

# LE PAYS DE GEX

## FOR THE PRESS

**2022-2023 Edition**

by the Pays de Gex Tourist Office and  
its Monts Jura resort

- ✓ Gessian skiing basics
- ✓ The best winter experiences
- ✓ The Gessian language
- ✓ Gessian gastronomy
- ✓ The stories you need to know
- ✓ The addresses of every good Gessian



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# Introduction

There are many ways to experience the Pays de Gex, so this guide is dedicated to all of them. The information provided here is as comprehensive as possible, so you can discover the destination, no matter how familiar you are with it.

The strength of Pays de Gex is its diversity: sport and gastronomy, town and country, plain and mountain, nature and culture, solo or family vacations... There is something for everyone. We've divided this guide into themes to make learning all about this destination easier.

The Monts Jura will be the focus of this first edition devoted to the winter season: a resort offering a variety of winter activities. If there is one thing to remember, it would of course be our panoramic views of the Jura, Lake Geneva and the Alps... There is no better view in Europe than ours of the Mont Blanc!

Aside from quality ski areas, the Pays de Gex also offers an array of activities for all ages, gourmet food, and an intriguing history and heritage. You will know everything you need to know after reading this!

We hope these few lines will pique your interest in exploring this region for yourself. This press kit is far from exhaustive, so please feel free to contact us for a deeper dive!

Wishing you a pleasant trip,  
The Pays de Gex - Monts Jura Tourist Office

Please note that this guide contains some information pictograms for ease of reading:



An unusual or unknown fact about the territory that will impress your readership.



Specific details on the territory to understand everything.



Here are the most important points to know about the destination.

*Everything you've always wanted to know (but were afraid to ask!)*

# Locating the Pays de Gex

France's Pays de Gex lies south of the **Jura Mountains**, just 1 hour 30 minutes away from Lyon. Its Monts Jura mountain resort is the closest to Geneva: it is both easy to reach and affordable!

With its proximity to the Greater **Geneva** area and its integration into the **Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park**, the territory is a wealth of landscapes, local products, and discoveries.

Pays de Gex offers several skiable areas in the mountains as well as cultural activities and wellness programs in the plains, making it a unique region in France. The authentic villages at the foot of the slopes and activities for all ages and levels make it the perfect place to recharge your batteries with your family.

Despite its popularity, the region is still a hidden gem, free of crowded slopes and long queues.

## Key fact

Pays de Gex and Monts Jura resort are often placed in the Jura by mistake. This happens all the time! The territory is in the Ain (in Auvergne Rhône Alpes), even if it has the highest peaks of the Jura massif: the Crêt de la Neige (1720 m) and le Reculet (1719 m)!



However, the Pays de Gex remains easily accessible!

There are two TGV stations (Geneva Cornavin and Bellegarde-sur-Valserine) and an **international airport** (Geneva). It takes **one hour from London to get to the destination!**

## Getting here

### by plane

Via Geneva International Airport  
Between 1h and 1h30 from London, Amsterdam and Brussels.

Direct flights in 1h15 from Nantes, Lille, Brest and Caen.

### by train

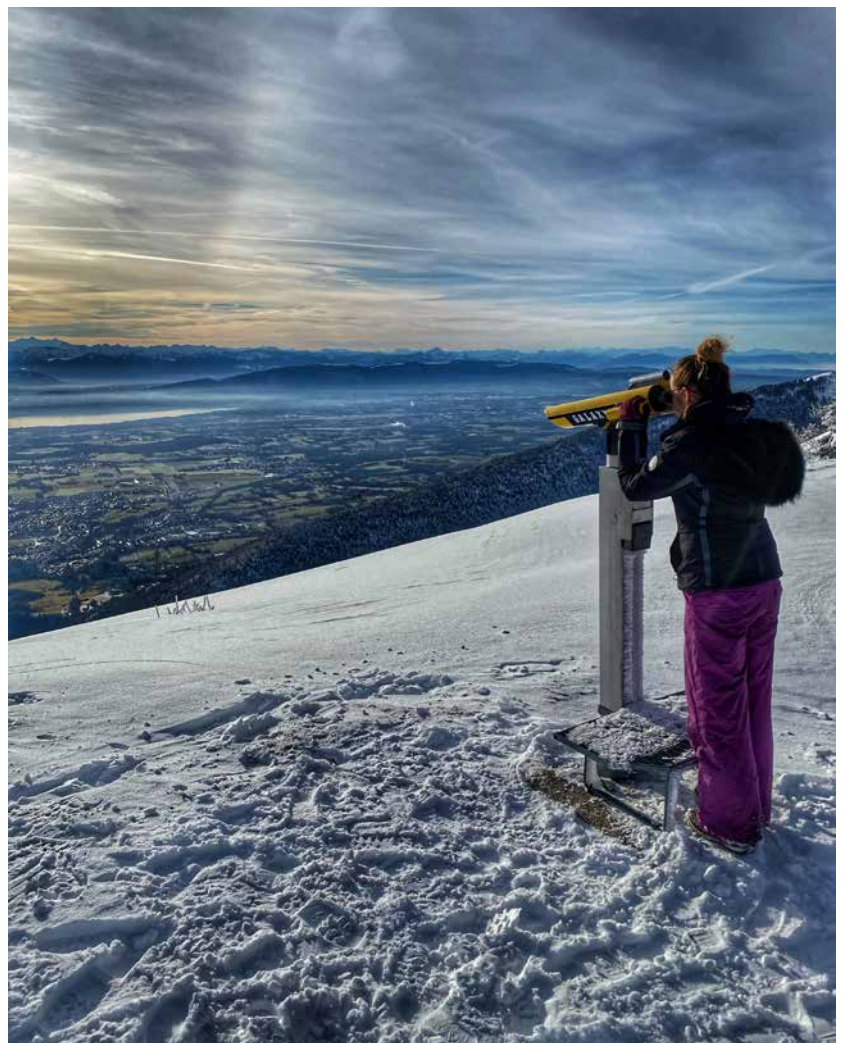
in less than 3 hours

2 direct TGV lines:

