



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC



**PRESS FILE
WINTER 2020-2021**

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

A LEGENDARY VALLEY AT THE CROSSROADS OF 3 COUNTRIES

The Chamonix valley is located at the foot of the exceptional site of the 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, a family village resort, with an unrivalled panorama of the Chamonix "Aiguilles" and its famous black slope «la Verte des Houches», which will host two men's downhill World Cup events in January 2012.

Chamonix Mont-Blanc, ski and mountaineering capital, 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, 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, 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. Several complete circuits offer walkers the 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 twenty minutes to the gates of the high mountains, at an altitude of 3,842 m: an unforgettable view of Mont Blanc and the Alps. Visitors of all ages can also discover the famous Mer de Glace site (1913 m) by taking the little Montenvers train or embark on the Mont-Blanc tramway (1794 m) 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 cuisine 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, as well as many professionals who offer a whole range of treatments.



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 architectural and technical prowess: a glass cage 2.50 m long, suspended above 1000 m of void
www.montblancnaturalresort.com



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. Visitors will enjoy a magnificent panorama of the largest French glacier, the Drus and the Grandes Jorasses.

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

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 evolve in 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/images/files/Valleeblanchefrançais.pdf>



LIFTS : NEWS AND PROJECTS

IMMERSIVE CINEMA NOW INCLUDED IN THE 3 DAY MBU LIFT PASS

This winter, holders of an MBU 3-day or more lift pass will be able to attend a free 4D cinema screening in the new immersive space located in the departure station of the Aiguille du Midi.

This multisensory experience, seen through the eyes of a yellow billed mountain chough, offers a 12-minute flight over the most beautiful peaks of the Mont-Blanc massif.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/fr/cinema-immersif>

GOOD DEAL: ONLINE BOOKINGS

When customers purchase the CLP (Chamonix le Pass) and the MBU (Mont Blanc Unlimited) ski passes online they will benefit from the same rates as last winter.

Practical for the Aiguille du Midi: each purchase of a ski pass online is now also linked to a lift reservation or a reservation proposal. As of last summer, reservations are now in the form of QR codes.

<https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com>

PROJECTS

NEW GONDOLA LIFT AT BALME/CHARAMILLON (LE TOUR):

The mayor of Chamonix, Eric Fournier, has confirmed that works for the new gondola lift will begin in the spring of 2021 and the new lift will be operational for Christmas 2022.

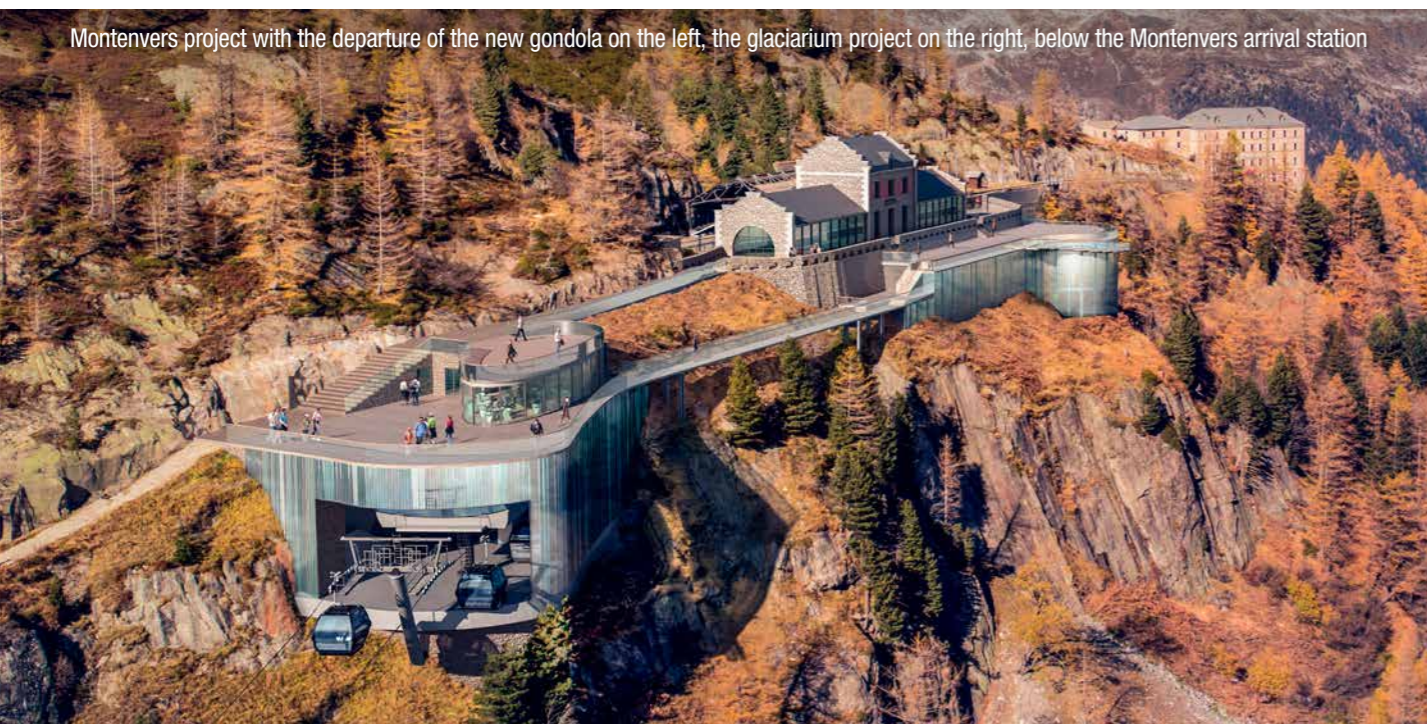
THE MONTENVERS:

The Collectivity is working on a reconfiguration of this emblematic site which has been considerably impacted by global warming and glacier melt.

