



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Abrial

PRESS FILE

SUMMER 2018

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

AGENDA

SUMMER EVENTS

FROM 12 TO 14 JUNE 2018

4th SUSTAINABLE SUMMITS CONFERENCE

International conference in Chamonix concerning the future of high mountains.

www.sustainable-summits2018.org

FROM FRIDAY 15 TO SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2018

CHAMFEST 1st edition – Music, culture, gastronomy & fun

A 3-day family festival to celebrate all that we love about Chamonix
Organised by Chamonix All Year

<https://chamfest.fr>

SATURDAY 23 AND SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018

GRAND PARCOURS ALPINISME DU CAF (Club Alpin Français)

A convivial mountain meeting in Chamonix for all amateurs of alpinism

www.cafgpchamonix.fr

FROM THURSDAY 28 JUNE TO SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018

MARATHON DU MONT-BLANC

8 races for this major trail meeting: 90km, 42km, Young Race Marathon, 23km, 10km, KM Vertical, Duo étoilé et Mini cross.
Exhibitors village « Trail Camp » in Chamonix from 28 to 30 June

www.montblancmarathon.net

FROM THURSDAY 5 TO SUNDAY 8 JULY 2018

ARC'TERYX ALPINE ACADEMY 7th edition

Mountaineering master classes, cinema projections, concerts, demonstrations by professionals, climbing structures and many more free activities for all levels.

<http://chamonix.arcteryxacademy.com>

FROM FRIDAY 6 TO SUNDAY 8 JULY 2018

CHAMONIX YOGA FESTIVAL 5th edition

Yoga at the foot of Mont Blanc : open-air sessions in town or up the mountain (free of charge) and indoor sessions in the beautiful Majestic Hall, coached by internationally renowned Yoga teachers.

www.chamonixyogafestival.com

FROM TUESDAY 10 TO FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018

21ST FESTIVAL BAROQUE DU PAYS DU MONT BLANC

« The Croissant baroque, from Venice to Prague »

www.festivalmontblanc.fr

FROM WEDNESDAY 11 TO FRIDAY 13 JULY 2018

CLIMBING WORLD CUP

A spectacular world-renowned competition in the heart of Chamonix.

www.escalade.chamonixsport.com

FROM SATURDAY 21 TO SUNDAY 29 JULY 2018

COSMOJAZZ FESTIVAL 9th edition

International Jazz festival orchestrated and directed by musician André Manoukian. Concerts in natural amphitheatres in the mountains, concerts in town, jam sessions every evening.

www.cosmojazzfestival.com

SUNDAY 22 JULY 2018

ARGENTRAIL in Argentière

2nd edition of this nature trail race, organised by Argentière Sports Club.

<https://melduv.wixsite.com/argentrail>

SATURDAY 4 AND SUNDAY 5 AUGUST 2018

MINERALOGY TRADE FAIR in Chamonix

www.mineralogie-chamonix.org

FROM THURSDAY 9 TO SATURDAY 11 AUGUST 2018

CHAM AU SOMMET

A 3 day programme dedicated to the mountains : sport, art, tradition and sharing.

www.chamausommet.com

FROM SUNDAY 12 TO WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST 2018

GUIDES' FESTIVAL

The traditional annual celebration of the famous 'Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix'

Ceremony and procession, induction of new guides, concerts ...

www.chamonix-guides.com

FROM MONDAY 27 AUGUST TO SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018

ULTRA-TRAIL DU MONT-BLANC®

A world summit meeting for trailers. Races around the Mont Blanc Massif.

<http://utmbmontblanc.com>

FROM 7 TO 9 SEPTEMBER 2018

CREATIVE CRAFTS' FAIR – 1st edition – Chamonix Casino

Organised by the association Cham Art Place, this salon with host 25 exhibitors who will present their original creations.

Contact Claire Greber – +33 6 09 93 27 05

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

TRAIL DES AIGUILLES ROUGES

(TAR) from Chamonix to Servoz.

Little TAR around Servoz

www.aiguillesrouges.fr

40 000 FESTIVAL GOERS ATTENDED THE FIRST EDITION OF MUSILAC MONT-BLANC!



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Christophe Botton

In an exceptional setting at the foot of Mont-Blanc, enthusiastic crowds enjoyed 3 days of the most eclectic mountain music festival, blessed by radiant sunshine and magnificent night skies!

Headliners ranged from Scottish pop-rock band Texas with the enigmatic Sharleen Spiteri, to Rag'n'bone Man's powerful blends of soul, to French rappers Orelsan and Lomepal, to the smooth blues of Ben Harper and the wild antics of the mo-hawked, hard rocking Shaka Ponk. With an amazing line-up of 21 bands, the music stood on its own; but the backdrop of the Aiguille du Midi and the illuminated peaks and glaciers of the Mont Blanc Massif made it quite surreal.

Musilac Mont-Blanc is co-produced by the Chamonix Valley Tourist Office, by Rémi Perrier Organization (Musilac Aix-les-Bains) and by Mont-Blanc Media.

