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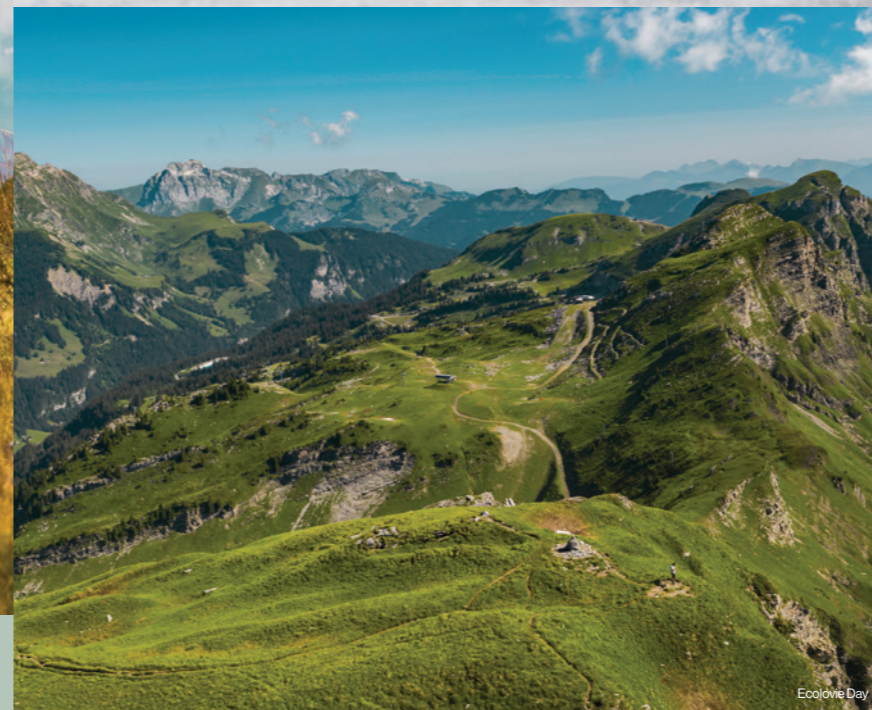
Summer 2026


CHÂTEL
Portes du Soleil

CHÂTEL, INTENSE NATURE



Emmottagnée au Mouët



Ecolovie Day



Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB

SUMMER RENDEZ- VOUS 2026

Saturday 30th May

(Subject to weather conditions)

Emmottagnée au Mouët

Join Michel and Béatrice Cruz, with their family, friends, and cattle, as they make their annual ascent to the high pastures of Mouët at 1,800 metres, where they will spend the summer.

- Departure from Linga at 8:30 am
- Passage through the village at 9:30 am, with a complimentary glass of white wine at the Tourist Office
- Snack stop at Barbossine around 11:00 am
- Arrival at Mouët between 12:00 and 12:30 pm

Lunch is available on arrival (reservation required, €35 per person, drinks not included).

Saturday 30th May

Ecolovie Day

Annual activity dedicated to clearing rubbish from the pistes and surroundings, with the help of around 100 volunteers. Raising awareness of recycling.

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th June

Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB

Over 8000 participants depart from 9 different resorts for this Franco-Swiss MTB event. The circuit covers 80kms of Portes du Soleil tracks with regular refreshment stops offering local specialities and encouragement along the way!

There is an event for everyone; Pass'Portes Kids, Pedestrian Pass'Portes and E-Pass'Portes ensuring as many visitors as possible can join the event.

The Gravel Ride on 27th June, offers a different experience. Departing from the MTB show in Avoriaz over a fun, uniquely designed route between France and Switzerland, it is also dotted with locally sourced refreshment stops.

New in 2026: The Bike Park Pass'Portes:

12 tracks totalling 20 kms, from Avoriaz. Two refreshment stops serving local produce.

