



SUMMER 2023

# CHÂTEL

## PRESS PACK



# CHÂTEL

*Portes du Soleil*

[WWW.CHATEL.COM](http://WWW.CHATEL.COM)



# CHÂTEL, INTENSE NATURE

Tradition, savoir-faire, agriculture, hospitality, open spaces, far-reaching views, countless leisure activities and events, gastronomy... so many facets to Châtel, a special place with choice for everyone, where visitors enjoy a tailor-made holiday, fill their lungs with fresh mountain air and their eyes with unforgettable views. Families, friends, old, young, sporty or not... everyone is guaranteed a great holiday in Châtel.

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# SPECIAL OFFERS



## MULTI PASS BREAK

**7 nights' accommodation + 6-day  
Portes du Soleil Multi Pass.  
In an apartment:  
from €116/adult\***

Unlimited access to a mountain of activities  
(see details page 8).



## MTB BREAK

**7 nights' accommodation + 6-day Portes du Soleil MTB lift pass.  
In an apartment: from €250/adult\***

With just this one pass, mountain bikers can access the entire Portes du Soleil area and infrastructure: bike parks, permanent downhill runs, marked biking tracks of all levels across the 12 Portes du Soleil villages.

Note: **Buy a MTB Portes du Soleil lift pass and the Portes du Soleil Multi Pass is available free of charge** (for the same duration as the lift pass) for visitors staying with an accommodation provider participating in the scheme.

\*Prices valid from 8<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and from 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, based on 4 people sharing a studio apartment rented from a private landlord.



**IN SOME  
ACCOMMODATION  
THE PORTES  
DU SOLEIL MULTI PASS  
IS PROVIDED FREE  
OF CHARGE.**

*For a list of participating hosts,  
simply connect to the village  
website and check out the  
"Free Multi Pass" logo.*

[www.chatel.com](http://www.chatel.com)

Full details: [www.chatelreservation.com](http://www.chatelreservation.com)



# SUMMER RENDEZ-VOUS 2023

## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### ECOLOVIE DAY

Part of the Mountain Riders' "Zero Mountain Rubbish 2030" objective, this annual activity is dedicated to clearing rubbish from the pistes in the Linga - L'Aity - Pointe du Midi sector, with the help of around 100 volunteers.

### EMMONTAGNÉE AU MOUËT

Michel and Béatrice Cruz and their family, accompanied by friends and, of course, their cattle head up 1,800m to the high mountain pastures at Mouët where they will spend the summer. Leaving Linga at 8.30am, passing through the village at 9.30am (a complementary small glass of white wine is offered in front of the Tourist Office), a light snack at Barbossine at 11am, arriving in Mouët around 12noon/12.30pm in time for lunch (reservation required).

## Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June

### THE 74<sup>TH</sup> COMPANY COMMEMORATES OPERATION OVERLORD: 6TH JUNE 1944

A wide-ranging display of vehicles and military memorabilia from the US, Allied forces, Germany, Russia, Resistance and private collections. The packed weekend programme includes, amongst other events, a march past, parade, demonstrations, snacks and musical entertainment.

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

### PASS'PORTES DU SOLEIL MTB

This Franco-Swiss MTB event will welcome over 8,000 participants, departing from 6 different resorts, covering 80kms of Portes du Soleil tracks on a circuit punctuated by refreshment stops serving local produce and good-humoured encouragement! Pass'Portes kids, Pedestrian Pass'Portes and EPass'Portes are also very popular events.

The MTB exhibition will be held in Morzine.

**New for 2023:** A 2-day Gravel Ride (23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June) has been added to the programme. The group start is at the Morzine exhibition site. Two days of gravel riding through French and Swiss mountains, with local produce food-stops and an overnight stay and dinner in Morgins.

## Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August

### 1861 MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of this festival features live music from Glass Balloon, Pitch, Lena Florey and DJ Remotte Da Kontrolla.

Numerous mountain athletes: climbers, skiers, MTBikers will be present including Oscar Mandin, Vadim Druelle, Vincent Tupin, Fred Horny, Antoni Villoni, Antoine Buffart, Yannis Pelé, Sébastien Varlet, Jeremy Berthier, all of whom have carved impressive tracks in their various disciplines. They will attend open-air screenings of these mountain-themed films, shot in the landscapes they love. Food truck, bar, live music... at 1861 Châtel Hostel.

