



THE GRAND SITE INITIATIVE

/ Composed of several remarkable sites visited by around 500,000 visitors each year, the Grand Site in Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval is one of the richest cultural and natural heritage sites the Haute-Savoie has to offer — whose features deserve to be showcased.

/ Our region has joined forces with the government in The French Grand Site initiative to draw attention to and preserve all aspects of the local environment and heritage over the long term (natural, historical, cultural, economic, agricultural, and so on).

/ A Grand Site is an exceptional landscape — among the most beautiful, most famous, and most characteristic in France. It is an extension of the actions begun in 1930 to protect French historical sites. The label's notoriety brings tourists in by the thousands, but it also creates a vulnerability to the site. The current management of the area ensures proper harmony between the inhabitants, tourists, and the natural treasures that make the landscape so exceptional.

/ The purpose of a project like this is to coordinate any endeavours within the exceptional territory in order to make them more efficient. Specifically, it encourages everyone to work together, with the inhabitants, around shared visions to preserve the values that are the essence of this amazing area.

- NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES
- PRESERVED NATURAL SITES
- PERIMETER OF THE GRAND SITE OPERATION INITIATIVE
- STUDY AND INFLUENCE ZONE FOR THE GRAND SITE

FIND OUT MORE AVAILABLE AT TOURIST OFFICES



NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE AREA

THE GORGES DES TINES

Glacier erosion caused the birth of the Gorges des Tines, now a single point of junction for the waters converging from the grand Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval cirques. The Giffre River cleared a path by carving an initial canyon, which was left behind as a another deeper, narrower itinerary grew. Visiting the time-sculpted canyons is a wondrous, breathtaking experience!

ANTERNE LAKE

Tucked away 2,060 metres high in the middle of an alpine pasture at the foot of the Fiz mountain range, the Anterne Lake was formed during the Würm glaciation period, the last glacial period in the Alpine region. Its crystal waters can reach up to 14°C in summer. You won't see where the water comes from, nor where it goes — as everything transpires in an invisible network underground!

THE ROUGET WATERFALL

It is believed the waters of this majestic waterfall enhance virility and fecundity, but visitors are mostly astounded by its height and impressive flow. The cascade lives up to her name, The Queen of the Alps!

THE GERS LAKE

Located at 1,537 metres high between Samoëns and Flaine, the Gers Lake is a peaceful haven and a great place for the whole family to hike to, as it can be reached in two hours from Samoëns or Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval.

NANT D'ANT WATERFALL

Although not as tall as the Queen of the Alps, the Nant d'Ant waterfall stands at the centre of an intimate and well-preserved cirque. A great walk in immediate proximity to Samoëns.

THE PLATÉ DESERT

This vast limestone plateau, located at approximately 2,200 metres in altitude and facing the Mont Blanc, is covered by one of the largest karren pavements in Europe. Walking across the moon-like surface gives the sensation of walking on petrified glacier ice.

THE SALES, SAUFFAZ AND PLEUREUSE WATERFALLS

For the pleasure of those trekking in the mountains, the hiking trails between Lignon and the alpine pastures of Sales pass near a series of stunningly beautiful waterfalls. The water that circulates in the area comes from a vast underground network in the limestone-laden Platé Desert and falls down the rocky cliffs to join the Rouget waterfall and then the Giffre River.

The Fer-à-Cheval cirque is a protected national site and part of the vast Sixt-Passy Natural Reserve that extends from Mont Ruan to Pointe de Platé, with the highest altitude at 3,100 m on Mont Buet. The exceptional fauna, flora, and landscapes are protected in the reserve. Gathering anything natural from the area is prohibited. The use of flying objects (drones, paragliders, etc.) is prohibited, as it upsets the animals living here, especially birds and raptors. Helping us preserve this space is the best way to take advantage of what it has to offer.

FER-À-CHEVAL CIRQUE

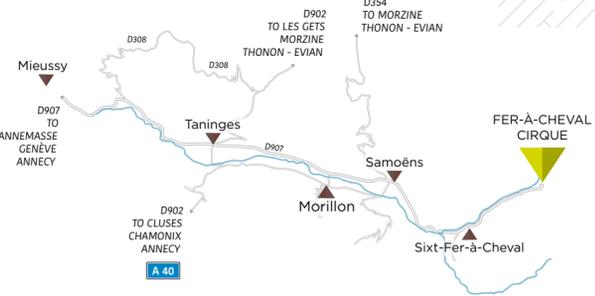


DISCOVER GRANDNESS



TOURISM OFFICES IN THE VALLEY

- SIXT-FER-À-CHEVAL**
Place du Tilleul 74740 Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval
+33 (0)4 50 34 49 36
- MORILLON**
Chef-Lieu 74440 Morillon +33 (0)4 50 90 15 76
- SAMOËNS**
66 place de l'Office de Tourisme 74340 Samoëns
+33 (0)4 50 34 40 28
- PRAZ DE LYS SOMMAND**
62 rue de la Poste 74440 Taninges
+33 (0)4 50 34 25 05
- MIEUSSY**
941 route de la montagne 74440 Mieussy
+33 (0)4 50 43 02 72



USEFUL INFORMATION

P A parking fee is required to access the Fer-à-Cheval cirque from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM in May and September, and from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM in June, July, and August.

- Single car: €5
- Motorcycle €3
- RV/camper: €10
- Bus: €20
- Yearly pass: €10

The fees contribute directly to the upkeep of the car park and the site.

Due to environmental and natural risks, parking is only allowed in designated car parks.

Be aware that by taking certain hiking paths, you are entering a high-mountain zone. You must be prepared before you begin: check the weather, as it can change quickly. Bring enough water and protect yourself from the sun.