- Paris - Bellegarde sur Valserine (Valserhône)
- Paris - Geneva (Cornavin)

### by road

1h30 from Lyon, 20 minutes from Geneva  
Highways from France (A40, A39, A41) or Switzerland (A1)



## Key facts



**4** ski areas including 1 Nordic area  
**23** ski lifts  
 Slopes from 900 to 1680 meters



**Alpine skiing :**  
 41 km et 40 pistes de ski alpin

**Nordic skiing:**  
 130 km and 14 Nordic ski trails



**20** minutes from Geneva  
**27** towns and villages across 404,9 km



**1** Regional Natural Park  
**1 National Nature Reserve**  
 The 1st wild river (the Valserine))



**1** National Monument (Voltaire's castle)  
**1 Michelin**-starred chef (Julien Thomasson)  
**1 'Relais & Châteaux'** (Jiva Hill Resort\*\*\*\*\*)



**1 Green resort** (station verte) This certification signifies that the village of Lélex is authentic and respectful of its surroundings, is committed to local tourism and develops sustainable initiatives..



**1 Nordic France certification** : La Vattay ski area, classified as a "site of excellence" and renowned worldwide for the quality and variety of its slopes.

### Key fact



**December 17, 2022 - March 26, 2023: opening dates of the resort**



# Skiing like a real Gessian

## The Monts Jura ski areas

Whether you're looking for family skiing or performance skiing, there's a resort for you! Located in the Monts Jura resort are four areas with various levels of difficulty, sledging slopes and kindergartens for children from 3 to 6 years old.

[paysdegex-montsjura.com/en-hiver-ski-neige-fun/plan-des-pistes](https://paysdegex-montsjura.com/en-hiver-ski-neige-fun/plan-des-pistes)

### MIJOUX-LA FAUCILLE : DISCOVERY SKIING

The slopes in Mijoux-La Faucille are easily identifiable, making the ski area easy to navigate for beginners, but where more experienced skiers will not be bored. The perfect way to learn the basics and ski with confidence!

From the Col de la Faucille (1323 m), skiers can descend to Mijoux (1000 m) or reach the Petit Mont Rond at 1540 m.

With 550 meters of elevation difference and surrounded by a magnificent landscape, this is the perfect way to enjoy some great skiing

**Key fact**

Mijoux offers cross-country ski trails for learning to ski and exploring the surrounding area.

**Technical info**

*Mijoux-La Faucille is:*

1 telecombi (chair & gondola)	2 green runs
1 chairlift	6 blue runs
4 Poma lifts	3 red runs
	1 black run



### MENTHIÈRES : FAMILY SKIING

At the foot of the Grand Crêt d'Eau massif, Menthières is a genuine ski area on a human scale.

From Menthières, at 1070 m, it is possible to go up to 1535 m to the Crêt des Frasses.

**Key fact**

The ski area is equipped with a magic carpet, perfect for the first glides: going up the slope while keeping your energy, the descent is done serenely with skis or with a sled.

**Technical info**

*Menthières is:*

1 chairlift	1 green run
3 Poma lifts	2 blue runs
1 magic carpet	3 red runs
	1 black run



## LÉLEX - CROZET : THE GREATEST DIFFERENCES IN ELEVATION

Lélex-Crozet is the main site of the Monts Jura dedicated to big-skiing and to ski enthusiasts who love nature and performance. Between the fir trees lie the longest slopes and the greatest altitude difference of the Jura massif (900-1680 m).

To reach the summit, two gondolas :

- the Catheline, in the center of Lélex
- the Fierney in Crozet

### Technical info



Lélex-Crozet is:

2 gondola lift	
1 télécombi (chair & gondola)	7 green runs
1 tow rope	6 blue runs
1 chairlift	6 red runs
5 Poma	2 black runs

Its summit, at 1680 meters, provides a magnificent view of the Mont Blanc massif and the Alps. The Jura's highest point, the Crêt de la Neige (1723 m), is not far from there...

### Key fact

The kindergarten offers a safe environment for the little ones, as well as one of the largest and oldest Piou-Piou clubs in France.





## LA VATTAY : NORDIC SKI

As one of the most important Nordic centers in France, La Vattay is an internationally renowned Nordic center par excellence.

With 142 km of trails, the area is exclusively devoted to Nordic skiing. Located along the Valserine river, it stretches from the Plateau de la Vattay to the forests of the canton of Vaud (Switzerland).

There are double tracks on the slopes to accommodate skiers of all skill levels.

### Key fact

There are two snowshoe trails lasting one hour 15 minutes to three hours ('L'Ecureuil', 'La Chouette', and 'La Gelinotte') that lead to La Grande Grand (at over 1400 meters), with a 360° view on the Haut-Jura, the Dôle, and the Alps.

A groomed trail connecting La Vattay and La Valserine in Mijoux provides the opportunity to experience downhill skiing and return to the village.



© Ben Becker

### Technical info

Cross-country skiing is an art.  
There is classic and skating

*Traced lines (classic cross-country skiing): the skier advances by sliding first one ski, then the other. For beginners, this is an easier method.*

*Skating (with skating steps): similar to roller skating or ice skating. The knee bend, the pole plant... Practicing gestures to become the perfect skater!*

*The Nordic Ski School of La Vattay is the place to learn on the spot. Alain Girod, the creator of La Vattay's Nordic center in 1982, or Laurent and Jean-Marie Thévenard, brothers of Xavier, the ultra-trail specialist, are among the teachers.*

Head to the La Vattay Sports store to get your boots, skis and poles.

