!

Rate: 8€ per ride.

<https://www.planards.fr/en>

LE SKICAMP : KIDS HAVE FUN IN LES HOUCHES !

Located on Les Houches ski area, in the Prarion / Mélèzes sector, the Skicamp has become a must for children. A whole range of fun and varied activities are proposed for all ages ... snowtubing tracks, toboggan runs, zipline, camper village, many activities throughout the winter.

<https://www.skipass-leshouches.com/en/>



©Pierre Raphoz



©Pierre Raphoz

FOR NIGHT OWLS



A FOREST FONDUE

The Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix is organizing a gourmet evening excursion. In a pine forest, up above the village of Servoz, a perched hut with a blazing log fire awaits its guests. There is nothing quite like a delicious cheese fondue meal on a winter night in the heart of nature! A moonlit hike (or by the light of headlamps) back down to Servoz is a perfect way to end this magical evening outing.

6 people min. 70 € / pers. 1 hour walk

www.chamonix-guides.com



©La Folie Douce Chamonix



©Cie des Guides Chamonix

CABARET EVENING AT LA FOLIE DOUCE CHAMONIX

This winter, a unique festive evening for all cabaret lovers will be on the Folie Douce programme.

From € 30 per person, with 1 Folie Douce signature cocktail at the bar, followed by a 3-course dinner, excluding drinks.

<https://lafoliedoucehotels.com/en/hotel-chamonix/>

THE MAGIC OF CHAMONIX'S TWILIGHT HOUR

A discovery walk with a special interest for the amateur photographer looking to capture dynamic perspectives and the magical atmosphere of the town during the most photogenic hours. Teresa will ensure amateur photographers get to the right place at the right time to capture the fleeting light of late afternoon whilst benefitting from her expert advice, to adjust camera (or phone) in order to seize the winter ambience.

Prices start at 60 € with a minimum of 2 persons.

For more details, contact guide-photographer Teresa Kaufman:
06 08 95 89 42 www.teresakaufman.com



©Teresa Kaufman Photography

CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC VALLEY: AN EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE THAT THE COMMUNITY CONSERVES AND STRENGTHENS!

The territory of Mont Blanc has constantly evolved between the 18th and the 21st century. Initially, a rural area that was difficult to access and faced with many natural risks, the advent of tourism changed the dynamics. The emergence of mountaineering and winter sports created an economic boom and the mountain was progressively developed and equipped. Understanding this evolution provides the keys to the Mont-Blanc landscape and the challenges we face today. The objectives of the Chamonix Valley today are to analyze the links between our natural, cultural and scientific heritage and to establish networks with the main actors and mountain professionals. The role of our cultural and scientific sites is primordial in this collaboration.



©Collection Musée Alpin Chamonix

THE MUSEUM NETWORK

Four museums that tell the story of man's adaptation to the land, through agriculture, habitat, science and tourism.

THE NEW CRYSTAL MUSEUM

One of the foremost mineral museums in France (see page 15).

THE ALPINE MUSEUM

Classified museum of France, occupies a historic building in the heart of Chamonix since 1969. The museum, endowed with a collection of more than 15,000 objects, is embarking on a complete renovation project, to become the Mont Blanc Museum: creation of 3 permanent exhibition spaces and one temporary exhibition space, new museography, new

mediation mechanisms, and significant digital development. As the only mountain museum in France, its objective will be to highlight the interactions between Man and the mountain in the Mont-Blanc region whilst showcasing extraordinary collections.

A WORLD UNIQUE GLACIORIUM AT THE MONTENVERS SITE

(opening winter 2024-2025) The Interpretation Glacier and Climate Centre to be built on the Montenvers-Mer de Glace site will invite each visitor to an immersive experience in the world of glaciers and their history.

Located at the arrival station of the legendary cog railway, this centre will dive into the heart of the glacier. Interactivity and emotions guaranteed on a unique explorative journey: history of the site, anatomy of an ice giant, scientific study of a hidden world, climate observatory ...