The vocation of the event, built around the concept of rock & ride, is to highlight and enhance the appeal of spring skiing in an exceptional environment! Ben Harper described the location as "the most beautiful stage in the world!"

Rendez-vous from 26, 27, 28 April 2019 for the second edition of Musilac Mont-Blanc



© Musilac Mont-Blanc - Arnault Brevette



© Musilac Mont-Blanc - Arnault Brevette

FOR A ZEN SUMMER

WELL-BEING CENTRE FACING MONT BLANC

A brand new well-being centre will open this August in Chamonix in the purest respect for the environment. This wellness area of 4000m², is located by the side of the lake and the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc sports' centre. It will offer a complete range of facilities and treatments (saunas, indoor and outdoor pools with bubbling beds, Jacuzzis ...)

The establishment is being built and will be managed by the Italian company QC TERME, who already run the baths at Pré-Saint-Didier - on the Italian side of Mont Blanc, in Rome, Milan and in the Dolomites.

[Discover video](#)



YOGA FESTIVAL 5th edition From Friday 6 to Sunday 8 July 20

A quality programme and an exceptional location have contributed to making this Yoga festival at the foot on Mont Blanc an unmissable rendez-vous on the international Yoga agenda. Orchestrated by Blanche de Marion, the festival welcomes teachers of international renown, such as the Australian Gwyn William, the Italian Micheline Berry, the Indian Dagar brothers, the American Simon Park, ... For the first time this year, Shiva Rea, the founder of Prana Flow Yoga and Yoga Trance Dance For Life, will be present to share her method and philosophy.

A choice of over 40 yoga classes are on offer over the 3 days, but also nutritional workshops, Indian philosophy, children's entertainment and kindergarden, Kirtan chants, concerts, etc.

Further information : www.chamonixyogafestival.com

COOKERY COURSES WITH WILD PLANTS

Home chef, passionate about wild plants and a past student a one of the French culinary masters, Philippe Convers proposes nature walks in the Chamonix Valley to discover wild edible plants.

These 2h30 outings enable participants to identify certain plants such as lamb's-quarters, hogweed, goutweed, ground ivy ... The chef then gives aspiring cooks tips for integrating these plants into simple recipes, such as hogweed gratin, tartar of achillée, nettle canapes, or vegetal flan with earth ivy ... Tariff 50€/pp (minimum 4 persons)

www.callchef.fr



A RELAXING ALPINE GARDEN IN THE HEART OF CHAMONIX

This summer, guests of the hotel Hermitage-Paccard **** may enjoy a new alpine relaxation garden! This includes diverse saunas, each with different virtues, set in atmospheric, authentic mazots (small wooden chalets) which have been renovated for the occasion by local craftsmen. As an added bonus, there is a private Jacuzzi and a garden biotope area for relaxation with a view !

www.hermitage-paccard.com



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Abrial

NATURAL COSMETIC WORKSHOP HAUTES HERBES

Charlotte Passelègue is an ethnobotanist and an artisan gatherer based in the Chamonix valley. She organizes outings and workshops around the theme of native plants and craft products obtained through their picking.

Partake in the workshop «Natural cosmetics» and discover the secrets of making massage oils, soothing balms, soaps ... from wild mountain plants and garden plants.

4h / 45 € / pp - free for children under 10

www.hautesherbes.com



© Hautes Herbes

ACCOMMODATION

NEW: THE GRANDS MONTETS CHALETs

Ideally located at the foot of the Grands Montets lifts in Argentière, these 3 characterful 150m² chalets are available for made to measure holidays.

Different formulas are available, either independent rental, or chalet with à la carte services, or chalet with full hotel service in order to benefit from the facilities of the Grand Montets hotel which is adjacent to the chalets.

3 chalets with 3 different styles: Chalet Estelle's interior resembles that of a traditional farmhouse, Chalet Paul, evokes the spirit of an Alpine dwelling, Chalet Charlotte recalls an artist's design studio.

www.chaletsgrandsmontets.com



© Chalets des Grands Montets



© Chalets des Grands Montets



© Pascal Tournaire

FIRST SUMMER FOR THE CHALET WHYMPER

So christened in honour of the famous 19th century mountaineer and engraver, the Chalet Whymper opened in December 2017 after a complete renovation. The style is chic and convivial, orchestrated by interior architect Emmanuelle Delage, and many tasteful touches echo the life of alpinist and artist Edward Whymper.

Nestled in the heart of Chamonix, this comfortable chalet comprises 10 ensuite bedrooms, a Spa, pleasant lounge and communal areas and can host up to 24 persons.

www.chaletwhymper-chamonix.com



© Interhome

NEW APARTMENT IN THE CHALET SWISS

Located in Chamonix town, the Chalet Swiss is architecturally a remarkable building. It was built at the end of the 19th century, in place on an old farmhouse. Its south-facing elaborate wood façade recalls the Swiss chalet architectural style invented and promoted by Viollet le Duc.