Note that for boots, it is recommended to wear one size larger than your usual size.

[esi-lavattay.com](http://esi-lavattay.com)



Cross-country skiers never stop! As soon as the winter season is over, we put away our skis and switch to roller skis! Unlike skiing on snow, roller skiing is done on concrete, making it both a great cardio and technique workout. Where is the best place to practice? The wide lakefront of Divonne is entirely pedestrian. Where to get them? Chézery-Forens is where Diptal manufactures its high-quality and 100% French ski wheels.



## Noteworthy features

### The view!

Every ski area offers a breathtaking view of Mont Blanc, the height of luxury! No matter what the landscape is, a sea of clouds or a view of the Geneva basin and lake are always different, begging to be admired again and again.

### Many roads lead to Monts Jura!

There are the traditional winding mountain roads (such as the mythical route de la Faucille) as well as a more direct route. Taking the Fierney cable car from Crozet will do the trick. It is located in the plains, 20 minutes from Geneva, allowing us to reach 1300 meters of altitude without driving. That's very practical!

### Monts Jura Handisport :

Volunteers provide specific and adapted equipment so that handiskiers can practice their favorite winter sports. Skiing for all !  
[monts-jura-handisports.fr](http://monts-jura-handisports.fr)



# Gessian experiences in the mountain

## Snowshoeing

The area offers snowshoeing trails for all skill levels.

© Nicolas Gascard



Explore the itineraries online:

[paysdegex-montsjura.com/en-hiver-ski-neige-fun/itineraires-raquettes](https://paysdegex-montsjura.com/en-hiver-ski-neige-fun/itineraires-raquettes)

### Bleu de Gex cheese hike

Starting from Mijoux, the hike reaches Lajoux via an old mountain pasture lodge that used to produce Bleu de Gex. The hike includes a visit to an organic farm, producer of Bleu de Gex milk and a tasting.

Prices: adult: 15 € / child (6 to 15 years): 10 € / family (2 adults, 2 children): 45 €.

### Night snowshoeing & fondue

A snowshoe outing at nightfall, lit by a headlamp. In a forest chalet lit by candlelight and heated by a wood stove, guests are rewarded with a fondue tasting...

### Snowshoe trek in the middle of nature with fondue:

It's a hike like no other! A mountain guide will meet you in the morning. The reward of a demanding morning's walk is a tasty home-made fondue.

To enjoy it, however, you must first light the fire!

Bookings on [paysdegex-montsjura.com](https://paysdegex-montsjura.com)

## Dogsledding

© Up Drone



Great North adventure guaranteed!

Meet Gérard, the musher of QimmiQ Adventure, before embarking on a ride tailored to your ability.

We offer initiations for children as young as 2 years old.

Those over 14 can learn how to drive a sled!

Duration: 45 or 75 min.

Price: From 45 €.

### Special feature: Dog care course

An unforgettable experience by night with more than 40 dogs. The pack will be waiting for you to feed it!

From 5 years old.

Headlamps available.

[qimmiqaventure.com](https://qimmiqaventure.com)



## Horse drawn sleds

© Nicolas Guitton



With a draft horse from the Comtois region, ride in a wild and authentic setting just like in former times!

With Nicolas Guitton, from the Ferme Equitable des Monts Jura, near Mijoux, we embark on this adventure. Nicolas, mountain guide and breeder of Comtois draught horses, explains how he runs his farm and his work. The breeder respects the welfare of the animals while preserving traditional knowledge.

Onboard an old military sledge from 1942, pulled by Elyptik or Gaillard, Comtois draught horses, you will learn all about the Valserine valley's history. It is a smooth ride that is suitable for all ages.

*Ferme Equitable des Monts Jura, Lajoux.  
 Duration: 1 hour to 45 minutes on average. Price: 40 € per person.  
 From 2 years old.*

Bookings on [paysdegex-montsjura.com](http://paysdegex-montsjura.com)

## Paragliding

In a dreamy winter setting above the snow, experience Mont Blanc in all its splendor...  
 A smooth flight!

A smooth flight!  
 Flight duration depends on weather conditions (15 minutes on average).  
 Prices: adult: 115 € adult / child: 80 €.  
 From 5 years old and 20 kg.

[parapentepaysdegex.fr](http://parapentepaysdegex.fr)

**Key fact**  **NEW THIS WINTER:**



© Romain Gabily

## The Nordic Festival of Ain 2023

© Nicolas Gascard



The International Snow and Nordic Ski Promotion Day will be hosted in Mijoux in 2023. See you January 22nd!

On the agenda:

- Introduction to Nordic activities with the guidance of professionals
- The basics of cross-country skiing (classic and skating)
- Handiskiing
- Dogsledding
- Discovery of laser biathlon
- Snowshoeing and Nordic walking
- Ski touring
- Gourmet activities and crafts market
- Environmental awareness

January Sunday 22, 2023 in Mijoux  
[espacenordiquejurassien.com](http://espacenordiquejurassien.com)







# Gessian experiences in the plains

## Château de Voltaire

© Sophie Balaska



The Château de Voltaire is the iconic venue of the Pays de Gex. And quite rightly so! The Château is part of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN) and has a rich cultural agenda (permanent and temporary exhibitions, concerts, conferences, workshops for children, etc.).

Voltaire's home offers a glimpse into the world of the famous "innkeeper of Europe". He railed against society's injustices and defended those suffering from religious and political intolerance. His literary work continued intensifying and he published, among others, the Philosophical Dictionary, the Treaty on Tolerance, and several tragedies. Visitors can explore the 7-hectare wooded park which faces Mont Blanc.

As Voltaire used to say: "It is important to cultivate your own garden!"

Ferney-Voltaire

Open every day (10am-6pm) except on 25/12 and 01/01.

Full price: 8 € | Reduced: 6.50 € | Free visit for under 18s and under 25s who are EU citizens.

