

MY FIRST CLUES ASSEMBLE SOME MUST-SEES:

- The Col de La Faucille: the place to be with sledge on rails & zip-line
- The Château de Voltaire: to increase your IQ points a bit
- The Fort l'Écluse: Get stars in your eyes

MY SECOND ONES OFFER EVENTS...

- Cuban'O2: to wiggle and travel to Cuba
- Music'altitude: for your ears delight
- To celebrate Spring and more at the Fort l'Écluse
- To share the best of the cuisine with Saveurs et **Traditions**

...AND WHAT'S **NEW** IN 2022: 10

- Exhibitions: become a pro on the Fort l'Écluse's secrets
- Festival Image Sonore: are you electro or are you classical?
- The 'Accueil vélo' certification: Get on your bikes!

MY THIRD ARE FOR THE SPORTS FANS:

- who use their legs (hiking, trails, mountain biking)
- ...or their arms (climbing, Via Ferrata, adventure parks)
- ...or any other muscle! (Paragliding, jetskiing, horseback riding)

MY FOURTH: «MAN WITHOUT CULTURE IS A TREE WITHOUT FRUIT»

- reading at the Château de Voltaire
- tracing the Fort l'Écluse history
- playing scientist at CERN
- observing at the Stone and Lapidary Museum- -
- exploring the Circuit des fresques & sentier des Arts
- going to the Departmental Fire Brigade Museum
- who travel to Geneva and learn something new
- qui vont jusqu'à Genève pour se cultiver

MY FIFTH DOESN'T FORGET THOSE WHO WANT TO RELAX...

- at the healing waters of the Divonne-les-Bains spa
- in the 40 hectares of the Jiva Hill Resort**** golfing, fishing, and walking

...OR **ENJOY**:

- the famous Bleu de Gex local cheese
- and quench your thirst with beer and wines made in Pays de Gex
- THE starred restaurant where the view is truly amazing

MY SIXTH IS FOR FAMILIES...

- who slide down the track of the sledge on rails
- who travel in horse-drawn carriage
- who walk through a mysterious forest
- who support local farms
- who want to get their Big Bang Passport
- who play in discovery rallies

LOOKING FOR **ORIGINAL** 23 **EXPERIENCES?**

- explore the world of bats
- combine climbing and gastronomy
- experience mushing
- spend a very special night under the stars

AND MY LAST ONE IS ECO-24 FRIENDLY:

- thanks to the National Nature Reserve's efforts
- of environmentally sensitive areas
- with the first wildlife river in France
- and eco-friendly spaces (campsite, aquaponic farm, soap factory)

HINT: THE PACKAGE OFFERS 26 SEVERAL GREAT PLANS:

- for resting
- for eating and drinking
- for hiking

My whole offers a wide range of surprising landscapes and a very special area to explore!



The Land of Gex or Pays de Gex, indeed!

No, not Peter Pan's Neverland, although there are some parallels between an almost unreal forest with the beauty and richness of its fauna and the illusion of suspended time... However, the Pays de Gex really does exist! It lies in France, the north-easternmost part of the Ain department, south of the Jura mountain range, - on the French side of Geneva, only 1h30 from Lyon.

The Pays de Gex is one of Europe's most beautiful places to visit: from the Jura mountains to the Mont Blanc and Lake Geneva. What's more, from the valley to the mountains, the Pays de Gex offers a wide range of activities for all ages and all tastes!

Hikers can reach **Jura's highest peaks:** the Crêt de la Neige (1720 m) and the Reculet (1719 m), and sports enthusiasts can rock-climb and paraglide while families discover sledging on rails, cani-rando, adventure parks...

On the hunt for originality? Experience the steepest zip line in France, try the impressive Via Ferrata in a bat sanctuary on a mountainside fort, or play golf in the midst of a breath-taking mountain setting...

Need a break? Then come and enjoy nature's peace and quiet, the shady corners of a lake or a pond, a spatreatment, a tasting of our local products... And don't forget to breathe in the pure mountain air and enjoy a recharge moment at an ideal altitude.

D991

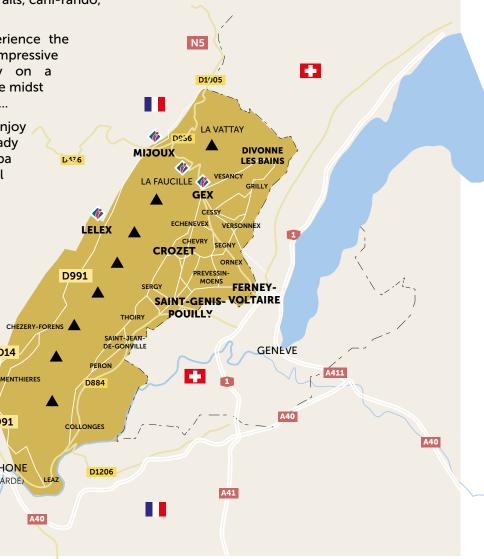
VALSERHONE

(BELLEGARDE)

Culture lovers will not be left out in the land of Voltaire with several permanent and temporary exhibitions. Here, there is a perfect harmony between town and countryside: fields, springs and forests stand side by side with theatres, cinemas, golf courses, swimming pools, a casino, and a racecourse... The area is also close by to Geneva and we are home to a hundred or so different nationalities with all the different international NGOs!

Wildlife and flora are rich and varied in the heart of one of the largest National Nature Reserves in France. Ideal for an authentic and environmentally friendly stay, away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

With **two TGV stations and an airport**, it's easy to get away from it all to the Pays de Gex!



To sum up? All in all, the Pays de Gex is...





The Col de La Faucille:

The place to be with tobogganing on rails & zip line.

On the lookout for THE spot? Then head up to 1323 m, to the Col de La Faucille, a genuine balcony with a 360° view of the Mont-Blanc and the Jura.

La Faucille is the starting point for several hikes and is also the perfect place for mountain biking, tobogganing, and zip-lining. A must for unforgettable experiences in all seasons!

Did you know?

The Faucille pass has been a stage of the Tour de France more than forty times,!

It's a treat:

2 must-do hikes

from La Faucille:

The petit Mont Rond, at 1534 metres altitude, is the perfect family hike to reach the summits in less than an hour. You can continue up to the grand Mont Rond (1473m) and, for those who are more daring, to the Colomby de Gex (1688m).