Please place your rubbish in the garbage and recycling bins found next to the Fer-à-Cheval restaurant and close to the campgrounds. Help us keep this area clean for everyone to enjoy.

Once you pass the Prazon snack bar, you are entering a protected, and vulnerable, natural environment. Dogs are not allowed. They can enjoy the walking paths outside of the nature reserve perimeters as long as they are on a leash and do not leave the walkways.

Although this is a great place to cycle, because of the high volume of visits, access to Fond de la Combe on bike is prohibited from 1 July to 31 August between 12:30 PM and 6:00 PM.

Up to July, some itineraries may cross through patches of snow. If this is the case, do not walk on the snow. There is a serious risk you may slip and fall below. On the right bank of the Giffre River, avalanches may reach the Fond de la Combe even at the beginning of summer. They form snow caves that are very unstable. Do not enter them or walk over them. Before starting any hike, obtain necessary information about actual terrain conditions.



4 BORET SNACK BAR

ALT. 1.388 M 2.5 HOURS VIA THE BOUT DU MONDE 1.75 HOURS VIA THE PAS DU BORET

Accessible via the Bout du Monde itinerary or directly via the steep Pas du Boret path, this high-altitude snack bar has an exceptional panoramic view of the Fond de la Combe and what is left of the Ruan and Prazon glaciers.

More info: +33 (0)6 60 16 27 55



2 PRAZON SNACK BAR

ALT. 1.021 M 35 MIN.

Located half-way along the itinerary that goes to Fond de la Combe and then on to Bout du Monde, the Prazon snack bar is the perfect place to take a break along this easily accessible path.

More info: +33 (0)6 21 81 28 45



5 VOGELLE REFUGE

ALT. 1.916 M 3.5 HOURS

Tucked inside a grassy bowl, in a privileged space shared with the reserve's local flora and fauna, the refuge can accommodate up to 58 hikers and offers a splendid panorama of the Tenneverge, Cheval Blanc, and Buet peaks. The practice of pastoralism is current here, and the small valley is a stopover along the high-mountain trails.

More info: +33 (0) 6 20 60 91 40



3 LA GOUILLE VERTE WATERFALL

ALT. 1.050 M 50 MIN.

This impressive cascade, located in Fond de la Combe, is fed by a torrent that comes from the escarpments under the Vogelle refuge. It can be accessed easily and gives off a refreshing mist that cools down summer hikers.



6 FOND DE LA COMBE FOOTBRIDGE

ALT. 1.050 M 50 MIN.

The suspended footbridge is installed only during summer months to help hikers reach the Bout du Monde area and its numerous waterfalls.



7 BOUT DU MONDE

ALT. 1.222 M 1.75 HOURS

To stand over the valley at the source of the Giffre River and the foot of the limestone giants, head to the Bout du Monde, which is just a small effort more from the Fond de la Combe footbridge. It is no less than breathtaking.



8 LYRE WATERFALL

This waterfall is one of the most famous among the 50 or so falls and chutes in the site, but only the most experienced alpinists hike here in the winter. It is one of the first falls we see when we arrive, along with the Méridienne cascade.



10 HORSE RIDES

Open during the summer season in the heart of the Fer-à-Cheval cirque, the Hippo-Loisirs Equestrian Centre offers a complete range of horse-riding activities for all ages (carriages, horses, or ponies).

More info: +33 (0)6 23 69 00 49



BIKE ITINERARIES

The paths travelling between the Fer à Cheval cirque and the Fond de la Combe are great for exploring the area from the seat of a mountain or hybrid bike. Nevertheless, bike access is prohibited in the afternoons during July and August because of the high foot traffic at the site.

HIKING AND WALKS

The Fer-à-Cheval cirque is located in a vast mountain range that is great for hiking. The diverse paths and itineraries offer a wide range of levels, from flat-ground walks to more technical climbs – all in a truly exceptional setting.

- Frenalay loop (45min.)
- Giffrenant loop (1h15)
- Bout du Monde loop (3h)
- Boret (4h15) and Vogelle loop (7h30)
- Pas du Boret steep route
- RNN Sixt Passy limitations

9 FER-À-CHEVAL CIRQUE

ALT. 955 M

Dominated by steep summits and peaks as high as 3,000 metres, the bowl of the cirque can be accessed easily and is a great example of the unique, rocky beauty the high mountains have to offer.



11 RESTAURANT DU CARROUSEL

ALT. 925 M VEHICLE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT BEFORE CAR PARK

This restaurant is located close to the Pelly campgrounds and offers a variety of meals for all types of hikers and pedestrians. Open every day for lunch from May to September. On-site parking.

More info: +33 (0)4 50 34 12 17



12 PELLY CAMPGROUNDS

ALT. 925 M VEHICLE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT BEFORE CAR PARK

Located at the foot of the Fer-à-Cheval cirque cliffs, this well-equipped campground has been set up on a natural pasture and is the perfect place for nature lovers to call home for some time. It's a little bit of heaven for a well-deserved break!

More info: +33 (0)4 50 34 12 17



LEARN ABOUT THE SITE

ALT. 955 M 4 MIN.

DEDICATED TO DISCOVER THE SITE



This welcome and information office provides everything you need to visit the area and to understand the elements that make up its exceptional features.

Open from 15 May to 15 September, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM during the school holidays, and 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the school year.

1 FER-À-CHEVAL RESTAURANT

ALT. 955 M 3 MIN.

Facing the Fer-à-Cheval cirque, the restaurant is open all year long and proposes cuisine inspired by the local Savoyard flavours. Open from lunch to later in the day, when you return from your hike. A huge patio offers breathtaking views!

More info: +33 (0)4 50 89 13 88