The Montenvers project involves moving the existing gondola 600 m further up the Mer de Glace and the creation of an international glacier and climate interpretation center. This will facilitate access to the site and will help the general public and students to understand the phenomena linked to global warming. Cost of these two projects: 27 million euros, via a public service delegation.



Project for the arrival station of the new Montenvers gondola, 600m upstream from the existing lift (access to the Mer de Glace and the cave)



Montenvers project with the departure of the new gondola on the left, the glaciarium project on the right, below the Montenvers arrival station

EVENTS



WORLD CUP SKIING THE KANDAHAR

The weekend of January 30 & 31, 2021, the Kandahar returns to "La Verte des Houches" with two Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup events. This year, the Downhill, emblematic event of Kandahar, is making a comeback and will take place on Saturday, January 30. The Giant Parallel will take place on Sunday, January 31.

First launched in 1928 in Austria, the Arlberg Kandahar takes place in St-Anton (Austria), in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany) and in Chamonix Mont-Blanc. This world-famous race was created by the English man Arnold Lunn. A generation before that, his father Henry Lunn organised races for members of the Ski Club of Great Britain on the slopes in Chamonix.

In 1948 Chamonix hosted the first AK race. The race took place on the piste des Glaciers, beneath the north face of the Aiguille du Midi. The local lad James Couttet, from the village of Les Bossons, won both the downhill and combined races that year. The piste was later deemed too dangerous and was abandoned in favour of Les Houches in 1952.

Since that date, winners of the Kandahar on the Verte des Houches, include many great names: Karl Schranz, Emile Allais, Ingemar Stenmark, Hermann Maier, Kjetil-André Aamodt, Alberto Tomba, Stefan Eberharter, Bode Miller, Ivica Kostelic, Didier Cuche, Romed Baumann, Jan Hudec and Klaus Kröll, Dominik Paris, Alexis Pinturault...

www.chamonixworldcup.com

THE "VERTE" DES HOUCHES IS BACK ON TRACK

A legendary slope, "La Verte" in Les Houches is not a green but indeed a black run. At the time of its creation, the colour green qualified the most difficult descents.

The major works carried out in 2019 and 2020 made it possible to bring the piste into conformity with the standards of the FIS (International Ski Federation): enlargement of the arrival zone, an improved finish area, widening of the lower part of the slope, extension of the bridge for leisure skiers, etc.).



UNLIMITED FESTIVAL

Having become a must 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 venues, in the open air, on the most beautiful sites in the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc Valley!

Dates and programme to follow on: <https://www.unlimited-festival.com/fr/>

IN 2021, THE OLDEST GUIDING ASSOCIATION IN THE WORLD CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY!



«In celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Company, not only do we pay tribute to a fabulous heritage, but we also look to promoting the future of the guiding profession. This remarkable birthday provides an opportunity to defend the fundamentals of our profession: the spirit of rope partnerships, the physical and moral commitment, the freedom of being in the mountains, the transmission of knowledge and raising awareness about the fragile ecosystem in which practitioners evolve.»

Oliver GREBER, President of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ANNIVERSARY

20 FEBRUARY 2021

WINTER CHAM FRIENDS FESTIVAL

An evening of film projections produced by Chamonix alpinists and skiers.

SOUND AND LIGHT PROJECTIONS

Video projections on a façade in Chamonix centre.



22-23-24 MAY 2021

THE WORLD'S LONGEST ROPE CHAIN

200 persons will rope up at over 3000m altitude across the glacier between the Aiguille du Midi and Helbronner Point. This performance will be transmitted live on giant screens in the Chamonix Valley and relayed by local art's performers in the streets of Chamonix.

AN ANNIVERSARY BOOK:

«200 YEARS OF HISTORY»

Narratives of guides, of friendships and encounters.

On mountains around the world, guides have led fellow explorers, adventurers, artists, scientists, politicians and even the clergy... with whom, most of the time, they have become friends. From the end of the 18th century to today, with unpublished anecdotes and testimonies, 9 themes recount the life of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, of the people, who, for 200 years, have contributed to shaping the history of Alpinism.

Writers

- Joëlle Dartigue-Paccalet : author of numerous regional publications (books and brochures), former communications manager at the town hall of Chamonix, amateur alpinist.
- David Ravanel : mountain guide and photographer, former president of the Cie des Guides, former professor at ENSA (National School of Skiing and Alpinism), former head of the Chamoniarde mountain rescue association.



FROM 24 TO 27 JUNE 2021

A BOOKLET ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change in the Alps, changes in altitude sectors and the necessary adaptation of the guiding profession. Written by Brad Carlson (guide, ecologist and researcher at CREA), and Ludovic Ravanel (geomorphologist, researcher at CNRS and mountain guide from Cie des Guides) In collaboration with the SNGM (National Union of Mountain Guides). Free and educational distribution of 10,000 copies.

MEETINGS IN THE MOUNTAINS

Scientific roaming in the Mont-Blanc Massif : a succession of talks will be given in mountain huts on the effects and impact of climate change.



15 AUGUST 2021

MOUNTAIN GUIDES' FESTIVAL

The annual Guides' festival will take on a special dimension in celebration of its 200th anniversary. An ecological approach to all logistics will also be a priority (transport, food, waste, etc.)

200TH ANNIVERSARY FILM

Archive images and contemporary views on the guide-client relationship

FROM 30 AUGUST TO 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

FROM MONT BLANC TO THE EIFFEL TOWER

A symbolic, sporting, ecological and educational event, to close the celebrations of the 200 years of the Company des Guides. 4 members of the Compagnie des Guides will climb Mont Blanc, before heading to Paris on bikes in order to climb the Eiffel Tower. This odyssey will be an opportunity to highlight the impact of global warming in the mountains through the booklet produced by scientists, and to carry a strong message for the environment, from the capital of mountaineering, towards the French capital..