@ 2h30

് loop - 6,3 km

No worries: it is possible to get to the Petit Mont Rond with the ski lift.

Woodland walk to the Turet belvedere with its stunning view of Mont Blanc and Lake Geneva, overlooking the Pays de Gex valley and Geneva.

@ 2h

⇔ round trip - 5.2 km

National Nature Reserve (specific regulations - dogs forbidden)



The Faucille luge is one of the longest toboggan on rail runs in Europe and is ideal for speed enthusiasts. A thrilling ride with sharp turns and slopes of up to 37%! Whether you are alone or in pairs, this activity is also accessible to people who come to have fun at their own pace – i.e. you control the speed.

→ Lenght: 955 m
→ Downhill slope: 37%
✓ Uphill length: 410 m
→ Vertical drop: 90 m
~ 5 hairpin bends / twist

€ Prices: 1 sled (1 or 2 people): **9** €

5 sleds: **36 €**.

À partir de 5 ans. Les enfants peuvent monter seuls à partir de 11 ans.



This zip line links La Faucille (1323 m altitude) to the village of Mijoux (1000 m altitude). It is the steepest zip line in France!

→ Lenght: 905 m Slope: 37%

\$\Delta\$ Vertical drop: 312,7 m Speed: 90 km/h

Weight: from 40 to 115 kg per person, fully equipped

(4 kg of gear) € Price : 34 €

Minimum age: 12 years old Height: from 125 cm to 200 cm



Voltaire did indeed settle in the Pays de Gex for 20 years! François-Marie Arouet, known as Voltaire, was not just a tourist since he totally transformed Ferney-Voltaire, which is, incidentally, named after the philosopher.

He became the «innkeeper of Europe» in 1758 and welcomed elites from all over Europe. He denounced the injustices of society and defended the victims of political and religious intolerance. Among other things, he published the Dictionnaire Philosophique, the Traité sur la Tolérance, several tragedies and plays.

The museum's interactive terminals in the rooms and a mobile application ensure a fun visit. The programme is rich and varied for the whole family: temporary exhibitions, shows, open-air cinema and concerts, guided tours with downloadable game booklet, creative workshops, etc.

Note:

With its 7 hectares, the estate is worth a visit, boasting a magnificent view of Mont Blanc. There are even beehives (honey lovers can buy the honey collected in the shop!).

Open daily (10am-6pm).

€ Full price : **8** € Reduced : **6.50** €

Free visit for under 18s and for under 25s who are EU

nationals.

Combined ticket for Fort l'Écluse + Château de

Voltaire : 10 €

Dishe
hed
led
led
lety
ce.
lue,
bile
lied
lair
me

The Château de Voltaire:

A chapter in French
history

National monument since 1999 - labelled « Maisons des Illustres »



For a trip back in time, head for the Fort l'Écluse! It was erected in the 13th century to face the most tenacious invaders. Being a strategic passage between the Kingdom of France and Savoy, this passage on the Rhône has been the focus of many conflicts over the centuries. Watchtowers, casemates, ammunition chambers... The site is a genuine labyrinth in a protected area of over 1800 hectares.

Its distinctive feature? The Fort l'Écluse is built into a mountainside at the foot of the Grand Crêt d'Eau (1621m), one of the highest peaks in the Jura Mountains!

Facts: This site has a lower and an upper fort, and 1165 steps cut into the rock to form an underground staircase linking the two forts. Up there, visitors can admire the Rhône, the Mont Blanc and Geneva. Keen climbers can even earn a diploma after the 830 steps climb.

Guided tours, temporary exhibitions, bat observation site, Via Ferrata, adventure park, concerts, sound and light show...

© Open every weekend from 7 May to 17 June and every day from 18 June to 18 September (10am-6.30pm)

Full price: 6€ - Réduced: 4,50 € - Family rate (2 adults and 2 children): 17 €

Combined ticket Fort l'Écluse + Château de Voltaire: 10 €

A key site for the conservation of bats in the Geneva area.





Cuban'O2: for a dancing trip to Cuba in the mountains

Head to the mountains on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for a dancefloor party! With a magical view of Mont Blanc and Lake Geneva, the festival includes concerts, free dance classes and DJ nights. The first Cuban salsa festival at 1300 meters of altitude!

In 2022, Cuban'O2, hosted by the Tourist Office, warmly welcomes the group Maykel Blanco y su Salsa Mayor, the leading group on the international Cuban music scene. An exclusive event as they will present the second part of their latest album... This 3-day festival is the best way to learn salsa with the best dancers!

- @ From 1st to 3rd July.
- € Free dance classes.
 Pass from 62 €.

Online ticketing: https://reservation.paysdegex-montsjura.com/cuban-o-full-pass-weekend.html?&cid=1&action=result&resa_action=result

Music'altitude: music in the open air

Combine the pleasure of the eyes and the ears.

With Music' Altitude, free concerts for all in the mountains are now a reality! At the top of Lélex (1,450 m) and Crozet (1,300 m) cable cars, all summer long, music lovers can enjoy the Monts Jura in a new way,

through original encounters involving musicians from all walks of life.

- July-August 2022 (schedule and dates to be announced on www. paysdegex-montsjura.com)
- ₹ Free access to the concerts (lift ticket not included).

Musical summer festival at Fort l'Écluse

Jazz in Fort l'Écluse is a festival for all jazz, soul, and blues lovers. All summer long, several concerts are scheduled in the heart of the Fort: a very special and unique place to attend concerts!

Oconcerts every weekend of the summer until August 27 (except July 16 and August 6).

For classical music lovers: recitals and chamber music evenings are held on Thursdays in July with Soloist Academy, a gathering of internationally renowned musicians. This is the time and place to listen to Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Prokofiev...

- © Concerts on Thursdays, July 8-15-22-29.
- Program and booking on www.soloist.academy



A SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW

At nightfall, the Fort is lit up on Wednesdays and Sundays in July and August. This free visual and sound installation immerses young and old in a colourful setting. The images are projected onto the unusual architecture of the Fort l'Écluse.

- Projections on Wednesdays and Sundays in July and August, two separate projections of 15 minutes.
 - € Free access.