On the first floor the Chalet Swiss offers a brand new apartment for rent on a weekly basis via the Central Booking Office at the tourist office :

booking.chamonix.com



© D. André L. Di Orio

DIGITAL DETOX AT THE MONTENVERS REFUGE

This summer, Terminal Neige Refuge offers an all-inclusive formula, far from stress and digital life, in the most spectacular surroundings at 1913m altitude, overlooking the Mer de Glace.

Digital Detox from 11 to 14 June (other dates also available) :

3 night stay on full board, with Yoga sessions and walks to awaken the senses. From 621 € in dormitory accommodation from 1 person, 1296 € in a double room (price for 2 persons).

<http://montenvers.terminal-neige.com>



© D. André L. Di Orio

HOTEL LANGLEY GUSTAVIA

Ideally located in the heart of Chamonix, opposite the main rail station, this building, built as a hotel in 1890, is a typical example of Chamonix's architecture.

In 2017, the 49 room hotel underwent a massive renovation of the facades, roof and upper floors. The Scandinavia proprietors have been careful to preserve all the charm and character of the building. The atmosphere is relaxed, sporty and convivial.

www.langleyhotels.eu



©Daniel Romback

COMING SOON : LA FOLIE DOUCE HOTEL

From December 22, 2018, La Folie Douce Hotel, the first of its generation, opens in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, in the former Savoy Palace hotel: an exceptional and historic building in the centre of Chamonix with skiing at its front door!

250 rooms with 2 levels of service (3 stars and 4 stars), 3 restaurants (La Fruitière, La Petite Cuisine and Kiosque), a festive bar with live shows, dancers, singers and DJ (open for après-ski from 5pm to 8pm), a chill-out bar, 2 shops, a ski shop, a kids club, seminar areas, a 700m² Spa, a heated outdoor pool, a park and terraces facing Mont Blanc. The perfect place to share memorable moments with family, friends or colleagues.

Contact : Cécile Rasetti - sales@lafoliedoucehotels.com

www.lafoliedoucehotels.com

GASTRONOMY

A TOUR OF THE TABLES



© Hôtel Aiguille du Midi

A REFURBISHMENT FOR THE RESTAURANT AT THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI HOTEL ***

This historic address in Chamonix run by the Farini family, celebrates 110 years of activity. This summer guests will appreciate the freshly decorated restaurant and flower decked facades and terrace. All dishes are home-made: smoked salmon with juniper, Arctic char with white butter ... and the famous farandole of delicacies. Located just 2km south of Chamonix, the hotel also offers clay tennis courts, a heated outdoor pool and delightful gardens with breathtaking views of the Aiguille du Midi ... Menus from 28 € to 47 €. Lunchtime on weekdays at 22 €.

www.hotel-aigilledumidi.com

JOSÉPHINE

After a complete renovation, «Joséphine» café-restaurant located in the heart of Chamonix, with its terrace facing Mont-Blanc, welcomes customers in a 1920s art-deco atmosphere.

The establishment serves quality cuisine in an original décor from breakfast through to dinner, Why Josephine? In the Roaring Twenties, he was the patron of this establishment, which was then a pastry shop. The current owners give Josephine's portrait pride of place in the dining room.

76, Avenue Michel Croz,
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc
04 50 53 18 98



© Solène Renault

THE AIGLONS TABLE

Entirely revamped, the Refuge des Aiglons restaurant boasts an original and vitamin-filled decor, whose codes are reminiscent of those of a mountain hut revisited.

The young and talented chef Damien Ducharlet, who was trained by renowned chefs, offers a generous and tasty cuisine, for the immense pleasure of hotel and guest diners.

<https://aiglons.com/>



GALERIE CAFÉ DES AIGUILLES

A trendy address, located in the middle of the Rue des Moulins in Chamonix. As its name suggests, this friendly place is both a Café, where you can enjoy a gourmet break around a cappuccino, or enjoy a salad, savory or sweet tarts ... prepared by caterers and local suppliers ... And a gallery, to admire the works of artists selected by Emily, the friendly Canadian manageress, who has made the Chamonix Valley her home.

<https://galerie-cafe-aiguilles.com/>

0'74

A small gourmet table in Chamonix centre, run by Christophe Couderc since August 2017. Christophe welcomes his guests as if at home, in a pleasant and cosy decor. His young chef Thibault Fischer trained in the kitchens of Jean-François Piège and some highly-regarded Mègève tables. He privileges hearty bistro cuisine, largely inspired by regional produce. The lunch menu is 15 €.

50 rue Joseph Vallot, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc - 04 50 53 99 76



THE VALLEY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

RENEWAL OF THE FAMILY PLUS LABEL FOR HOUCHES



The village-resort of Les Houches is particularly popular for family holidays in the Chamonix Valley. The national Family Plus label, today attributed to 117 resorts, including 46 mountain destinations, has once more been awarded to Les Houches for the next 3 years. Adapted activities, multiple entertainments, nursery facilities, promotional rates... everything is done to welcome families.