[www.chateau-ferney-voltaire.fr](http://www.chateau-ferney-voltaire.fr)



François-Marie Arouet, the famous philosopher known as Voltaire, spent the last 20 years of his life in Ferney. From 1758, he drastically transformed the area: paved streets, building of houses and a theatre... This is why the town is now called Ferney-Voltaire!

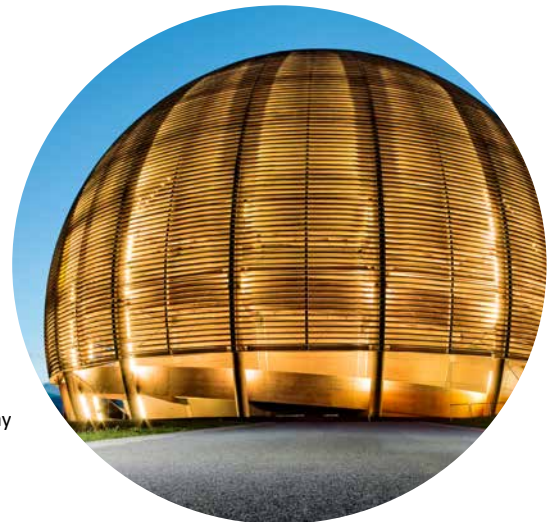
## CERN

The CERN, located on the French-Swiss border, aims to discover the laws and building blocks of the universe, as well as fundamental physics in general. In order to make all its discoveries public, the CERN arranges free exhibitions.

Work is underway to create a real visitor's area, scheduled for the summer of 2023. Free guided tours will be maintained throughout the construction.

CERN visit free of charge. Free 1-hour guided tour. Advance booking required on site. Open every day except Sunday.

[visit.cern](http://visit.cern)



© CERN 2010-2022



The World Wide Web was created at the CERN! British researcher Tim Berners-Lee invented the web in 1989. The World Wide Web was originally designed so that scientists working in institutes around the world could exchange information instantly.

## Geneva

A stroll along Lake Geneva, discovery of the Jet d'Eau, the Old Town, the Botanical Garden, museums... The perfect way to spend a day !

# Eating Gessian: local products

Mountains make you hungry! Like any good Gessian, you've got an appetite. The Gessian eats locally and above all has no limits to their consumption of cheese...

## Le Bleu de Gex

THE local product par excellence!

Bleu de Gex **PDO** is a blue-veined cheese, soft and light. Famous for being Charles V's favourite cheese, it is the most typical local product of the region. Bleu de Gex is eaten by itself as part of a cheese platter or in raclette. There is also the Gexiflette (local tartiflette!). But Bleu de Gex is full of surprises: it can also be enjoyed as a dessert!

### Technical info

It is the first cheese made from raw cow's milk to benefit in 1977 from an AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée) and, since 2008, it has also been a PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) recognised by Europe. It is made from the milk of cows of the Montbéliarde or Simmental breeds, fed in the traditional way (fresh grass in summer and hay and cereals in winter with a minimum of one hectare of grass per cow). Characteristics: whole cheese, 31cm to 35cm diameter. Weight of 6 to 9 kg. The signature "GEX" is obligatory and is moulded into the rind on one side during production.



There is a **Brotherhood** (la confrérie) of Bleu de Gex Lovers. Its purpose is to promote the customs and traditions of Bleu de Gex. The Confrérie's costume, in the colours of Bleu de Gex, has a specific element: its bell, noisy but so characteristic of the mountain pastures of the Haut-Jura...

[bleu-gex.mon-paysdegex.fr/wp\\_cabg](http://bleu-gex.mon-paysdegex.fr/wp_cabg)

### Key fact

The Fromagerie de l'Abbaye in Chézery-Forens is the best place to learn all the secrets of Bleu de Gex production. It is one of the last four cheese dairies to make Bleu de Gex and the **last in the Ain department**. The cheese dairy opens its doors in the morning to let you watch the production process and buy cheese on the spot.

[fromagerie-abbaye.fr](http://fromagerie-abbaye.fr)





## The best Gessian beverages to try

The Pays de Gex has its own local **breweries** (artisanal organic beers) including the Brasserie Gessienne in Ornex, the Brasserie de Grilly and Ô Brasseur in Saint-Genis-Pouilly. The Biere Yourself brewery in Ferney-Voltaire offers tastings in small groups every Thursday and, above all, brewing workshops for amateurs.

La Distillerie Gessienne is a new small company offering artisanal **liqueurs** produced with 100% organic plants or fruits: genepi, thyme, star anise, lemon of Menton, mint, hyssop, mandarin, verbena, raspberry, fir tree....

[distillerie-gessienne.fr](http://distillerie-gessienne.fr)

As for the **wine**, it's easy to find Savagnin, the characteristic yellow wine of the Jura, at dinner. For a typically Gessian wine, you should visit the Domaine de Mucelle located in Challex, the last wine-producing village in the Pays de Gex. The 8-hectare estate overlooks the Rhône and the canton of Geneva, facing the Alps. Gamay, Pinot Noir, Chasselas, Roussette... A range of certified organic wines to be tasted on the spot (with moderation!).

[domainedemucelle.fr](http://domainedemucelle.fr)

### Technical info



Gamaret: a surprising grape variety!

Gamaret is an artificial cross between a Gamay and a Reichensteiner and was developed in 1970 at the Agroscope Research Centre in Pully, Switzerland, with the aim of creating a grape variety like Gamay, but more resistant and richer in colour. This variety is expanding quickly in the Lake Geneva area and is produced in France under the IGP Coteaux de l'Ain.

Gamaret has a very dark colour. The palate is supple with aromas of violet and blueberry.