- Opening hours: 10am-6pm until September 30th / 10am-5pm from October 1st (last entry 45 minutes before closing time).
- € Admission fee: exhibition included in the monument's admission fee - individual fee: €8 / free for under-26s from the European Union.

Contact: 04 50 40 53 21

chateau-de-voltaire@monuments-nationaux.fr



SCIENCE IN COMIC BOOKS

Did you know that Voltaire's castle is linked to the field of science? Indeed, Voltaire was a key player in the development and diffusion of science in the 18th century.

And in the 19th century, Pierre Lambert, the owner of the château, was head of the Laboratory of Physical Research at the Sorbonne.

Besides, Voltaire had a relationship with Émilie du Châtelet, who was one of the first women in the world to devote herself to science (the talented mathematician even translated the works of the English scientist Isaac Newton, no less!

Émilie du Châtelet, who wrote in her preface to Institutions de Physique in 1740, highlighted the importance of teaching scientific culture from a very young age, like what was already being done in the literary field.

Through this exhibition, the ContreBande Dessinée (Contraband Comics) Association, which promotes the 9th art in the Pays de Gex, intends to align itself with Émilie du Châtelet in her approach. The aim of the association is to reconcile the two halves, which are literature and They science. are approached through comics: for a new and playful approach, open to

The exhibition on the first floor of the castle is presented by the Association de ContreBande Dessinée and the Centre des Monuments Nationaux..

From Saturday May 21st to Sunday the 16th of October

FLORIAN, FABULIST

La Fontaine is de Jean known for his fables. But have you heard of Jean-Claris de Florian (1755-1794)? Let's live happily in hiding", "To each his own, the cows will be well looked after" or "The safest haven is a mother's womb"? These morals have become real expressions in French today (with some versions found in English language the well) ... quoted from Florian's writings!

Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian а French dramatist, novelist, poet and fabulist, whose fables are acclaimed as the best after those of La Fontaine. And he is also Voltaire's great nephew...

Born into a noble family dedicated to a career in uncle arms. his married Marie-Élisabeth Dompierre de Fontaine (née Mignot), niece of Voltaire.

At the age of ten, in July 1765, during a stay in Ferney, the future fabulist was introduced to the famous writer. He was called 'Florianet' by Voltaire, his greatuncle by marriage, and referred to him in his correspondence as his 'nephew by ricochet'.

"Florianet" found success with several plays and writings: Les Deux Billets, Voltaire et le serf du Mont-Jura, Les Jumeaux de Bergame... In 1792, he published a collection of one hundred fables divided into five books, to which were added twelve fables published posthumously. The sayings 'light up his lantern' and 'he who laughs last' are taken from his fables.

Exhibition in the lower rooms of the castle, presented by the Centre monuments des nationaux.

OJuly 1st 2022 to January 7th 2023





Exhibitions: Fort l'Écluse like the back of your hand

The Fort l'Écluse is the place to be in 2022 with two new exhibitions: 'Au coeur de l'orage' and 'Porte de France'.

«In the heart of the storm»: Did you know that one million lightning strikes occur in France every year? Did you know that there are about 2000 thunderstorms on the planet at every moment? You will be plunged into the mysteries of thunderstorms. A full immersion installation recreates the atmosphere of lightning and thunder... The storm rumbles within the Fort! This visit will help you better understand these atmospheric disturbances and to be ready for the

next thunderclap!

'La Porte de France', enter in the Fort l'Écluse's history :

Eleven panels of the Porte de France, overlooking the landscape, are displayed in this exhibition. Visitors go through each one to see the Pays de Gex, set between the Alps and the Jura, through various eyes: the eye of the cartographer, the geologist, the botanist, the meteorologist, the military strategist... Perspectives show how man has adapted their way of life and capitalised on their environment, how they have transformed it or left their mark on it. It is an invitation to contemplate and learn about geography, history,

climate, populations, fauna and flora... A giant model of the Rhône Cluse in the center of the room recounts the history of the Fort, with its victories and defeats.

€ Open to all - included in the Fort's entrance ticket.



Festival Image Sonore: are you electro or classical?

The Festival « IMAGE SONORE EN PAYS DE GEX « is based on the Burgundy Festival Image Sonore. This new Festival mixes styles: classical music, electronic music, and video mapping. It opens to scientific culture. The 2022 edition gathers great international artists and scientists of excellence.

Works on acoustic and digital instruments are featured in the program. Acting in a supportive and eco-responsible way, the festival works in short circuits in close collaboration with local actors. An event for all audiences, including younger people who are far from chamber music, our elderly, and ESAT audiences.

August 4th: The Fort l'Écluse features large video projections for the first evening of Image Sonore in the Pays de Gex, with a concert by the German DJ Dominik Eulberg, who presents experimental and innovative electronic music.

August 6th: The festival goes on at the Château de Voltaire in Ferney with an evening of diverse concerts: mixing electronic and classical music, with the artists Rone, Yotta, Irène Dresel and Hermione Horiot.

€ Prices: 36€ full price 32€ reduced price free under 18 years old.

Booking on www.paysdegex-montsjura.com



CARAVANE DES SCIENCES

Bonus tip: there are also scientific and cultural days at the festival with the 'Caravan of Sciences'. The aim is to spread scientific culture in a rural area and create tools enabling the sharing of knowledge. It includes Astrophysics, Mathematics, History, Archaeology and workshops, conferences... for everyone! Plus, it's totally for free.

On August 3rd in Saint-Genis-Pouilly, and on August 5th in Ferney-Voltaire.

€ Animations are free – suitable for children 7 years and up.

Program on www.paysdegex-montsjura.com







WHO USE THEIR LEGS (HIKING, TRAILS, MOUNTAIN BIKING)

Hiking

More than 550 km of marked trails in the Pays de Gex and the Haute Chaîne du Jura!

All levels of hiking (from easy to very difficult): 100% pleasure for all hikers, beginners or advanced.

Ski lifts: Go up to our summits effortlessly with the ski lifts open in summer:

Télécombi du Mont Rond (Col de la Faucille Catheline cable car (Lélex) Le Fierney cable car (Crozet) Val Mijoux chairlift (Mijoux)

+Tip: Hikes you can't miss:

The Crêt de la Neige, Petit and Grand Mont Rond, Le Turet, Mont Mourex, hikes along the Rhône or the Valserine rivers

Information hike sheet available in all the Tourist Office agencies and on

https://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/neigerando/randonnees/itineraires-a-pied/#filter=rfullyTranslatedLangus-,r-onlyOpened-,sb-sortedBy-C + Connected sports enthusiasts? The Outdooractive app guides hikers on a range of the best circuits.