THE SUSPENDED DIOSAZ GORGES PATHWAY IN SERVOZ

Taking its source at Buet (Mont Blanc des Dames - 3096 m), the Diosaz torrent flows 14 km before cascading down five waterfalls in the remarkable gorges of the same name.

A path equipped with bridges and suspended pathways allows the visit of this impressive classified natural site. Explanatory panels on the geology and history of the gorges line the path, easily accessible to the whole family.

A must visit, since 1875!

www.gorgesdeladiosaz.com



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Saotme Abrial

SUMMER SLEDGING

Guaranteed thrills for the whole family with the Alpine Coaster luge and its 1,300m of rails!

Not to be missed in Chamonix, it is at the heart of an amusement park where visitors can enjoy slides, trampolines, looping rides, a giant swing, zip line and splash boat.

www.chamonixparc.com



© Chamonixparc.com

A RAILWAY JOURNEY TO VALLORCINE AND A VISIT TO BERARD WATERFALL

Free between Servoz and Vallorcine upon presentation of the guest card, the Mont Blanc Express is the ideal means of transport to discover the Chamonix Valley.

In Vallorcine, hop off the train at the Buet stop and visit the Bérard waterfall – an enchantment for all ages.

A twenty minute walk into the Bérard Valley nature reserve, brings visitors to a bridge which straddles a tumultuous torrent that flows down from slopes of le Buet and the Aiguilles Rouges. It is impossible not to mention the memory of the famous 19th century counterfeiter Joseph Samuel Farinet, a sort of local Robin Hood who took refuge in a nearby cave.



© OT Vallorcine

MERLET ANIMAL PARK CELEBRATES ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY

Merlet is likely to have been the first inhabited site in the Chamonix Valley, whilst the glacier still covered part of the valley ...

Most certainly, Merlet was a hamlet, located at 1500m altitude, which was inhabited year-round by 60 mountain folk.

Around 1920, Merlet became an alpine pasture and the chalets are only occupied during the summer months. About thirty cows spend their summer on Merlet pastures, producing milk that the herdsman turn into cheese, cream and butter to sell to the first tourists of the Balcony of Merlet Inn

It was in 1968 that Philippe Cachat had the idea of creating an animal park, after having adopted «Bambi», a tame chamois.

Since 2003, his daughter Claire manages the park. She works there daily, accompanied by a dedicated team who take care of all the animals that live freely within the park's boundaries: chamois, ibex, sika deer, fallow deer, mountain sheep, marmots... Extending over 20 hectares, Merlet park enjoys the most exceptional location facing the Mont Blanc chain.



© Parc Merlet - C. Cachat

50 YEARS MERIT A CELEBRATION !

On the agenda : entertainment and activities, photo competition, publication of an illustrated book retracing the history of Merlet hamlet and the animal park.

New for 2018 : creation of a restful area, dedicated to relaxation and contemplation. On the northern side the park will be expanded by 3000m² to include a rock face, the ideal terrain for the amusement of chamois and ibex. At the foot of this cliff, a peaceful shaded area will be equipped with African seating.

www.parcdermerlet.com



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Aubert



CULTURE - EXHIBITIONS

ALBERT SMITH AND HIS LONDON SHOW ENTITLED MONT BLANC From 26 June to 16 September 2018 at Chamonix Library

A prominent figure in the history of Chamonix, the Englishman Albert Smith ascended Mont Blanc in 1851. From this experience, he created an extraordinary commercial enterprise that had a considerable impact on the evolution of Chamonix and the development of mountaineering.

This exhibition allows us to rediscover the performance of his slideshow which ran at the Egyptian Hall in London for a period of 6 years.

99, route de la patinoire – Chamonix

Open from Tuesday to Saturday from 2pm to 6pm and Wednesday from 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 6pm



THE MOUNTAIN MAGNIFIED

WIBAULT MUSEUM

From July to mid-September 2018

Born in Besançon, the painter Marcel Wibault (1904-1998) travels the Alps on a bicycle to paint the most beautiful mountain landscapes. He sets up his easel in Chamonix in 1934 and never leaves the valley, leaving more than 4000 works to posterity.

This museum, which also housed the painter's studio, was created by his son Lionel Wibault, a mountain guide and also a painter.

Chemin du Cé (next to the Hermitage Hotel)

Free entrance by appointment Tel +33 6 07 60 87 57

CREATORS 'FAIR - 1st EDITION

from 7 to 9 September 2018 at Chamonix Casino

Organized by Cham Art Place Association, this show will host 25 exhibitors who present their original creations.

Discover the artistic worlds and a wide range of skills showcased by many talented artists: sculpture, furniture design, ceramics, rock crystals, portrait paintings, jewelry design...

Information: Claire Greber - 06 09 93 27 05



GUIDED VISITS – TAKE YOUR PICK

POETIC - EN VISITE SIMONE !

This summer, Simone (whose real name is Alizée), offers a theatrical tour in the heart of Chamonix.

