



 Serre-Ponçon  
Press Kit

2021

# The Dam, a whole history



- 1955 : Beginning of reservoir development
- November 16, 1959: Beginning of reservoir construction
- 1961: Construction complete
- Average annual electricity production: 700GWh
- 1.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water (320,000 Olympic swimming pools)
- An area of 2800 hectares (1555 football fields)
- 20 km long and 3 km maximum width

The floods of 1843 and 1856 and later the summer droughts, in particular those of 1895, were at the origin of the first projects of the dam on the Durance. Two whole villages were razed to the ground before, in 1959, water gently flooded the valley.

Today, the lake is part of the landscape, the displaced populations are forgotten, and the lake has become a major territorial asset.

The largest reservoir of water in France, it is the benchmark site for multi-use water management.

(energy production, “water tower” of Provence with 200 million m<sup>3</sup> dedicated to agriculture, drinking water, places of nautical and tourist activities, management of the territory and flood management ... ).



click ↗

Between wild creeks and turquoise water, the lake of Serre-Ponçon is a sea in the mountains. Who would have thought that the dam built in the middle of the 20th century to regulate the Durance River would allow the emergence of one of the leading tourist destinations of the Hautes-Alpes and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region? From its highest peaks to its most beautiful beaches, here, vacationers find a fantastic setting that perfectly combines mountain leisure and water sports.

## SUMMARY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 60 YEARS AGO...The Serre-Ponçon lake was born .....                                 | 04 |
| THE PURE ALPS, Serre-Ponçon and its exceptional environment .....                   | 06 |
| A TOURISM IN EVOLUTION .....  | 08 |
| THE LAKE OF SERRE-PONÇON, a life-size playground for water sports enthusiasts ..... | 10 |
| A TIDAL WAVE OF SENSATIONS .....  | 12 |
| MOUNTAIN TRAILS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE .....                                       | 16 |
| WHEN NATURE SUBLIMATES CULTURE .....  | 20 |
| LAND OF SPORTING EVENTS .....   | 24 |
| SERRE-PONÇON, STAGE LAKE FOR THE 2021 SAILING TOUR .....                            | 26 |
| A LAND RICH IN DELICACIES .....   | 28 |
| RESPONSIBLE AND UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATION .....   | 32 |



9 BEACHES  
“PAVILLON BLEU”

10%

OF THE DEPARTMENT’S  
ANNUAL TOURIST INCOME

37.4%

OF SUMMER TOURISM IN  
THE HAUTES-ALPES



- 1100 BERTHS
- 10 PUBLIC PORTS AND PONTOONS
- 90KM OF LAKESHORE
- 3 SERVICE STATIONS

850   
BUSINESSES

5 000  
EMPLOYEES

210 M€  
TURNOVER



66 977 Beds



A HARBOR  
MASTER’S HEADQUARTERS

941 491  
NIGHTS

**60**  
**YEARS AGO**

### ... The Serre-Ponçon lake was born

The construction of the Serre-Ponçon dam was an extraordinary project for its time! It is one of the most striking witnesses of the great projects of post-war France and of French engineering.

In 1958, the film “L'eau vive” (Living Water) by François Villiers, based on a script by Jean Giono, takes place against the backdrop of the dam construction site. The film was a great success and its soundtrack, with lyrics by Guy Béart, has become part of our collective memory.

The construction of the dam lasted nearly 18 months and was completed on May 18, 1961. The face of the region was totally transformed, as well as its economy. Serre-Ponçon then turns to tourism and nautical activities... Just as Ivan Wilhelm, the engineer who designed the dam in 1912, had imagined !

Located just upstream from the dam, the lake's museoscope retraces this epic through gigantic models and historical reconstructions.

#### AND MORE +

Throughout the summer, holidaymakers and locals can discover the dam and take part in a tour of the electricity production plant! Registration with EDF - Maison de l'eau et des énergies



# THE PURE ALPS

SERRE-PONÇON AND ITS EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

**W**elcome to the Hautes Alpes, at the foot of the Ecrins National Park. In the heart of this magical territory drowned in blue and sun, the mountains are reflected on an exceptional mirror: the lake of Serre-Ponçon. The Durance and Boscodon rivers, tributaries of the lake, provide water rich in minerals and sediments that give this surprising and characteristic southern sea color to its wild creeks, a real invitation to discover an exoticism of proximity.

## A controlled development

Only 13 km of the 90 km of the lake's shoreline can be developed and devoted to tourism development. Nature remains omnipresent on and around the lake. The quality of the environment is a priority at all times.

## The Blue Flag beaches

The Blue Flag evaluation criteria include the enhancement of the natural space, the respect of the environment and the voluntary approaches such as waste management and water cleanliness. The awarding of this label is a testament to the willingness of the various municipalities to preserve the natural resources that are also the support of a tourist activity essential to the local economy. The 9 blue flag beaches around Serre-Ponçon attest to this desire and environmental quality. They make it the most awarded nautical destination by this label.