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Fête de la Saint Laurent



La Belle Dimanche



Historic Climb

**Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th July
Swiss Orienteering Week - SOW 2026**

- A week-long orienteering event between Morgins and Châtel.
- Sunday 12/07: Stage 1 - La Foilleuse - Panoramic stage.
- Monday 13/07: Stage 2 - Plaine Dranse - Celestial stage.
- Tuesday 14/07: Stage 3 - Col de Chésery (to be confirmed) - Trans-frontier stage
- Wednesday 15/07: Rest day
- Thursday 16/07: Stage 4 - Portes du Soleil (to be confirmed) - Sunshine stage
- Friday 17/07: Stage 5 - Avoriaz - Tourist stage
- Saturday 18/07: Stage 6 - Super Châtel - Charming stage

**Monday 14th July
French National Holiday**

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

**From Monday 20th to Friday 24th July
Châtel Bands Camp**

A new concept in musical holidays... total immersion on planet music! Courses, workshops, open stages, concerts... and 8 music instructors! Guitar workshops are available for all levels - including beginners...

**Wednesdays 22nd and 29th July, 5th and 19th August
1861 Mountain Film Festival**

Celebrating its 9th edition this year, this is THE festival for lovers of the great outdoors whether athletic or enthusiastic! It is a celebration of mountain biking, skiing, hiking, wide open spaces, peaks and alpine landscapes. Audiences can enjoy specially selected films, each themed around their passion for these environments. Screenings are interspersed with live pop-rock music ensuring a lively atmosphere. Bar and restaurant on site: 1861 Châtel Hostel.

**From Sunday 26th to Wednesday 29th July
Return to childhood Festival - Châtel**

Four days dedicated to children, with activities and entertainment for children of all ages, creating unforgettable memories. The "Festival Pass", gives access to many of these activities which will take place on the church square and near the Lac de Vonnes.

**Sunday 9th August
Fête de la Saint Laurent**

Mass at St Laurent church followed by a procession, float parade, concert, and open-air party with dancing on the church square which gather locals and holidaymakers for unforgettable moments.

**Sunday 23rd August
La Belle Dimanche, Cowherd's festival in the Plaine Dranse pastures.**

The 48th edition of La Belle Dimanche traditional agricultural show, rooted in the traditional custom of blessing the cattle, held in the meadows of Plaine Dranse.

**From Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September
French Downhill MTB Cup**

At the Pré la Joux bike park. The bike park is already an established venue for numerous MTB downhill events.

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September
Historic Climb**

A Classic sports cars rally on the Col de Bassachaux road. The road will be closed for the procession of these historic vehicles categorised as follows: Vintage cars registered before 31st December 1985, 'Young Timer' cars registered from 1986, prestige cars, rare and collector cars and cars of historic sporting interest. Please note that cars registered before 2000 and GTs can only take part in the Sunday drive.

CHÂTEL AND TWO WHEELS



The 2027 UCI Cycling World Championships - Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc

Châtel, which was a stage stop for the Men's Tour de France in 2022 and the finishing town for the Women's Tour de France in 2025, holds both the 'Welcome Bike' and 'Tour de France-3 Ville à Velos' labels. The town will host the Gravel event of the 2027 UCI Cycling World Championships Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc, from Tuesday 24th August to Sunday 5th September 2027.

This high-profile cycling event unites the top riders of the discipline in an environment as spectacular as it is challenging. Some of the tracks created for the event will remain permanently, so that in the future, riders of all levels can ride in the tracks of champions.

Come to Châtel for the Gravel!

BIKE PARK

The Châtel Bike Park, at Pré la Joux, accessed by the Pierre Longue or Rochassons chair lifts, will burst into life from June, 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 hugely popular with 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 13th to 21st June: Saturdays and Sundays.
- From 26th June to 30th August: Every day.
- From 5th to 13th September: Saturdays and Sundays.



Enduro schools - Downhill - Châtel Bike Park - Electric MTB

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

- Skills on Wheels - +33 (0)6 34 50 01 03 - www.skillsonwheels.fr
- And for MTB and Electric MTB rental:

Pré la Joux Sports - 4172 route de Pré la Joux - +33(0)4 50 73 06 00

MULTI PASS PORTES DU SOLEIL

THE summer passport for only €4.00 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 20 pedestrian chair lifts and 800 kms of walking trails, to swimming pools and lakes, to tennis courts, squash, padel, little tourist trains, mini-golfs, cultural sites... in addition to activities offering reductions on presentation of the pass across the Portes du Soleil territory and its 12 Franco-Swiss resorts.