Find the full program on : <https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr/les-200-ans-de-la-compagnie>

ACCOMMODATION NEWS

PLAN B

The latest addition to the Mont Blanc Collection Group (Le Faucigny - Le Génepy - Le Chalet Whympet and the Maison du Génepy), this new 3-star hotel, located next to the central bus station and a stone's throw from the Aiguille du Midi, opened in September 2020. Plan B offers an original mix of accommodation for a total of 50 units: 16 double rooms, 17 triple rooms, 7 quadruple suites, 2 family suites, 7 apartments (2 and 3 rooms) and 10 beds divided into 3 small-capacity dormitories.

In addition to the rooms, this new generation establishment has a friendly 700m2 space open to all, with a large central bar, a brasserie, a boutique, a lounge area and even two bowling alleys ...

The interior decoration, modern and quirky, simple, but elegant, was entrusted to the architect Emmanuelle Delaage.

For Martin Devictor, the founder, who brings his fifth project in Chamonix to fruition with this new establishment, the name «Plan B» evokes «choice, alternatives and diversity».

Rate for 1 double room from 113 € / night (B&B)

<https://www.planb-chamonix.com/fr/>



© Plan B

THE POINTE ISABELLE*** HAS GROWN A WING

Last summer, following building work which began in 2019, the 3 star Pointe Isabelle hotel, ideally located in the heart of Chamonix, added 27 new rooms, including several suites and a gym area. To accommodate this extension, a new wing was built at the back of the existing building and an additional floor was added to include a sauna and a garden with breathtaking views.

This expansion project was entrusted to the Chamoniard Chevallier architects firm. The interior decoration, orchestrated by a Scandinavian designer, was in the same vein as the existing building, which pays tribute to Isabella Straton, the great English mountaineer and woman of character who was notably the first to make the winter ascent of Mont Blanc in 1876!

In a bid to be more environmentally friendly, the hotel has exchanged its oil heating for gas and has also replaced all windows to improve thermal insulation.

<https://pointeisabelle.com/en/new-project>



© Caspar Haugard

A REFURBISHMENT FOR THE AUBERGE DU BOIS PRIN****

In December 2019, the three-star Chef Emmanuel Renaut and his wife Kristine, became the happy owners of this emblematic hotel in the Chamonix Valley, formerly managed by Denis Carrier.

After creating a superb menu and entrusting the restaurant to his team, Emmanuel Renaut and his wife have redecorated the interior of the establishment. The restaurant has been sandblasted for greater clarity, and the 10 rooms have been renovated with guest's comfort in mind.

Kristine Renaut was keen to bring her personal touch to the interior decor, right down to the finer details, in order to create a warm and cozy atmosphere, in harmony with the soul of the place: luxurious Arpin and Atelier des Frères drapes and fabrics, mountain engravings, bespoke picture frames produced by a Chamonix artist etc....

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



© Fresh Influence



© Fresh Influence

NEW CRYSTAL M'BAR AT THE HOTEL-RESIDENCE CRISTAL DE JADE ***** - CHAMONIX

Opening in mid-December 2020 the M'Bar by MGM at the Residence le Cristal de Jade, a stone's throw from the Aiguille du Midi cable car.

Each week, guest artists will perform during live piano / voice concerts in VIP mode for jazzy, blues or pop rock concerts, in an atmosphere that reflects the venue: warm and authentic.

Open to outside customers, the bar will offer an inspired cocktail menu alongside gourmet locavore catering. Alpine craft beers (Mont-Blanc brasserie, Cimes brasserie), Alpine cocktails, lemonade made from Mont-Blanc glacier water, 100% local cheese and cold cuts, trout terrines from Savoy lakes, pancakes or blueberry waffle will be part of this enticing menu!

<https://www.mgm-hotels-residences.com/residence-le-cristal-de-jade-chamonix/bar-lounge>



© B. Delerue

FOR GOURMETS

THE LEGENDARY BISTROT DES SPORTS CHANGES HANDS

Pierre Maillet, former two-star chef and Xavier Monard, globetrotter entrepreneur and native of Chamonix (his grandfather participated as a hockey player in the 1924 Olympic Games), have accomplished a project that was close to their hearts by buying this emblematic establishment, located at 182, Rue Joseph Vallot in Chamonix.

This historic café which opened at the beginning of the 20th century under the name of "Brasserie de la Poste" was initially a coaching inn where tourists changed mounts, and a watering hole for the "rentourneurs", accustomed to refreshing themselves at the counter while waiting to accompany guides and their «Monchus» on mule-back excursions. The last vestige of this era is a metal ring at the back of the building that was used to tie mules. In 1924, the café became the headquarters for athletes, journalists, and other members of the Olympic Committee, during the first Winter Games, held in Chamonix from January 25 to February 5. In 193. Roger Frison Roche, illustrious writer and mountaineer, became the owner and renamed it "Brasserie des Sports". Now determined to preserve the soul of the place, Pierre Maillet and Xavier Monard combine their skills to write a new page in the history of this notorious address.

The former Michelin-starred chef brings his expertise to create a real bistro menu and entrusts the kitchen to chef Laurent Travagli, already with 10 years of experience at Bistrot des Sports. Gourmets will feast on genuine traditional French cuisine, giving pride of place to local and seasonal products. Among the must-haves: pâté en croûte, pig's trotters, autumn game ... eggs in the snow (floating islands) and blueberry tart ... from Chamonix!

To perpetuate tradition, the new proprietors wish to reconnect with the broadcasting of ski competitions, sporting matches ... and perhaps even organize card tournaments as in the good old days, under the benevolent gaze of Frison, whose portrait hangs prominently in the centre of the Bistrot.

The Bistrot des Sports is open all year round, 7 days a week and can seat around 50 guests. Lunchtime formula from € 15.