## A lake certified as a Clean Port

The Clean Ports certification is another witness of this environmental implication. This certification aims to encourage all operations that contribute to the improvement of the environmental quality of ports. It is the guarantee of a strong will to preserve aquatic environments and to develop coastal activities in a sustainable way. Serre-Ponçon is to date the only lake to be certified in this process.

## The Ecrins National Park

Created in 1973 after having been prefigured in 1913 under the impulse of mountaineers, naturalist associations and the French Alpine Club, it is one of the 11 French National Parks. It is a territory of high mountain which culminates at 4102 m of altitude, at the Barre des Ecrins and delimits the geographical and climatic border between the Northern and Southern Alps. Serre-Ponçon is the most southern sector of the Park. Here the summits flirt with the 3000 m of altitude and have their feet in the water. The heart of the National Park shelters the treasures of a remarkable natural heritage. A strict and specific regulation aims to protect it and preserve the quietude of the fauna and flora that it shelters.

In Embrun, the Tour Brune houses an exhibition of the Park and its roof offers an extraordinary panorama. In the Réallon valley, the hamlet of Gourniers is an entry point to the Park. An interpretation trail allows a better understanding of the landscape. In Chateauroux-les-Alpes, the village with 40 hamlets, the Park house offers temporary exhibitions and activities (projections, conferences, etc.).

[www.ecrins-parcnational.fr](http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr)

## Floating islands to preserve the biodiversity of the lake

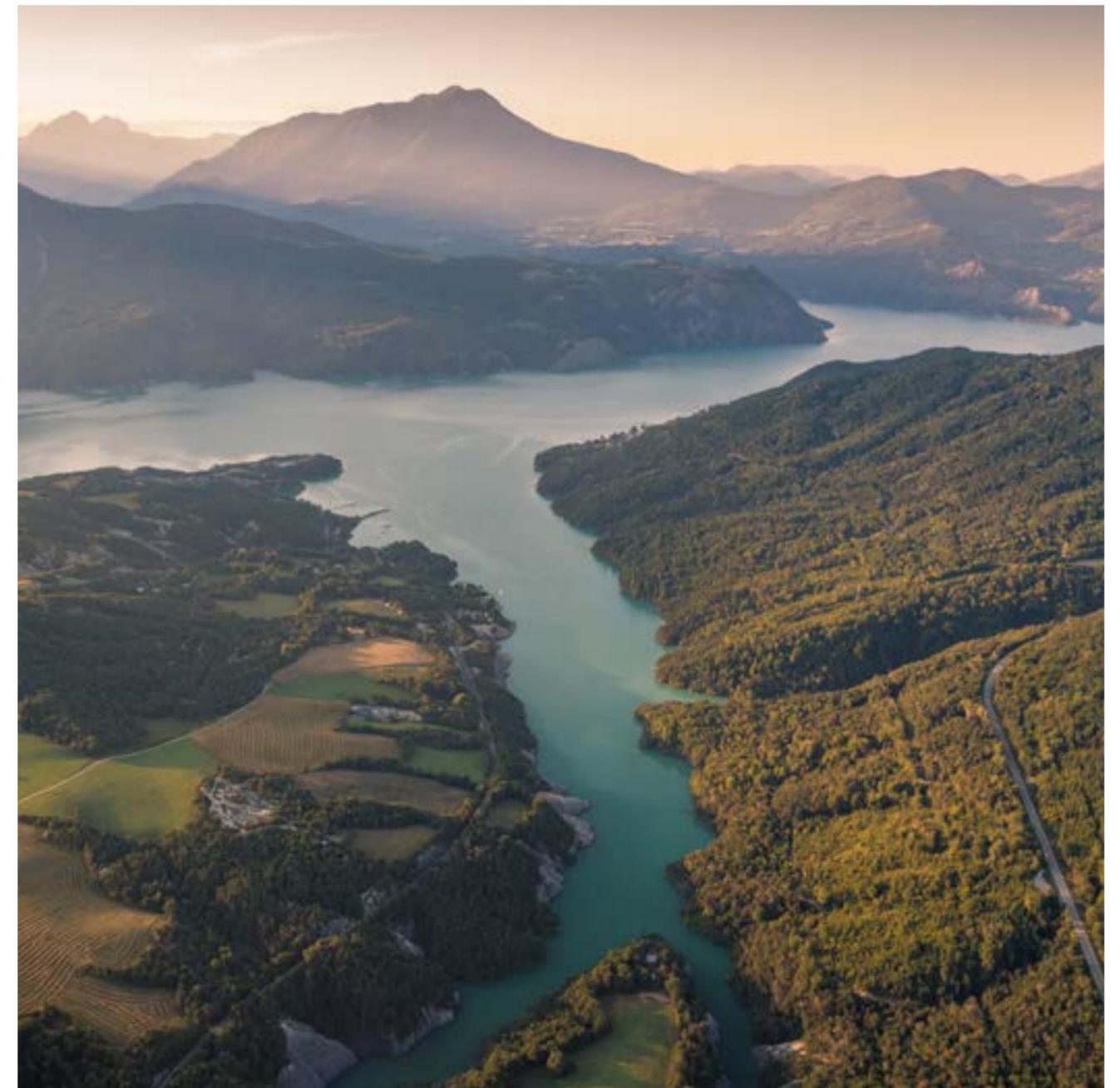
This research and development project consists of developing and testing floating artificial islands with vegetation (terrestrial and aquatic vegetation) that follow the tidal range of the lake (variation in the height of the water level) and recreate riparian zones that are permanently available for the biodiversity.