THE CHAMONIX VALLEY CRYSTAL MUSEUM



ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MINERALOGICAL MUSEUMS IN FRANCE

Opening October 2021

The crystal museum of the Community of Communes of the Chamonix Valley, located in the Espace Tairraz, will reopen to the public this autumn after having benefited from a major expansion. Thanks to the legacy of Michel Jouty's mineralogical collection to the city of Chamonix, and that of the Ducarre collection to the Mineralogy Club of Chamonix, the Crystal Museum will now exhibit an extraordinary compilation of Alpine and indeed global rock minerals and gems. It invites visitors to discover the centuries-old tradition of quartz harvesting in the Mont-Blanc Massif, a tradition which is still alive today. The crystal-seekers were the first mountaineers in the valley; not only did they reveal the extraordinary natural resources of the Mont-Blanc massif but they gave their support to scientists in the 18th century and henceforth.

Among the major exhibits of the museum, we find an exceptional collection of pink and red fluorites from Mont-Blanc, an Alpine treasure unique in the world. There is also a rich variety of minerals from the Alpine Arc, making this dedicated exhibition a point of excellence of international level. The museum also invites visitors to explore the extraordinary mineralogical diversity of France, with major pieces such as azurites and malachites from Chessy-les-Mines (Rhône). The visit continues with a superb colourful world tour of minerals from five continents. Specimens from China and America are particularly well represented. A selection of African minerals also makes up a remarkable unity. The tour ends in Australia.

New: A dedicated area entitled «Treasure» presents gems, precious stones, rough or cut, and noble metals (gold, silver, copper).

Temporary exhibitions will be regularly presented to complete the ensemble: the first is dedicated to the Jewels of the Italian Alps.

Covering an area of 700 m², the number of exhibits has tripled in comparison with the previous Crystal Museum. There are now nearly 1,500 specimens that will astonish and dazzle collectors, enthusiasts and the general public alike. The expansion and refurbishments have cost over 2 million euros and this new exhibition centre now ranks as one of the finest national mineralogical museums.



CULTURE AND EXHIBITIONS

CHAGALL IN LES HOUCHES

Considered one of the most famous painters and engravers of the 20th century, Marc Chagall made his first visit to Les Houches, in the Chamonix valley, in the winter of 1926/1927. This encounter with the mountains and his discovery of Baroque art in the Pays de Savoie was a revelation for him.

Thanks to the research carried out by the former Chamonix journalist Jean-Paul Roudier, it appears that between 1927 and 1930, Chagall produced six paintings inspired by his visit to the Chamonix Valley, three of which illustrate the Saint-Jean-Baptiste church of les Houches, one the Griez chapel, one Montquarts chapel and another featuring the Sainte-Marie viaduct.

At the initiative of Les Houches municipality in collaboration with local heritage associations, an exhibition trail entitled "Passage Chagall" was inaugurated this autumn 2021 next to the church of Les Houches, in the heart of the village. This outdoor cultural space aims to promote one annual theme, always related to local heritage.

This winter, visitors will be able to discover 4 panels presenting reproductions of Chagall's works inspired by his stay in the valley, alongside old views of the historic buildings represented, from the collection of the Musée Montagnard des Houches.



Saison
culturelle

21
/22



THE NEW CULTURAL VENUE - MICHEL CROZ EMC2

Inauguration December 9 and 10, 2021

This new cultural and festive space will be able to host concerts, plays or dance performances with 300 seats, 500 standing places. It is located in two of the dome buildings, designed by architect Roger Taillibert in the early 1970s, just adjacent to the ENSA (National School of Ski and Alpinism).

