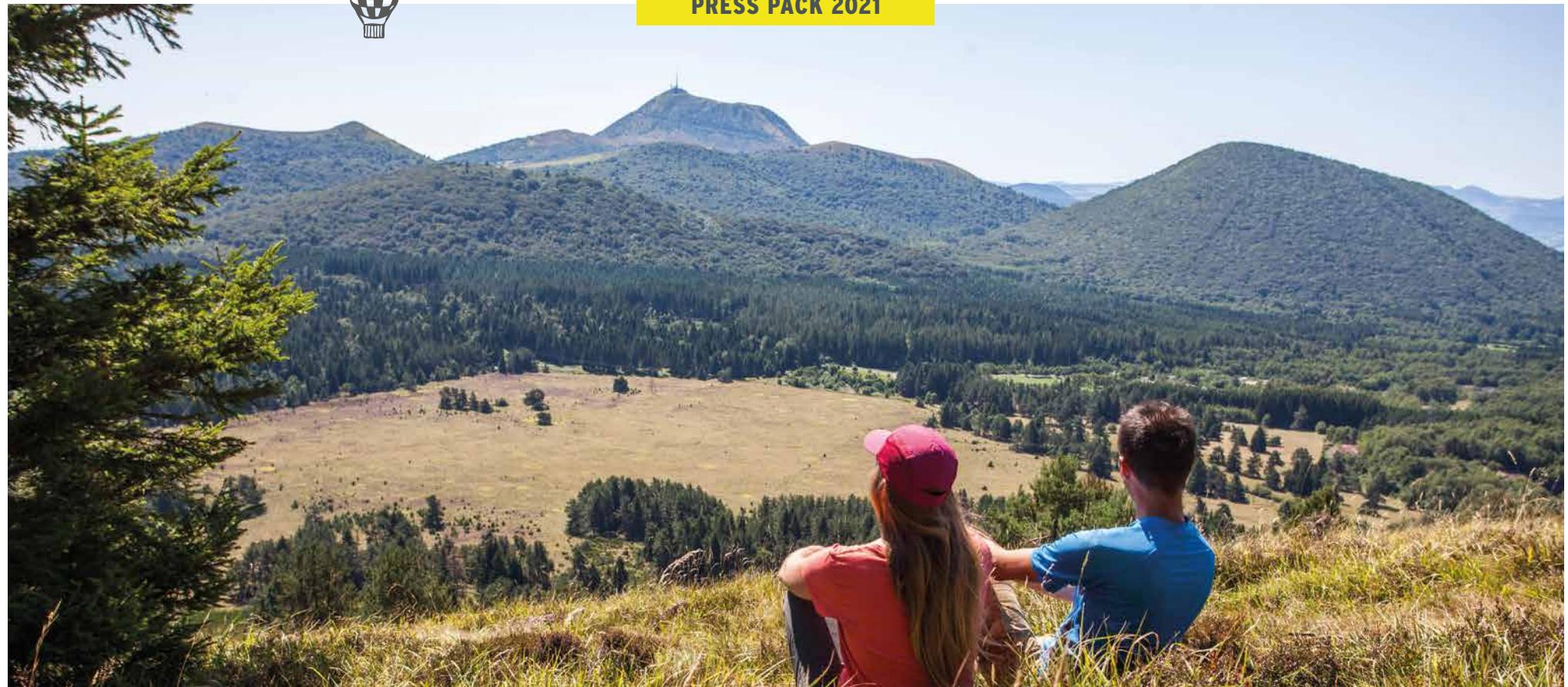


AN INVITATION TO THE LAND OF PLAINS AND VOLCANOES

PRESS PACK 2021



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AUVERGNE  ATOUT VOLCANS

Union of Clermont Auvergne Tourisme, Massif du Sancy and Terra Volcana, Pays de Volvic



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AUVERGNE ATOUD VOLCANS

EDITORIAL

The Terra Volcana area of the Massif du Sancy and Clermont Auvergne Tourisme promise you a presentation of all that they have in common, in the heart of Auvergne.

It is full of unspoilt nature, has an exciting urban heritage that flourished in the past and a bright future ahead, with arts and crafts, gastronomy and more. This is a volcanic land, with many advantages for those who love characterful regions where authenticity contrasts with audacity, tradition contrasts with innovation.

A large part of the Auvergne's best assets can be found in these words, written for you.



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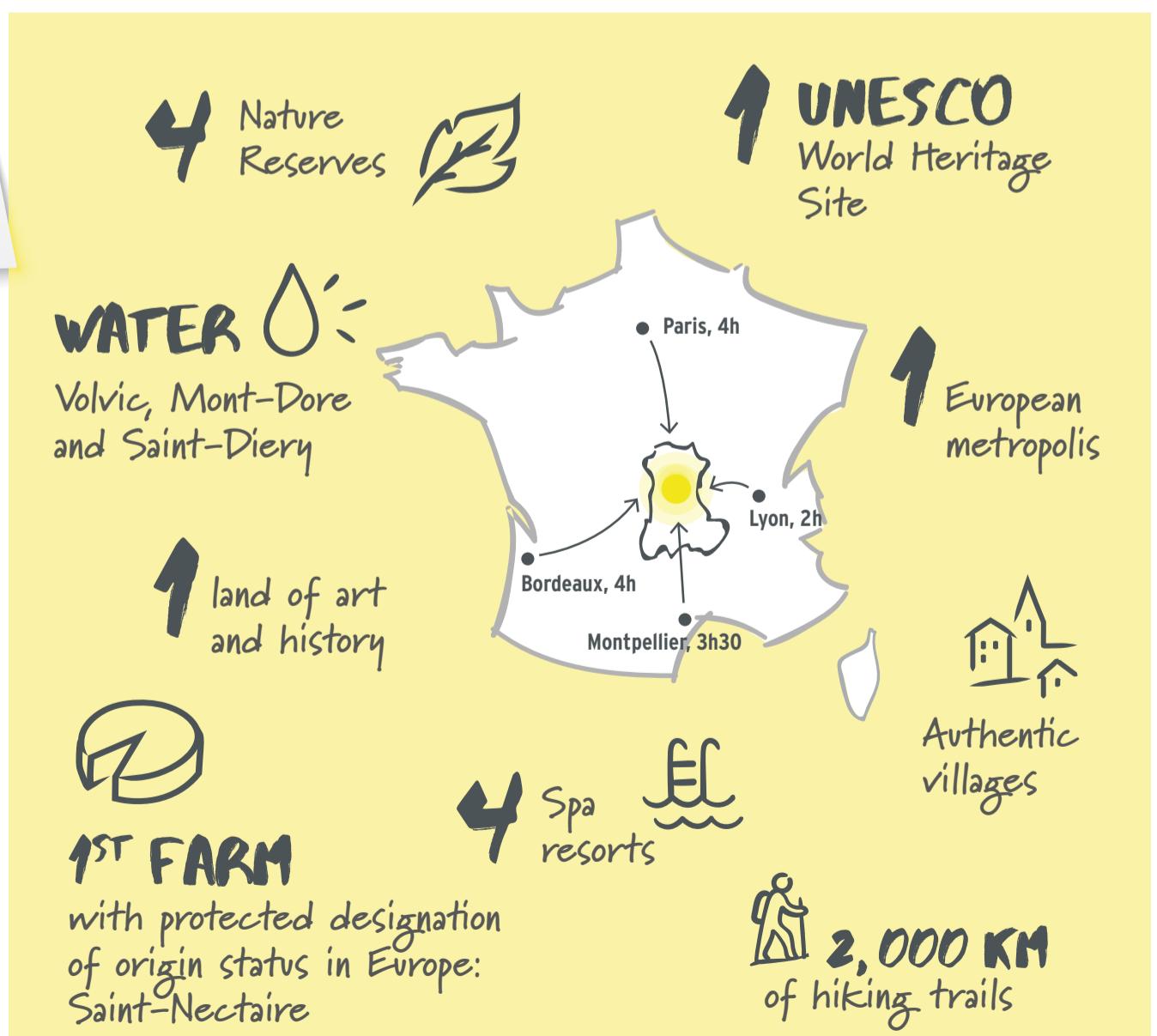
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Le Mont-Dore, La Bourboule, Châtel-Guyon, Royat-Chamalières

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WHO ARE WE?

At the crossroads between major motorways: A71 - A75 - A89
Aéroport d'Aulnat - Clermont-Ferrand:
regular flights to and from Paris CDG and Paris Orly



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Massif du Sancy

© Photo : OT Sancy

LAND OF VOLCANOES

What is the promise held by the 3 areas of the Auvergne? It is an immense area to explore, with a volcanic legacy to be discovered via hiking or cycling trails, or seen from above with epic flights by microlight, hot air balloon or paraglider!