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### FRENCH NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Fireworks and an open-air party, with dancing in the village centre.

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

### CYCLOSPORTIVE CHÂTEL CHABLAIS LÉMAN RACE

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of this race has been updated. Sponsored by Greg LeMond, there are 4 different circuits in France and Switzerland: 1 gravel circuit (start/finish at Pré la Joux with a new circuit on the French side for MTB and electric MTB).

3 cyclo circuits (short, medium, long) starting at Pré la Joux and finishing at the new panoramic summit on the col de Bassachaux. The short and long circuits pass through Portes de Culet in Switzerland and the medium circuit remains in France. The race village with 20 exhibitors, competitions, restaurants and prize giving is located at Pré la Joux.

#### Saturday: Gravel

125 km / 2,500 m height difference

#### Sunday: on road

#### Long cyclo circuit:

148 km / 2,850 m height difference

#### Medium cyclo circuit:

98 km / 1,900 m height difference

#### Short cyclo circuit:

47 km / 1,990 m height difference

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

### FETE DE LA SAINT LAURENT

Mass at St Laurent church followed by a procession, early evening concert with aperitif, float parade and open-air party with dancing. Châtel residents join with holiday visitors in this vibrant homage to the patron saint of the parish.

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

### FRENCH CUP DOWNHILL MTB

Second edition on a specially designed track in the bike park with the participation of experienced world cup mountain bike racers.

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August

### LA BELLE DIMANCHE, Cowherd's festival in the Plaine Dranse pastures.

This 45<sup>th</sup> edition of La Belle Dimanche agricultural show in the Plaine Dranse meadows, dates from when the priest would come to bless the cattle. There will be an outdoor Mass, animal show, prize-giving, craft fair, cheese making, s'nailles fair, folk groups, traditional games and of course delicious food and drink. A fun-filled day for one of the most popular traditional fairs in the region! The full and varied programme, featuring traditional mountain customs, is always popular with the numerous visitors who come to enjoy this special day. Herders, cattle and the public come together to enjoy a special event, in beautiful surroundings, considered one of the most significant agricultural fairs in the region.

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September

### MTB WORLD CUP

The biggest event of the season! From the 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, the resorts of Les Gets, Morzine and Châtel host all the MTB World Cup events. Châtel will host the Enduro, E-enduro and marathon events over the second weekend.



## BIKE PARK

The Châtel Bike Park, at Pré la Joux, accessed by the Pierre Longue and/or Rochassons chair lifts will burst into life, once again providing thrills and excitement for downhill mountain bikers. With 20 downhill tracks of all levels and varied activity areas; kid's shore, two slopestyles, one pro and one pump-track, the discipline is well-served in this area popular with huge numbers of downhill mountain bikers. The Bike Park is maintained by a team of 10 bike patrollers, who open and close the area, ensure security, maintain the park, provide first aid and give help and advice when required.

### OPENING DATES:

#### - From 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June:

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

#### - From 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> September:

Every day (night opening on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> August).

#### - From 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September:

Saturdays and Sundays.



## ELECTRIC MTB

There are 6 marked electric MTB circuits in Châtel. Electric MTBs allow visitors to explore the countryside and see many different sites along the ride.

- **Col du Saix (easy):** 10 km, height difference 623 m
- **La Mouille loop (easy):** 8 km, height difference 639 m.
- **Circuit Châtel - Morgins (intermediate):** 17 km, height difference 535 m
- **Tour du Morclan (difficult):** 17 km, height difference 683 m
- **Tour du Mont de Grange (difficult):** 37 km, height difference 1,145 m
- **Loop Vannes - Col de Bassachaux - Sur Bayard (very difficult):** 28 km, height difference 1,000 m

Battery charging points are located in the resort and in the Portes du Soleil along circuits and in the villages.

### Enduro Schools - Downhill - Châtel Bike Park - Electric MTB

Private lessons, group lessons, beginner and improver lessons are available for all MTB disciplines: enduro, downhill or electric MTB. Qualified instructors run courses in Châtel and in the wider Portes du Soleil area.