On the programme: CHAMONIX THE FABRIC OF HEROS

From the courage of the first mountaineer, to the daring creations of the engineers ... ordinary folk who became the pride of their valley.

Thursday at 8.30 pm - Prices: € 15 / € 10 (under 18 years old)

www.en-visite-simone.com

PHOTOGRAPHIC - PHOTO DISCOVERY WALKS

Discover, taste, photograph the more confidential charm of Chamonix and outlying villages with the author and photographer, Teresa Kaufman, who offers a variety of walks for this summer.

From 30 € / pers. Private outing from 100 € / pers.

All info and dates on : www.teresakaufman.com

06 08 95 89 42

ARTISTIQUE - BALADES DESSIN & AQUARELLE

L'artiste Cat Kartal propose cet été une activité originale pour profiter de la montagne en douceur, en alliant contemplation et créativité artistique. Le temps d'une demi-journée, une promenade à la découverte d'un lieu insolite de la vallée de Chamonix et qui sera prétexte à l'initiation au croquis et à l'aquarelle. A partir de 40 €/personne en formule collective.

www.chamonix-artschool.com



© Teresa Kaufman



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Abrial

ANECDOTIC - Vist Chamonix cemeteries: from the English church to Biollay cemetery

Strolling along the alleys of Chamonix cemeteries is an opportunity to discover many legendary characters, illustrious or anonymous mountaineers, writers and locals... who have contributed to the big and small history of the Chamonix Valley.

During the months of July, August and September.

2h visit - 10 € / person

www.blogdechristineachamonix.fr

HISTORIC - MADE TO MEASURE VISITS

In addition to the weekly Thursday morning tour, which presents the fabulous history of Chamonix, the valley's heritage guides offer outings to the village of Lavancher. Very close to Chamonix, an authentic hamlet with its old oven, its local population and a fantastic view of the Mont Blanc Massif.

July / August: half-day visit in the morning, (around 2h30).

9 € / person. Information and reservations: +33 6 16 33 73 36 / +33 6 23 36 34 89

www.chamonix.com

ACTIVE SUMMER

ELECTRIC VTT OUTINGS



New for summer 2018: the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix offers Discovery trips by electric mountain bike: with family or friends, thanks to electric assistance, riding in the mountains becomes a pleasure accessible to all! Discover new trails, go further and faster ...

From € 88 per person for ½ day including the ATV State Patent Guide, VTTAE rental and the helmet.

www.chamonix-guides.com



© Monica Dalmaso



© Les Ailes du Mont-Blanc

FLIGHT ON THE TRAIL OF THE GYPAETE VULTURE

This summer, in addition to training courses and tandem flights, the paragliding school «Les Ailes du Mont Blanc» offers specific days to discover the wildlife of the mountains of the valley - hike up and paraglide down.

During their flights, pilots regularly have the chance to cross the Bearded Vulture. Whilst this cohabitation is generally without problems, free flying can have an impact on nesting, and it's important to understand their lifestyle in order to respect it.

Reserved for paragliding pupils soon to become autonomous, and may be conceivable as a tandem flight subject to conditions.

Collective outings from 120 € the morning or 150 € the day, with 1 or more flights in search of the bearded vulture.

www.lesailesdumontblanc.com

DISCOVERY HIKES WITH EVOLUTION 2

Nature reserves, mountain shelters and lakes, wild life and many trails in the most beautiful alpine landscapes: everything is accessible in the Chamonix Valley.

As a group or in a private outing, the Evolution 2 guides introduce amateurs by offering half-day hikes (the Floria, the Bossons Glacier, the Chapeau, ...) or full-day (Refuge Albert Premier, Bellachat and Lac Brevent, Lac Blanc, the Eagle's Nest ...)

Group rates: 25 € for ½ day and 42 € for day.

Private rates: 125 € for half a day (1 to 4 people) and 215 € for a day (1 to 4 people)

More info on <https://maisondesguides-chamonix.com>



© Monica Dalmaso - Cham 3S

ELECTRIC CROSS-COUNTRY BIKE TRAILS

New : discover a selection of designated electric bike trails on www.chamonix.com

ICONIC HIKES

A new presentation of the must-do hikes in the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley on www.chamonix.com



MONT-BLANC NATURAL RESORT



AIGUILLE DU MIDI: CONTEMPLATE THE EXCEPTIONAL

In less than 30 minutes and two cable car rides, enter the realms of Europe's highest peaks! Every year, the Aiguille du Midi welcomes thousands of visitors, avid to discover the most magnificent panorama of Mont-Blanc and the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.

The most adventurous can experience the "Step into the Void", a glass module, suspended above 1000m of vacuum – a tremendous feat of engineering!

www.montblancnaturalresort.com

HISTORICAL LIFT

In the departure station of the Aiguille du Midi, those who raise their eyes will be able to admire a magnificent suspended cabin.

This gondola is the former cable car of the Glacier lift («the ancestor» of the Aiguille du Midi cable car), and was the first aerial funicular in France. It went into service in 1924 for the first Winter Olympic Games which took place in Chamonix ...