In CHÂTEL, the 4 ski lifts open in summer, the Forme d'O aquatic centre, the cinema, the Loy mini-golf, Châtel Indoor Kids Park are included.

The Old Customs House (revealing the history of mountain contraband in the area), 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), Châtel Accrobranche 1600, ZoéTim Kid Adventure, the elastic trampoline session, Bike Park First Wheel, Spa Oceane offer a discount on presentation of the pass.



NEW CULTURAL AND VISITOR CENTRE

The new Cultural and Visitor centre has been designed as a prominent landmark symbolising both the historical heritage and sustainable future of Châtel.

Features:

- 2,000m² of space over several floors
- Carefully considered topographic integration, designed to follow the natural slope. A terrace with panoramic views of Mont de Grange, Les Cornettes de Bise, Linga, and the Super Châtel areas.
- Harmony with local heritage, particularly St Laurent church and presbytery, extending and enhancing the existing outline of the village.
- Symbolic style: designed as a 'sculpted rock', a 'fifth face' open to the public and as a metaphor to the alpine landscapes where rock and pasture interweave.
- Natural materials: local wood (spruce, larch), stone and glass.
- Durable and ecological: Organic insulation, 100% renewable heating, integral solar panels.

This construction is a clear, strong political and tourism-related statement, combining local character, modernity, and environmental responsibility.

Functions:

- A new Tourist Office: visible, spacious, opening onto a large forecourt and the heart of the village.
- 500m² Exhibition Hall, offices and meeting rooms.
- A modifiable, multipurpose arena for up to 600 visitors: for shows, concerts and seminars.
- Technical and backstage areas, hall, cloakrooms, kitchen.
- Underground parking on two levels for approx. 50 vehicles.
- An esplanade forecourt: linked to the main street by a living bridge (mountain flowers, Christmas trees, exhibitions, activities).

The Cultural and Visitor Centre will be a shared space:

- Tourists: a contemporary welcome, unique viewpoint, digital information available 24/7.
- Professionals: an area for seminars and congresses, offering increased visibility for local businesses.
- Residents: A hall for cultural and leisure events. Facilities for community events, schools, marriages, parties...

CHÂTEL TOURISM LABELLED 'DESTINATION OF EXCELLENCE'



Atout France has officially accredited Châtel Tourism with the new National Label 'Destination d'Excellence'. This distinction, which succeeds the Quality Tourism label that Châtel Tourism has held since 2015, recognises the excellent level of organisation in Châtel.

This recompense has been awarded alongside another: the renewal of Châtel Tourism's classification as Category 1, by Prefectorial decision for the period 2026-2031. This is the highest level of classification possible in France, guaranteeing an optimum standard of customer services and activities in the resort.

SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURE, HERITAGE “FLOCON VERT”, “PAYS D’ART ET D’HISTOIRE”, “GEOPARC” LABELS

Agriculture, landscapes, traditions, heritage, hiking, know-how...

Flocon Vert

Flocon Vert is an accreditation which guarantees the sustainability credentials of mountain tourist destinations. The Mountain Riders association developed this idea to support territories in their sustainability transition and give mountain lovers a clear indication of committed tourist destinations. It is good practice to choose an accredited resort and be sure of supporting responsible tourism.

Châtel has been Flocon Vert accredited since 2015 and since the last renewal on December 7, 2020, is labelled Flocon Vert - 2 flakes. The work required to maintain this level, or even move to the next, is gradual. It requires the implication of all local services and businesses. Given its agro-pastoral history and landscape, Châtel naturally fulfills many of the criteria required.



Ville et Pays d’art et d’histoire

This label denotes areas that, conscious of the challenges involved in the appropriation of their architecture and heritage by residents, engage actively to educate, conserve and mediate to encourage the development of quality architectural and living environments.

The application of the label is managed through a partnership between the state and local authorities, formalised by an agreement renegotiable every 10 years.

The Abondance Valley was awarded the label in 2003 and it was extended to all municipalities in the Evian, Abondance Valley in August 2019.

Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark

Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark is a unified geographical area, with sites and landscapes of geological interest of international importance. They are managed globally ensuring protection, education, and sustainable development. The Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark is in Haute-Savoie, between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc. It extends over 62 municipalities and covers nearly 900 km² with over 150,000 inhabitants. A guide to the Chablais Géoparc has just been published making the information more accessible.

The Chablais obtained the Global Geopark label in 2012. It extends from the southern shores of Lake Geneva to the summits of the Portes du Soleil. In Châtel, the Col de Bassachaux is a Géosite as is the Lac des Plagnes in Abondance. The partner visitor sites are: La Vieille Douane in Châtel, La Maison du Fromage and L’Abbaye d’Abondance. The quality of the local natural and cultural heritage makes the Geopark an essential destination for visitors wishing to understand the true essence of the Chablais region.



Agriculture

Châtel has 20 working farms and approx. 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 farms and the traditional way of life. The average age of today’s farmers is between 35 and 40 yrs old.

During the ‘emmontagnée’ at the end of May/beginning of June, farmers leave the village with their Abondance cattle for the high pastures where they spend the summer, some of them move 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.

Abondance cheese - AOP since 1990 is made every day. Weighing between 6kg and 12kg, the cheeses have concave sides and are between 7cm and 8cm 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.

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



La Belle Dimanche, a country fair in the Plaine Dranse pastures

This year the 48th edition of this traditional country fair, one of the biggest in the region, will take place on Sunday 23rd August. But why « La Belle » Dimanche? Dimanche is usually a masculine noun, but in this instance, it is feminine "la" because in the traditional local dialect, Sunday is a feminine word.

For as long as anyone can remember, alpine herders from Plaine-Dranse, Combes, Betzalin and the surrounding areas gathered their cattle in this idyllic pastoral setting on the last Sunday in August. The priest came to bless the herds and herders to protect the animals from the wrath of the mountain's evil curses. The Echo Alpin, the village band, and farming families followed the cattle on foot.

The religious ceremony over, the party began! Accordion music, mountain cheese and ham, washed down with the famous coup de Marin (a small glass of chasselas white wine grown on the Marin village slopes, a few kms from Léman), were the essential ingredients of this traditional party. They danced... They sang... They laughed.

At nightfall, everyone returned home, farms for some, mountain chalets for others.

Then, with the passage of time, this wonderful tradition was forgotten.

The first reprise of « La Belle-Dimanche » was a huge success with far more participants than anticipated. Four hundred

cattle, and nearly 1000 people spent their day among cowbells, alpenhorns, yodellers and local orchestras. Livestock judges from Annecy came to judge the cattle.

Over the last few decades, interest in authenticity, craftsmanship and heritage has grown, and more space has been made to showcase traditions and to encourage conviviality and dreams... for old and young!

Every year priests from the Abondance Valley conduct an open-air mass to bless the herds, the pastures, the farmers, and festival attendees in this magnificent mountain landscape.

To promote local traditions and crafts, artisans are invited to showcase their work, (wooden roof tiles, spruce bowls, butter moulds, wooden spoons ...) and they are all happy to take time to chat and engage with visitors.

Amongst these artisans are a bell founder, an alpenhorn maker and many other surprises!

Visitors can also enjoy the Foire aux S'nailles which takes place at the same time. Local fabricators and those from neighbouring Valais in Switzerland, Aoste or Chamonix showcase their traditional instruments.

Farmers are on hand making Abondance cheese and goat and sheep milk Tomme.

As well as all the activities available for children to see with their parents, there is also a wide variety of activities especially designed for them!

And, of course, a great atmosphere is guaranteed with music provided by a variety of groups including alpenhorn players. The stars of the show are, as always, the bespectacled Abondance cattle who take part in a beauty pageant judged by a panel of specialists.

Food is available on site, with various restaurants and local groups providing a wide array food, most of which is based on Abondance cheese and local charcuterie. There is also a pic-nic area slightly above the fairground with a lovely view over proceedings.

This traditional country fair is car-free. Vehicles can be parked in a designated area at Pré-la-Joux, and the Pierre Longue detachable chairlift is free of charge, carrying attendees to the heart of the festivities. There is also a shuttle bus service. This refreshing, low emission aspect of the organisation is highly appreciated by mountain enthusiasts.