- Pascal Baillet - Bike Léman:

+33 (0)6 65 04 66 76

[www.bike-leman.com](http://www.bike-leman.com)

### And for MTB and Electric MTB rental:

- Charles Sports - Ski Set:

+33 (0)4 50 73 24 37

[www.charlesports.fr](http://www.charlesports.fr)



## CYCLOTOURISM

Having been a Ville-étape on the 2022 Tour de France, Châtel, accredited “Ville Etape Tour de France – 3 Bikes” in 2021 and a “Welcome Bike” destination, continues to host major cycle events. This year the updated 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Châtel Chablais Léman Race takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July (Full details in Summer Events 2023). The race is in both France and Switzerland. Greg LeMond, race sponsor from its inauguration, will be joined by other renowned sports people.

New this year, the three road circuits will finish on the col de Bassachaux, 1,778 m high, 12 kms from the village centre, with a 5.5 % slope over the final kilometres!

The course will test riders to their limits over the 6 km climb from Pré la Joux. Having left Châtel, the climb totals 10.4 km, a vertical height difference of 665 meters and an average gradient of 6.5 %, a real challenge for visiting cyclists every summer. Before the final climb, riders will have enjoyed a spectacular

circuit combining effort and the (re) discovery of this grandiose landscape.

The choice of circuits is wide and varied, a real asset in this region which, for added interest also straddles the French/Swiss border.

### DISCOVER THE REGION BY BIKE - WITH A GUIDE

For all types of ride: half day, full day or a few days, 1 - 4 people:

**Châtel MTB school:**

+33 (0)7 89 08 85 62 - [www.ecolevtchatel.com](http://www.ecolevtchatel.com)

And for road bike rental:

**Mountain Ride Cédric Mézière:**

+33(0) 4 50 73 58 58

½ day: €37 ; full day: €55 ; 6 days: €220.



# PORTES DU SOLEIL MULTI PASS



**THE summer passport for only €2.50 per day, per person for the duration of their stay - available for visitors staying with participating accommodation providers. The Portes du Soleil Multi Pass gives unlimited access to 25 pedestrian chair lifts and 800 kms of walking trails, to swimming pools and lakes, to tennis courts, squash, padel, little tourist trains, mini-golfs, golf practices, ice rinks, climbing centres, blocks, cultural sites, cinemas. In addition, 70 activities offer reductions on presentation of the precious pass across the Portes du Soleil territory and its 12 Franco-Swiss resorts.**



**IN CHÂTEL** the 4 summer chair lifts, the Forme d'O water centre, tennis, little tourist train, Loy mini-

golf and C-l'Aventure are included in the pass.

The Old Customs House (explaining the history of mountain contraband in the area), le Chaudron bowling, the Fantasticable (with twin flight lines where visitors are comfortably strapped in to a harness and fly at 240 m high over the valley between 80-100 km/h), the bobluge piste (with 7 bends), la Fée Bien-être, Châtel Aventures (and its tree top circuits), Spa Océane, Châtel Fun Bike (for all levels) **GIVE REDUCTIONS WITH THE PASS.**

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

One of the many family leisure activities in Châtel is an opportunity to discover the world of mushing! Every week, throughout the season, Violaine Grau and her sled dogs introduce families to the summer version of this exciting sport. A wonderful opportunity to meet beautiful Siberian Huskies and see them in action, towing a specially adapted cart on the circuit around the lake at La Mouille in Super Châtel. This fun, family activity takes place in the cool of the morning, for the dogs.

### INFORMATION:

Price: €50/person  
Duration: 15 minutes - 2 runs around the lac.

Registration: [www.chatel.com](http://www.chatel.com)











## TREASURE HUNT THE QUEST FOR DELICACIES...

Solve the 10 clues dotted along the Eterlou path at Pré la Joux leading finally to the treasure ... Surprise!  
On Tuesday mornings.  
Participation free of charge, max 20 people.

## TRY FALCONRY... A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF RAPTORS

This activity is on Tuesday mornings. The birds fly free in the forest (between Châtel/France and Morgins/Switzerland), and visitors can get close to the birds and share a rare and memorable moment with one of the buzzards at "La Petite Volerie" in Morgins.