+ Solo, duo or more? A guide will escort you on our trails and teach you all about our mountains! From the easiest to the most difficult level, via several themes (wildlife discovery, ancient mountain pastures, meditative walk, night hike, night in a mountain refuge...). Here there is no way you get bored!

For more information and booking, please visi www.paysdegex-tourisme.com

+ The GTJ (or Grande Traversée du Jura à pied) leads hikers on the paths of the mythical GR5 and GR9. 400 km of marked trails to discover the diversity of the mountain ranges among lakes, waterfalls, valleys and mountains. It is also a chance to enjoy the Jura mountains villages, craftsmen, and heritage...

The event features 150 GTJ partner accommodations and a luggage and packed lunch transportation service.

Information on www.gti.asso.fr

Some of our itineraries are in nature preserves (special regulations apply).

2

Did you know? The Jura Mountains are an ideal venue for trail running thanks to their midmountain relief, their preserved nature, their viewpoints, and their numerous trails.

It is also a stage for famous races such as the Transju'trail (June 4th and 5th, 2022) and the Ultra Trail des Montagnes du Jura (September 30th, October 1st and 2nd, 2022) and the UTTJ, Un Tour en Terre du Jura (July 16th and 17th).

A training base and a home of champions!



Monts Jura on two-wheels

With 40 km of marked trails from Lélex (2 red trails, 1 blue trail and 2 black trails), Monts Jura is the best choice for mountain bike enthusiasts.

With your mountain bike (except for electric ones) you can use the ski lifts (Télécombi du Mont Rond, Télécabine de la Catheline and Télécabine Le Fierney). You can rent all the needed gear for a day or more in many stores.

Head to the Col de la Faucille for a first taste of the sport! Beginners and children can enjoy an initiation, descent boards, jumps and other playful modules to get their first thrills. (To be checked)

For leisurely bike rides, there are many trails in the valley.

Visit our website:

www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/monsejour-preparer/bouger/vtt/les-itinerairesvelos-et-vtt

NEW

The Valserine campsite is certified 'Accueil Vélo': the best place to rest, to get advice on itineraries, to refurbish your mountain bike...

USE THEIR ARMS (CLIMBING, VIA FERRATA, ADVENTURE PARKS)



Mountains call for rock climbing and high ropes adventure course! Whether in the valley or in the mountains, several sites can be tried out, for families as well as for adventurers.

The Via Ferrata

of Fort l'Écluse is worth a try. It lasts 1h30 with a splendid view on the Rhône River and the Écluse gorge. The finish is worth the detour, with the Monkey Bridge and a breathtaking view of the Rhone river gorge.

 $ilde{\mathsf{F}}
 ext{ Free access. Equipment rental possible on site}$

www.fort-lecluse-aventure.com

Menth'évasion,

in Menthières, has lots of workshops and zip lines for adrenaline rushes. With evolving courses for children and adults.

O Lasting between 2 hours and 2h30.

€ From 3 years old /Prices: Adults: 20 € / Children: 16 €

Fort l'Écluse Aventure

balance games, beams, Tarzan jump, climbing crossings, zip lines... something for everyone!

€ Adult: 28 € / Child: 25 € (to be checked)

Juraventure

at the Col de la Faucille combines an adventure park with activities like paintball and minigolf.

www.juraventure.com

And of course, the most inclined zip line in France from the Col de la Faucille (1323 m altitude) to the village of Mijoux (1000 m altitude).

OR ANY OTHER MUSCLE! (PARAGLIDING, JETSKIING, HORSE RIDING)

PARAGLIDING

Treat yourself to the most beautiful panoramas of the Alps and Mont Blanc with a first flight in a paraglider... That's possible in the Pays de Gex!

Free flight sites with take-off and landing points are also available for paragliders.

Test the new school 'Sur un nuage' for aerial excursions in summer and winter. The school also offers introductory and advanced courses of 3 to 6 days to become an autonomous pilot and sessions to pass the paragliding pilot's licence.

www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/activite/baptemes-en-parapente-sur-un-nuage

You can also choose a tandem flight with the certified instructor Didier Marinet, who knows the area like the back of his hand!

www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/activite/baptemes-de-parapente-avec-didier-marinet

Or with qualified and experienced instructors of «Sur un nuage».

Jetski

How about jet-skiing with a view of Mont Blanc? At the foot of the Jura Mountains, in Crozet, either by day or by night, try your hand at slalom, jumping or tricks, on a specially designed lake to let your desires run free. There is also a club house and a swimming pool with Jacuzzi®, on the edge of the lake and surrounded by palm trees.

From 4 years old.

http://eurolac.fr

Equitation

Riding schools, stables, or racecourses: horses are very present on our territory. Whether you want to practice horseback riding with lessons or just go for a ride on a pony; all riders are welcome!

www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/mon-sejour-preparer/bouger/equitation

Did you know? The Jiva Hill welcomes the International Dressage Competition, an international event, organised by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI)





Who play scientist at CERN The European Organization size particle detectors, use for Nuclear Research of microscopes... a hands-(CERN) answers our most on exhibition to learn about intriguing questions about the fundamental particles the creation of the world that make up the world and its matter. Come and around us. discover the mammoth Tree exhibition. tools they use, including € Open from Monday to the famous LHC (Large Saturday (8.30am-5.30pm). Hadron Collider), which Open to all, most appropriate also have an impact on our for 14 years and up. daily lives... Explore CERN https://visit.cern/fr behind the scenes with the Microcosm exhibition through interactive and explanatory exhibits. Life-17 PRESS KIT - SPRING-SUMMER 2022

Who observe at the Musée des pierres et du lapidaire

Trabbia Vuillermoz House, the last stone cutter in the Pays de Gex, invites you to a trip back in time through a collection of fine stones, both rough and cut, in the village of Mijoux. Throughout the exhibition, you will see real treasures from all around the world. When visiting the museum, you will also learn more about the trade of gemstone cutter through various period tools. Fancy one of the creations? Visitors can buy their own jewellery in the shop, on the ground floor...