These floating islands designed by Ecocean are a world first supported by EDF and the Syndicat d'Aménagement et de Développement du lac de Serre-Ponçon. The vegetated surface of these islands also allows the reproduction of

ecosystems favorable to local fauna, in particular migratory birds crossing the region every year.

## Boscodon, an exceptional forest

The forest of Boscodon, in balcony on the lake of Serre-Ponçon is an emblematic forest of the Hautes-Alpes. Considered by the Office National des Forêts as one of the purest places in France, it received in 2019 the label «Forêt d'exception» and joins a network of about fifteen forests across France selected for their exemplary character in terms of sustainable development and sharing of spaces and uses.



# EVOLVING TOURISM

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR?

**Lake Serre-Ponçon has solutions !**

**Digitize access to information and meet the visitors ... Outside !**

More than ever, tourist destinations have to be agile and adapt to keep up with consumer habits. If the digitalization of tourist activities has been a major issue for many years, it has become unavoidable with the health crisis and social distancing



**The web portal for hiking in Serre-Ponçon**

This summer, visit the website [randoserreponcon.com](http://randoserreponcon.com) to discover all the hiking and mountain biking trails offered in the area !

Thanks to an interactive map, hikers can choose and prepare their route. The site proposes, for each circuit, a detailed description, the historical points of interest as well as lodging, restaurants and services in the vicinity. It is also possible to download the GPS track of the circuit or to save the hike sheet in PDF format on your smartphone to consult it offline.

[www.rando-serreponcon.com](http://www.rando-serreponcon.com)



**All the leisure activities of Serre-Ponçon accessible in one click**

Choose and book your next day's activity at the tip of your fingertips, that's what the Serre-Ponçon Tourist Office's online leisure activities sales site offers. Description of the activity, availability, customer reviews and preferential rates, everything is set up to facilitate the customer's journey towards the purchase of his product by limiting intermediaries. Today, booking a hotel or a camping site online is a matter of course for everyone. It is becoming the same for activities. The COVID-19 crisis has also strongly accelerated this phenomenon ... Launched in 2019, Explore Serre-Ponçon has experienced a real boom in 2020 by doubling in revenue.

[www.exploreserreponcon.com](http://www.exploreserreponcon.com)



**The Tourist Office of Serre-Ponçon comes to meet the holiday makers and relocates on the lake, the markets and at the beginning of the hikes**

This summer, the Serre-Ponçon Tourist Office is coming to meet the visitors, wherever they are. For 2 years, a vehicle has been crisscrossing the territory according to the news and festivities or points of tourist interest, like a food truck! Markets, concerts or even beaches and the start of the most famous hikes are now new meeting points to inform and advise holidaymakers.

In 2020, the Serre-Ponçon Tourist Office also acquired a tourist boat to meet boaters but also to offer original tourist services such as intimate concerts in the heart of the most beautiful coves of the lake. The boat can carry up to ten passengers and dock easily on all the banks of the lake. It is also used during major events and for press conferences.



# SERRE-PONÇON LAKE

A LIFE-SIZE PLAYGROUND FOR WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

Why choose between the sea and the mountains when you can combine the two in the heart of a remarkable natural environment ? Two hours from Marseille, the Serre-Ponçon lake, the largest water reservoir in France, spreads out its 2800 hectares at the foot of the Écrins National Park. What more beautiful place to practice all the nautical activities ?



## THE THERMAL ? ...WHAT IS IT ?

The mountains surrounding the lake and the thermal amplitudes between day and night, which are established from the beautiful days, favor the appearance of thermal breezes almost daily from midday until late afternoon. Stable and regular conditions, more pronounced to the north of the Savines le-Lac bridge as you go up towards Embrun, make this area and more particularly the Eaux Douces beach, the spot for windsurfers, kite-surfers and all other sailing sports.

## The experts take the floor :



THIERRY ALLAMANNO  
(Director of the Club Nautique Alpin)

« Some people might think that Serre-Ponçon is an ideal mountain lake to relax and breathe in a preserved environment. Serre-Ponçon is all that plus a few other ingredients...

### Recipe of riding on the lake of Serre-Ponçon :

- fresh water from the melting snow
- a Mediterranean climate
- some location specific effects : foehn, venturi, thermal...

Mix it all together and you get the magic formula of Serre-Ponçon. The perfect configuration to develop the thermal breeze mechanism.

A regular west/southwest wind reaching 20-25 knots in June, July and 15-20 knots in August but with a water temperature of 20°, create a unique environment. An exceptional microclimate for all surfers, perfect for all the new foil boards. The wind rarely picks up before 1pm, so you can take advantage of it to go for a short walk or mountain bike ride to warm up in the morning.”