The Auvergne volcano regional natural park is the largest such park in mainland France. The volcanic peaks of the Chaîne des Puys and the Massif du Sancy stand tall in this exceptional unspoilt area. It is indeed the volcanic nature of this area that has created the landscape that we see today.

The journey begins from north to south along the length of this immense area.

THE CHAÎNE DES PUYS: A CHAIN OF VOLCANOES

With its exceptional geographical merit, the Chaîne des Puys-Faille de Limagne and its 80 volcanoes have been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2018. From the famous Puy Pariou with the unique Puy des Gouttes to the iconic summit of the Puy de Dôme (1465m), the exceptional views look across a region that has been marked by a tumultuous geological history. Imagine 80 volcanoes, each one different from the others, lined up over an area 45 km long and 3 km wide...

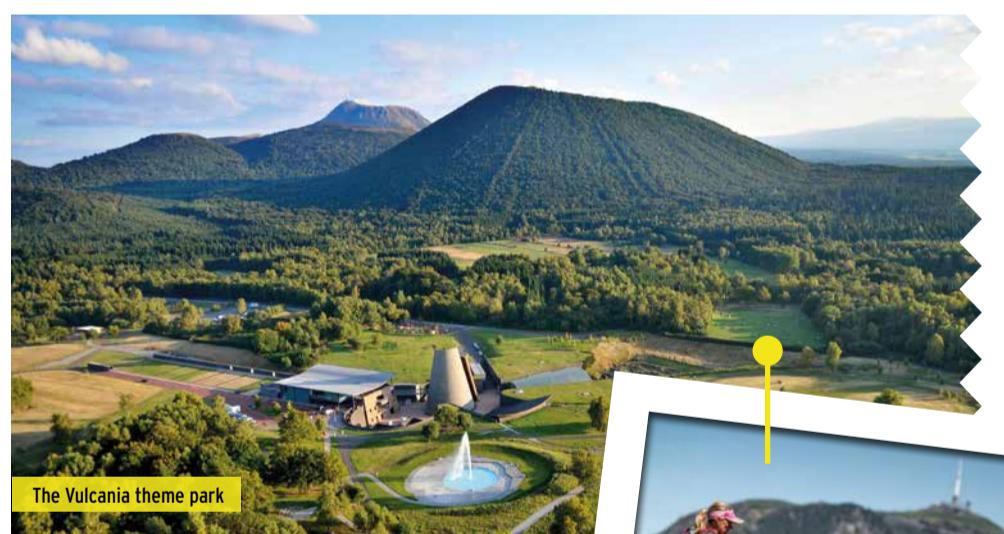
You can explore them using exceptional hiking trails, on a mountain bike... or even from the air! A thrilling experience is guaranteed!

How seeing this unique geological feature from above? Sitting comfortably in the Panoramique des Dômes rack railway train, a gripping journey begins, where the Chaîne

des Puys, the metropolis of Clermont and the Massif du Sancy pass before your eyes. A journey to the summit, to the heart of the natural site. An opportunity to discover more about the volcanic geological formations that shaped the volcanoes and... the city of Clermont-Ferrand, which is itself built on a volcanic maar.



View from the Panoramique des Dômes



Volcanic site visit inset

Volcanic features can be found all over the Auvergne and two sites in particular will make you an expert: the Vulcania theme park and the Volcan de Lemptégy.

In the heart of the Chaîne des Puys, Vulcania describes itself as a theme park based on volcanoes, natural phenomena and the Earth in Space. The park offers fun and educational attractions for all, including, in 2021, a roller coaster on the theme of earthquakes, and an exhibition space.

The Volcan de Lemptégy offers an experience inside a real volcano. This site was formerly mined for its stone and so nowadays we can go inside to experience a volcano from within. This is a one-of-a-kind experience in the world, which doubles as a real family adventure!



EVENT

THE "VOLVIC VOLCANIC EXPERIENCE"

Every year, the Volvic Volcanic Experience, sponsored by Kilian Jornet, offers the opportunity for everyone to move, explore and feel in the unique setting of the Chaîne des Puys. On the programme are volcanic trails and other stunning hikes alongside shows, concerts and cultural visits, with a particular emphasis on local crafts. Inspiring!

13, 14, 15 MAY 2021

THE MASSIF DU SANCY, WITH BREATHTAKING PANORAMAS

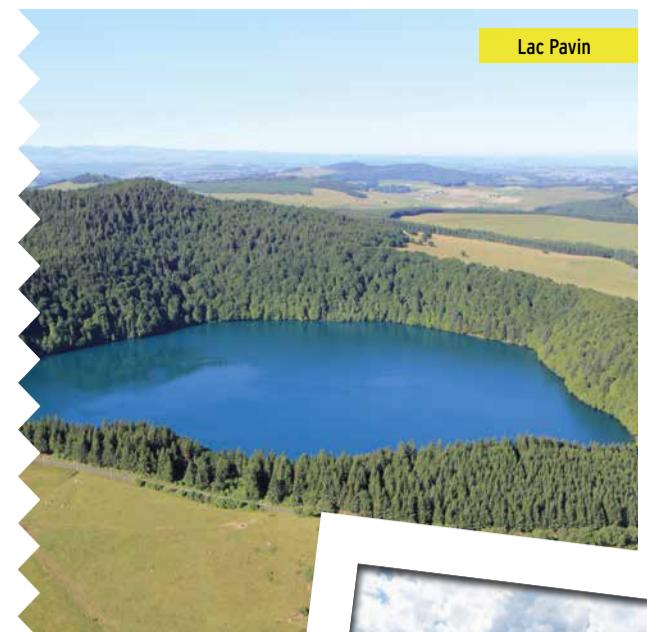
Lac Pavin

Coming from the south, a second volcanic range appears on the horizon... Here, you will find summits that are sometimes soft and round, sometimes abrupt and wild; wide valleys, vast plateaus, nature reserves home to extraordinary flora and fauna, enchanting lakes and forests: the Massif du Sancy invites you to contemplation.

As a land of volcanoes, the Massif de Sancy has the particularity of boasting the highest volcano in mainland France, Le Puy de Sancy, and also the youngest volcano, aged only 6,900 years, Lac Pavin.

Even if its appearance does not reveal it at first glance,

the Puy de Sancy is a volcano! Don't look for a crater at its top, it's no longer there! At 1886 metres high, it looks different from the Chaîne des Puys due to its "alpine"-style profile. From the summit, four valleys can be seen in which charming villages are nestled, each with their own identity. Lac Pavin, in addition to its almost perfect circular shape and its mysterious legends, is a treasure trove for scientists who take up residence there each year. The Massif du Sancy is also an amazing playground for families with hiking, riding and cycling trails accessible to everyone. In Sancy, there is a special place for seaside adventures and the resorts have been well-known travel destinations throughout the centuries.



Mont-Dore

© Photos : OT Sancy



EVENT

"LA SAINT-SIXTE" All roads lead to Sancy

A large Christian procession in former times, the Saint-Sixte has now become a traditional festival in which experienced hikers and nature lovers come together to share in a giant hike to the summit of Puy de Sancy.

6 AUGUST

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NATURAL AREAS THAT ARE PROTECTED AND PRESERVED

Within the Auvergne Atout Volcans territory, there are no less than four national nature reserves that allow you to explore the remarkably rich fauna and flora.

The Chaudéfour valley, in the heart of the Massif du Sancy, is famous for its alpine flora as well as its sharp and spectacular dykes.