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. The 16km path along the river is regularly maintained in spring providing an agreeable environment for walkers and mountain bikers. Once completed this path will link Châtel and Chevenoz. The Châtel landscape comprises a significant number of forests and semi natural areas, 89.6% (in 2018).

In this landscape, created in 1974 on natural wetland, fed by the Vonnes stream flowing from Pas de Morgins in Switzerland, Lake Vonnes sits in a beautiful natural environment.



Hiking

Hiking is the primary summer activity. Numerous visitors wait impatiently until the snow melts to put on their walking boots and conquer the great outdoors! There are 90km of footpaths in Châtel.

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 explore the reserve unaccompanied or join a guided visit to learn more about the natural riches of this protected area.



New : Eric Dresco's book "Châtel, a story at each step", following his two-part book "Châtel, in the steps of the pioneers..."



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: The smugglers and the customs men. Amongst them "The Old Customs House is Recruiting!" with an original approach. The current Customs Man is retiring, and a replacement is required. Participants agree to accept the challenge of trying various job-specific activities. Or try the "Secret operations of La Vieille Douane" challenge in which participants put themselves in the shoes of a customs officer or smuggler and test their reactions in different situations.



SPECIAL OFFERS

Savoya Lodges

Savoya Lodges consists of four stand-alone chalets: Alpina (21 guests), Explora and Rustica (each for 7 guests), and Utopia (5 guests).

They follow eco-friendly practices and encourage slow tourism, aiming to create memorable experiences for guests. Owners collaborate with local partners for activities, and a wellness programme is planned for this summer.

Prices:

- Small chalets (5 or 7 people)
- Weekly July/August: between €980 and €1,200 depending on the chalet
- Weekday night: €200
- Weekend (night): €300
- Alpina Chalet (20 people, average price)
- Weekly July: €3,200
- Weekly August: €4,200
- Weekday night: €800
- Weekend (night): €1,200

Information: www.savoya-lodges.com

All-inclusive MTB Break

15% discount on Portes du Soleil MTB passes

Benefit from 15% discount when you book your passes at the time of reservation or via your online account up to 15 days before arrival.

Rider Pack Offer: Accommodation + MTB pass from €249 per person*

* 7 nights accommodation in an apartment + 6-day Portes du Soleil pass. Example prices per person/per week based on 4 people sharing a studio rented from a private landlord.

The Portes du Soleil pass is valid for all disciplines; Cross country, endurance, downhill, E-bike... It also gives access to the entire Portes du Soleil MTB domaine: 600km of marked trails, 5 bike parks, 50 downhill runs, 25 lifts adapted for bikes!

Information and reservations: www.chatelreservation.com



Multi Pass break
7 nights' accommodation + 6-day
Portes du Soleil Multi Pass
In an apartment: from €135/adult*
Unlimited access to a mountain of activities
 (see details page 8)

*Prices valid from 04th July to 1st August 2026 and from 22nd - 29th August 2026, based on 4 people sharing a studio apartment rented from a private landlord.

Information: www.chatelreservation.com



From Saturday 11th July to Saturday 18th July

Swiss Orienteering Week - SOW 2026

Week-long orienteering event between Morgins and Châtel. Full details on page 4.

The French/Swiss border becomes blurred as the week progresses, with orienteering routes designed to offer participants the opportunity to explore the unique landscapes and remarkable local sites.

To make the most of this dynamic week...

Information and reservations: www.chatelreservation.com

CHÂTEL STATISTICS

1,168 permanent residents, **24,578** visitors beds, **17** hotels (**1****, 7****, 9****),
3 Holiday apartment complexes****, **2** Holiday apartment complexes***,
1 Holiday apartment complex with hotel services***, **7** Hotels for groups, holiday centres,
1 winter/summer camping and caravanning site****, **Additional accommodation: 1** Gîte***,
2 Bed and Breakfasts, **1** Youth hostel, **1** Village Vacances**, **39** restaurants (including hotel restaurants),
A wide variety of shops.



CHÂTEL
Portes du Soleil

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