At the time the cable way departed from Les Pélerins and reached La Para (1688m) The cabin had a capacity for 18 persons and offered 1st and 2nd class travel.

The line was abandoned in the 1950s in favour of the existing Aiguille du Midi lift. This gondola was classified as a historical monument in 1992, and was restored by enthusiasts in 2017.



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



CHAMFEST – 1st edition FROM 15 TO 17 JUNE 2018

A brand new festival organised by Chamonix All Year to celebrate all we love about Chamonix : music, mountain culture, gastronomy, lifestyle & fun for all the family ! Meetings, talks, workshops, activities and lots more.
Information and prices : <https://chamfest.fr>

ARC'TERYX ALPINE ACADEMY FROM 5 TO 8 JULY 2018

For this 7th edition, mountain enthusiasts from all over the world will once more gather in Chamonix in the company of the best mountain guides and professional alpinists. The Alpine Academy is the perfect opportunity for those who love the mountains, whether beginners or experienced climbers, to perfect their knowledge and skills and to share their personal experiences in a totally unique environment.
<https://arcteryxacademy.com/>



CLIMBING WORLD CUP FROM 11 TO 13 JULY 2018

An unmissable event, this competition brings together the world's elite in a visually spectacular sport. 3 days of competition at the foot of Mont Blanc during which the best climbers compete in dexterity and prowess on an artificial wall located in the heart of Chamonix. This free event is synonymous with suspense and exploits, attracting an ever-increasing audience.

www.escalade.chamonixsport.com

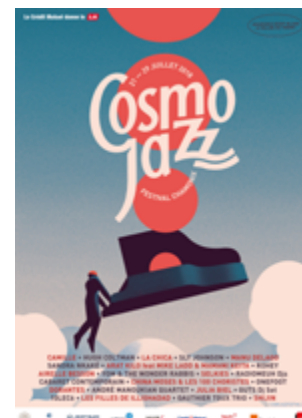


COSMOJAZZ FESTIVAL FROM 21 TO 29 JULY 2018

The 9th edition of this Festival which was conceived and orchestrated by Jazz man André Manoukian promises to be full of musical surprises on Chamonix summits.

One of the highlights of the summer, the Cosmojazz brings together musicians from around the world. Their stage is the Mont-Blanc Massif ! Jazz groups and individual artists perform daily in natural amphitheatres in the mountains throughout the Chamonix Valley, extending from Trient on the Swiss border, to Les Houches at the southern end of the valley. There are also concerts in Chamonix and Jam sessions every night!

<http://cosmojazzfestival.com/>



CHAM AU SOMMET FROM 9 TO 11 AUGUST 2018

For the third consecutive year, Chamonix, the world capital of Mountaineering, symbol of the vertical dimension, celebrates the passion for adventure and modern climbing.

3 day programme: conferences, introduction to climbing in a natural environment, workshops, boulder bus tour to discover the legendary rocks around Chamonix accompanied by the cracks (Nina Caprez, Lynn Hill, Hazel Findlay, Romain Desgranges, Christophe Bichet ...) as well as professionals from the Chamonix guides' company.

www.chamausommet.com



MOUNTAIN GUIDES' FESTIVAL 12 TO 15 AUGUST

The prestigious Compagnie des Guides was founded in 1821 and is the oldest and most significant guiding association in the world. Every year, from 12 to 15 August, the 150 guides and mountain leaders celebrate their profession whilst paying tribute to their elders, their clients and the rich history of mountaineering. Festivities are traditional, innovative and spectacular.

www.chamonix-guides.com

TRAIL VALLEY



In an exceptional natural setting, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley is a favorite destination for trail runners! During the summer months, the many varied and spectacular routes attract runners from all over the world, not to mention the major international trail competitions.

18 DEDICATED MARKED TRAILS BETWEEN SERVOZ AND VALLORCINE

Trails for all levels of ability and fitness.

XS trail – 1 hour max

4 S Trails – between 1 and 2 hours

5 M Trails – between 2 and 4 hours

5 L Trails – between 4 and 8 hours

4 XL Trails – reserved for experts

Descriptions and route maps on www.valleedutrail.com



© Pascal Tournaire

RACE AGENDA



MARATHON DU MONT-BLANC - from 28 june to 1 july 2018

To launch the trail season, the Mont-Blanc Marathon offers 8 different races for the 8,500 runners who represent 65 nations : Mini cross, KM Vertical, Duo Etoilé, Young race, 10km, 23km, 42km and the very technical Mont-Blanc 90km with an elevation of over 6000m +/-.

www.montblancmarathon.fr



L'UTMB® - The world summit of trail meetings - from 27 august to 2 september 2018

The trail event of all the superlatives and a week of human adventures for trailers from all over the world. 8000 runners, 100 nations, 3 countries, 7 valleys, 71 glaciers, 400 summits 7 races around Mont Blanc.