As a National Nature Reserve, Chaudéfour is home to sumptuous landscapes, very rich fauna and incredible geological features. Its accessibility makes it a very popular site, especially with hikers. Another preserved and protected area, the Chastreix-Sancy National

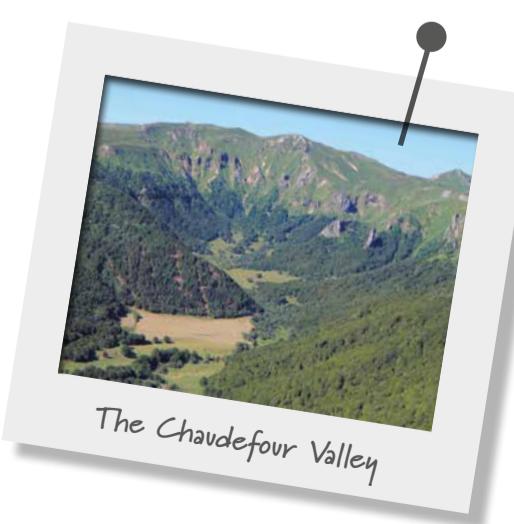
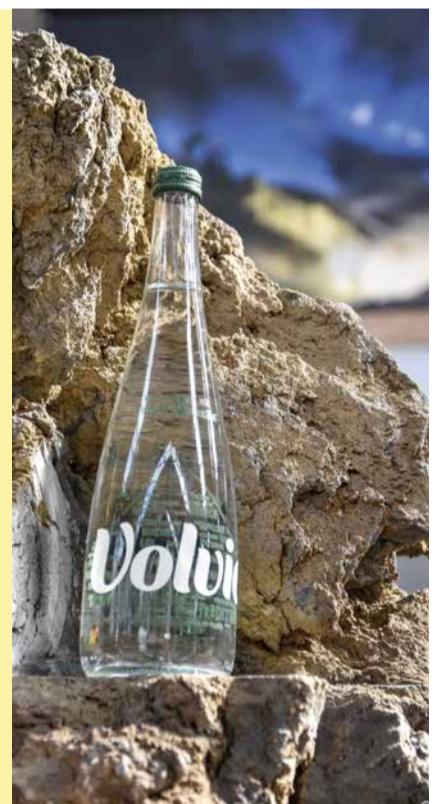
Nature Reserve, in the Fontaine Salée valley, is also full of natural beauty. 1,058 different plant species have been recorded in the reserve, including more than 120 endangered species, and the flora and fauna is mainly mountainous. Located at 1,200 m altitude, on the Cézallier volcanic plateau, the Sagnes de La Godivelle nature reserve has protected a peat bog site for almost 50 years, while further north, in Volvic, the Cheires Natural Reserve and the Grottes de Volvic (caves) are the largest hibernation site for bats in the Auvergne. The paths that cross it are all ways to explore this remarkable biodiversity.

VOLVIC

From here stretches the Impluvium de Volvic, an unspoilt territory of 38 km² on which rainwater and melting snow is collected to be used for the famous mineral water.

This Impluvium is also the birthplace of the iconic Volvic stone, created by lava flowing from the Puy de la Nugère. Various paths cross this natural paradise, an opportunity to drink in the air, whether hiking or biking, before visiting Volvic's Information centre. Here, you can learn all about this internationally-famous water via a new visitors' trail, inaugurated in 2021.

Very near to the site of the Grotte de la Pierre the story that unites the stone and the water is told, a history of minerals that is full of humanity and emotion!



The Chaudéfour Valley

A metropolis that breathes!

Clermont-Ferrand, a metropolis and the historic capital of the Auvergne, is surrounded by two natural parks: the Volcans d'Auvergne to the west and Livradois-Forez to the east.

With almost unlimited possibilities for exploration along the hiking trails, your walk will be punctuated with breathtaking landscapes.

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A WALKERS' PARADISE



Climb the iconic Puy de Dôme

To the west of the city, the stunning tectonic Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault line, with UNESCO World Heritage status, is a one-of-a-kind setting in the world.

This string of 80 volcanoes, spread over 45 km, contains countless hiking trails for all abilities. With Grand Site de France® status, the iconic Puy de Dôme, accessible by shuttle bus from the city, is the best known and most iconic of them all. It can also be climbed on foot or you can take the Panoramique des Dômes rack train. From the top, you can enjoy a breathtaking 360° view, explore the remains of a Gallo-Roman temple dedicated to Mercury and see many paragliders attracted by the skylines of this summit at 1,465 metres altitude. Various events and activities are offered here in the summer.

Departing from Clermont-Ferrand to go hiking in the volcanoes is possible! Various paths begin on the Place de Jaude, in the heart of the city, a square built on an ancient volcanic crater.

© Photos : Claret, OT Terra Volcana David Frobert, OT Sancy

Here, a concentrate of volcanic sensations has been concocted for you by nature herself... and the pathways were added by man! Here are 3 of our favourite itineraries to take you exploring during your stay in Auvergne.



The majestic north face of the Chaine des Puys

An ascent of the Puys de Jume, the Coquille and the Puy des Gouttes begins with "Chuchoter", one of the 5 monumental sculptures by Thierry Courtadon, placed here and there around Volvic.

Here, the artist is encouraging silence in front of these enormous sleeping giants that make up the Chaine des Puys. A little further on, it is the beech groves of these three volcanoes that catch our imagination. Here, the trees create strange shapes that add to the charm of this place, before the stunning panoramas appear. Three summits, three craters, over 15 km of hiking: explore the rhythm of each and discover the north face of the Chaine des Puys along with its numerous geological features.



The Puy de Sancy

It's impossible to come to the Massif de Sancy without exploring its highest peak, the unmissable Puy de Sancy.

From the bottom, you'll need to summon all your energy to climb to the highest point of the Massif Central, at 1,886 metres. Other than the magnificent panoramas over the glacial valleys, in clear weather you will also see Mont Blanc 300 km away as the crow flies.

However, it is easier to see the Chaine des Puys, the Cantal peaks and the Plateau du Cézallier. A viewpoint indicator at the summit helps orientate you as to which mountains ranges you can see, as well as the villages that are visible in this 360° view. Various hiking circuits of different lengths and difficulties will allow you to explore the massif from all angles.



Those less sporty can access Puy de Sancy using the Perdrix cable car to Super Besse or the Sancy cable car to Mont-Dore.

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MAKE AN ESCAPE BY BIKE!

Visiting the Puy-de-Dôme is a great opportunity to explore one of our routes by mountain bike or hybrid bike. Among the many mountain biking circuits offered in our area, the GTMC (Great Massif Central Crossing) makes its way through the entire department, from the Plaine de Limagne to Sancy via the Chaine des Puys and the city of Clermont-Ferrand. On the programme on the plain: volcanoes and other heritage treasures for amazing experiences on mountain bikes.

For the more intrepid, 4 of the iconic 10 Puy-de-Dôme passes are in Sancy. These passes are known for both their sporting and landscape interest. As the ascent progresses, there are signs indicating the elevation and the remaining kilometres. Sancy offers wonderful routes for all cyclo-tourists to explore! With varying levels, they will take you to the heart of unmissable spots.

More challenging than a "traditional" mountain biking route, the cross-country route uses the marked mountain biking trails. Sancy offers more than 540 km of



Enjoy a break on the Via Allier

routes marked by the Fédération Française de Cyclisme with 50 circuits of differing levels spread over the range.

The **Via Allier** is the new Auvergne cycle route and offers a gentle ride along the Allier, one of the last great wild rivers in Europe and a haven of biodiversity. With friends or family you can explore a route among the hidden lands of the Auvergne, a way to go off the beaten track.

Lovers of technical routes, our mountain bike guides keep a reserve back for the whole all-terrain experience of our volcanic land!

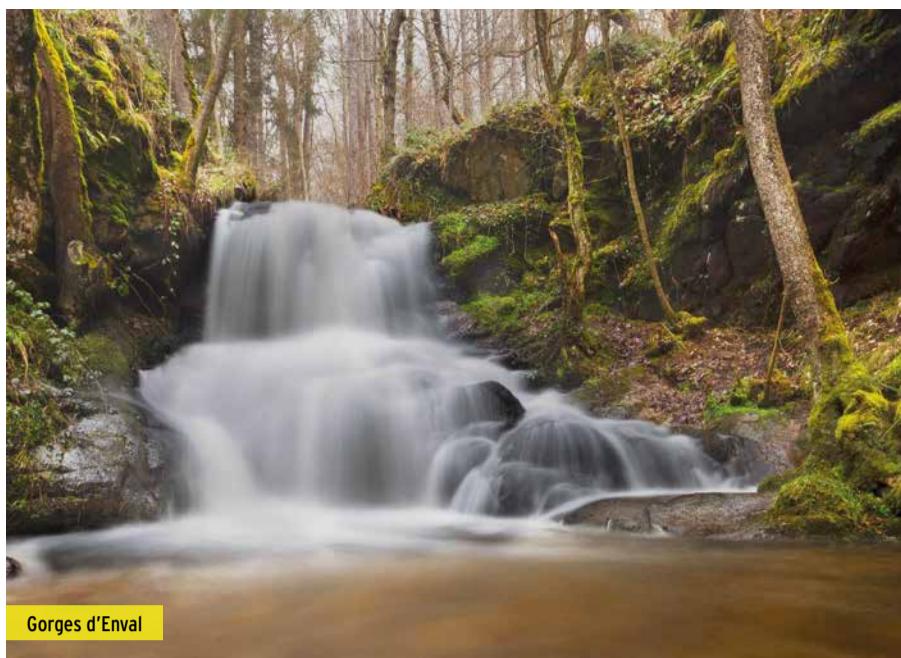
A pause to explore at the water's edge

On a mountain bike, you have the opportunity to pause along one of the last wild rivers in Europe, or explore in a canoe or on a stand-up paddle boat, during a trip to Cournon-d'Auvergne or Pont-du-Château.