The first two inaugural concerts are with singer Suzane and musician Manu Katche. Discover the season's ambitious cultural programme here:

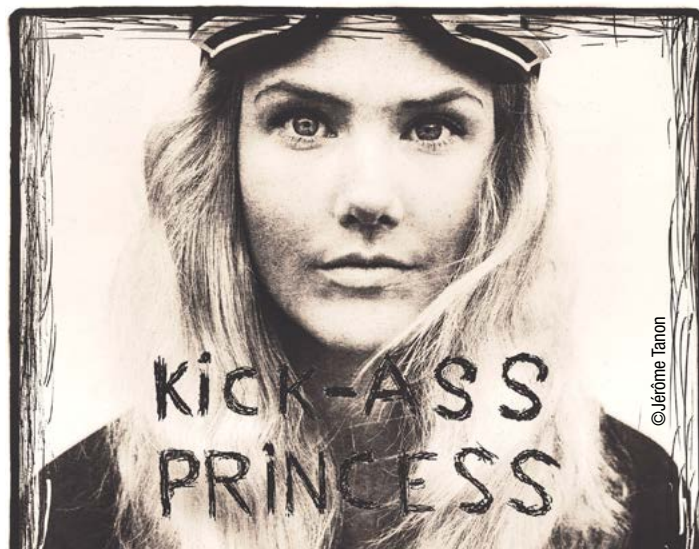
<https://fr.calameo.com/read/006382103309de0f98bc4>

HEROES: PHOTO EXHIBITION, MEDIATHEQUE

In December, the Chamonix media library is hosting an exhibition by the talented photographer Jérôme Tanon, which pays tribute to women in the very masculine world of snowboarding.

This 34-year-old self-taught artist and photographer has made a name for himself in the snowboarding world over the past 12 years. Passionate about his profession, he is fond of old silver processes which he applies in contrast to modern snowboard photography. This exhibition offers a selection of large art prints to tell the story of these women who push the boundaries, on their snowboards.

www.jerometanon.com



CLAUDE D'HAM, ARTIST AND PAINTER



Originally from Chamonix, Claude'HAM began her artistic career as a textile designer for the prestigious Guichard silk workshops in Lyon, then as an illustrator of children's books for 10 years.

Since 1968, her workshop is located in an adorable little chalet in the hamlet of Les Pélerins, facing the Mont-Blanc range and the Bossons glacier.

She now enjoys composing series of small themed paintings, always strongly inspired by the fantasy world of childhood and has presented 3 exhibitions in recent years, in the Chamonix Valley.

A first series «Children of the World», exhibited in 2015, was treated in an ethnic and colorful spirit. A second, "Cham Rétro", exhibited in 2017, had for theme a trip down memory lane, in the sepia colours of old photos. In July 2021, the exhibition of the «Bulle marine» series was a tribute Brittany. And with «Le Temps des Confitures», Claude d'HAM was back with childhood memories of picking wild fruit, her favorite theme.

In 2024, Chamonix will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Olympic Winter Games and the Chamonix artist is already planning to produce a special 1924 J.O. series!

06 06 41 84 09

<http://clo.dham.free.fr/index.html>



A COSMOPOLITAN VALLEY

From the beginnings of tourism over 250 years ago, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc valley has always attracted visitors from all over the world, curious to discover the beauty of its exceptional landscapes. The cosmopolitan character of our destination not only applies to passing visitors, but also to the inhabitants of the valley, where more than 40 nationalities reside throughout the year!

ANDY PARKIN, A CLIMBING ARTIST

Originally from Sheffield, in England, Andy Parkin arrived in the Chamonix valley in 1983, and made it his base camp, the source of his artistic inspiration and an extraordinary playground which satisfies his passion for climbing.

"Live art as we live climbing. Mountaineering is creative when you do it in a certain way. Painting or sculpting is the same, going into the unknown in search of adventure in a refined style to achieve something which is credible."



PETER STELZNER, CRAFT SKI MANUFACTURER

This Californian of origin, is at ease in the language of Molière as he is on telemark skis. Peter chose to settle in the Chamonix Valley several decades ago and began producing superb craft made wooden skis which are true works of art.