UTMB® : 171 km / CCC® : 101km / TDS® : 121km / PTL® : 300km / OCC : 56 km / YCC : 15km new for 2018 : MCC : 40km – a festive experience for race volunteers and local residents.

www.ultratrailmb.com



TRAIL DES AIGUILLES ROUGES - 30 september 2018

This trail meeting is very popular with nature and mountain lovers and offers a choice of two races:

- Trail des Aiguilles Rouges / 54 km / 4000m D+ - Chamonix – Les Houches

- P'tit Trail des Aiguilles Rouges / 15 km / 1 000m D+

Technical courses for 2018, starting and finishing in Les Houches

www.aiguillesrouges.fr

ANNIVERSARY

THE CHAMONJARDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CELEBRATES ITS 70TH BIRTHDAY



At the beginning of the 20th century, public rescue services did not exist in the mountains.

Only the guides of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix carried out this mission at the request of the mayor.

In 1948, due to the increased number of interventions, the Military School of High Mountain (EMHM) and the National School of Ski and Mountaineering (ENSA) were recruited to reinforce the guides in their rescue missions, because the guides alone could not respond to growing demand.

On the initiative of the Chamonix community, the Society Chamoniarde of Mountain Rescue (SCSM) was founded, with the mission of organizing rescue operations for the Chamonix Valley.

It has since continued to evolve in order to adapt to the changes in mountain practices and the organization of rescue structures at national and local levels. It remains today one of the essential actors for the coordination of mountain rescue in the Chamonix Valley, in the Department of Haute-Savoie and also at national level.

www.chamoniarde.com

**Journées du Secours en Montagne
PGHM Chamonix - 60 ans**

Du 15 au 17 JUIN 2018
Place du Triangle de l'Amitié - CHAMONIX

Démonstrations aériennes, nombreuses activités..

Programme détaillé : pghm-chamonix.com et sur facebook PGHM Chamonix Mont-Blanc

Logos of sponsors: La Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Hôpital de Chamonix, chamonix, ATMB, Airbus, simond, Teco, IMMOS, Paillardet, and others.

60 YEARS FOR THE PGHM

Under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, authority is held by the Prefect via the ORSEC plan. Rescuers are recruited via the two bodies responsible for national security: CRS and Gendarmerie.

In 2018, the PGHM of Chamonix numbers 44 soldiers: 2 officers, 2 secretaries, 3 rescue dog trainers, 33 first-aiders and 4 volunteer assistant policemen.

«We continue to cultivate the team spirit that was embodied by our elders and which forms the cement of the PGHM,» Commander Stéphane Bozon. From June 15 to 17, to celebrate its 60th anniversary, the PGHM de Chamonix organizes two open-days with a rescue village located in the heart of Chamonix, Place du Triangle de l'Amitié, : Talks, demonstrations ...

Full program on www.pghm-chamonix.com

ENVIRONMENT



TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

For a number of years, the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley has been committed to eco-responsible tourism, which aims, amongst other things, to limit the impact of tourism on a unique and fragile natural environment. This desire to reduce the ecological footprint of tourism necessitates the application of progressive policies, notably through the Territorial Climate Energy Plan (PCET).

EN ROUTE FOR UNESCO STATUS

On 24 October 2017, the Mont-Blanc Transfrontier Conference took place in Chamonix Mont-Blanc. Representatives of local authorities and the French, Italian and Swiss governments signed a declaration of intent, initiating the process to launch a joint procedure of classification of the Mont Blanc Massif as a UNESCO world heritage site.

This inscription would consolidate and affirm the quality and coherence of the international cooperation path that the three territories have built around concrete actions to preserve and guarantee the transmission of an exceptional heritage.

This application formalizes a strategy of protection and enhancement of the territory, advocating quality instead of quantity, human rather than material and local instead of global.

<https://www.chamonix.fr/>

THE CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC VALLEY ONCE MORE AWARDED THE «FLOCON VERT» LABEL

The FLOCON VERT certification committee, composed of major national organizations such as the Foundation for Nature and Mountains, the University of Savoie, Teragir, ATD (Actors of Sustainable Tourism), the Ademe and Mountain Riders has just renewed the Flocon Vert recognition for the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley. This certification is valid for the period January 2018 to January 2021.

A mountain version of the «Blue Flag», the Flocon Vert aims to highlight the actions of mountain territories that are working towards sustainable development.

The Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley validates the 31 criteria of the Flocon Vert with two flagship actions illustrating the pioneering and committed policy of the territory:

Transport - Free travel within the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley and Management - Territorial Energy Climate Plan.

More information on www.flocon-vert.org



FLOCON VERT
du Développement Durable



© OT Vallée de Chamonix - Salomé Abriel

GREEN MOBILITY AND FREE TRANSPORT

Electric shuttles, hybrid busses, veloroute : the system of free transport by train and bus within the Chamonix Valley, was implemented in 2005. Three millions passengers per year take advantage of this exceptional service which operates between Servoz and Vallorcine.