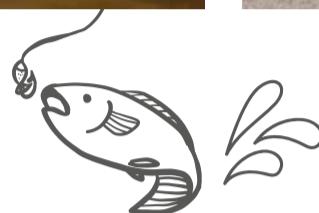
On the water, in complete independence, float along in a lush green setting, experiencing a unique view of the villages you pass and enjoy the thrills of the rapids (depending on the level of the water), which will enhance your descent.



Puy des Gouttes



REFRESHING SPOTS



Of the rivers flowing in this area, the most iconic is probably the Allier, one of the last wild rivers in Europe, where it is possible to see Atlantic Salmon.

The banks of the Allier river can be explored on foot, by bike or even in a canoe-kayak. They are full of surprises, with more than 300 km of trails in the heart of the city...

In the Auvergne des Volcans area, the source that we are most proud of is that

of the Dordogne, the river whose name is learnt in primary school. It originates in Mont Dore, at the foot of the Puy de Sancy, at the confluence of two small streams, the Dore and the Dogne. The Dordogne crosses Mont-Dore and Bourboule, but its importance must not overshadow the many other rivers that flow from the different slopes of the massif to join the Allier.

In Sancy, the lakes are volcanic and have various characteristics. They are the

setting for many activities: water sports, swimming, hiking or cycling, everyone will find something that they enjoy, whatever their age and interests. In addition, the abundance of the fish in the lakes and rivers, especially Arctic char, will make fishermen happy. The combination of the rugged landscape and the water results in magnificent waterfalls, ideal for refreshing family walks! Special mention goes to Gorges d'Enval and its Bout du Monde waterfall, once sung about by Georges Sand and Guy de Maupassant. Magic!

© Photos : Stéphane Aumeunier, OT Sancy, ESM-CAT

The surprises of more than 200 fountains

In Auvergne Atout Volcans, there is water everywhere... right in the heart of the towns!

In Clermont, you can also see an impressive number of fountains, which reveal their secret charms on small squares, at street corners or tucked away in gardens. These fountains, in Volvic stone, bronze or ornate cast iron, mark the course of the water, and following it makes a very pleasant walk in the summer. Special mention goes to the Amboise fountain, one of the oldest in France dating from the Renaissance, with a magnificent sculpted decoration. To daydream along the river, head to Jardin Lecoq, a 5-hectare English landscape garden in the middle of the city. Riom, Volvic or even Artonne have countless fountains, evoking their wine-making history.

A curiosity:

in the smallest village of Puy-de-Dôme, Godivelle (with 15 inhabitants) the largest fountain in the department is to be found!

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FLY OVER THE VOLCANOES



Up there, in the air, a different form of exploration takes place, with no predefined route, but under the supervision of enthusiasts. In a flexwing microlight with Delta Dôme, in a paraglider with Aeroparapente or Freedom Parapente or even in a hot air balloon, you can really appreciate the different areas of our region.

Fly above the Chaîne des Puys with its perfectly aligned chain of volcanoes, discover the lakes and rivers of the Massif du Sancy, observe the iconic spires of the Cathédrale de Clermont from the clouds... An unforgettable experience and, above all, the ideal way to really appreciate the reality of our volcanic landscape... Ready to take off?

Our favourite 100% natural

ECO-FRIENDLY

Near to Volvic, Damien and Lucien have set up their Volvic Organic Resort, 8 eco-lodges with green roofs, for complete immersion in unspoilt nature. Here you can also benefit from leisure and outdoor sports, by renting an electric mountain bike or participating in geocaching, as offered by the site owners. Seminar spaces are also available in this accommodation that is in complete harmony with its environment.



AUTHENTIC

In the heart of the Parc Natural des Volcans d'Auvergne, there are authentically-renovated gîtes, suitable for rest and relaxation, such as Le Buron de la Tâche in Mont Dore, a former bread oven with an exceptional view over the surrounding area, or the gîte La Grange des Puys, a creation that is completely 'made in Auvergne', in a barn that was constructed in 1848 just a short distance away from Puy de Dôme.



© Photos : Delta Dôme, OT Sancy, Ville de Clermont Ferrand-Service Communication, Nicolas Anetson

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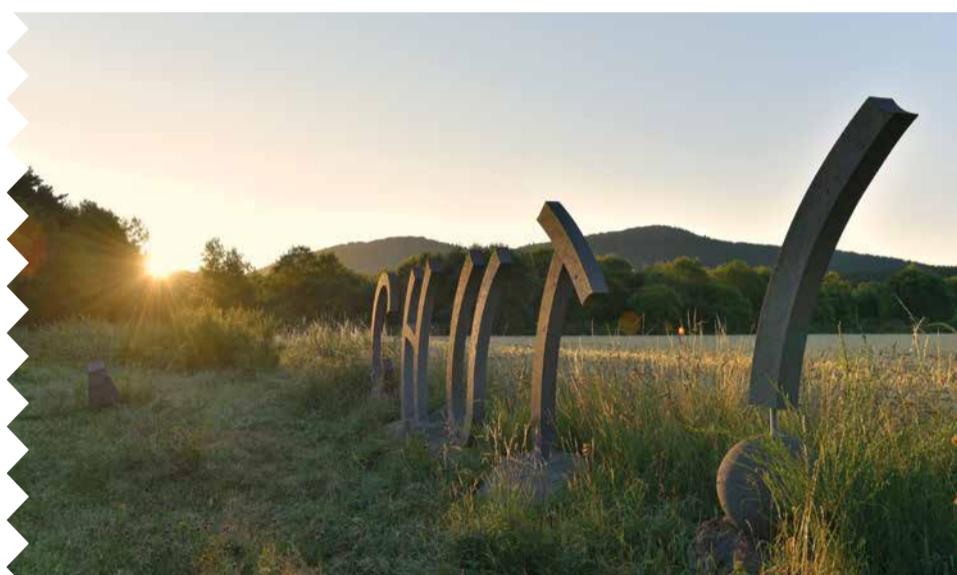
ART IN VOLCANO COUNTRY

"Conjuguer la nature", Land Art in Terra Volcana

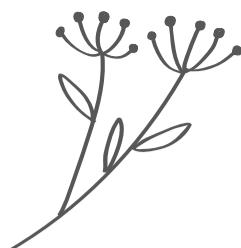
Thierry Courtadon is the curator of "Conjuguer la Nature", a permanent exhibition of Land Art in the area of Terra Volcana, which reflects his love for the Volvic stone.

The artist, based in Volvic, has always had volcanic rock in his blood... But he certainly doesn't have a heart of stone! As a son and grandson of stonemasons, his ability to transform volcanic rock into a living, lace-like material, is astonishing. Emerging from

the earth, the 5 works by the artist that are still visible both challenge and complete the landscape. The piece "Chuchoter", near the Puy de Jumes, suggests the silence you feel in front of these age-old volcanoes. "Contempler", in Chanat La Mouteyre, plays with the light, as if the stone itself were in motion. "Suspendre", in Charbonnières les Varennes, "Ondoyer" in Sayat and "Compresser" in Pulverières also play on the strength of this volcanic rock, which reflects the stone's origins in a certain way.



© Photos : Henri Derus, OT Sancy



The "Horizons Arts-Nature en Sancy" Festival

Enhancing nature is the vocation of the festival "Horizons Arts-Nature en Sancy", which will celebrate its 15 year anniversary in 2021. Volcanic activity has given the Massif du Sancy a unique character. "Horizons" emphasises this uniqueness each summer with the installation of contemporary and life-size works of art in the landscapes.

As the different editions unfold, the sites of the works are changed to offer visitors new experiences, both artistic and natural. During the festival, each artist takes over a space, giving it a new aesthetic dimension. The installation highlights the landscape's peculiarities and offers new perspectives on it. Horizons, like an open-air gallery, can

be discovered during walks that lead the visitor to the foot of each work, following an "artistic trail".



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VOLCANIC EXPERTISE

Enamelling technique on lava

Volcanic soils definitely inspire the world. Just as the stonemason Thierry Courtadon found in the famous local stone the ideal material to express himself, other craftsmen have invented a very special enamelling technique on lava.