## Adding a sweet touch: the papette

The Gex region has its own sweet speciality: a brioche baked with a pastry cream called 'papette'. Originally, papette was the dessert of dances and village festivals. Today it can be found in some of the bakeries of the Pays de Gex.

### Key fact



The term 'papette' comes from the dialect of Burgundy and the French-speaking part of Switzerland and refers to a thick porridge or soup. Like the chocolatine/ chocolate bread debate, papette is called 'tarte à la gomme' in the Bugey, 'papet jurassienne' in the Haut-Jura and 'salted with sugar' in the canton of Vaud.



### Technical info



Pays de Gex is home to one of the few aquaponics farms in France! By combining aquaculture and hydroponics, aquaponics is an integrated agricultural practice that allows the production of quality food using natural means. Through a recirculating system, aquaponics combines fish farming and vegetable growing. The plants benefit from the nutrient-rich water from the fish farm, which is naturally purified by following the „nitrogen cycle“: bacteria transform the fish excrement into nutrients that can be assimilated by the plants. Trout, salads, aromatic plants... everything is sold directly on the spot.

[lafermeaquaponique.com](http://lafermeaquaponique.com)



# Speaking Gessian: learning the dialect!

To look like a real Gessian, you need to understand his language. Here are some basics...

- **Don't confuse Gessian / Gexois:** The inhabitants of Pays de Gex are called Gessiens. The historical capital of the Pays de Gex is Gex and its inhabitants are called Gexois.

A Gexois is necessarily Gessian but a Gessian is not necessarily Gexois!

- **A fruitière has nothing to do with an orchard:** It is a traditional mountain cheese dairy: a place where farmers pool the fruits of their labour to make cheese. Hence its name! The first fruitières were created in the Jura to store milk in a cooperative manner and to produce mainly Bleu de Gex and Comté. Monts Jura is the cradle of the fruitières! In the 1920s, they were present in almost all the villages of the Pays de Gex.

- **Tavillons:** Small wooden planks made of spruce, 40 to 45 cm long and 2 cm thick, they are used to cover the roofs but also the south-western facades to protect Jura houses and farms against bad weather and strong winds. It is a typical Jura decoration that became widespread in the 17th century and can be found in Lélex and Mijoux, near to the Jura. There is no need for paint or varnish: the dried and untreated wood allows the façade to be preserved for at least a century while ensuring good insulation against cold and humidity!



## Technical info



Timber is needed, especially spruce, the king of forests. The trees are preferably at least 150 years old, grown on a south-western slope, with branches at least 8 m above the ground and a trunk with a diameter of 45 to 60 cm. Lastly, between 110 and 115 coppices are needed per square metre! All timber production is sustainable utilizing renewable forestry techniques.

- **Mijoux :** The village of Mijoux is aptly named: the word is composed of the adjective mi, "which is halfway through, in the middle of", and Joux, which means "mountain forest". In other words, a village in the middle of a pine forest! Its inhabitants are called the Mijolands.



In Mijoux, there is a le Pont de Charlemagne (bridge) which crosses the Valserine river, it is the natural boundary between the departments of Jura and Ain. The bridge is steeped in history and two Ain/Jura milestones can be seen on it.

- **Crozet :** You may know this small flat and square pasta from Savoie. Here, Crozet refers to a town in the Pays de Gex with access to the Monts Jura resort via the Fierney cable car. The word Crozet, comes from the old French cruets, means a hollow or concave place or a hollow of water where animals drink.



- **Divonne :** The town and spa of Divonne-les-Bains owes its name to the springs of the Divonne. Divona, a Gallic divinity, is the name of a **sacred spring**. The water from the Divonne supplied the Swiss town of Nyon for several centuries. When crossing the border, the river changes its name to La Versoix.

# Acting Gessian: nature and traditions

## The National Nature Reserve of the Haute Chaîne du Jura

At the heart of the Monts Jura resort is the Nature Reserve, which aims to preserve natural environments that are ecologically representative and of high heritage value. The Haute Chaîne du Jura is a genuine emblematic mountain and most of its territory has been classified as a National Nature Reserve (RNN) since 1993.

### Key fact

With almost **11,000** hectares, it is among the largest RNNs in mainland France. It is the **4th largest** in terms of surface area and has 1,466 plants and 205 vertebrate species. The Reserve protects species, in particular the Western Capercaillie, the famous and highly endangered capercaillie. But it is also protecting other emblematic species, such as the Hazel Grouse, the Northern Lynx, the Golden Eagle, the Three-toed Woodpecker and the European Owl. This is why regulations have been put in place in certain areas to ensure the protection of the species (dogs, camping and gatherings prohibited, limited motor vehicle activity, etc.).

To find out more, visit the permanent exhibition at the Maison de la **Réserve Naturelle**: free access, it highlights the riches of the RNN of the Haute Chaîne du Jura, while explaining its regulations.

[rnn-hautechainedujura.fr](http://rnn-hautechainedujura.fr)



© Nicolas Gascard

## The Valserine, the first wild river in France

A tributary of the Rhône, the exceptional Valserine river begins in the nature reserve and flows into Bellegarde-sur-Valserine. Nearly 160 protected species such as the yellow-bellied sounder live along its 47.6 km course through the Monts Jura resort. The river is one of the few in France to have been barely impacted by human activities.

### Technical info

Because of its richness and preservation, the Valserine quickly became a pilot catchment area for the “Wild Rivers” project, an Afnor label aimed at enhancing and protecting rivers. It was the first to receive this label, in 2014. Since then, several awareness-raising actions have been set up. The Valserine forms amazing places to visit: it digs deep gorges in the limestone creating impressive natural sites (Devil’s Bridge, Stone Bridge, Giant’s Potholes, Valserine losses, etc.).