## SERRE-PONCON, rear base of French teams

The intrinsic qualities of the lake for navigation and environment allowing the practice of a wide variety complementary activities make Serre-Ponçon a land ideal for training courses for french sailors. A trend confirmed in 2021. Already this winter, it was the “Pôle Espoir” sailing based in the bay of Aigues-Mortes who had settled at the Club Nautique Alpin for a training oxygenation and cohesion (practice of biathlon in Crévoux, 15 km from the lake). This summer, it will be the turn of all the Poles France for a national internship then the France team of windfoil as part of the preparation for the World Cup.



## 3 QUESTIONS to : Jean-Baptiste Bernaz



A veteran of the Mediterranean Games, the World Cup and second at the 2016 World Championships in Laser Standard sailing, Jean-Baptiste Bernaz is a reference in French Olympic sailing. He is a member of the Ste Maxime sailing club and regularly visits the shores of Lake Serre-Ponçon.

### Hi Jean-Baptiste, what are your next sports projects ?

“I am preparing my 4th Olympic Games. After Beijing, London, Rio, I am on my way to Tokyo to win a gold medal.”

### You are a regular visitor of the Serre-Ponçon lake, tell us about the link you have with this area ?

“I have always had a special relationship with the lake of Serre-Ponçon, as far back as I can remember. It is a place between the sea and the mountains, almost always fed by a good and regular wind. In addition, the reception facilities are also of very good quality and we are always very well received.”

### As a high level sportsman, how is the lake an ideal spot for you ?

“Serre-Ponçon is one of those spots that we choose to work. We can fine-tune our physical training thanks to the diversity of activities offered by this omnipresent nature and this lake which every afternoon offers us thermals for sure to sail in great conditions!”

# A TIDAL WAVE OF SENSATIONS

click 



## THE AQUA PARK OF EMBRUN, 2500 M<sup>2</sup> OF FUN

Dozens of water modules to challenge yourself with family or friends, this is one of the simplest and yet most fun activities in Serre-Ponçon

Based on the Embrun "plan d'eau", near the lake, young and old alike can climb on icebergs, trampolines, swings, floating planets, catapults, slides, climbing walls... so many challenges to challenge yourself !

**Rates :** from 10€ per hour

**Infos :** from 6 years old  
[www.aquaparc-embrun.fr](http://www.aquaparc-embrun.fr) 



## ELECTRIC BOATS WITHOUT A LICENSE TO NAVIGATE IN COMPLETE FREEDOM

Boats without a license are very accessible. It only takes a few minutes to master them completely and to discover the most secret creeks of the lake. Children can even try it, under the authority of the captain of course... The electric boats guarantee a total silence for a navigation in all quietness and in the biggest respect of the environment...

**Rates :** from 55€ per hour of navigation

**Infos :** up to 8 people per boat  
[www.elec-evasion.com](http://www.elec-evasion.com) 



## A DIAM 24 TO DISCOVER SPORT SAILING

The DIAM24 is a multi-hull racing sailboat used since 2015 on the Tour de France à la voile.

The Club Nautique Alpin offers to as many people as possible to discover fast sailing in complete safety on this boat with state-qualified instructors, but also other types of outings: on an echo 90 or on a 9m50 sailboat designed to make sailing lively and accessible to all and to all ages, including people with reduced mobility.

### Rates :

> Picnic outings, swimming on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 1:30pm on the Echo 90: tasting of local meats, cheeses and fruit juices 35€ per person.

> Sensations outings 1h 35€/pers on the DIAM24

**Infos :** Club Nautique Alpin de Serre-Ponçon  
04 92 43 00 02 - [cna-embrun.com](http://cna-embrun.com) 



## E-SURF : WHEN SURFING HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY...

... Especially when there is no need for waves! These surfboards are propelled by an electric turbine that you activate with a remote control and allow for sensational water rides on the lake.

When Eric settled on the shores of Serre-Ponçon last summer, he wanted to offer something fun and innovative. He succeeded with his electric surfs, making Serre-Ponçon the only freshwater site to offer this activity in France. If the surfs can reach up to 35-40km/h, the activity remains nevertheless accessible to any public since it can also be practiced lying down or kneeling. All this in an environmentally friendly way.

### And More +

Since summer 2020, E-surfer develops its range by proposing E-foils which allow to fly over the lake of Serre-Ponçon

**Rates :** From 25€ for 15min / 60€ for 45min for the e-foil.

**Infos :** 06 62 05 81 75 / [E-surfer.fr](http://E-surfer.fr) 



## THE FOIL BLOSSOMS IN SERRE-PONÇON

This float that is increasingly found under all surfboards allows the board to “levitate” above the water. A unique and incredible sensation that all riders are looking for. The foil finds in Serre-Ponçon an almost ideal playground thanks to its not very agitated waters and its almost daily moderate breezes. No matter what the conditions are, foilers are always the first ones in the water !!!

The practice comes in all forms, wakeboard, wakesurf, kitesurf, windsurf etc... And can be found in the vast majority of water sports centers for discovery sessions or improvement courses.

The latest trend? The wingfoil, which allows you to glide on the lake by simply using a small wing that you hold at arm’s length !