"Chamonix, this magical place by its nature so vast and powerful but also fragile and surprising. This place attracts enthusiasts from so many sports but also cultural fields. A mix of international people all in love with the valley's beauty. For me, it is the ideal place to be creative and to share my passion for skiing, the mountains, and the very objects that embellish the moments we spend in the mountains. Thank you, Chamonix."



KATIA SAGGIA, MANAGER OF A 5* HOTEL

"I arrived in Chamonix from neighboring Piedmont in 2006 when the opportunity to become manager of the Grand Hôtel des Alpes was offered to me. It was a big challenge for me, but I decided to accept it to start this new adventure and I made the right decision! I love this job, which is both very addictive and at the same time very rewarding, and I love Chamonix. This small town nestled between the highest peaks like a precious diamond offered me the opportunity to live in a breathtaking location and I never cease to contemplate its wonders. Chamonix is full of life with its shops and restaurants, encounters are multiple and enriching, people come from all over the world to Chamonix to discover its treasures! Grazie Chamonix !!"

BERNADETTE ZÄH, HERITAGE GUIDE

Bernadette left her native Germany almost 50 years ago to work as an au-pair in Chamonix.

"I did not know the mountains at all when I arrived in Chamonix in 1974. But what good fortune to be able to discover this valley, its inhabitants and its history whilst setting off with my backpack on the trails in the summer, to greet the guardians of mountain huts who have become my friends; and what a joy to see the first snowflakes fall in winter, to grab my cross-country skis and meet friends on the trails.

When I walk through Chamonix, I am the happiest to encounter locals but also to hear visitors speaking in so many different languages.

That's what I love, the mix of people of all kinds and from all over the world in this «big village» at the foot of Mont Blanc. The best phrase is when customers say, «It's so beautiful, we'll be back!"



DAVID LILIEROTH, CHEF

This young Scandinavian globetrotter chef chose to settle down in Chamonix to practice his culinary skills before successfully opening his own restaurant, the Mumma.

"Chamonix for me is an international small mountain town, with people from every corner of the world and we all have one thing in common, we all like the mountains and the nature. For me working in an evening restaurant, means that i have mornings off to go snowboarding, biking, hiking or picking mushrooms. Living this life motivates you to be outside to explore the endless mountains and trails, to get strong and push yourself to get further.

For me to have my restaurant in Chamonix is so much fun because I cook for people that come from so many different cities and countries, so even if it is a small town I reach a lot of different people."



MASAMI TSUDA, SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR

Masami was born in Chamonix to a Japanese father and a German mother, the young «Japoniard» is passionate when he talks of his native valley.

"In short, Chamonix for me is everything, it's what makes me the person I am today. We look like our environment, it shapes us, and it transmits feelings, even passions, to us. Mine is snowboarding! I do think that Chamonix is a demanding but fabulous terrain for learning many sports activities. And it will always be my home, whenever I return and wherever I come from, I'm always happy to look up, and see these peaks"



GOURMET NEWS



©OT Vallée de Chamonix-Salmon Abria

NEWS FROM THE GUINGUETTE DES CHAVANTS

Ideally located adjacent to the Chavants lake in Les Houches and right by the ESF snow garden and the leisure centre, this atypical restaurant has a terrace with a magnificent view of the Mont-Blanc range. Johanna and Ingrid took over this convivial address last summer, and this winter their attractive menu promises tasty dishes, a generous cuisine in a friendly atmosphere. An ideal gourmet address for families.

<https://restaurant-laquingnette.fr/>



©Cosmiques

COSMIC RESTO

Nestled in the heart of Chamonix, this new hotel with vintage charm will begin its second winter season in December and will finally be able to open its restaurant.

The dining-room can accommodate 40 people, in a relaxed 70s atmosphere. The chef proposes fusion cuisine, based on fresh, organic and eco-sourced products as much as possible. The outdoor terrace will be a real plus for après-ski, with a superb view of the Mont-Blanc range.