Volvic stone possesses exceptional qualities. It does not risk erosion, is not affected by the frost and is chemical resistant... It's the perfect material for works that will last almost forever! With both bright colours and volcanic grey, let yourself be charmed by the various artists' studios, such as Moulin Fradet in Artonne with its enchanted setting.

Les Fontaines Pétrifiantes

Hot springs that flow from the centre of the earth inspire a unique craft: the art of petrification.

In the village of Saint-Nectaire, after a short trip underground, you'll discover the hot springs that will take you to the manufacturing workshops where the secrets of family expertise have been passed down the generations for two centuries. La Fontaine Pétrifiante, with its surprising 14-metre waterfall, will reveal human ingenuity in the artistic rendering of limestone.



**Several words...
by Thierry Courtadon**

Artist and stonemason

• Can you say a few words to define Volvic stone?
It is not black.

• What is the common thread in your work?
Sculpting the void.

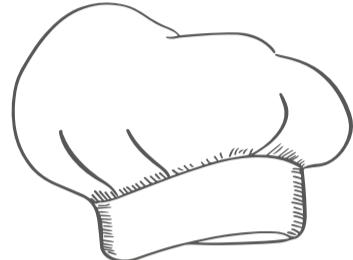
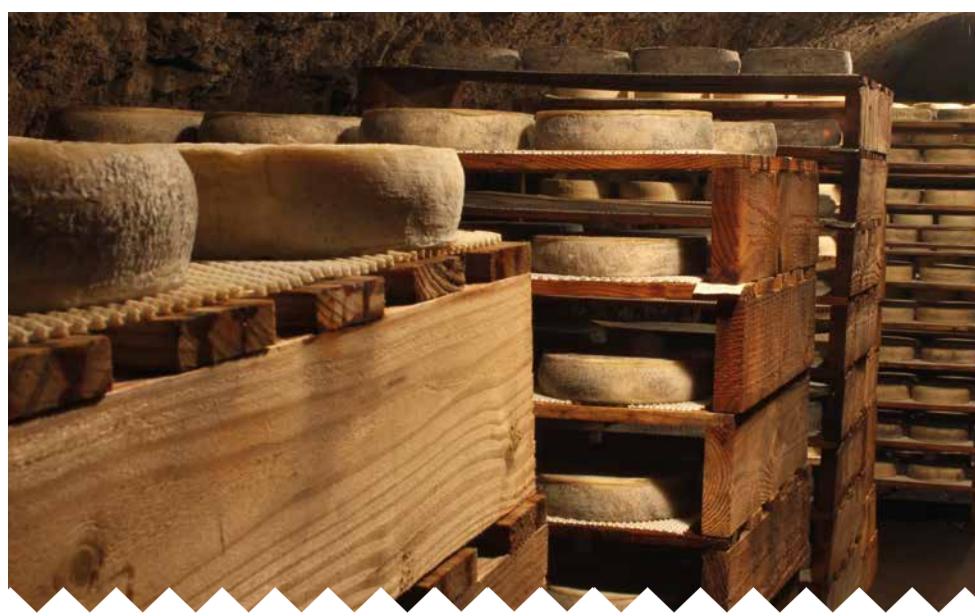
• An adjective to describe the Auvergne people?
Volcanic attitude!

• What emotions do you feel in front of the Chaîne des Puys?

IDENTITY: for me, we all have a Puy de Dôme in our fingerprints. It is written within us...

THE HEART: I am at home when I am near my volcanoes.

THE PRECIOUS SIDE: These are sites to preserve, to treasure and to pass on, as they were passed to us.



LAND OF DELICACIES

Savoury or sweet delicacies, our Auvergne specialities will tickle your taste buds!

From our legendary **cheese** to our **volcanic wines**, not to forget our **sweet delicacies**, we will take you on a gourmet journey worthy of the best tables!

© Photos : OT Sancy, Marc Nevoux



THE PLEASURES OF THE AUVERGNE, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL!

Pâtes de fruits jellies, marmalades, fruit pastille sweets... It is difficult to resist the temptation of the Auvergne's sweet tradition. At the end of the 19th century, this industry gave jobs to almost 1,200 people. Under the influence of those taking cures, much of the production was exported elsewhere.

Among the ingredients used to make these delights is angelica. For a long time this

"angel's grass" has flourished in the fertile soil of Montferrand and Limagne. Its various benefits - especially to the digestive system - contributed to its reputation. Today, several passionate confectioners strive to perpetuate this expertise and delight gourmets, who come together via the "Puy Confit" organisation, whose shop is in the heart of the medieval city of Montferrand.

CHEESE WITH IRRESISTIBLE FLAVOURS

The Saint-Nectaire



This is the land of Saint-Nectaire, a traditional Auvergne cheese, more specifically from the Massif du Sancy: the cheese of kings and the king of cheeses!

Made since the time of the Arvernes, it gained its excellent reputation in the 17th century when it was introduced in the court of the Sun King by Henri de Senneterre, the Marshal of France. Louis XIV fell under

its spell and ever since then, Saint-Nectaire and its nutty taste has been an unmissable part of the Massif du Sancy. Its age-old authenticity is guaranteed by its very precise AOP (protected designation of origin) specifications and ancestral expertise. As well as this gourmet, generous product, the Sancy people offer other Auvergne cheeses including no fewer than four more AOPs: Cantal, Salers, Fourme d'Ambert and Bleu d'Auvergne.

Not to be missed > Discover natural maturing caves in Beaune-le-Froid, created by different volcanic events.

The Maringuois

Alongside these unmissable well-known cheeses, are hidden a few other spicier delicacies, waiting to be tasted. The Maringuois is one of them! Made with raw cow's milk and especially with the Auvergne's pink garlic, this farm-made gaperon cheese from the Plaine de Limagne is unique and can be enjoyed based on the degree of maturing that you like.



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Even more famous are the pâté de fruits jellies, which win all the votes. Their history dates back to the 15th century! Because yes, the pâté de fruits originated in Auvergne. La **Maison Cruzilles** continues this age-old tradition today with panache.

In Aigueperse, another company is spoiling gourmets, young and old alike: La **Maison Vernet**. It was here that, in 1850, a confectioner created the first hand-made Aigueperse pralines, by accident, using sweet almonds coated in sugar and caramel, in what became a unique recipe. Now synonymous with the Auvergne, Stéphane Barthoux has kept the recipe unchanged... And still just as delicious!



Volcanic wines... In the heart of the Auvergne!

Not far from here, there is a product from this rich land that marries so well with the maringuois cheese: the AOC Côtes d'Auvergne wine, also known as volcanic wine. In fact, a "volcanic wine" status is being created!

There are very few volcanic vineyards on the planet. There are some in Santorini, some in the Azores archipelago, some on the flanks of Mount Etna and Mount Vesuvius, and some in Oregon in the US. The Auvergne wines, whose vines grow on former volcanoes, are part of this exclusive club. What do our volcanoes bring to our wines? Freshness, minerality, peppery notes... A unique identity that young winemakers and other dynamic wine craftsmen are working to develop.

How about enjoying a volcanic wine during your stay in Auvergne?



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CRAFTING TASTES



Auvergne Atout Volcans has a large number of winemakers, whose "hand-made", small batches and quality marks bring them out on top.

Auvergne cooking is generous and is an integral part of the local cultural heritage. Fresh tome cheese and potatoes are the basic ingredients for the unmissable **truffade** dish, which is a supper-time favourite after a day in the open air (along with Potée Auvergnate soup of course).



Everyone will find food to enjoy: a gourmet dinner as a couple in one of the Michelin starred restaurants, a plate of local tapas with friends, lunch in a mountain restaurant, or brunch on the roof terrace with a panoramic view...

And for a snack, there is nothing like a cheese tasting at the **Halle Gourmande Saint-Pierre** in Clermont-Ferrand, followed by an aperitif on the Place de la Victoire, overlooking the majestic cathedral.



RESTAURANTS



Les Toques d'Auvergne

To enjoy our regional specialities all the more, stop off in a "Toques d'Auvergne" restaurant: Michelin-starred chefs, Bibs Gourmands, highly-renowned chefs and young talents, the 50 or so chefs that make up the Toques d'Auvergne organisation come together to promote the Auvergne via its gastronomy and lifestyle.

These restaurants compete creatively to bring simple, traditional products up-to-date in a friendly collaborative atmosphere. This is the spirit of the Toques d'Auvergne!