**Infos :** Activity to discover at [Serre-Ponçon Windsurf](#)



## PADDLE ON THE LAKE

Ancestral Hawaiian practice, the SUP or Stand Up Paddle, a trendy activity, is very accessible and really fun to live in Serre-Ponçon. Its turquoise waters, its wild creeks, its secret beaches, its islets, its great landscapes make it a heavenly spot! An ideal activity to start the day by enjoying the calm waters of the beginning of the day.

It can be combined with a yoga session on the water or a tea at sunrise or a glass of rosé at sunset...

**Rates:**  
15€per hour of rental  
25€ per hour of coaching

**Infos :** [www.serre-poncon-aloha.fr](http://www.serre-poncon-aloha.fr)

click

## Story!

“Live the experience :

## WAKE SURF AT DAWN BREAK ON SERRE-PONÇON LAKE



Wakesurfing is surfing without having to paddle and wait for the perfect swell to get waves. Towed by a boat at a low speed, you can take advantage of the wave generated by the motor to surf freely and smoothly on a water as smooth as a sea of oil. Dare to launch yourself at the first light of the day! You will create an unforgettable memory...

The dawn of this new day is just beginning to light up the sky which is timidly colored with a pinkish tint. The water of the lake is still of a deep black. The boat starts, the roar of the engine is the only noise that disturbs the quietness of the moment. You take off, slowly.

The ballast tanks are filling up, they are the ones that will create the perfect wave for wakesurfing. During this time, you prepare yourself while contemplating the daybreak. The sun rises over the Morgon. A play of light and shadow is created on the lake still

deserted at this time. Seizing of beauty.

You breathe in the fresh air of this summer morning. The boat is ready, the wave too. Its oscillation disturbs the perfectly smooth water of the early morning. You play your favorite playlist on the boat’s speakers and jump into the water.

Clinging to the rope, legs bent and board across. The boat accelerates, a push on the legs, and off you go! As easy as getting up from a chair...

A few curves while keeping the rope in hand, the time to warm up and assimilate the sensations. The objective is to succeed in taking speed in the wave to succeed in being autonomous without using the traction of the rudder.

The sliding sensations are crazy. You are barefoot on the board. Without bindings, the sensations are multiplied tenfold, as in surfing. You feel a real sensation of freedom. You play with the wave. Weight forward, you take speed to go down the wave. Weight backwards, you slow down to get back in.

Your friends are sitting at the back of the boat. The boat is moving at a slow speed, a little less

than 20km/h. It’s easy to chat with them, to hear their advice... And even their challenges. Caught in the trough of the wave, you come up hard at the top and you throw your shoulders and your eyes back to try a 360, it ... does not pass and you fall.

A few more rotations, you have managed to get this 360 in! You take advantage of the arrival in a cove with turquoise waters to get back on the boat. A little rest before going back. And then you have to leave room for the others.

9 am, you are back on the banks of the lake. It is time for breakfast. The day has just begun, it is already perfect.

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE?

[South Wake Surf : wake surfing school, lessons from 40€](#)

[Even more microadventures: experiences to discover on our website](#)



# MOUNTAIN TRAILS

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

**F**rom the shores of the lake to the highest peaks of the Écrins National Park, hundreds of kilometers of marked trails for all levels allow you to discover the region.

## Full of eyes on the trail of the peaks in Réallon

Accessible directly from the Réallon chairlifts, the Réallon ridge trail offers an unparalleled balcony view of the Serre-Ponçon lake. The resort is starting to revamp this easy trail by developing and building a dozen lookouts along the path. Each lookout will offer a thematic view (towards the lake, towards the Écrins or the village...) and will present different types of playful and educational structures: orientation tables, desks, realization in natural materials, panoramic platform or rest and contemplation areas for all walkers. Most of the facilities will be accessible this summer. The construction of a suspended belvedere in the fall will complete the requalification of the crest trail.

## The Réallon bike park gets an additional track

The most recent bike park of Serre-Ponçon continues its evolution. This summer, a tenth track has been added to the various trails of the resort. A track rather axed towards endure riding, which will evolve on a new sector at the foot of the Aiguilles de Chabrière, in a grandiose and very natural setting.

**Prices :** Day pass 16€

**Infos :** Bike-Park open all summer from Wednesday to Sunday / [Bike park](#)

## Favorite hike : Cascade de la Pisse in the Écrins National Park

For a discovery of the mountain and a first incursion into a National Park, it is difficult to do better. On the program: a looped trail that crosses a green forest of pines and larches and follows canals that testify to the importance of irrigation in the mountains from yesterday to today, as well as a spectacular 40 m high waterfall that falls from vertiginous cliffs to diffuse its refreshing spray.