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

STEPHANE GASSOT OPENS A DELICATESSENS IN SERVOZ

Chef of the prestigious Maison Carrier restaurant since 1998, Stéphane GASSOT has decided it's time for a change and has opened his personal catering store in Servoz.

Galvanized by the desire to enliven the centre of this small village, located at the entrance to the Chamonix valley, the former chef will offer a range of regional products and local wines, a selection of dried meats and signature dishes to take-away.

89, rue du Bouchet in Servoz

THE SWEETS OF THE SAUVAGEONNE

Valery Allard, manager of the restaurant la Sauvageonne in Servoz, is opening a tea room this winter, where he will offer gourmets the sweet treats prepared by Dorian Gelin, the pastry chef of la Sauvageonne.

Phone: 04 50 53 69 03

A WIND OF CHANGE AT THE HAMEAU ALBERT 1^{er}



©Hameau Albert 1er



For 5 generations, the emblematic Hameau Albert 1^{er} ***** has been pioneering hospitality in the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley, and so it continues.

THE ALBERT 1^{ER} GASTRONOMIC RESTAURANT GETS A REFURBISHMENT

This winter, the Michelin-starred restaurant of the Hameau Albert 1^{er} will welcome its guests in a completely new decor, with a mineral, ethereal and refined atmosphere. This major renovation, for a total budget of € 1,800,000, includes a new kitchen for the young Chef Damien LEVEAU. Perrine Carrier, director of Hameau Albert 1^{er}, entrusted this ambitious project to the local architect Lionel Adam, who, in 2017, designed the magnificent Blaitière suite and the remarkable seminar space of the Hameau.

"I am fortunate to be surrounded by a young, talented and ambitious team. This momentum reflects a human adventure, a common commitment and a deep motivation to offer our customers, more than ever, an experience at our table. The design of our restaurant room was inspired by the heights: a lesson in style through nature's lines, a lesson in humility through its strength, a lesson in respect through its power, a lesson in sensitivity through its resonances."



©Lionel Adam

des dômes Reflet de la métallurgie du temps - Paris



©Nicolas Tosi

A NEW CHEF FOR THE TRADITIONAL RESTAURANT, LA MAISON CARRIER

From December 2021, Cédric Nogueira becomes the new chef of the country restaurant of Hameau Albert 1^{er}.

He will replace Stéphane Gassot, now eager to explore other projects, who has contributed to the reputation of the Maison Carrier since its opening in 1998. A superb opportunity for the young chef Cédric Nogueira, who is used to working with local products and who knows the culinary identity of the establishment well after having worked there previously.

<https://www.hameaualbert.fr/en>

WORKSHOPS FOR ALL TASTES

COFFEE & COCOA INTRODUCTION AND TASTING WORKSHOPS AT SHOUKÂ

Coffee and cocoa manufacturer located in the heart of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Shoukâ is a concept store unique in France practicing double roasting with "bean-to-bar" chocolate and coffee.

This winter, several workshops around coffee and cocoa will be offered to discover and learn to taste your coffee, understand the secrets of a perfect extraction, learn about artisanal roasting or even discover and taste chocolate, from the plantation to delicious chocolate bars.

Accessible to all, from € 25 to € 80 / person depending on the theme, 1h30 to 2h.

206 Rue Du Docteur Paccard, 74400 Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

<https://shouka-chamonix.fr>



© Shoukâ



©Philippe Convers

FOOD & WINE ASSOCIATION COOKING CLASS

Two local enthusiasts have had the excellent idea of sharing their skills and knowledge in order to offer exclusive cooking classes in Chamonix this winter.

Philippe Convers, talented chef and well-known for his foraging skills and Guillaume Dalmais, a master of wine cellars, will accompany amateur cooks in the elaboration of a gourmet menu - starter / main course / dessert - in the rules of the art, while subtly combining the wines for a tasting at the top. On request, vegan food & wine cooking classes can also be offered. The workshops will be held in the Chai Guillaume wine bar, 301 Rue Joseph Vallot in Chamonix:

80 € / person for a course of 1h30 including the tasting and 3 glasses of carefully selected wine.