## Museum of stones and lapidary

© OT Pays de Gex Monts Jura



Maison Trabbia Vuillermoz in Mijoux, one of the **last stone cutters** in the Pays de Gex, offers a journey back in time through its collection of fine stones, rough as well as cut. It provides an opportunity to view real treasures from around the globe. Through various period tools, visitors can learn more about the trade of gemstone cutters. Are there any creations that have captured your heart? Not to worry, on the ground floor, there is a **jeweller's shop** available for you to bring home a little gift for yourself or a loved one.

Free access.

Tip: for groups of 15 people or more, a guided tour is available on request.

[vuillermoz.fr](http://vuillermoz.fr)

## An environmentally conscious soap factory in the mountains

© OT Pays de Gex Monts Jura



The Ferrone Soapery, nestled at the foot of the mountains in the Valserine Valley, creates handcrafted soaps using the “cold saponification” process and natural, organically grown ingredients. The soaps are created from **home-made recipes**, validated by a medical doctor. Everything is designed to minimise the environmental impact, from their manufacture to their use and packaging. Visits, by reservation, are available to discover the manufacturing process. The shop offers a sensory tour of the essential oils used in the production process.

[savonnerieferrone.bio](http://savonnerieferrone.bio)

## Gessian eco-responsible wooden skis

© AT-SKIS



**AT-SKIS** creates **unique pieces, made in France**. During forest management work or at the end of its life, ash cores from the Jura mountains are cut to make their skis. The skis of Arnaud Trentesaux are entirely handcrafted. Through the different manufacturing processes, AT-SKIS takes an eco-responsible approach by minimizing synthetic materials and being as local as possible throughout the manufacturing process.

These skis provide incomparable sensations due to their unique design. So get on your skis!

[atskis.fr](http://atskis.fr)



# Thinking Gessian: Stories for your evening entertainment



Skiing has been an innate way of getting around in the Nordic countries since the dawn of time.

In fact, prehistoric hunters used to go out to hunt their game with 4.5-metre long boards and an oar stick!

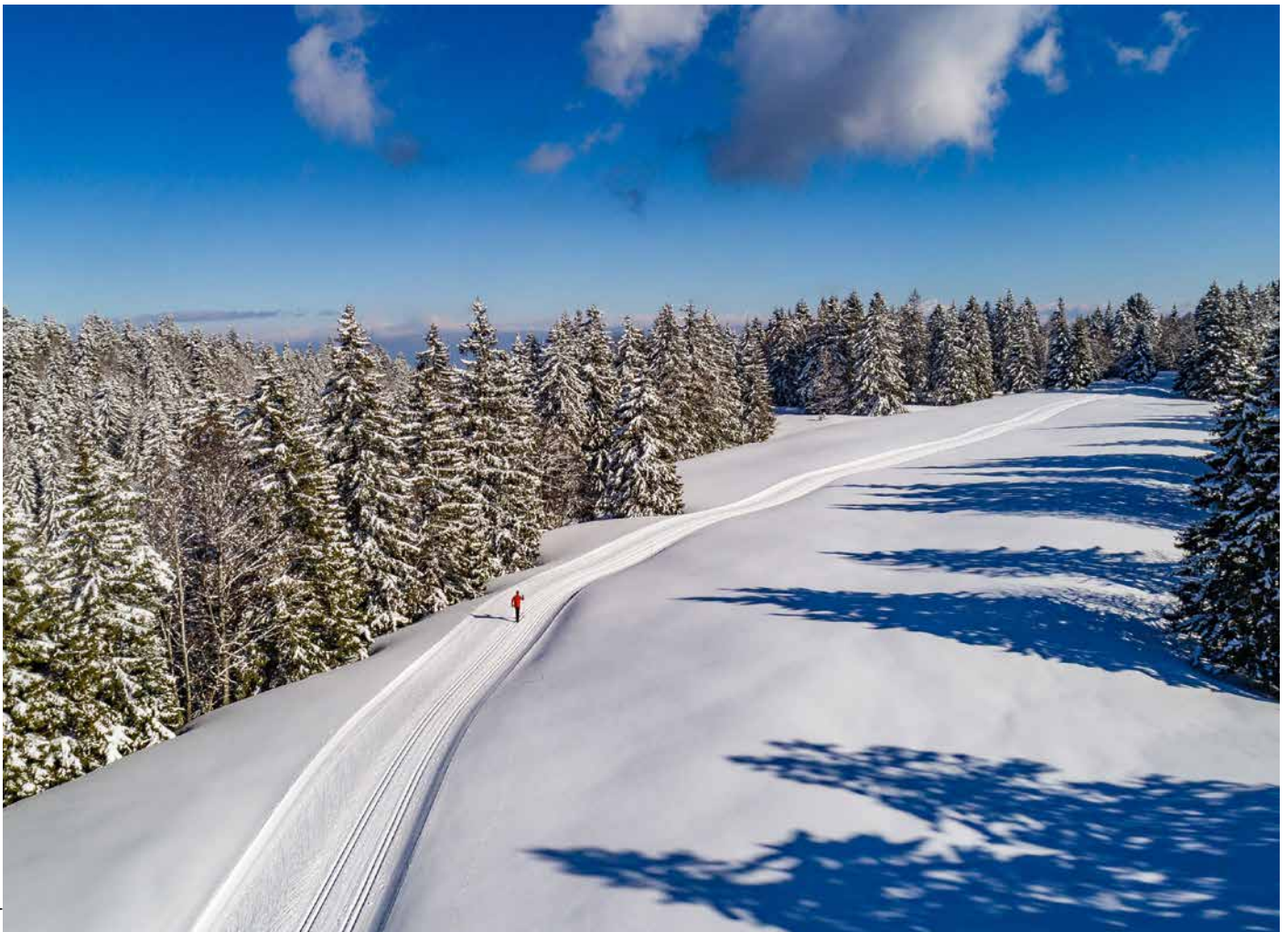
- The oldest skis, found in Scandinavia, date back to 6,500 to 5,000 BC.
- Rock paintings depicting hunters on skis have been found in the far north and are believed to date back to 10 000 BC.