**ONE PRICE**  
€50 per person



11



**ONE PRICE**  
€5 per person

## TRY ORIENTEERING IN THE EXTENSIVE PASTURES AND FORESTS

above Super Châtel any Wednesday afternoon. Organised by qualified instructors, the trail starts from the top of the Super Châtel bubble. Using the map provided, awaken your sense

of direction to find the various markers hidden over the circuit. An enjoyable way to explore the local countryside at your own pace and discover hidden corners and panoramic views.

The Super Châtel bubble lift is free with the Multi Pass.

Further information: **Châtel Tourisme** - +33 (0)4 50 73 22 44 - [www.chatel.com](http://www.chatel.com)

# FLOCON VERT, PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE, GEOPARK ACCREDITATIONS

**Given the outstanding landscapes and local Châtel village life, these accreditations seem only natural. Sensitive agro-pastoralism and the hospitality of the local people have made Châtel a destination where sustainability is evident in every aspect of local life.**



farms and the traditional way of life. The average age of today's farmers is between 35 and 40 yrs old.

## TRADITIONS

In some areas life has continued, largely unchanged for generations. The 'emmontagnée' at the end of May/beginning of June is an example. Farmers take their Abondance cattle and leave the village for the high pastures where they spend the summer, often moving from pasture to pasture ensuring the cattle always have the best quality grass. Then, with the arrival of the first snows, they return to their village farms for the winter.

These labels are closely linked. The station has been Flocon Vert (Green snowflake) accredited since 2015 and the Abondance valley this year celebrates 20 years of the Pays d'art et d'histoire label which has subsequently been extended to cover all the local councils in the larger Pays d'Evian and Abondance Valley area since 2019. The Chablais Geopark was created in 2012 under the UNESCO Geopark scheme. Agriculture, tradition, know-how, gastronomy, heritage, landscape, hiking, wildlife... are the basis on which

these labels are granted in addition to recognition of the way the local villages, visitor sites, valleys, regions... are promoted and protected.

## AGRICULTURE

Châtel has 30 working farms. Between 10 and 15 of them make Abondance (AOP) cheese every day, in the village in winter and in the mountains in summer. These farms are passed from generation to generation, preserving both the





## KNOW-HOW

Abondance cheese - AOP since 1990 is made every day. Weighing between 6 kg and 12 kg, the cheeses have concave sides and are between 7 cm and 8 cm high. One wheel of this semi-cooked, pressed cheese requires around 100 litres of full

fat, unpasteurised milk. Each wheel is then matured for 100 days in cellars at a temperature of between 11° and 12° before the amber-rinded cheese with its signature soft, melty consistency is ready to eat.

## GASTRONOMY

Abondance cheese is the principal ingredient in the famous local dish **Berthoud**, which has had the « Spécialité Traditionnelle Garantie » label since September 2020. This local speciality holds pride of place in Châtel and the Abondance valley and its preparation follows strict guidelines.

The cheese is also used in salads, in Abondance risotto, as a crispy cheese crust with trout...

Many alpine farms and restaurants along the hiking trails welcome guests, offering ample opportunity to try this local delicacy in its traditional surroundings.