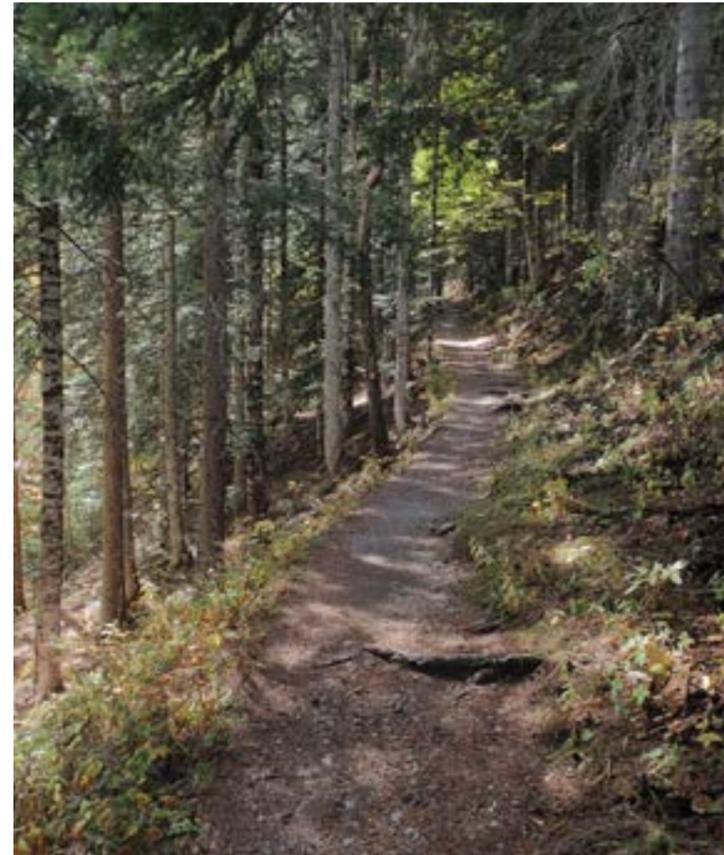
**Infos :** [Cascade de la Pisse](#)



## Unusual : a tunnel at an altitude of 2700 m ?

In the Crévoux valley, this century-old tunnel, carved by military engineers, is one of the greatest curiosities of the region. The 4th highest pass in the French Alps, the road leading to it is open to traffic but is not paved. About 15 kilometers long, it is a delight for electrically assisted mountain bike riders. At the beginning of the trail, the Spanish hut is a place of memories that recalls the history of the Spanish exiles who were used to create the road to the tunnel in the 1930s

# A MOUNTAIN OF SENSATIONS



## FOREST OF THE SENSES : DARE TO BATHE IN THE FOREST

An invitation to reconnect with nature and its harmony! Relaxation, energy, health, awakening of the senses... The art of forest bathing consists in connecting with trees and plants through our senses on a forest circuit of 2 to 3 km and lasting about 3 hours, punctuated by various workshops. The outings are inspired by the Shinrin-Yoku. These forest baths are a very popular medical practice in Japan. This forest medicine is even taught in the university!

The practice is recommended to reduce stress, blood pressure and stimulate the immune system, and it is also an excellent reason to immerse yourself in the depths of the multi-centennial forest of Boscodon.

**Rates :** from 20€ per person

**Infos :** [Forêt des sens](#)



## DISCOVER THE HEIGHTS OF THE VILLAGE OF CROTS BY CANI-RANDO

A fun way to discover the mountains and hiking with the help of a sled dog.

On foot or in a go-cart, the mushers are linked to a sled dog full of energy which has only one desire: to make the walkers discover the paths of the plateau of the Draye in Crots

**Infos :** [NUNATAK - Crots](#)



## DIVING IN THE RAPIDS OF SERRE-PONÇON

Rafting, canoeing, hydrospeed or even giant paddle, all means are good to go down the rapids of the Durance or the Ubaye, the two tributaries of the Serre-Ponçon lake.

The Durance is ideal for a discovery of the activity but reserves all the same its batch of surprises, especially at the beginning of the season when the flows are strong, especially with the wave of Rabioux.

The Ubaye is a sporty river, renowned worldwide in the world of white water. Several of its rapids have long been considered impassable.

**Who will dare to challenge them ?**

## SURVIVAL IN THE WILDERNESS

Imagine that a global pandemic is about to disrupt the world as we know it... It might be time to reconnect with our most primal instincts and learn to live with what nature has to offer. Fred is an adventurer, specialized in survival in hostile environments. For more than 10 years he has been organizing survival and commando courses for physical or mental reinforcement or simply to discover nature.

During a 3 days and 2 nights course in a bivouac in the vast forest of Boscodon, families and adventurers discover some survival techniques in the forest while spending a convivial moment in the middle of nature, totally cut off from the world.

**Price :** 550€ for 2 to 4 people

**Infos :** 3 days and 2 nights  
[www.survivorattitude.com](http://www.survivorattitude.com)

## NEW !

## FULL SPEED AHEAD ON THE ZIP LINE OF THE ORRES

This is the new feature of the summer in the resort of Les Orres. A giant zip line of almost 2 km that crosses the ski area at more than 100 m above the ground and at a speed of 140km/h !

**Prices :** 35€ per descent **Infos :** From 8 years old  
[www.speedline-lesorres.com](http://www.speedline-lesorres.com)



## STORY ! [click](#)

**“Live the experience :**

## BIVOUAC IN THE CIRQUE OF MORGON AND SUNRISE ON A SERRE-PONÇON



What could be more magical than to contemplate the sunrise on the top of the mountains, at an altitude of more than 2000 meters? The rudimentary luxury of a night in a bivouac allows you to dive into the heart of the wildlife of these remarkable natural spaces. This is the story of an unforgettable adventure for those who love exceptional moments.