€ Free access.

Tip: for groups of 15 or more, visitors can book a guided tour. .

www.vuillermoz.fr

Who explore the Circuit des fresques & sentier des Arts

Discover 28 murals on the village houses in Mijoux and at La Faucille based on ancient trades. The path presents the ancestral mountain trades related to local know-how and traditions.

Leaflets at the Tourist Office and online:

https://reservation.paysdegex-montsjura.com/medias/documents/documentation/documentation-FREQUESMIJ-FR.pdf

Dedicated to Michel Hollard, a famous Resistance fighter. Along the art trail are stone sculptures, created during various symposiums, and by various artists, depicting symbols, characters, animals... A Celtic horoscope (with various tree species and their significance indicated) is also part of the art trail.

Who go all the way to Geneva to learn

The Gex region is located by the Swiss border: ideal for enjoying both nature and the dynamics of the Swiss city. A trip to see Lake Geneva and the famous jet d'eau, a tour of the Old Town, the Botanical Gardens, the museums...







Who want to relax...





Feel like unwinding? Head for the Spa to savour its thermal water! The facility is equipped with a spa, treatments, beauty centre, fitness centre, cardiotraining. The thermal centre proposes 18-day approved treatments as well as health and wellbeing treatments (rheumatology, psychosomatic ailments, etc.). Set in a natural and regenerating environment complete with a lake, walking paths, casino, racecourse...

A unique address in the Pays de Gex for anyone dreaming of a luxury getaway! This 40-hectare 5* Relais et Châteaux hotel welcomes you to an unusual and stylish setting, where elegance and discretion are the hallmarks of a contemporary vision of luxury. Two restaurants, four meeting rooms, a 9-hole 18-start golf course, a spa, a cinema, a games room, and a heliport. The hotel provides a one-off experience and a break from the daily grind: a truly unique experience!

www.jivahill.com



With golfing, fishing and walking

Whether you are a beginner or an amateur, you can tackle the many fish in the lakes and rivers of the Pays de Gex. Trout, pike, carp, roach, tench, perch, catfish... Apart from the Valserine, the first awarded «Wild River Site» certification, there's also the exceptional waters of the Allondon, the Journans, the Lion, the Rhône... As well as the Divonne-les-Bains Lake, the Cessy pond and the Colovrex pond. Just as many places to stroll and picnic!

There are nearly ten golf courses in the Pays de Gex, with one in the mountains, in Mijoux.

Top-class golfing locations with the Jura Mountains and the Alps as a backdrop.

www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/mon-sejour-preparer/bouger/golf-mini-golf

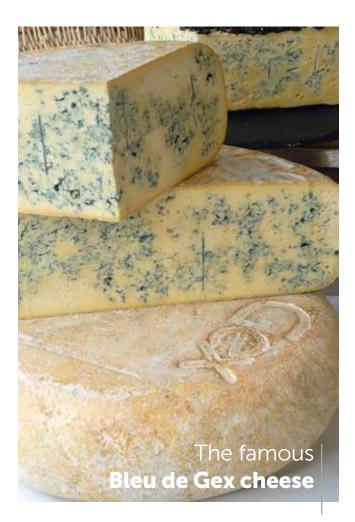


NOTES

The Jiva Hill Resort golf course is open all year round! The nine-hole course is the first in France and Europe to have synthetic grass tees and greens. The Jiva Hill Golf Club also features a practice area open all year round! Facing the Alps and the Mont Blanc...



... or with savouring



PDO Bleu de Gex is a mild and light veined blue cheese. It is known to be King Charles V's favourite cheese!

First cheese made from raw cow's milk to be awarded Controlled Designation of Origin (or AOC). Since 1996, it is also a PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) recognised by Europe. The flagship product is made from the milk of Montbéliarde or Simmental cows, 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).

The Abbaye cheese dairy in Chézery-Forens is one of the last four cheese dairies to make Bleu de Gex. You can purchase the cheese on the spot and in the morning. The cheese dairy opens its doors to view the production process.

Beers and wine made in Pays de Gex

No less than 3 breweries are in the Pays de Gex! The Gessienne brewery in Ornex, the Grilly brewery in Grilly, and Ô Brasseur in Saint-Genis-Pouilly, they all offer organic, craft and Gessian beers for tasting. These are the places for beer lovers!

La Distillerie Gessienne is a newly founded small company selling artisanal liquors made from 100% organic plants or fruits: genepi, thyme, star anise, Menton lemon, mint, hyssop, mandarin, verbena, raspberry, fir tree There are about ten varieties to taste!

Rather fancy a glass of wine? The Domaine de Mucelle is in Challex, one of the sunniest villages and the last wine-making village in the Pays de Gex. The Domaine de Mucelle, with 8 hectares, overlooks the Rhône and the canton of Geneva, facing the Alps. Gamay, Pinot Noir, Chasselas, Gamaret, Roussette... A certified organic wine range to be tasted on the spot (in moderation!).



The **STARRED MICHELIN RESTAURANT** serving up a feast for the eyes and palate

At 1250 m altitude, near the Faucille pass, La Mainaz is a completely refurbished hotel**** in the heart of the Haut Jura Regional Nature Park. There are two restaurants: the gastronomic Table de la Mainaz and the bistronomic Panorama. It is a haven out of time.

The Michelin starred chef has over 20 years' experience, having worked in prestigious family establishments: Jean Paul Jeunet ** Michelin (39, Jura), Pierre Gagnaire *** Michelin in Paris (75), Château de Divonne 1* (01), Restaurant Patrick Jeffroy ** (29), L'Auberge des Templiers 1* (45), before launching his own successful Hotel Restaurant Les Ambassadeurs in Saint-Chamond (42), where he obtained a Michelin star.

In 2019, Julien Thomasson joins the La Mainaz family and is awarded a star in 2021. The menu combines traditional and modern dishes, with a focus on local suppliers. An essential address for gastronomy amateurs!

https://www.la-mainaz.com/fr/restaurants-gex-haut-jura



... for families



The Col de la Faucille is the perfect place to go for a walk with a pack donkey! Ali, the donkey, will take the children for a few hours or a day's ride on his favourite trails: Petit and Grand Mont Rond. You can also have a local guide come along to introduce the Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park and pastoral life, with a picnic in a chalet. A great adventure awaits!