04 50 53 00 46

«Rantourneur»: mule boy, responsible for bringing the mules back down to the valley
"Monchus": in Savoyard dialect, monchu means "sir". This is how the locals referred to tourists in the 1800s and 1900s.



THE DELIGHTS OF THE MER DE GLACE

Discover this new concept at the PANORAMIQUE MER DE GLACE restaurant, perched at an altitude of 1913m at the Montenvers site. Throughout the day, the restaurant serves platters to share, each tasty board evokes the name of the emblematic climbers that have marked Chamonix's history: Whymper, Rébuffat, Bonatti, Desmaison ...

High quality products which are sourced locally from the Savoy, Italy and Switzerland. A choice of different board sizes available, and what better than a local craft beer or a regional wine to accompany the feast. Daily dishes and homemade ice-cream also on the menu. Platters start at 17 €

<https://www.refugedumontenvers.com/fr/restaurants>

CLICK & COLLECT ON THE SLOPES!

To allow winter sports enthusiasts to fully enjoy their day's skiing, an online ordering service will be set up from December 2020 for the TENDANCE FOEHN snack bar, located in the Flégère ski area and for LE SPOT on the Lognan-Grands Montets domain.

A simple and practical system for ordering, paying and choosing the time at which you want to collect your order.

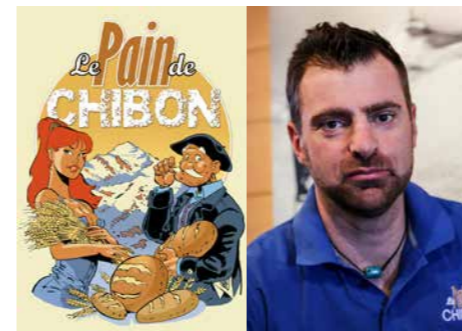
www.restaurants-altitude.com

THE MESS: THE NEW TRENDY CANTEN IN THE CENTRE OF CHAMONIX

Located just opposite Chamonix train station, in one of the liveliest streets in the town, this modern canteen-style restaurant, whose decoration recalls the industrial world, opened its doors in summer 2020.

Young chef Mathis Fillon, who has worked in the South of France and Australia in particular, prepares generous cuisine based on fresh, seasonal produce. The specialty is meat cooked on the grill. Dish of the day at 13.90 € and lunch formula starter + main course or main course + dessert at 16.90 €. As for drinks, the menu offers local beers and French sodas. The large rooms can accommodate around a hundred people (+100 seats on the terrace). The Mess is open every day for lunch and dinner, with a more festive atmosphere in the evening.

<https://messchamonix.com/>



TAKE AWAY GOURMET POTS

Based in Les Houches, in the Chamonix Valley, the Osmose culinary agency is offering a range of tasty take-away jars this winter. The chefs give pride of place to regional products such as tartiflette, farçon chamoniard, crozet risotto or diots polenta, but they also offer healthy dishes with flavors of the world and healthy (dhal lentils, basmati rice, chicken nasal tikka, tomato shakshuka, red bean, wheat semolina, soft-boiled egg, duck pie with sweet potato mousseline).

<https://www.osmose-cuisine.com/fr>

PAIN DE CHIBON – ARTISAN BREAD

On his farm in Les Houches, Gérard Berrux makes tasty artisan bread according to the rules of the art. This passionate baker has set up his own stone mill and produces his own flour, from wheat sown, harvested and stored without chemicals in the Annecy region.

Preserving the aromas and nutritional value of the bread, proceeding as in the past to create sourdough bread, taking the time for the dough to breathe and strengthen by letting it rest in a "benon", these are the secrets of Chibon bread!

Gérard Berrux favours quality over quantity and is committed to selling locally in short circuits and promoting direct sales. Every Wednesday afternoon, a farmers' market is organized on the farm (from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.), with the sale of the famous Chibon bread and other local products: cheeses, fruits, vegetables... brought in by small regional producers. Tuesday, bread is on sale in front of Carrefour in Chamonix (4 pm to 7 pm) and on Saturdays, Gérard sells his bread in the village of Servoz (4 pm to 7 pm).

<https://www.chamonix.com/le-pain-de-chibon,49-693420,fr.html>



THE SUMMITS OF GOURMANDISE: THE NEW 4000 COLLECTION

After the success of the «4810» chocolate, awarded in 2014 with the «Creative Research Award» at the Salon du Chocolat in Paris, the Chamonix establishment «Aux Petits Gourmands» has just created «La Collection des 4000».

A brand new range of chocolates, available whose shapes evoke that of the iconic «4810», but with a diversity of tastes and textures. 4 new flavours to discover: lemon ganache for 4806, raspberry ganache for 4807, coffee ganache for 4808 and pure dark chocolate ganache for 4809.

<http://petitsgourmands.fr/>

WELL-BEING

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 in Chamonix centre! 3,000 square meters of well-being and over 30 activities for a multi-sensory journey. Magic: the infinity pool adjacent to a lake offers the most breathtaking view of the Mont-Blanc range and the Bossons glacier!

Thanks to the new "QC Care" safety protocol, put in place by Dr. Paolo Gulisano, infectious disease specialist, visitors will be able to enjoy this relaxing environment this winter with complete confidence. Note for next summer: QC Terme should expand and acquire additional facilities

<https://www.qcterme.com/fr/chamonix-mont-blanc/qc-termechamonix>



COCOONING STAY - SPA MONTAGNES DU MONDE® WITH THE CRYSTAL DE JADE RESIDENCE *****

Cocoons of excellence, the Spa Montagnes du Monde® provide a sensory and soothing journey for serenity. The rituals offered, solo or in duo, use Pure Altitude® treatments, made from mountain plants, and in particular edelweiss.