## La Vattay: 1st resort in France to groom its runs for skating

In 1978, Alain Girod, an instructor at the La Faucille ski school, used an old snow scooter he had built to make tracks at La Faucille and then at La Vattay.

Alain Girod started the Nordic ski area of La Vattay a few years later, in 1982. During the same year, the first snow groomer was purchased, allowing slopes to be laid out. Skiers flocked to the resort in significant numbers, and the ski area quickly became a success.

In 1986, La Vattay was the first resort in France to groom its slopes for the new “skating” trend. All the runs were widened to 8 metres for double width. The development of the “skating” style of cross-country skiing gave the sport a new dimension over time..





## A tribute to Olympic champion Edgar Grospron

© OT Pays de Gex Monts Jura



The Jura Mountains are at the heart of Edgar Grospron's roots, particularly in Lélex, where his family is based. He won the 1992 Olympics in Albertville and has won multiple world championships in freestyle skiing.

Throughout his childhood, the daredevil sportsman honed his technique and his particular style on the steep and bumpy slopes of the Monts Jura resort.

On the Crozet-Lélex ski area, a black run named "Edgar's run" pays tribute to the native son.

## The secret of Bleu de Gex in Chézery-Forens

The Bleu de Gex cheese recipe was kept secret by an abbey in Chézery. It was 1467, and a monk from the abbey was heading for Saint-Claude when he was caught in a storm. Exhausted and surrounded by wolves, the monk no longer believes he can survive... Until a mountain man comes to his rescue. When the monk awoke in the farmer's cottage in the Hautes-Combes (Jura), he realized his savior's poverty..

As a token of gratitude, he entrusted him with the secret of making the abbey's cheese. This man will produce this cheese that will be known throughout the mountain. Discover the full story in the gallery of the Fromagerie de l'Abbaye in Chézery-Forens !



© OT Pays de Gex Monts Jura

## Monts Jura resort's legend of snow eggs

Snow eggs, a sweetened egg white dessert very popular in the region, have a very unique origin...

In 1314, Guillaume de Joinville was the lord of Gex on which the village of Mijoux depended. They were bound by an odd custom: on Easter Monday, they would offer the lord of Gex a pair of white oxen or a large dish of snow. Due to an early spring and high oxen prices, the inhabitants were unable to make the obligatory offering in 1314.

Innkeeper Dame Pernette found a solution: when the Sire de Gex arrived, she offered him a plate of snow eggs. Unfortunately, the dogs licked the snow dish with delight, causing the Lord of Gex to become angry! Fortunately, Dame Pernette was able to quickly make a replacement dish and Guillaume de Joinville is enamored with this new culinary discovery. He forgives the deception and orders Dame Pernette to teach his cook how to make snow eggs!

Read more about the story [here](#).

## A famous saying

*If the Gentian is high, the snow will come in quantity'* said our elders. The Gentians are hardy perennials that can predict the amount of snow to come. It has been used for years as a natural barometer!



# The addresses of every good Gessian

## To sleep

### Chalet atmosphere:

Les chalets du camping\*\*\*le Valserine

Located in the heart of the mountains, on the banks of the Valserine river, the chalets are open in February. Sleeps up to 8 people.  
[camping-chezery.fr](http://camping-chezery.fr)

### Relais&Château:

Le Jiva Hill Resort\*\*\*\*\*

In this elegant and discreet 5\* Relais & Châteaux, a contemporary vision of luxury is expressed in an exotic and unique environment. The magnificent resort offers two restaurants, four meeting rooms, a 9-hole golf course 18- tee boxset (open in winter), a spa, a movie theater, a game room, and a heliport. A change of scenery is guaranteed with everything gathered together to create a unique experience and escape the daily stresses!

[jivahill.com](http://jivahill.com)

### Hotel with view:

Le Bois Joly

Three-star family hotel & restaurant with modern Savoyard style rooms.

[boisjoly.com](http://boisjoly.com)

### Guesthouse in the mountains:

La Michaille

It is a family-run guest house in Mijoux where everything is homemade. There are also dormitories and gite accommodations available, as well as a hair salon!

[lamichaille.com](http://lamichaille.com)

All the addresses can be found on [www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/hebergement](http://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/hebergement)



## To eat

### Chalet atmosphere:

-Le Refuge de Florimont

Authentic mountain restaurant, where you can taste blue cheese fondue, gexiflette, potences, pierrades, mountain burgers, with an incredible view of the Pays de Gex and Mont Blanc.

[refugedufleurimont.fr](http://refugedufleurimont.fr)

-Restaurant des Bergers

Whether in Ferney-Voltaire or Grilly, the Michelin cheese dairy products are used in this authentic restaurant. There are several menus at various prices that feature homemade food, as well as an abundant brunch.

[restaurantdesbergers.fr](http://restaurantdesbergers.fr)

### Michelin starred restaurant:

La Mainaz

Located at an altitude of 1250 m, 35 minutes from Geneva and close to the slopes, La Mainaz is a timeless refuge. Chef Julien Thomasson offers an elegant cuisine based on local and seasonal ingredients.

[la-mainaz.com](http://la-mainaz.com)

### On the slopes:

Le Yéti

The Yéti is accessible by the Fierney cable car in Crozet and has a magnificent view of the Pays de Gex. There is a large fireplace that provides a warm atmosphere for eating local meat dishes or trying the famous amber beer fondue!

### With homemade local products:

Au bon saucisson

It is a traditional family-run establishment that is rare to find in France today. You can taste sausages with Bleu de Gex, as well as other house specialties.