€ Prices: 25€ for two hours, 50€ for a half day and 70€ for a full day.

Col de La Faucille – juraventure.com

Our unique landscapes of valleys and mountains can also be admired from a horse-drawn carriage. Two and a half hour or full day rides in the heart of the pastures and along the banks of the Valserine. Discover the Equi'table des Monts Jura farm, which offers an agritourism approach to environmental education and the benefits of work using animal energy. The estate maintains its ancestral know-how and develops ecoresponsible approaches.

1h-1h30 walk with aperitif at the farm.

€ 23€ per person - Booking at the Tourist Office.

Who wander through a mysterious forest

The « Sous l'œil de la vouivre « natural and cultural trail is a thematic and fun area for families and all adventurers. It follows the footsteps of the Vouivre, a Jura creature of legend on a quest to find his carbuncle. A number of tests must be completed, involving game workshops. You need to find and memorise different symbols along the way, and return them at the end to unlock a treasure...

This walk has been designed by local artists with various workshops (a wooden musical instrument, a labyrinth made up of piles of logs, nets to cross, slides, a chest to unlock...).

€ Free access to La Faucille.



Who sustain the local farms

There are numerous craftsmen and traditional family homes in the Pays de Gex. Growers open their doors so as to let families discover their farms. Children can share a special moment with the animals (goats, goats, baby pigs, etc.), participate in the milking and taste the products. Get to know authentic products and chat with enthusiasts and leave with delicious local cheeses.

The Noire Combe goat farm in Chézery-Forens: Visits upon request.

who wish to obtain their Big Bang Passport

Could you solve the riddles to get your passport? The Big Bang Passport is an interactive itinerary for cyclists in the French-Genevan countryside. Discover a giant of science: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest particle accelerator. It is designed to unravel the great mysteries of our Universe. The LHC ring is 27 km long and is buried 100 metres beneath the Franco-Geneva countryside.

The mission? Getting the LHC up and running again! An activation code is given at each stage. Once you have 10 codes, the LHC should be able to restart... An exciting game combining sports and culture for all the family!

€ Free access. From 8 years old. The trail is 54 km long.

https://passeport-big-bang.web.cern.ch/fr/form/mission-lhc

The distance between two stages is on average 4 km.

Who participate to discovery rallies

The Pays de Gex Tourist Office has created 5 rallies to explore the towns and villages of the area: Ferney-Voltaire, Gex, Lélex, Mijoux and Saint-Genis-Pouilly. This is an original way for the family to get together and learn about the different towns and villages. History, culture, landscapes, panoramas, and riddles...

Children explore the site with a quiz through the eyes of different characters, either in print or on a smartphone.

https://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/mon-sejour-preparer/visiter-a-voir/les-rallyes-decouvertes/





... who is looking





With the **exploration** of **bats**

Not only is Fort l'Écluse a place for visitors, but also for 22 species of bats! Seven species of these small mammals regularly use the fort as a breeding, transit, or hibernation site.

Because of the exceptional richness of the site, it has become a priority site for the conservation of bats in the Geneva area.

The Geneva CCO has been studying these species for more than thirty years, focusing on the colony of rhinolophs in the Lower Fort.

Tanguy Stoecklé, a photographer, filmmaker, and bat specialist, will be exhibiting his work. This is a chance to learn more about these mysterious and unloved animals.

Bonus tip. Experience the intimate world of bats through a system of infrared cameras and ultrasonic sensors installed in their shelters, for live observation!

€ The exhibition is included in the Fort's entrance ticket.



Who combine climbing & astronomy

Set off at dusk to climb the Via Ferrata of Fort l'Écluse, near Geneva in the Pays de Gex, with a guide. After a picnic, at the top of the Via Ferrata, an astronomy specialist from Astro Léman will be waiting for you with his telescope to help you discover the sky, its stars, and its secrets.

On the way back, observe the sky on a short walk in the forest, by the light of a headlamp. Ideal for stargazers!

€ Upon reservation. 95,00 € www.rockn-jump-adventure.com

who wants to go on a canine hike

A sporty hike with a dog! Once the dogs have been introduced, the hiker wears an adapted belt attached to the dog with a pulling harness. The youngest children, from 2 to 5 years old can take part in the canoe-trailer ride. Each child has his or her own dog and kids can be in teams of two.

Whether alone, with the family or in a group, the cani-rando lets participants discover the Valserine valley for 21/2 hours. An unusual activity for all those who love nature, walking and running!