1 week cocooning at Cristal de Jade with Spa included: «Au Bonheur des Dames» stay, from € 1,547 8 days / 7 nights in a 2-room apartment with 3 50-minute treatments included («oxygen bowl» facial treatment, body treatment with exfoliation and cream bath , Pure Altitude® body massage) and unlimited access to the Spa of the (swimming pool, sauna, hammam, whirlpools. . .).

<https://www.mgm-hotels-residences.com/residence-le-cristal-de-jade-chamonix/spa-pur-altitude>

MONT-COCON CHAMONIX : A NEW BRAND OF NATURAL COSMETICS MADE IN CHAMONIX

"A world without waste, where plastic does not exist and flora and fauna express themselves freely..." this is the dream of Marina Sebaoui who, after a one-year trip around the globe, decided to open a business to contribute to the restoration of our «pachamama».

Based in the Chamonix Valley, Marina has just created her brand of "ethical" cosmetics and manufactures all of her products in her workshop in Les Houches.

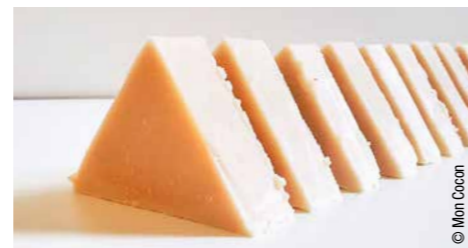
She has developed a 100% ecological, natural, vegan and biodegradable range, and uses only French raw materials in the manufacture: Mont-Blanc water (for all hair care and soaps), combined with vegetable oils , butters, hydrosols, oily macerates or even essential oils.

Mont-Cocon Chamonix offers soaps, solid shampoos, creams, balms ... with evocative names such as «Mont-Blanc Crémeux», a moisturizing soap made with coconut milk.

The product line is set to expand further for winter 2021, and Marina would also like to organize 'Do it yourself' workshops, where she would teach how to create her own cosmetics.

Points of sale: shops in the valley, hotels, pharmacies, markets, internet, social networks, in bulk directly in her laboratory once a week

<https://montcoconchamonix.com/password>



NATURE AND DISCOVERIES

FREE NATURE OUTINGS IN ARGENTIERE

In partnership with the Aiguilles Rouges nature reserve and Natura 2000, nature outings are organized on Wednesday afternoons on the theme of winter wildlife.

Alex Bruneau, animator of mountain environment (AMM) invites a family audience (children from 10 years old) to discover signs of the presence of fauna, and in particular provides answers on how animals adapt to their winter environment. Registration required at the Maison du Village in Argentière: Tel. : +33(0)4 50 54 03 06

Throughout the winter, screenings, conferences & discussions are also organized on various nature themes (bears, lynx, wolves, winter disturbance of wildlife, etc.).

During school holidays, 1 conference & 1 outing are offered every week.

<https://www.chamonix.com/maison-de-village-d-argenterie,48-493700,fr.html>



A JOURNEY INTO WINTER WONDERLAND - VALLORCINE

A native of Chamonix, Xavier Dunand has always travelled the mountains. His training as a heritage guide in Vallorcine allows him to understand his Alpine roots and the harmonious connection between Man and Nature.

After training as a herbalist at the Lyonnaise School of Medicinal Plants and Natural Knowledge, he added a string to his bow by obtaining a teaching diploma from the School of Energy Yoga in Evian. He continues his journey through geobiology, with as a common thread, listening and feeling the vibration of the Earth.

By offering nature outings this winter, Xavier wishes to share his experience and to introduce participants to a fresh approach to nature, in connection with the elements that surround us.

This sentence from the great mountaineer Gaston Rébuffat could sum up Xavier's philosophy: "What embellishes a pile of rocks or a snowy slope , is the smile that is in your heart" from the book "Entre Terre et Ciel". Dates and prices on request.

<http://www.xavierdunand.com/>
06 09 81 36 97



FOREST IMMERSION IN WINTER

Contrary to popular belief, sylvotherapy can also be practiced in winter. Frédérique Arthuis, certified practitioner, offers 1.5 hour wellness sessions (from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.) to recharge your batteries in the heart of nature and relieve the stress of a hectic life.

As you walk slowly, you become aware of every breath through simple exercises related to the 5 senses (observation, listening, touching, smelling and creating), the body relaxes and so does the mind. A sensory and emotional experience that is particularly beneficial for reenergizing and well-being but also for strengthening your immune system.

Price for 1h30 in a group of 3 to 8 people - discovery session: 25 euros
Price for 1h30 individually - personalized and exclusive session: rates on request

<http://www.bienhetreenforet74.fr/>

ACTIVITIES



“WINTER ESCAPE” SNOWSHOE TRIP

2 days / 1 night in the Chamonix Valley.

For a weekend, get out of your comfort zone with this immersive stay in the Chamonix valley. Defy the elements and dare to have a winter night under the stars, in the heart of the most beautiful panoramas of the Mont-Blanc massif!

Go on a 2-day snowshoe hike, with a night in a bivouac, in complete safety thanks to the expertise of the mountain guides of the Cie des Guides de Chamonix. An out of the ordinary getaway, connected to nature & the wildlife that surrounds us... Back to basics, simplicity and sharing for this backcountry escapade!

Several dates in March and April 2021

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr>



© Adobe Stock

ELECTRIC FAT BIKES IN LES HOUCHES

In exclusive partnership with the ski lifts in Les Houches, the “Sports Spirit” store located a stone’s throw from the Les Houches Tourist Office, is organizing “Fat Bike” outings this winter, for an experience that is both fun and sporting, with incredible Mont-Blanc views.

Supervised by a qualified instructor, participants will evolve on the snow-covered slopes of the Domaine du Prarion on big wheeled mountain bikes equipped with electric assistance. “Discovery pack” formula from € 66 / person.

www.sportspirit74.com



© Sport Spirit



FONDUE & IGLOO!