Le Pré at Durtol

CHEF XAVIER BEAUDIMENT
Gastronomic
2 Michelin stars 2021

Les Fées Mères at Mont-Dore

CHEF THOMAS PERRON
Born from a passion for gastronomy and regional produce, Les Fées Mères offers refined bistro-romantic cuisine, favouring farm to plate and fruit and veg from the family garden.

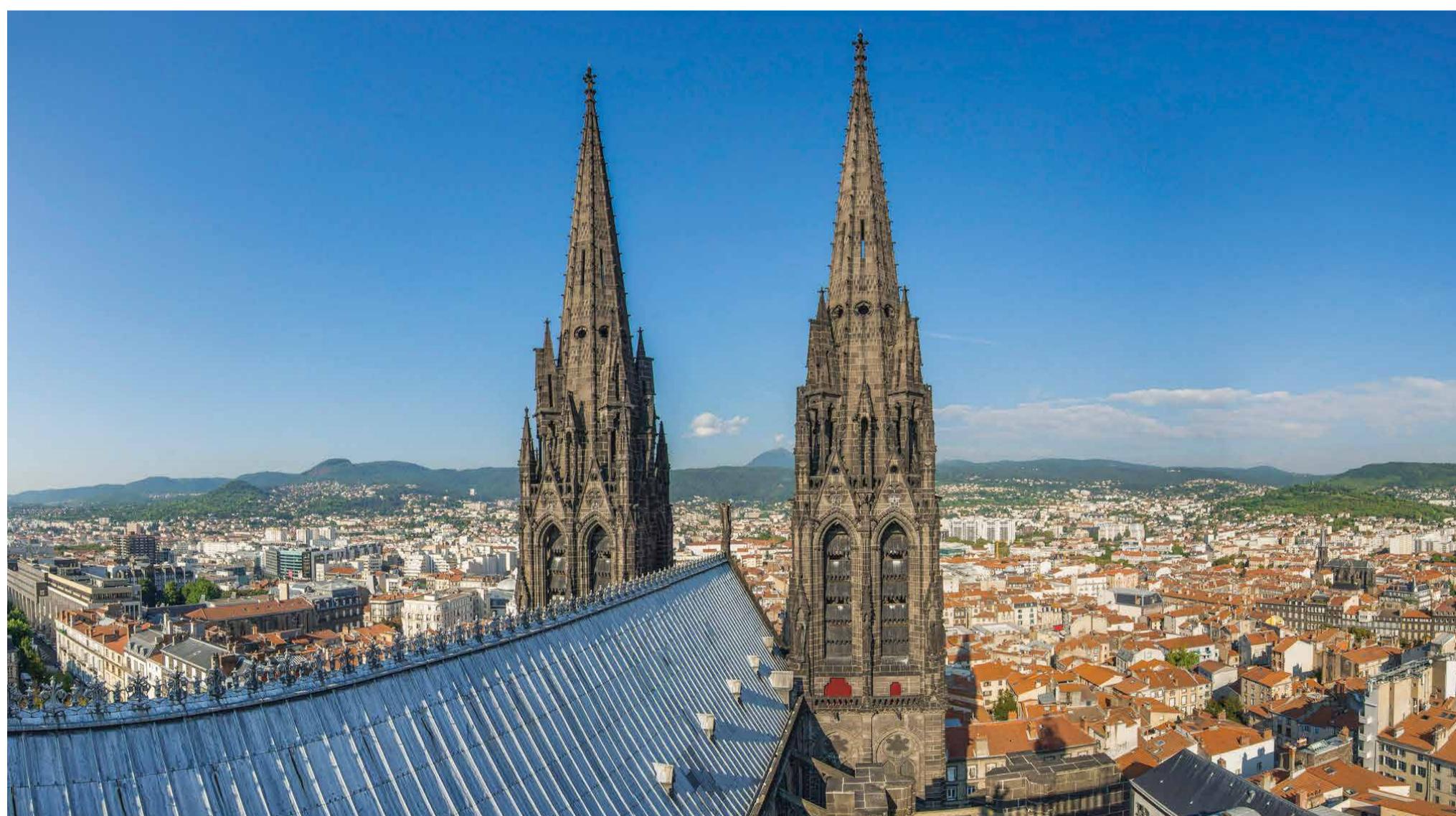
L'Auberge de la Croix de Fer in Riom

CHEF PHILIPPE COLZI
Here, conviviality is key, along with fine cuisine with various flavours. Not to be missed: the patio with stunning views over the plain and volcanoes, and the Piano Bar on Sundays.

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EXPLORE AN EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE

© Photo : Luc Olivier

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The Notre-Dame-du-Port Basilica



Street Art in Clermont-Ferrand

OPEN YOUR EYES TO A REMARKABLE HERITAGE

Clermont-Ferrand and its metropolis unveils a huge diversity of heritage. Volcanic rock is one of Clermont's symbols, conferring strength and unity.

It stands proudly at the top of Rue des Gras. The two spires, culminating at a height of 90 meters, were built by Viollet-le-Duc. You've guessed it, we're talking about the cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption. With its Gothic style, this Clermont building has a distinctive anthracite colour, characteristic of volcanic rock. This stone adorns many buildings in the historic centre of Clermont, and is the signature heritage of the city. But it's not the only heritage... In another vein,

the Notre-Dame-du-Port Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage site under the Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France, is a masterpiece of Romanesque art, and an interpretation centre is soon to be established here.

It's impossible to speak of Clermont without mentioning Monferrand

For a long time, these cities were rivals. It took two royal edicts to force their union under the name of "Clermont-Ferrand."

Today, Monferrand is a neighbourhood of Clermont-Ferrand, whose heritage testifies to its medieval past and where a

village atmosphere has been preserved, offering a unique way of life...

Another way of exploring the city?

From London to Tokyo, via Istanbul, Rome, Los Angeles or Bangkok, the artist-mosaicist, Invader, has invaded the largest cities in the world.

But you don't have to go far to see his work! In Clermont-Ferrand, this "hacker of public spaces" has made around forty unique works on the themes of cinema, volcanoes, Michelin and more. Even the great Serge Gainsbourg was resuscitated! A real exploration of street art!



CLERMONT-FERRAND

GOAL > European Capital of Culture in 2028

The city of Clermont-Ferrand is preparing its application for the title of European City of Culture in 2028 (the next time when the status is conferred on a French city), in connection with the long-term transformation and development of this metropolitan area. A dynamic city that is always changing, Clermont-Ferrand has just inaugurated its new Scène Nationale public theatre, in the Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand, a unique place of exchange for artists, spectators and theatre professionals, whose spirit is enhanced by the building's architecture, which is the work of the internationally-renowned architect Eduardo Souto de Moura (Pritzker Architecture Prize).



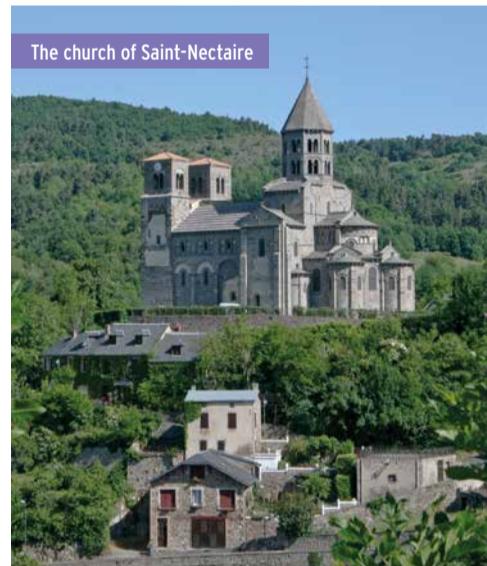
© Photos : Luc Olivier, Mathieu Noël

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View from la Tour de l'Horloge, Riom



The church of Saint-Nectaire



Abbaye de Mozac

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, A DESTINATION WITH A THOUSAND AND ONE PERSPECTIVES

From north to south, the heritage of the Auvergne is marked by the prevalence of the unmissable Volvic stone, again!

The town of Riom, with Pays d'Art et d'Histoire status, has an impressive theatrical atmosphere, from its rich Renaissance mansions to the imposing Clock Tower and impressive religious buildings. For example, the Basilique Saint-Amable in Riom and its different styles, Romanesque and Gothic, or the huge Abbaye de Mozac, an important Romanesque site because of the numerous 12th century capitals on its columns.

A little higher up, the church of Saint-Nectaire, in the heart of the village of the same name, sits atop Mont Cornadore and is rightly considered one of the most beautiful Romanesque churches in Auvergne. The church is also celebrated for its

treasures, including the bust of Saint-Baudime and the polychrome capitals forming one of the most remarkable sets of Romanesque sculptures.