It is dark when you open the tent covered by the night dew. The coffee is simmering on the stove while the stars are twinkling in the black sky. The embers from yesterday's fire are still hot. You pour water over them to smother them.

Their crackling breaks the deafening silence of the mountain.

Your eye has finally adapted to the darkness. Walking up the mountain at night is unusual. You decide to turn off the headlamps to soak up the unique atmosphere as the first light of dawn appears to the east.

As you soon reach the top of the Morgon, a chamois honors you with an impromptu encounter. No time to take out the camera, it has already disappeared. A fleeting moment... Was it real ?

Here you are at the top, with the two branches of the Serre-Ponçon lake. Provence to the South, the Ecrins National Park to the North. There is no more beautiful panorama in the region and it belongs only to you. A priceless privilege... What better place to contemplate the sunrise ?

valley and on the lake. Simply magnificent. The scenery seems to come to life before your eyes. The light invades the landscape and the sky becomes a clear blue. The valley seems so close. Here the water level of Embrun, there the bridge of Savines-le-Lac, one believes to be able to touch them.

During the descent towards the tents, a characteristic cry crosses the mountain pasture. The marmots are numerous and unshy. They are easy to photograph, for your greatest pleasure. At the end of summer, the grass starts to turn yellow and the Morgon cirque looks like Mongolian steppes. No need to cross the planet to feel out of place.

## THERE IS SO MUCH TO DISCOVER HERE !

[Even more micro-adventures: experiences to discover on our website](#)

You barely have time to settle in before the show begins. The mountains are suddenly ablaze. Their shadows are drawn in the



# WHEN NATURE SUBLIMATES CULTURE

NATURE, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF MUSEUMS !



From 25 to 27/06

## THE OPEN DANCE SCENES

Every spring, the alleys of the medieval city of Embrun welcome this dance festival

About twenty disciplines are represented, enough to seduce a large public. The historical setting of the city of Embrun, former archbishopric of the Alps, brings a particular resonance to the shows offered during the festival.

[festival-scenes-ouvertes](#)



The 25/07  
The 08/08

## MUSIC AT THE SUMMIT IN REALLON

After two successful editions, the association He le'ale'a organizes a new edition of "Musique au sommet", in the resort of Réallon. The idea is to propose three different musical atmospheres at three different altitudes of the resort. First, at the top of the chairlifts, at 2100 m of altitude, on the balcony of the lake of Serre-Ponçon, then at the intermediary of the chairlifts to finish in the evening at the foot of the slopes.

[www.reallon-ski.com/musique-au-sommet-reallon](http://www.reallon-ski.com/musique-au-sommet-reallon)



Everyday  
Juillet / Août

## THE FAIRIES' TRAIL (Le Parcours des Fées) Crévoux Valley

This artistic trail on a hiking path proposes to discover about twenty original works created on site by international artists along the easy path leading to the Razis waterfall. An easy 2.5 hour loop with the Razis waterfall in the middle of the trail as a highlight. Each year, nearly 15,000 visitors come to this trail during the summer

[www.parcours-des-fees.fr](http://www.parcours-des-fees.fr)



## THE FLOATING CONCERTS of Serre-Ponçon

The Kaya association has been developing this large-scale project for two years as part of its cultural program. By proposing a new and ephemeral stage, the lake of Serre-Ponçon metamorphoses the time of an evening into a floating stage accessible to any boat. The concerts remain visible from the shore.

For this new edition, Kaya wishes to develop renewable energies by using a solar generator to power the installations. The project remains consistent with the natural setting of the site but also allows the concerts to be held anywhere on the lake.

### AND MORE +

**Infos :** 5 dates and as many magical places are being programmed for this summer

[www.kaya-web.info](http://www.kaya-web.info)

Kaya is also the organizing association of the Trad'in Festival, a world music festival whose 2020 edition has been postponed from July 8 to 10, 2021 in the bucolic setting of Embrun's lake

**Infos :** [www.tradinfestival.com](http://www.tradinfestival.com)



# STORY!

“**Experience :**

## DISCOVER THE CATHEDRAL OF EMBRUN AND ITS TREASURE



Perched on the rock of Embrun, the Notre-Dame du Réal cathedral dominates the Durance valley. Covered passageways, narrow and winding streets, sculpted doors...

There's a touch of the Middle Ages in the air. Strolling through the calm medieval streets of the old town center, you will be immersed in 900 years of history, expecting to come across a group of archers on guard at the foot of the imposing brown tower that looks like a dungeon. Suddenly, at the bend of the archbishop's palace, the

architecture of the cathedral is offered to you, imposing and majestic.

The smile of your guide suggests a discovery under the sign of conviviality and good mood. The questions are flying, the glances are going from one sculpture to another and the prestigious past of the archbishopric of Embrun is revealed little by little under your eyes. Pink and green marble, grey schist, and white limestone color the porch of the Réal. The two lions lying in front of the north portal threaten you with their wide-open mouths.