€ Adults: 20 € I Children: 14 €

Upon reservation: www.qimmiqaventure.com

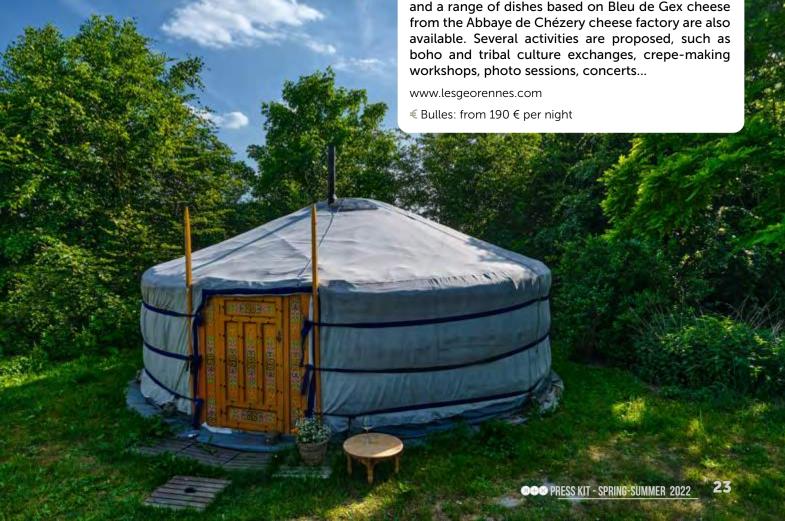


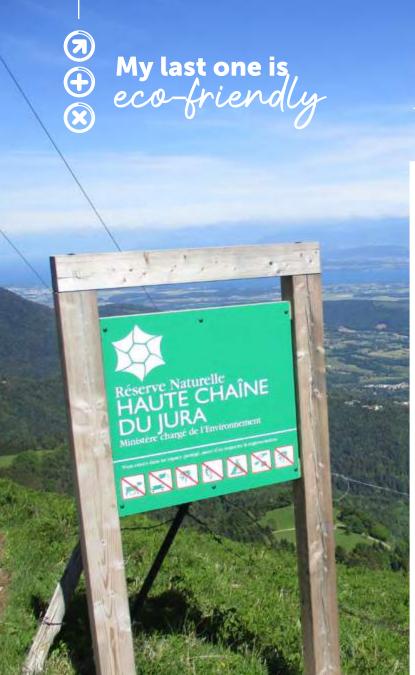


with **an overnight cosy** stay under the stars

Les Géorennes in Champfromier offers warm and cosy glamping facilities. Set in a quiet greenery area, with a view of the Haut-Jura peaks, in a 2-hectare park, the estate offers various types of accommodation: camping spaces in open pitches, transparent bubbles, Mongolian Yurts, Cabane Pods, Dodomes... To sleep under the stars, in harmony with nature.

Nestled in the vegetation to ensure maximum privacy, they welcome two people with all the comfort of a hotel room. A bistro with local flavours and a range of dishes based on Bleu de Gex cheese workshops, photo sessions, concerts...





Through the efforts of the National Nature Reserve

Since 1993, the Haute Chaîne du Jura has been classified as a National Nature Reserve (RNN) for most of its territory. The Monts Jura resort is at the heart of the RNN. Its role is to preserve natural environments that are ecologically representative and of high heritage value.

The RNN is one of the largest in mainland France, with almost 11,000 hectares. It is the 4th largest in terms of surface area and has 1,466 plants and 205 vertebrate species. The Reserve protects species, especially the Grand Tétras: the famous and highly endangered capercaillie.

Yet it also protects other iconic species, such as the Hazel Grouse, the Northern Lynx, the Golden Eagle, the Three-toed Woodpecker and the European Owl.

Regulations are therefore in place in certain areas for the protection of the species (dogs, camping and gathering prohibited, limited motor vehicles, etc.).

+ DID YOU KNOW? From December 15th to June 30th, quiet zones are in place, where no physical activity is allowed. A necessary measure to protect the habitats of the species!

To find out more, head for the permanent exhibition at the Maison de la Réserve Naturelle: free access to the exhibition highlights the wealth of the Haute Chaîne du Jura National Nature Reserve and explains its regulations.

www.rnn-hautechainedujura.fr



sensitive natural areas

What is ENS? ENS (espaces naturels sensibles – sentive nature sites) are managed to protect the biodiversity they host and are designed to welcome the public.

The ENS of the Marais de l'Étournel (almost 200 hectares) is home to an exceptional fauna and flora. Its vast stretches of water with dense reedbeds offer an ideal migratory stopover in the Rhône-Alpes region. A trail is available for people with reduced mobility and the blind.

+ DID YOU KNOW? This area is also a key site for the matin season. Male elaphe stags from the high Jura range join the females in the alluvial forest of the Étournel during the mating season. The site is therefore closed to visitors from September 15th to November 15th between 6pm and 8am (mating period).

The Bidonnes marsh overlaps the communes of Divonne-les-Bains and Bogis-Bossey in Switzerland. It is one of the last large low marshes at the foot of the Jura.

The 66-hectare marshland is home to exceptional species of plants and animals. 160 plants have been listed. There are 3 rare species of Azure butterflies characteristic of wetlands.



2 recognized sites of community interest under NATURA 2000.





And **green spaces** (campsite, aquaponic farm, soap factory)

The three-star **eco-campsite** is on the banks of the Valserine river in Chézery-Forens. The 2-hectare site features both rentals and pitches. The Valserine is an eco-responsible campsite: compost, eco-labelled products, solar panels... It also favours short circuits, local or regional products and French manufacturers (mobile homes made in Auvergne Rhône Alpes).

It has been awarded the «Valeurs Parc Naturel Régional du Haut-Jura» certification. It's dedicated to preserving the environment, improving biodiversity and the local economy. The site is animalfriendly, with chickens, sheep, rabbits, cats, dogs, etc., and is a bird sanctuary for the Ligue de Protection des Oiseaux.

www.camping-chezery.fr

Local, healthy and seasonal products are favoured in the Pays de Gex. This is the challenge that **the aquaponics farm** has taken up, while reducing the environmental impact as much as possible.

Aqua what? By combining aquaculture and hydroponics, aquaponics integrated is an agricultural practice allowing high-quality food production using natural means. Through a recirculating system, aquaponics combines fish farming vegetables. The plants benefit from the nutrient-rich water from the fish farm, naturally purified by following the «nitrogen cycle»: bacteria transform the fish excrement into plant-available nutrients. Trout, salads, herbs... all of which can be purchased directly on site.

www.lafermeaguaponique.com

A soap factory in the mountains?

Yes, indeed! Nestled at the foot of the mountains, in the Valserine valley, the Ferrone soap factory produces handcrafted soaps using the «cold saponification» process natural ingredients from organic farming. They are all created from in-house recipes, approved by a medical doctor. They are designed to minimise environmental impact, from manufacturing to packaging to usage. A guided tour, upon reservation, allows you to discover the manufacturing process. In the shop, a sensory tour with the essential oils used for the production process.

www.savonnerieferrone.bio

SOME SOME Orago blang To rest

Gîtes et chambres d'hôtes

Résidence les tavaillons

Mijoux

12 modern, fully-equipped flats in the centre of the village of Mijoux, a stone's throw from ValMijoux.

Résidence le Crêt de la neige

Lélex

in the heart of the village of Lélex, 10 luxury flats with sauna on the ground floor of a former hotel renovated into a holiday property.

① Les Berlicants

Mijoux

Near the ski lifts, the residence features several apartmentscottages for up to 9 people, one of which is accessible to people with reduced mobility.

Les Chambres de Bouture

Ferney-Voltaire

a 1950' house, with a fully applianced first floor for holidaymakers. It is located close to bus stops, shops, and the border. Shared courtyard/parking area, terrace and garden.

① Lin et Confitures

Mijoux

This charming mountain chalet is in the green valley of the Valserine. Ideal for a peaceful mountain break in a cosy country setting.