Our villages also hold much history to be retold, of Maringues, the ancient city of tanners in Artonne and its winemaker past, including the remarkable churches of Thuret and Ennezat.

The medieval and Renaissance city of Besse, once fortified, still has narrow cobblestone streets, little shops, beautiful volcanic stone houses with red shutters, flower-adorned fountains... The city of Besse, with "Petite cité de caractère" (small characterful city) status, is distinguished by an undeniable architectural richness. Linked to the history of France and to royalty, the city of Besse has long remained one of the kingdoms of the Medicis.



Medieval city of Besse, Sancy

© Photos : OT Terra Volcana David Frobert, OT Sancy

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CONQUER OUR CASTLES

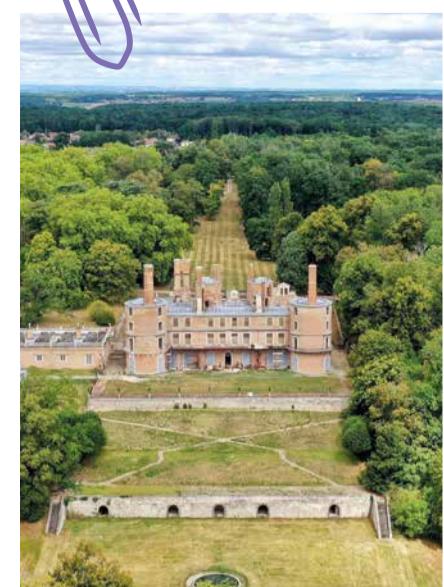
Did you know? Auvergne is the region with the second largest number of castles in France. In this respect, the historic route of the Auvergne castles serves as an ideal road map for lovers of old buildings.

And these old stones have many stories to tell. Start with the Middle Ages, which can be revisited at the Château de Tournoël, in Volvic. Perched on its rocky spur, it overlooks the volcanoes of the Chaîne des Puys while dominating the huge Plaine de Limagne.

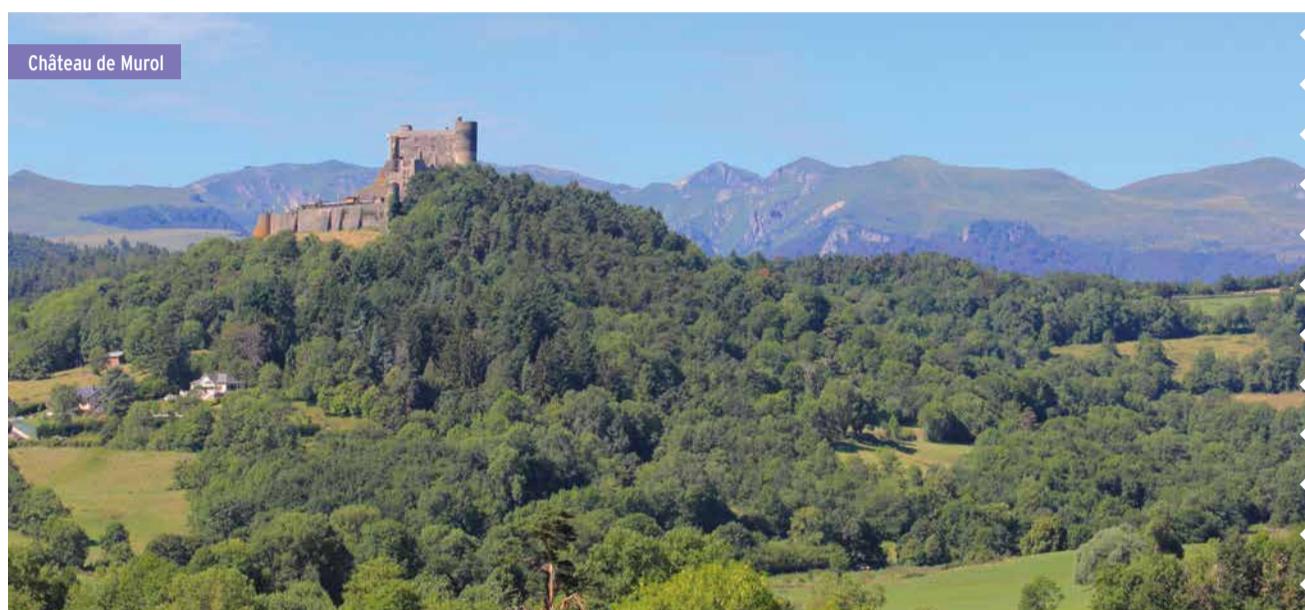
This medieval era can also be found at the Château de Murol, an 11th century fortress. Even before the Château de Murol was constructed there, the volcanic hill was already a popular site with the Romans who had constructed an



oppidum. This strategic position, on the crossroads of three important routes, was chosen in the 12th century as the site for a castle belonging to the Lords of Apchon, then the Lords of Murol. A typical castle of medieval times, with Historical Monument status granted in the 20th century, the Château de Murol has become an unmissable site in Sancy, allowing visitors to discover the daily life of a 15th-century Lord: Guillaume de Murol. With a special set, costumed events depicting the Middle Ages, recreations of rooms to show the way of life... All this helps the visitor to immerse themselves into the life of the Lord, with fun family events.



Château de Murol



© Photos : Luc Olivier, Mathieu Noël

EVENT

JULIEN SALAUD'S EXHIBITION

From 21 June 2021 to 20 March 2022, spotlight on the Musée Mandet who will be hosting the accomplished artist Julien Salaud. After the Château de Rambouillet and the Palais de Tokyo, this creator chose Riom to host his new exhibition "Gaïa". The artist will weave his thread-based art here, offering a spectacular graphic exploration based on the museum collections and the Auvergne volcanoes. Stunning!



UNMISSABLE CULTURAL VISITS IN VOLCANIC COUNTRY

Our art museums invite you to awaken your curiosity via their exceptional collections : The Musée Mandet and the Musée Régional d'Auvergne in Riom, Marcel Marcel Sahut in Volvic, the Bargoin, archaeological and non-European textiles Museums, the Musée d'Art Roger-Quilliot, the Muséum Henri-Lecoq.

The Centre Photographique Fontfreyde in Clermont-Ferrand is installed in one of the city's most beautiful Renaissance buildings... Fine arts combine with contemporary design and archaeology in eclectic venues, often with remarkable architectural features.

L'Aventure Michelin

Inseparable from Michelin, Clermont-Ferrand has a considerable industrial heritage, whose history continues today and allows the city to reinvent and rebuild itself constantly.

L'Aventure Michelin, a vast playful, interactive space, appreciated by young and old alike, allows you to retrace Michelin's history of manufacture, the history of its iconic logo (Bibendum) and its passion for innovation. A visit for the whole family, not to be missed!

Auvergne, Land of champions

It's impossible to mention Clermont-Ferrand without referring to sports. Attending an ASM rugby match played by the "Jaunards" in the iconic Marcel-Michelin stadium is a

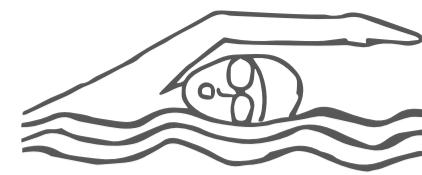
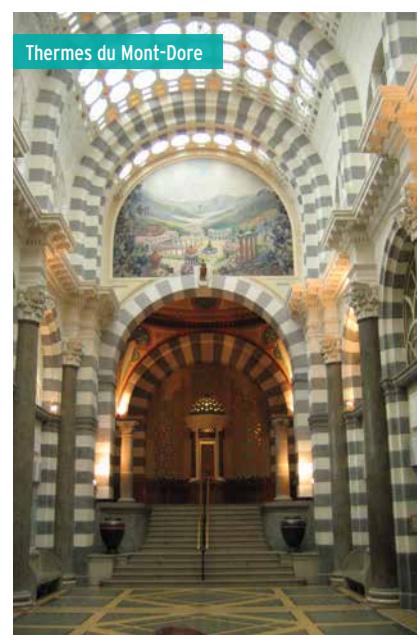
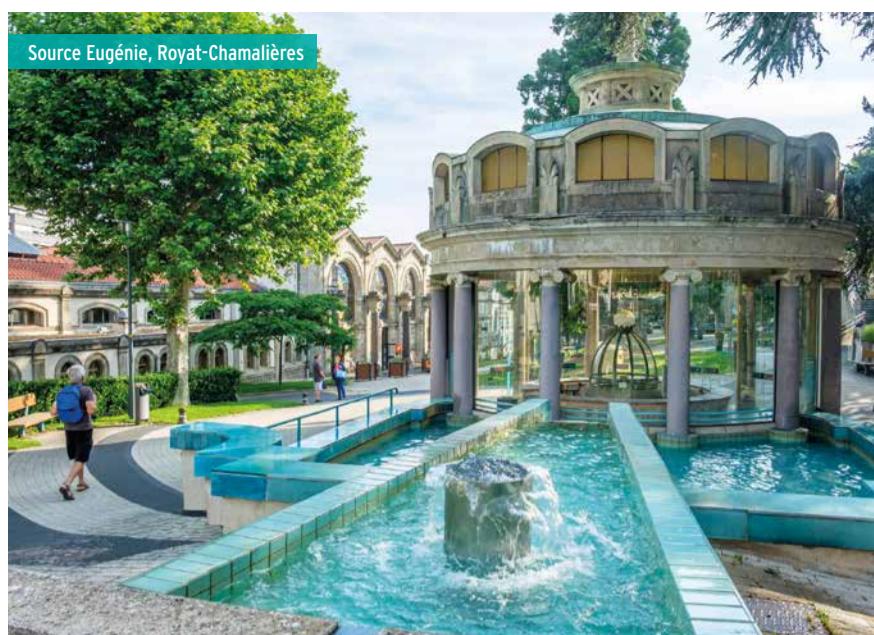
must when you come to the Auvergne.