For 6 people maximum.

Contact: 06 18 39 00 02

ENGRAVING WORKSHOPS IN CHAMONIX

With a long experience of teaching engraving techniques to adults, but also to young artists, Emma and Jean-Luc Dusong open their workshop in Chamonix and offer courses to create, discover or improve different practices: engraving in intaglio, print, monotype ... The techniques on the programme of the engraving courses are varied: dry point, etching, aquatint, sugar engraving, soft varnish, texture printing, gravo-mousse, wood engraving and linoleum ...

3 basic modules of 5 sessions, each lasting 3 hrs are offered weekly: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cost 240 € - material provided (from 1 person to 4 people maximum)

Discovery courses are also offered (from 120 € for 2 x 3 hours)

An evening course is scheduled on Mondays (260 euros, 6 x 3 hours, from 2 people minimum to 4 people maximum).

The number of pupils is always limited to 4 people

<https://cargocollective.com/atelier-gravure-chamonix>



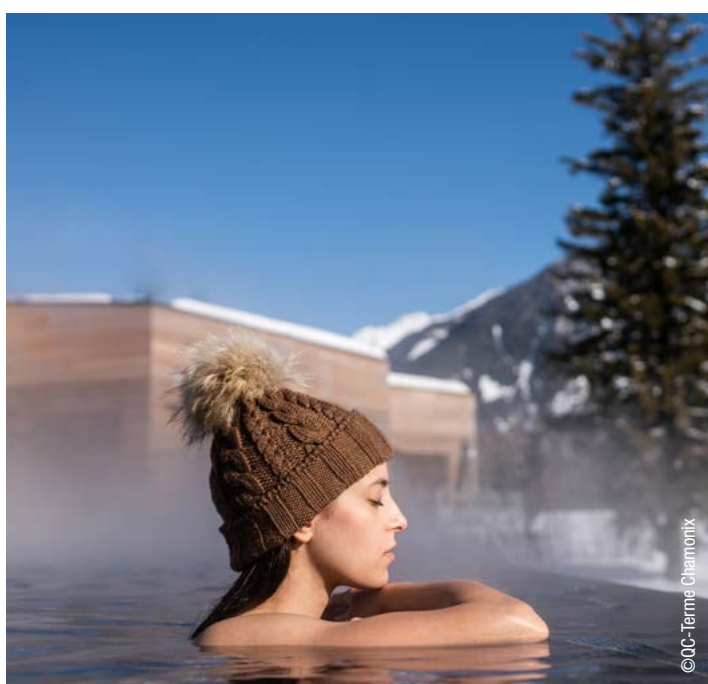
©JL Dusong

WELL-BEING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

QC TERME - REMARKABLE WELLNESS FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW

An essential address for a well-being break in the Chamonix valley, the QC Terme centre enjoys a privileged location! 3,000 square meters of well-being and over 30 activities for a multi-sensory journey. Since last summer there are five additional relaxation rooms, all enjoying views of the majestic Aiguilles de Chamonix, the Drus and the Mont-Blanc massif.

<https://www.qc Terme.com/en/chamonix-mont-blanc/qc-termechamonix>



SOS FORM

A former high-level athlete and sports coach, Fred Ancey offers tailor-made sessions to get back in shape before skiing: outdoor cardio activities in the exceptional natural setting of the Chamonix valley (cross-country skiing, running, sports walking in the snow, ice skating, etc.), fitness, bodybuilding exercises and targeted preparations, with professional advice on physical activity and nutrition. Prices adapted according to the activities. Individual price 50 € / hour

Outdoor group sessions 35 € pp for 2 - 3 pers. or 25 € pp. from 4 to 7 people

Contact: 06 86 49 19 46



A SAUNA WITH VIEW AT THE POINTE ISABELLE

In the heart of Chamonix, the hotel Pointe Isabelle *** has a new panoramic sauna, located on the top floor of the establishment, offering a unique view over the rooftops of Chamonix and the Aiguilles Rouges range.