A «greenway cycle path» with a total length of 18 km between Chamonix and Les Houches, is in its development phase and will ultimately encourage locals and tourists to leave their car for the benefit of cycling. This uninterrupted route will permit safe travel for all cyclists and includes specially designated parking areas. Opening in 2019.



L'avenir des hautes montagnes du monde

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc
du 12 au 14 juin 2018

FROM 12 TO 14 JUNE 2018, CHAMONIX HOSTS THE SUSTAINABLE SUMMITS CONFERENCE

An international meeting dedicated to the future of high-altitude mountains

For three days, Chamonix will turn into an epicentre of gray matter, reflecting on the future of the world's high mountains. Organized at the initiative of the Petzl Foundation, Mountain Wilderness, the town of Chamonix, the Mont Blanc region and the National Parks of Ecrins, Vanoise and Mercantour, the event will welcome mountain actors from all over the world, whether they be professionals, members of associations, researchers or entrepreneurs.

An important time to exchange ideas around three themes: What is the place of high mountains in our societies ? High mountains on the front line of climate change ; Human activities in high mountains - impacts and solutions.

www.sustainable-summits2018.org

HISTORY

THE MONTENVERS TRAIN ADVENTURE



In August 1908, when the inhabitants of the Chamonix valley saw the first steam train set off from the Montenvers station in August 1908, they had possibly forgotten that 15 years earlier, this project had been strongly rejected by the population and the Municipal Council.

At the time, in addition to farming, accompanying tourists to Montenvers by mule was a thriving activity which contributed considerably to the livelihood of 650 families, whose members worked as guides and mule-drivers.

Despite strong protests, the General Council endorsed the project of a 5 km rack and pinion railway line which would reach an altitude of 1913m and a remarkable viewpoint overlooking the Mer de Glace glacier.

The Montenvers station was built close to the PLM station (Paris Lyon Marseille), whose railway line had been transporting tourists to Chamonix since 1901.



The highly ambitious construction work began in 1906, with 250 men labouring in extremely difficult conditions. Amongst them were many masons from the Piedmont in Italy, who were renowned for their expertise in hewing granite stone.

On August 9th 1908, the train dropped off its first passengers on a provisional platform, «...*twenty minutes from the Hotel du Montenvers, which is easily reached by a good path. The wonderful spectacle enjoyed on the terrace of the hotel is thus within the reach of the less ingambient people and the Sea of Ice becomes, from now on, the most easily accessible glacier...*». In 1909, the train finally reaches the Montenvers terminal.

In 1946, George Claret carved out a cave within the glacier to enable visitors to discover the inside of the Mer de Glace.

In 1954, the steam locomotives were replaced by electric engines — a first in the history of cog railways. In 1962, diesel motors will replace them definitively.

In 1960, the level of the Mer de Glace glacier had receded so much that a gondola lift was built to facilitate access to the glacier.

In 1993, following significant safety works the railway opened for the first time in winter.

Today, the level of the Mer de Glace is comparable with that of the Middle-Ages, before the Little Ice-Age. Throughout the summer, glaciologists are present at the Montenvers in order to give visitors an insight into the evolution and life of France's largest glacier. Visitors can learn more in the Glaciarium museum, located in the ancient mule stables just beyond the Refuge du Montenvers.

www.montblancnaturalresort.com

A FEW FIGURES

ONE VALLEY, 4 VILLAGES

Servoz : 1 023 inhabitants
Les Houches : 3 024 inhabitants
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc : 9 399 inhabitants
Vallorcine : 411 inhabitants
TOTAL : 13 857 inhabitants (Source INSEE 2017)

FRENCH VISITORS

60 % of summer market share

RESORT CAPACITY

The Valley offers 81 000 tourist beds :
18 190 professional beds
65 110 private beds

NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT STAYS

4 000 000

PERCENTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

40% in summer
1 – United Kingdom
2 - Italy
3 - Switzerland
4 – Benelux
5 - Spain
6 - Germany

BREAKDOWN OF PROFESSIONAL SUMMER ACCOMMODATION

14% rental agencies
15% tourist residences
27% hotels
44% club villages, holiday centres, campsites, lodges.

DID YOU KNOW ?

CHAMONIX is also an important congress venue

Each year, a hundred seminars, conventions and congresses are organized by the convention's centre of the Chamonix Valley Tourist Office.

Facilities are located in the beautiful Majestic Hall, a former palace of the Belle Epoque. This century old building is truly a part of Chamonix's architectural heritage. Inaugurated in the aftermath of the First World War, at the time it boasted 300 rooms and suites, 150 bathrooms and a multilingual staff.

High-society parties, costume balls and galas were organized to entertain the wealthy clientele of the Roaring Twenties.

In 1960, the palace was transformed into apartments and the town of Chamonix purchased the ground floor salons and public rooms to create a convention centre. Today, a professional team based on-site at the Majestic, take care of the complete management of events and the centralization of reservations.

www.congres-chamonix.com



YOUR PRESS CONTACTS

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#chamlive
#chamonix
#montblanc
#leshouches
#argentiere
#vallorcine
#servoz



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

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



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