Alpine specialist and organizer of intimate and authentic stays, the receptive agency 1786.travel is offering an unusual dinner this winter. Equipped with snowshoes and supervised by a guide, guests will set off into the heart of nature to reach an igloo where they will taste a real Savoyard fondue!

The rates depend on numbers: 240 € / person for 2 people minimum

<https://1786.travel/>

CHALLENGE 200 YEARS OF HISTORY HALF DAY RALLY



In 2021, the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix will celebrate its 200th anniversary... Through this team challenge, the Company invites participants to (re) discover the diversity of actors who have contributed to shaping its history: from the first ‘pioneer’ visitors to mountaineers, including mountain dwellers, crystal seekers, scientists and skiers. In a lighthearted spirit, participants will enjoy a number of original workshops : ride in a sedan chair, cross a «crevasse», navigate varied terrain, discover veteran’s wise words, evolution of glaciers, ... Mutual assistance, involvement and communication will be the keys to the success of this challenge where everyone can express their talent for the benefit of their team!

Price € 115 / person, based on a minimum of 20 people.

<https://www.chamonix-guides.com/fr>



© Les Ailes du Mont Blanc

WING YOUR WAY WITH LES AILES DU MONT-BLANC

This winter, the «Les Ailes du Mont Blanc» paragliding school, created by Sandie Cochapain, Paragliding World Champion, is offering various options.

«A la carte» paragliding training days, progression and performance, are organized to learn to take off and land on snow, see the valley from a new perspective, find new landmarks in a white setting.

Tandem ski flights are available in the Balme area (ski take-off and landing).

For those who wish to try speedriding, the Posettes site (Balme ski area) is now more accessible, thanks to the new Col des Posettes drag lift.

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



ZERO G : A NEW SNOWBOARD SCHOOL CONCEPT

Pioneering snowboarding in the Chamonix valley for more than 30 years, the Zéro G store offers snowboard enthusiasts all the foremost snowboard brands, as well as small, dynamic and original emerging brands. Rental of boards for all levels, packs for children, freeride boards for a Vallée Blanche descent.

New this winter: organization of supervised outings, in partnership with instructors and local guides specializing in snowboarding.

Prices and dates on request, depending on the number of people.

Information:

<https://www.zerogchamonix.com/fr/>

04 50 53 01 01



FAMILY ADVENTURE EVENING BY OUT OF REACH

The young Chamonix travel agency “Out Of Reach” has created a “disconnected label” and offers stays and experiences far from the hyperconnected world that surrounds us.

Among the novelties offered this winter in the Chamonix Valley: every Thursday at 6pm, a treasure hunt followed by a dinner are organized for a «disconnected» family evening. From 65 € / adult / 45 € / child (from 5 years old).

Sandrine and Félicie, the founders of Out Of Reach are never short of ideas! Last spring they conceived the game «Drôle d’Expé» inviting participants to discover the region in a different manner.

www.droledexpe.fr

<https://www.oor.zone/content/6-oor>

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



© Yucca Films

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. At the time, six sports were on the Olympic programme: ice-hockey, ice-skating, speed skating, curling, bobsleigh and skiing of course, but not downhill!

The Olympic 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!



© Office de Tourisme Vallée de Chamonix



© LR Photographie

AN INTRODUCTION TO BIATHLON

Throughout the season, the ESF instructors propose introductory courses that combine target rifle shooting (laser or lead) and Nordic skiing (classic or alternative). The shooting range of Les Bois, located at the Desert Blanc, is equipped with 12 targets at a distance of 50 m. From € 140- including loan of rifle
<https://www.esfchamonix.com/ski-nordique/biathlon>

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 in the valley. Whilst formerly considered «too tiring», cross-country skiing has become fashionable, especially since the advent of the «skating» technique. The sport has gained considerable momentum with all age groups.

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.

THE VALLEY FOR FAMILIES

SNOWSHOE HIKING TO MERLET ANIMAL PARC

This is a confidential hike, in groups of 5 to 8 people led by a mountain guide, to discover the magic of Merlet Animal Park under its winter cloak. The mountain fauna roam in semi-liberty, enjoying an exceptional setting, facing the Mont-Blanc range. Outings are organized from the end of December 2020 to the end of March 2021, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 5 pm subject to weather conditions. Booking directly with the escort +33 678 500 396, the day before, 17h at the latest.
<http://www.parcdeomerlet.com/preparez-votre-visite-au-parc-de-merlet/randonnee-hivernale/>



© Parc de Merlet



© Parc de Merlet



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>



© Yucca Films

LE SKICAMP : KIDS HAVE FUN IN LES HOUCHES !

Located on the Les Houches ski area, in the Prarion / Mèlèzes 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.
<http://leshouches.compagniedumontblanc.fr/>



© Pierre Raphoz



© 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/fr>

ENVIRONNEMENT

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Aware of the necessity to preserve this exceptional and fragile environment, the Chamonix Valley, was awarded the “Flocon Vert Label”, which rewards mountain resorts committed to the development of sustainable tourism, in 2013. Recently 30 concrete actions for ecological and energy transition in different areas have been implemented: mobility, housing and building, energy, waste and circular economy ...

https://www.cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr/documents/environnement/energie_climat/pdf/dossier_presse_environnement_octobre_2019_fr
https://www.cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr/documents/environnement/energie_climat/pdf/guide_bonnes_pratiques_fr_2019.pdf



ADAPT MONT BLANC: SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES

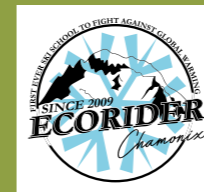
A hot topic in mountain areas, climate change and its repercussions on human activities is a reality which is already impacting the tourism sector where the evolution of snow cover, the shift of seasons and the modification of landscapes require rapid and shared decision-making. The main objective of the AdaPT Mont-Blanc cross-border project is to provide planning and land management tools for adaptation to climate change.