<https://www.pointeisabelle.com/en>

NEW SPA AT THE BOIS PRIN

The Auberge du Bois Prin proposes a brand-new wellness area for its customers this winter. The Spa will provide access to an outdoor Nordic bath, and a spectacular view of the Mont-Blanc range. There is also a sauna, sports equipment and massage facilities.

<https://boisprin.com/en/>

ENVIRONMENT

THE CHAMONIX VALLEY: LABORATORY FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley was awarded the Flocon Vert Label in 2013, and takes pride in maintaining this recognition, awarded to mountain destinations particularly involved in the development of sustainable tourism. Aware of the necessity to preserve its exceptional and fragile environment, the Chamonix Valley is committed to the implementation of concrete actions for the ecological and energy transition in various fields: mobility, housing and building, energy, waste and circular economy ...

Consult the dedicated press file: [dossier presse environnement mai 2021 \(cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr\)](https://dossier.presse.environnement.mai.2021/cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr)



©Mikko Lampinen

SOFT MOBILITY AND FREE TRANSPORT

Electric shuttles, hybrid and gas buses, renovation of the railway line, cycle route, pedestrian paths: the Chamonix valley is developing and structuring its eco-mobility. Since the year 2005, rail and bus public transport within the valley has been free of charge for our guests and residents and accounts for over 3 million passengers per year. More than 11 km of cycle paths have been developed between Chamonix and Les Houches over the past four years and this programme continues. Electric mobility is encouraged through free charging stations.

A CALCULATOR FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

ECORIDER IMPACT is a free digital tool that allows ski professionals to quickly and easily calculate the social and environmental impact of their activities.

Thanks to a diagnosis accessible to all and a positive impact score, the digital calculator makes it possible to identify the levers of action in order for professionals to modify certain practices and leisure offers in the interests of a more sustainable tourism.

Release scheduled for December, more info on www.ecorider.org



©OTV Vallée de Chamonix



THE GUIDES' COMPANY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

By virtue of their profession, mountain guides and mountain leaders are among the first witnesses to the major environmental changes of the 21st century. Through this awareness, they are committed to concrete actions: assessment of their carbon footprint in order to limit their emissions, adaptation of trips and activities to integrate a more sustainable and responsible approach, implementation of actions to preserve certain species of alpine fauna ... As part of the celebration of their 200 anniversary, the guides have produced a free educational booklet on climate change.

www.chamonix-guides.com/en/200-years-of-the-guides-company/environment



GREEN KEY FOR THE HAMEAU ALBERT 1ER *****

Perrine CARRIER and her team took advantage of the breaks imposed by the health crisis to formalize the ecological commitments they have always advocated, by requesting the Green Key label. An application that prompted them to deepen their reflection on a multitude of criteria: gardens, management of hotel rooms, the restaurant, team behavior, energy consumption, materials used ... This international label for sustainable tourism accompanies the hospitality sector towards a more responsible management of their activity, in the face of the climate emergency.

<https://www.hameaualbert.fr/en>



PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN HIGH ALTITUDE AREAS

The Compagnie du Mont Blanc, the organisation which manages the ski lifts in the Chamonix Valley, is also committed to sustainable development. This winter, through dedicated winter tranquility zones on all the major ski areas of the valley, also including the Montanvers, they continue their actions to preserve alpine wildlife.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com>



THE MAJESTIC CONGRESS CENTER CONTINUES ITS ENERGY RENOVATION

After the transition to gas heating in September 2020, the massive project to replace all windows with double-glazing and to change all the draperies is now finished. Renovations of this historic building, initially the Majestic Palace hotel dating from 1913, will significantly improve the insulation of the Congress Centre, and thus reduce energy consumption.