## THE OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE

### MOUNTAIN CONTRABAND VISITOR CENTRE

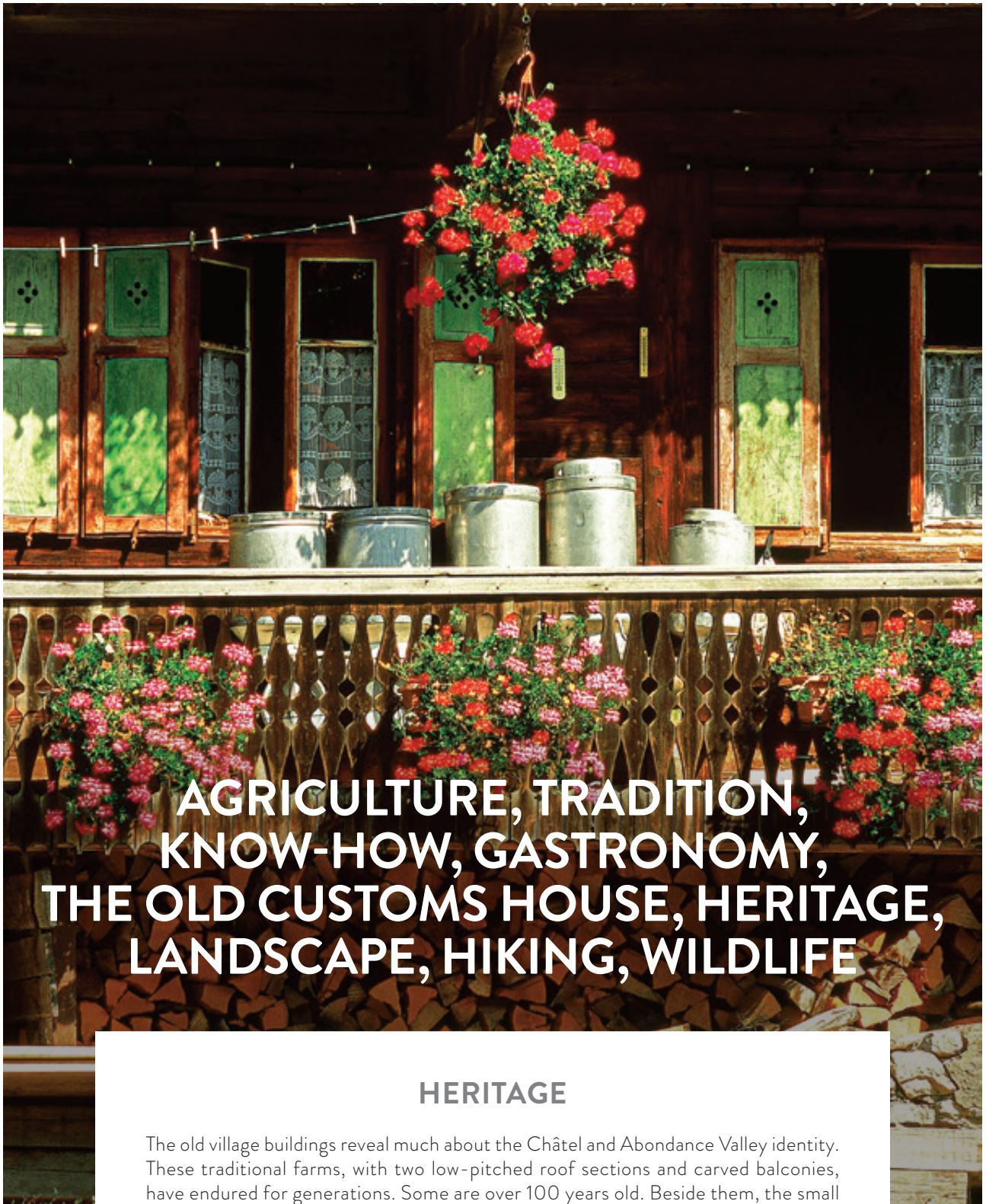
The Old Customs house is an interesting museum and information centre chronicling this important aspect of local history. Smuggling was rife throughout Châtel, the Abondance Valley and the Portes du Soleil due to their proximity to the Swiss border. Visitors can enjoy the museum independently or with commentary and there are fun activities and games for all ages, immersing participants in the world of the principal smuggling protagonists: smugglers and the customs men. Amongst them "The Old Customs House is Recruiting" The current Customs Man is retiring, and a replacement is required. All applicants must pass a challenging, total immersion selection process, and will be put in situations requiring skill and cunning to resolve. The successful applicant, obtaining the grade of Customs Man, will have to demonstrate aptitude to complete these tasks.

**Duration 2 hours. Cost €5 payable on reservation. Free for -6yrs. Further information: Tel +33 (0)4 50 71 75 11 (museum) - +33 (0)4 57 26 90 04 (Châtel culture and heritage service/ Mairie). <https://www.chatel.com/la-vieille-douane.html>**

« Secret Operations at The Old Customs House »

Another fun, family activity involving secret operations. Imagine yourself in the shoes of a customs man or smuggler and try to think like them; their skills of deduction, their agility (dexterity in confined spaces) and their discretion (secrets must be kept in both situations).