The work of many scientists, carried out throughout the Espace Mont Blanc territory as part of the Adapt Mont Blanc project, shows that changes are already well underway;
<http://www.espace-mont-blanc.com/adapt-mont-blanc>

The recent publication, based on the research provided by the scientific and technical teams, presents the results of the 3 years of activity of the Adapt Mont-Blanc project
<http://www.espace-mont-blanc.com/scenarios-climatiques>

A HIGH MOUNTAIN CLIMATE PLAN

Global warming affects the large mountain ranges two to three times faster than other areas of the planet as it is profoundly changing the landscapes and practices in the high mountains. In the Mont-Blanc Massif, the temperature has increased by 2°C since the 1930s compared to 0.74°C on a global scale in the 20th century. The Chamonix community, sensitive for years to the evolution of these phenomena, has brought together and mobilized the actors in various fields in order to elaborate a «High Mountain Climate Plan».



A NEW ECORIDER LABEL

Ecorider becomes the first environmental label intended for ski schools committed to the environment. The Ecorider label will allow structures providing outdoor services to improve and reduce their carbon footprint in the mountains.

Founded by Chamonix local Stéphane Lagarde, the Ecorider ski school became the first company in 2009 to measure its carbon footprint for this sector of activity. After 10 years' experience and constant concerted efforts to improve environmental practices, Ecorider wishes to share its expertise with other mountain professionals by making this new label accessible.

It will cover the areas of mobility, equipment, events and digital.

In collaboration with the Serendeeep agency, Ecorider is building a detailed and tailor-made diagnostic service. The label meets specifications adapted to the major challenges of tomorrow's tourism in the face of climate change.



The Evolution 2 ski school in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is the first candidate to enter into a voluntary Ecorider labeling process. From winter 2020/2021, the company will commit, alongside Ecorider, to improving environmental standards in its leisure sector.

<http://www.evolution2-chamonix.com/fr>

SOFT MOBILITY AND FREE TRANSPORT

For the past 15 years, thanks to the free transport network initiated by the municipalities of the Valley, all residents, and visitors benefit from free travel on the bus and train lines between Servoz and Vallorcine..

At the same time, the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley continues to develop and structure its eco-mobility services: electric shuttles, hybrid and natural gas buses, railway renovations and enhanced transport timetables, pedestrian and road cycling routes.

www.chamonix.fr

PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN ALTITUDE AREAS

The Compagnie du Mont Blanc, the company which manages the ski lifts in the Chamonix Valley, is also committed to sustainable development.

This winter, the approach is reflected in particular in the continuation of actions to preserve wildlife, thanks to the winter tranquility zones present in the ski areas of Les Houches, Brévent-Flégère, Grands Montets and on the Montenvers site.

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



AN ECO-TOURIST STAY THIS WINTER

Ecorider proposes a tourism offer in harmony with nature and with low environmental impact around the activity of skiing.

Recharge your batteries, take care of yourself, ski with awareness. An all-inclusive offer which includes an initiation to ski touring, yoga, healthy locavore dining, a conference on digital sobriety, soft mobility .. relaxing and inspiring

More info to come on <https://ecorider.org/>



ARTISTS' CORNER



LIONEL WIBAULT: THE PAINTER OF 100 MONT BLANCS

High mountain guide and artist, the Chamoniard Lionel Wibault wields the ice ax as well as the paintbrush. Son of the painter Marcel Wibault (1904-1998), whose mountain paintings are now sought after, Lionel grew up in the Chamonix valley, bathed in an atmosphere of love for painting and the mountains.

Member of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix since 1971, he spends much time in the Mont-Blanc Massif and the Swiss Alps and has climbed nearly 2,500 summits. In his notebooks, he carefully records the list of his many climbs: 83 times Mont Blanc, 22 times the Matterhorn, 21 times the Aiguille Verte, 15 times the Drus ... He draws from these face-to-face meetings impressive experiences that he revives through paintings.

If the guide has largely achieved his mountaineering objectives, the painter set himself a mountain sized challenge thirty years ago: to paint 100 different aspects of Mont Blanc! Lionel Wibault has already produced 80 paintings of the "Géant des Alpes", and he has commissioned the author Joëlle Dartigue-Paccalet, to write the first volume of the book on his illustrations of the Top of Europe. The painter has selected 50 canvases, a mixture of classic and modern versions, "cross-chasing perspectives and colours" which he hopes will provoke "astonishment with each page turned".

Tasty anecdotes and testimonials from friends and clients punctuate the works presented.
Publication: December 2020. Volume 2 is in preparation for 2024..
<http://www.wibault.fr/>



Cover project



CORINNE JOUIN EXHIBITS AT HAMEAU ALBERT 1ER *****

Traditional silhouette paper cutting
From early December 2020 to June 2021

Trained as an advertising graphic designer, Corinne Jouin moved to the Chamonix valley in 1991 where she became a mountain guide and joined the famous Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix. She gets her inspiration from wide open spaces, local anecdotes and pastoral traditions ...

During her hikes, she discovers the folk art of silhouette paper cutting, which originates from Gruyère, in Switzerland. Corinne is immediately fascinated by this mode of expression and with the help of a young artist, Sophie Crawford from Thonon les Bains, she puts her graphic designer skills to a new challenge.

For Corinne, this is the perfect compromise between her two passions - mountains and art – both of which complement each other. This winter, her works will be exhibited at the prestigious Hameau Albert 1er *****



JEWELLERY WITH MONT BLANC CRYSTALS

Until the middle of the 18th century, the mountains of the Chamonix valley were considered cursed and only chamois hunters and crystal seekers dared to venture into their realms. Carrying out daring feats to bring back quartz or fluorite, the first mountaineers were none other than crystal-seekers, like Jacques Balmat, who made the first ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786.