• Relais des moines

Chézery-Forens

In the village centre, a superb stopover lodging in a former 16th century abbey, adjacent to the owners' inn.

⊕ La Michaille

Mijoux

Un espace convivial où les hôtes proposent chambres, dortoirs et gîte individuel. Il est possible d'y dîner et... tout est fait maison!



Chalets du camping***le Valserine

Chézery-Forens

Nestled in the heart of the mountains, on the banks of the Valserine river. Up to 8 beds available.

① Chalets Huttopia

Divonne-les-Bains

The ideal spot for a stay allying mountain pleasures and relaxation.

Chalet LouisMarchand

Lélex

Set in the village, the lodging can welcome up to twenty families and up to 120 people together.





① La Petite Chaumière

La Faucille

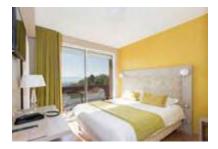
this large chalet is at the foot of the slopes and offers a welcoming and pleasant setting. Flats are also available.



Description Le Centre

Lélex

Set at 900 metres altitude, in the Valserine valley, at the foot of the Jura peaks, the hotelrestaurant Le Centre is in the heart of the village, next to the ski lifts.



Le Bois Joly

Crozet

family-run hotel and restaurant featuring Savoyard-style or modern rooms, with 3-star comfort.



⊕ Le M3

Ferney-Voltaire

Conveniently located between Switzerland and France (3km from Geneva airport), in the city centre. Flat, suite, double room... each area has its own decoration and ambiance, in a relaxed style.



① La Bonne Auberge

Ségny

This restored Gessian farmhouse, now a 2-star hotel, offers comfortable, newly refurbished rooms in a relaxing, family setting.





① Le Jiva Hill Resort

This five-star Relais et Châteaux is an extraordinary venue. The Resort boasts two restaurants, four meeting rooms, a golf course, a spa, a movie theatre, a games room and an heliport.



① La Mainaz

Set at an altitude of 1250 m, at only 35 minutes from Geneva, the Hotel La Mainaz is a 4-star hotel fully renovated in 2016 with a breathtaking view of the Mont Blanc.



All our accommodation at

https://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/mon-sejour-preparer/dormir/



En montagne



⊕ La Croustille

Mijoux

This village restaurant is open all year round and serves hearty dishes and specialities such as the Gessian puff pastry or the Bleu de Gex mijolande.





Le Yéti

Crozet

Reached by the Fierney cable car in Crozet, this place offers a scenery overlooking the Pays de Gex. And it's also home to the Cuban'O2 festivities!

① Au Bon Saucisson

l élex

A traditional, family-run business like very few others in France today. Here you will find sausages with Bleu de Gex and other home-made.

In the valley



La Gare

Gex

Bistro menu in an authentic and warm setting, set in the old Gex train station.



Dégusthé

Ferney-Voltaire

The exclusive 100% organic restaurant in the Pays de Gex with home-made veggie and vegan dishes.

Le Restaurant des Bergers

Grilly

A genuine restaurant in the heart of the Michelin cheese factory. All the dishes are home-made.

All restaurants on

https://www.paysdegex-montsjura.com/mon-sejour-preparer/savourer/



Access

Access by road

1h30 from Lyon, 20 minutes from Geneva Motorways from France or Switzerland

A40

Macôn Geneva

A39

Dijon Genève

A41

Grenoble Chambéry Geneva

(Swiss motorway sticker to be paid, 40 CHF or 39 €)

A1

Direction Geneva



Access by train

within 3 hours

Two direct TGV lines

Paris – Bellegarde sur Valserine (Valserhône)

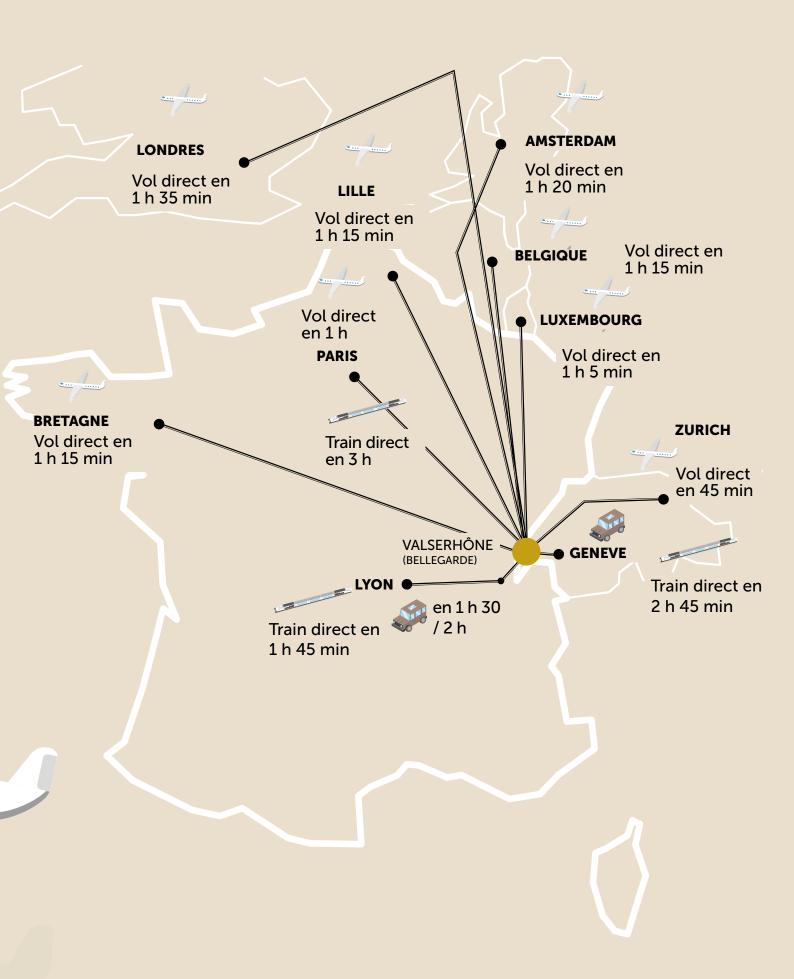
Paris - Geneva (Cornavin)

Access **by plane**

Geneva International Airport

Between 1h and 1h30 from Paris, London, Amsterdam and Brussels.

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







www.paysdegex-montsjura.com