### Microbrewery and burgers:

Chez Feodor

Introducing a new microbrewery and restaurant. Unique and savory? Locally sourced products are cooked in a smokehouse for several hours ... A high altitude bar as we like them!

[chezfeodor.com](http://chezfeodor.com)

### Organic with vegetarian or vegan option:

Salon Dégusté

This is a Ferney-Voltaire address that is not to be missed for its organic, local, and seasonal products. A tasting evening and brunch are both worth a try!

[salondegusthe.fr](http://salondegusthe.fr)

All the addresses can be found on [www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/restauration](http://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/restauration)









# Press photos



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© Up Drone



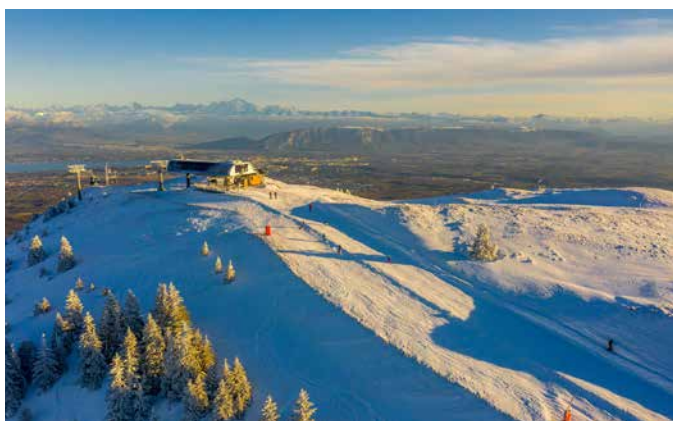
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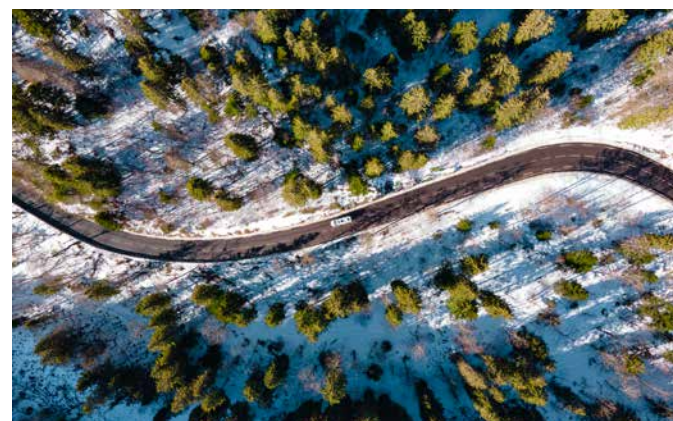
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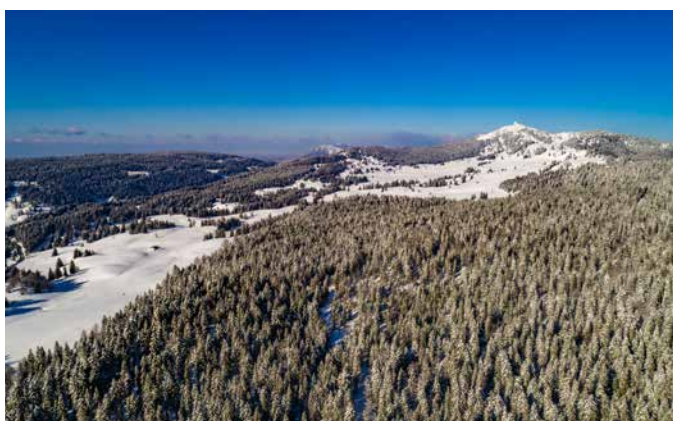
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# Practical information

## Rates

Purchase online on [skipass.paysdegex-montsjura.com](http://skipass.paysdegex-montsjura.com)

Downhill skiing	child (5-15 yrs)	youth & senior	adult
skipass 3h	25 €	28 €	31,50 €
beginners' area	17,50 €	17,50 €	17,50 €
1 day	28 €	31 €	35 €
2 days	53 €	59 €	67 €
7 days	157 €	174 €	196 €
season	364 €	403 €	455 €

Downhill skiing Menthères	chil (5-15 yrs)	youth & senior	adult
1 day	19 €	20,50 €	22 €
Beginners' area	17,50 €	17,50 €	17,50 €
Magic carpet	12 €	12 €	12 €

### Useful tips:

- Special rates are offered for **families** for the purchase of 4 to 6 skipasses (for 1 to 2 adults and 2 to 5 children).
- For all, there are exclusive **online offers** with special rates.
- **Liberté +** : After registering online, there is no need to go to the cashier's office, the pass is charged directly to the registered credit card. Liberté + allows you to have access to attractive rates. Can be used on all the alpine ski sectors of the Monts Jura resort: Mijoux-La Faucille, Crozet-Lélex and Menthières.

### Skipass double ski :

A single pass for downhill and cross-country skiing valid for all sites in the Monts Jura resort throughout the winter season.

season double ski Monts Jura :		
child	youth & senior	adult
388,50€	458 €	510 €

Resort map and live webcams on Office Tourism website.

Nordic skiing	child (6-15 yrs)	adult
1 day	7,50 €	10,30 €
2 days	14,20 €	19,50 €
3 days	20 €	27,50 €
season	/	110 €
daily Montagnes du Jura	32 €	49 €
season Montagnes du Jura	49 €	132 €

### Skipass Montagnes du Jura :

Provides access to all the trails of the Jura massif and those of the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Nordic ski sites in the departments of Ain, Jura, and Doubs as well as those in «Romandie ski de fond» are covered by the season pass.

There is also a national skipass, for access to all Nordic ski areas in France (child: 75 € | adult: 210 €)

All rate available online :  
[paysdegex-montsjura.com](http://paysdegex-montsjura.com)





## Contact

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[\*Online press photos\*](#)