<https://www.chamonix.com/infos-et-services/services/le-majestic-centre-des-congres-seminaires>

A SECOND LIFE FOR CLIMBING SHOES

Established in the Chamonix valley for 150 years, the company Simond (manufacturer of mountaineering equipment) in partnership with the company Greenwolf (specialist in the repair of outdoor sports products) have decided to collect, repair and recycle old and used climbing shoes of all brands.

This initiative is supported by Decathlon stores who will collect the used material in all their stores in the Arve valley, but also by local clubs and climbing structures who will serve as a relay for collection.

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

A LONG AND INSPIRING HISTORY...



The year 1741 remains an important date in the history of the Chamonix valley, for it was when two Englishmen first visited this small market town at the foot of Mont-Blanc changing its destiny forever and creating a summer craze, which was to last close to 170 years; that of visiting its famous glacier 'la Mer de Glace'.

The conquest of Mont Blanc by Jacques Balmat and Michel-Gabriel Paccard in 1786 demystified the peaks dominating the valley and forever sealed the destiny of this small mountain village, whose inhabitants had previously lived as peasant farmers. The railway arrived in the valley in 1901 marking yet another turning point in the developing trend of tourism, accompanied by the emergence of grander and more comfortable hotels.

The famous Montenvers train was inaugurated in 1909 and the first ever winter Olympic Games were organised in Chamonix in 1924, contributing to the development of winter sports in the valley.

From the 1920s onwards, many ski lifts were built: the Glacier, Planpraz, Bellevue in les Houches and later in 1955 the world-famous Aiguille du Midi cable car.

A FEW DATES

1091 : First official mention of Chamonix in a legal act of donation by Count Aimon of Geneva
1741 : Considered the first tourists, Englishmen William Windham and Richard Pococke, visit the valley

1786 : First ascent of Mont Blanc by two Chamonix men, Jacques Balmat and Dr Paccard

1821 : Creation of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix- Mont-Blanc

1860 : The Savoy region becomes a part of France

1921 : By presidential decree, the commune of Chamonix adopts the official name of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc

1924 : First Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix

1927 : Planpraz cable car

1930 : Brévent cable car

1936 : Bellevue cable car in les Houches

1937 : Ski World Championships

1948 : First Kandahar ski race in Chamonix

1955 : Aiguille du Midi cable car

1965 : Opening of the Mont-Blanc Tunnel

2021 : 100 years ago, Chamonix adopted the official title of CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

THE CHAMONIX VALLEY BACKSTAGE...

REPORTING IDEAS FOR THE MEDIA

In addition to our press kit, don't hesitate to seek inspiration on our new media blog. Articles cover tourist news, innovations, environmental initiatives, historical features, who's who and anything that we feel might be of interest to the press.

We hope this blog will provide an insight into Chamonix « backstage ». Our aim is to convey the passion that animates Chamonix-dwellers and how a mountain journey, which spans the centuries, has shaped the valley and its inhabitants.

Chamonix is a multi-cultural melting pot, a hive of inspiration and a grain of « folie ». Mont Blanc is the object of dreams, whether it be to climb a peak, to ski a « couloir », to fly from a cliff top, or simply to contemplate its extraordinary beauty. What Chamonix people have in common is the desire to protect the heritage of this unique destination for future generations, and we hope that this ambition will transpire through the blog.

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





Official Partnership

PRESS CONTACTS:

OFFICE DE TOURISME DE LA VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

Cécile Gruffat : c.gruffat@chamonix.com • Patricia Lepère : patricia.lepere@chamonix.com

*Movement that inspires = Du mouvement vient l'inspiration.



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

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

#chamlive
#chamonix
#montblanc

#leshouches
#argentiere
#vallorcine
#servoz



@chamonixmontblanc



@chamonix_france



@chamonixmontblanc



photo.chamonix.com



Chamonix-Mont-Blanc



chamonix.com