**Duration 1 hour 30 mins. Spaces are limited and must be reserved at least 24hrs in advance. Reserve online or at the Tourist Office Tel. +33(0)4 50 73 22 44**



# AGRICULTURE, TRADITION, KNOW-HOW, GASTRONOMY, THE OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE, HERITAGE, LANDSCAPE, HIKING, WILDLIFE

## HERITAGE

The old village buildings reveal much about the Châtel and Abondance Valley identity. These traditional farms, with two low-pitched roof sections and carved balconies, have endured for generations. Some are over 100 years old. Beside them, the small barns (greniers) were traditionally used to protect valuables in case of fire in the main house.

Originally scattered over the landscape, these chalets are the inspiration for the many modern 2 to 4 story wood and stone built chalets and homes now built amongst them. In this way the traditional architectural style of the area has been sympathetically preserved.



## LANDSCAPE

Located at mid-mountain height, Châtel (1,200m altitude) is the last village along the Abondance Valley. It is well located on a sunny, south facing slope in the northern part of the Northern Alps, on the border of Valais, Switzerland. The River Dranse, with its source in one of the outlying hamlets, Plaine Dranse, flows through the village. Merging with its tributary flowing from Morzine, the river finally flows in to Lac Léman at Thonon whose delta is a natural national reserve. The Châtel landscape comprises a significant number of forests and semi natural areas, 89.6% (in 2018): 43% forest, 37.5% brush and scrubland, 9.1% open spaces (with little or no vegetation) 6.5% urban area and 3.9% pasture.



## HIKING

### Châtel has 90 kms of marked hiking tracks.

Hiking is the principal activity in summer. Numerous visitors wait impatiently until the snow melts to put on their walking boots and once again set off to conquer the great outdoors!

Hiking is also the perfect way to discover the mid-mountain heritage. See pastures and forests, farms, chalets, chapels, oratories and crosses. There are fascinating fauna and flora, the UNESCO Chablais Geopark at the col de Bassachaux (1,778m altitude) and the Natura 2000 nature reserve at Mont de Grange (2,432m

altitude). Visitors can discover the reserve unaccompanied or join a guided visit to learn more about the natural riches of this protected area.

Those looking for a gentler walk, or a less challenging family stroll can still get out and about to enjoy the majestic countryside and panoramic mountain views on one of the 4 summer ski lifts in Châtel (25 throughout the Portes du Soleil).

The Portes du Soleil Multi Pass (full details page 8) gives unlimited use of the lifts including the Super Châtel bubble and the Morclan chairlift (arriving respectively at 1,650 m and 1,970 m altitude). Walking paths are directly accessible from the top of the lifts.

## WILDLIFE

You need to start early to get the most out of a fascinating guided visit to the Mont de Grange nature reserve. See marmot, chamois, ibex, mouflon, golden eagle, black grouse... off the beaten track in their natural habitat. Be prepared to search them out and keep quiet and hidden to have the best chance of spotting them. A well-deserved snack is provided during this half day visit.

The Châtel region with its layers of diverse vegetation, is also home to a large variety of mammals and birds.



**PRICE**  
€28 per person

**Registration:**  
Richard Sports shop bis  
Tel. +33(0)4 50 73 36 69  
[www.richardsports.com](http://www.richardsports.com)

# STATISTICS

- **1,247** permanent residents
- **25,151** visitors beds
- **16** hotels (1\*\*\*\*, 7\*\*\*, 8\*\*)
- **3\*\*\*\*NN** holiday apartment complexes
- **2\*\*\*\*NN** holiday apartment complexes
- **1\*\*\*\*NN** holiday apartment complex with hotel services
- **8** hotels for groups, holiday centres
- **1** winter/summer camping and caravanning site\*\*\*\*
- **Additional accommodation:** 1 Gite\*\*\*, 5 Bed and Breakfasts, 1 Youth hostel, 1\*\* Village Vacances, 1 Apart'hotel
- **60** restaurants (including hotel restaurants)
- **A wide variety of shops**



# CHÂTEL

Portes du *Soleil*



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