In the 17th century, in the Mont Blanc valley, the demand for crystals was high! They were supplied to manufacturers, particularly in Geneva and Turin, where rock crystal was used for jewellery, chandeliers, items of decoration, snuffboxes etc. Nowadays, the gathering of minerals is often a family tradition, which is perpetuated by a few enthusiasts.

Fascinated by crystals and admiring the profession of crystal hunter, the young designer **Marine Petroff** was keen to develop a concept to enhance the crystal by transforming it into a jewel. She creates unique pieces, by setting on precious metals raw crystals from the Chamonix region.

Renowned for their beauty, but also for their energetic properties, these jewels of Mont-Blanc, of perfect natural geometry, date back some 15 million years. In the Chamonix Valley, one finds mainly quartz and fluorite, crystalized in many forms. Each stone has its own characteristics and its own virtues.

Marine has set up her workshop in Chamonix Sud, Place Edmond Désaillood.
<https://www.thelostcrystals.com/>

Her creations are also on sale at Studio Rusc.
<https://www.studio-rusc.com/>

CULTURE & HERITAGE

THE MAISON DES ARTISTS REOPENS THIS WINTER

Within this historic villa, located in the Parc Couttet in the heart of Chamonix, the musician André Manoukian, in partnership with the municipality created the "Maison des Artistes", a convivial location for music lovers. After temporary closure due to lack of funding, this emblematic property will be reopening for winter to the delight of Chamonix residents and visitors. There will be new concepts, new spaces and more inclusive artistic practices. The objective remains the same: to energize, and modernize the cultural and creative identity of the town.



THE NEW CHAMONIX CRYSTAL AND MINERAL MUSEUM

The redevelopment of the Tairraz exhibition centre into a prominent crystal museum is well underway. The Espace Tairraz (located adjacent to the Saint Michel car park, in the heart of Chamonix) already housed a fabulous collection of crystals from the Alps and around the world, but this redevelopment project is far more ambitious and will triple the number of mineralogical pieces on display. In addition to magnificent specimens from the Mont-Blanc Massif and across the Alps, visitors will be able to discover a rich panel of mineralogy from the five continents, as well as native gems, precious metals and specimens from other major sites in France. The Chamonix Crystal Museum, scheduled to open in spring 2021, will then rank among the best national mineralogical museums. <https://www.chamonix.com/musee-des-cristaux-espace-tairraz,48-195136.fr.html>



NEW AT THE LIEUTENANT'S HOUSE IN SERVOZ

Perched above the village of Servoz, "La Maison du Lieutenant" is an interpretation centre of mountain farming and crafts. Open during school holidays, this historic building introduces visitors to local skills (wool felting, preparation of local products, wood sculpting using an Opinel etc.) and has recently opened a restaurant and refreshment bar, «La Chirv'ette». Inhabitants of Servoz are fondly known as "Chirves" hence the restaurant name, which welcomes locals and holiday makers alike to sample traditional dishes in a magnificent location. <http://www.servoz.fr/la-maison-du-lieutenant/>



APPLICATION FOR THE LABEL "LAND OF ART AND HISTORY"

To support the application for this prestigious label, the Chamonix Valley and indeed all "Pays du Mont-Blanc" resorts are organizing a multitude of cultural and inspiring activities all year round. Guided heritage tours, workshops, shows, hikes, concerts, exhibitions, conferences and much more. The full programme is entitled "En route to a Land of art and history" and is available in all tourist offices, and online:

<http://cc-valleedechamonixmontblanc.fr/index.php/culture/patrimoine.html>



THE CHRIST-ROI STATUE CLASSIFIED A HISTORICAL MONUMENT

Perched on the south-facing side of the valley at an altitude of 1,200 meters, the Christ-Roi des Houches enjoys a majestic location overlooking the Mont-Blanc range. This emblematic statue, built in 1933, was listed as a historical monument in 2020. 25 metres high, the structure is made of reinforced concrete weighing 500 tons. To this day it remains one of the tallest statues in France..

110 YEARS OF HOCKEY IN CHAMONIX



Like mountaineering, ice hockey is part of the DNA of the Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley.

Recognized as the birthplace of French ice hockey, Chamonix has for decades written some of the finest pages in the history of the discipline.

Chamonix Hockey Club was founded on December 24, 1910. 110 years of history, passion, titles, legends and achievements for the mountain town which has backed its club across the decades.

The club holds an exceptional record, including 30 titles of Champions of France, and in particular 6 consecutive titles from 1963 to 1968. 30 times Champion, 10 times Vice-Champion, 3 times winner of the Coupe de France, Chamonix is naturally established as the stronghold of ice hockey in France and still attracts, when travelling, a large number of spectators in French ice rinks.

To celebrate its 110th anniversary, and in memory of hockey legends such as Albert HASSLER, Léon QUAGLIA, Calixte PIANFETTI, Bernard DESCHAMPS or Philippe BOZON, the club will organize, during a hockey festival at the foot of Mont Blanc during the month of December 2020.

The history of Chamonix Hockey is punctuated by fond memories and anecdotes.

"More than a hundred thousand Parisians gathered in the Bois de Boulogne on Sunday February 17, 1929 to attend an ice hockey match between Paris and Chamonix, the recently acclaimed French Champions". A book dedicated to the fabulous history of the Club will be published in 2021.

Every year since 1910, this team has fervently represented the Chamonix-Mont-Blanc valley, with an unwavering desire to reach the summits.

The Chamonix Hockey Club, recently renamed "The Pioneers" is inspired by the legacy of generations of men who have marked the history of their discipline.

<https://www.pionniers-chamonix.com/>



Official Partnership

YOUR PRESS CONTACTS :

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

Claire Burnet : press.uk@chamonix.com / Cécile Gruffat : c.gruffat@chamonix.com



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

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

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