And why not use your visit as an opportunity for a guided tour of the stadium?

Musée Archéologique de la Bataille de Gergovie

Just 20 minutes from the city, the Plateau de Gergovie is an ideal place for a walk. From this viewpoint, created by volcanic eruptions, the view is breathtaking.

Did you know? Gergovie was an Arvenes fortified oppidum for almost 70 years. In 52 BCE, during an epic battle, Vercingétorix triumphed over Julius Caesar. This major episode in the Gallic Wars is retold in the new museum, the Musée Archéologique de la Bataille de Gergovie.



EXCEPTIONAL SPA TOWNS

Emblematic of the Belle Epoque, the Royat-Chamalières and Châtel-Guyon spa resorts both have a sumptuous spa district.

The Grands Thermes of Châtel-Guyon and their Romanesque inspirations, and the hall of the Royat spa are the legacy of this era. The magnificent Italian-style theatre in Châtel-Guyon and its casino, and the splendid Art Deco villas in the two towns, such as the Pavillon Majestic or the Pavillon de St-Mart aimed to equal or surpass those of Vichy in terms of prestige.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME IN OUR SPA RESORTS

The history of our spa resorts seems to be revived when walking through their streets dotted with Art Déco hotels and villas. These are the legacy of high-society balneology, the fruit of an era where the greats of this world came to "take the waters".

Thanks to the Mont Dore railway line, La Bourboule, Royat and Châtel-Guyon developed and hosted the greats of this world during the Belle Epoque. Napoleon III, George Sand, Maupassant

as well as the Maharajah of Kapurthala were notable figures who stayed there, a symbol of high-society balneotherapy.

The Mont-Dore spa, a sumptuous and luxurious temple to water that is dedicated to health, was built by architect Charles Ledru in 1817. Although his Neo-classical exterior architecture is very austere, the interior is rich in coloured décors dedicated to water (mosaics, paintings) and Roman remains. Part of the building has Historic Monument status. Another

little treasure, the Capucin funicular, built in 1898, embodies the charm of the Belle Epoque with its Art-Deco-style train station, its machinery and its large notched wheels in the upper station that evoke the modern times of Charlie Chaplin.

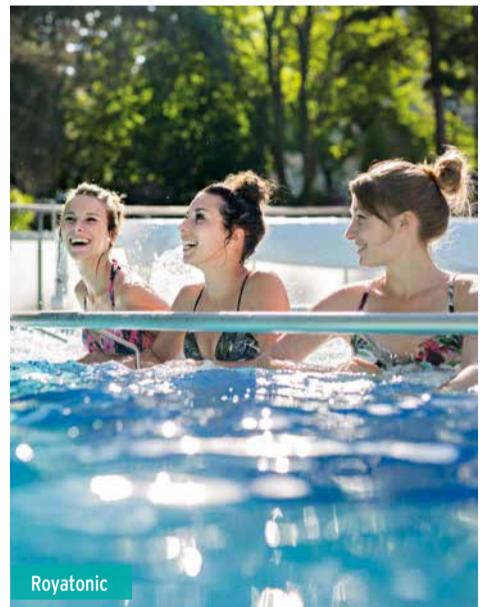
The spa town of La Bourboule experienced an explosion of Belle-Epoque style buildings at the end of the 19th century, such as its town hall, the casino and the Grands Thermes Spa.



© Photos : Guy Christian Hemis, OT Sancy, Fred Murol - Ville de Châtel-Guyon

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ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THE SPA WATER

Our volcanic earth is at the source of some of the most famous hot springs in France.

Le Mont-Dore, a mountain spa resort, owes its reputation to the pureness of the air and the hot springs. 13 springs emerge inside the spa, located at 1,050 m altitude. Soothing to the skin, the thermal waters of Mont-Dore have the highest silica content in France and have relaxing characteristics.

At La Bourboule, the thermal water of the Grands Thermes, at 58°C where it emerges, is recognised as a "hyperthermal" water and is a precious ally in the fight against skin ageing.

As well as the cures, it is possible to enjoy the benefits of thermal water in the spas of these two establishments.

The waters of Châtel-Guyon have the highest magnesium content in Europe and this has made the city the "European spa resort for the intestines", specialising in diseases of the digestive tract and also in rheumatological care.

Finally, ideally located between the city and the volcanoes, the Royat-Chamalières spa offers a unique combination of carbo-gas treatments for cardiovascular diseases and rheumatology.

SPA RESORTS WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE



Aïga Resort in Châtel-Guyon

Since August 2020 a new spa complex has been developed in Châtel-Guyon, Aïga Resort.

Here, a state-of-the-art spa stands alongside a research centre specialising in gut microbiota, a nutri-gastronomic restaurant, 4-star accommodation and also a high-end spa, a true oasis of well-being set within the colours of the volcanoes.

With this new all-in-one spa complex, Châtel-Guyon is becoming established as a Full Health Spa, combining spa treatments, physical activities, stress management, nutrition, well-being and tourist services.

Les Grands Thermes de La Bourboule

This institution of La Bourboule is getting a €7.3 million euro facelift from the end of 2021.

The 3-year work plan will be executed during the off-season periods in order to allow the institution to continue accommodating therapy clients. The programme includes the creation of a new thermal bath and luxury treatment facility, as part of the institution's development strategy. It will also update all of the treatment facilities as well as the building itself and the technical installations.

The aim is to ensure the highly effective

and safe treatment of respiratory illnesses and skin conditions while providing the best possible conditions for the comfort of patients.

The Royat-Chamalières spa resort

With the arrival of new management, the Valvital Group, and an investment of more than 31 million euros, the Royat-Chamalières spa will be changing over the next few years.

On 13,300 m², the spa will be enlarged and completely redesigned. A shop, café-media library, hotel, and a space dedicated to preventative healthcare will be created.

This ambitious project for Royat will allow more than 10,000 spa guests to be welcomed from 2025.

This will make Royat-Chamalières an unmissable spa destination!

In the meantime, while waiting for this major work, the resort has two spaces dedicated to thermal well-being.

- Royatonic, a spa leisure centre under a large wooden dome, this is a must-see venue for enjoying the water at temperatures of 30°C + from the Auvergne's volcanic land.

- The Aeclépios spa where the balneotherapy treatments with Royat's thermal waters are carried out.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Auvergne is a land of events, as is demonstrated by its various cultural and sporting occasions



JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER

TRAILS
DU SANCY

Sancy

FEBRUARY

SHORT FILM
FESTIVAL

Clermont-Ferrand

MAY

VOLVIC VOLCANIC
EXPERIENCE

Volvic

MAY

FESTIVAL
JAZZ AUX SOURCES

Châtel-Guyon

JUNE

FESTIVAL
EUROPAVOX

Clermont-Ferrand

JUNE

FESTIVAL
PIANO À RIOM

Riom

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER

HORIZONS
"ARTS-NATURE"

Sancy

AUGUST

FESTIVAL
VALLÉE VERTE

Sancy

OCTOBER

FESTIVAL
JAZZ EN TÊTE

Clermont-Ferrand

NOVEMBER

RENDEZ-VOUS DU
CARNET DE VOYAGES

Clermont-Ferrand

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