The excitement is palpable in the group before entering the archbishops' sacristy. Apprehension gives way to amazement when the doors opened one by one onto the display cabinets where golden chalices, silver ciboria, illuminated manuscripts and a collection of gold embroidered vestments shone. Only one desire...

**To return to continue exploring the details of this infinite treasure.**

Even more micro-adventures: experiences to discover on our website

Visits are conducted by a guide lecturer of the Country of Art and History. A label delivered by the Ministry of Culture to 30 communes engaged in the promotion of their heritage around the lake of Serre-Ponçon and in Ubaye. Other visits allow you to discover the rich history of our region. In particular, tours on the lake by boat that retrace the history of the creation of the dam and visit the most emblematic sites

**Infos :** Visites



# LAND OF SPORTING EVENTS



From 02 to 05/09

## OUTDOOR MIX FESTIVAL

The great outdoor sports event! The 8th edition of this event is a must for outdoor enthusiasts. On the program, four days of sports shows and outdoor concerts with the lake of Serre-Ponçon as a backdrop. Traditionally held in spring and having been cancelled in 2020, this gathering of outdoor sports (climbing, paragliding, slackline, kayaking, longboarding, skateboarding, yoga, mountain biking...) in exceptional spots will take place this time at the beginning of September for a summer edition

[www.outdoormixfestival.com](http://www.outdoormixfestival.com)



The 11/07

## THE POWERMAN 1st duathlon world cup in France

The duathlon is a race format combining running and cycling. The Powerman is one of its most difficult events. This summer, Embrun will host a "world series" stage, the first of its kind in France. 2x10 km of running interspersed with 60 km of cycling await the competitors. The running courses will have the particularity to cross the city center of Embrun for the pleasure of the spectators but will also confront the locally famous impossible climb of the Moulineaux hill and its 24% slope!

[www.powerman-france.com](http://www.powerman-france.com)



## REGIONAL WINDFOIL CHAMPIONSHIP

General rehearsal before the world cup !

For two years, this stage on the lake of Serre-Ponçon has been the biggest windfoil meeting in France. Several hundred riders are expected on the lake in Chadenas bay, to compete during 2 days of great show! The summer also allows to realize these activities everywhere on the lake.



The 15/08

## EMBRUNMAN The myth

This XXL triathlon, considered as one of the hardest in the world, will start once again from Embrun for this 37th edition.

The 1500 participants, from 28 different nationalities, will face a 3.8 km swim, followed by 188 km of cycling around the Serre-Ponçon lake and up to

the famous Izoard pass, at an altitude of 2360 m, to finish with a marathon, 42.195 km.

The race record is held by a Frenchman, Hervé Faure, author in 2013 of a performance in 09h 24min 08s.

[www.embrunman.com](http://www.embrunman.com)



## LE GRAND TRAIL DE SERRE-PONÇON 1st ultra trail of the Hautes-Alpes

The Grand Trail de Serre-Ponçon was born from the imagination of François D'Haene and his desire to return to the roots of the discipline: to find a more authentic practice of trail running, less formatted, with a focus on the spirit of mutual aid and solidarity, on fairness between all participants with a logistics provided by the organization focused on the essentials and a control of registration costs.

With an itinerary of 170 km and 10,000 m of positive elevation gain, following the most beautiful peaks surrounding the Serre-Ponçon lake, this will be the first trail in the Hautes-Alpes with a distance greater than 170 km (Ultra distance).

Two more approachable distances are also proposed, one of 45 km starting from Savines-le-Lac and the other of 15 km, starting from Embrun.

[www.grandtrailserreponcon.com](http://www.grandtrailserreponcon.com)



From 17 to 19/09

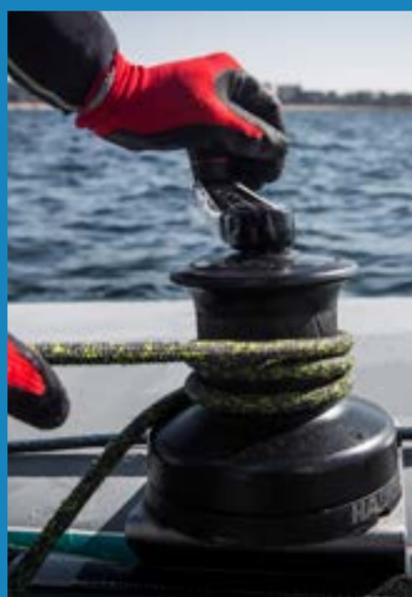
# Serre-Ponçon, LAKE STAGE OF THE TOUR VOILE 2021 !

Following the cancellation of the Tour Voile 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event is back with a vengeance in 2021 with Serre-Ponçon as the stage lake, a great first! From July 22 to 24, 2021, the lake of Serre-Ponçon will be the scene of the final of this 2021 edition !

Under the impulse of Normandie Événements, the Tour Voile returns for a 44th edition: a high-level regatta supported by the French regions and departments. A new version of the Tour Voile is proposed for this year 2021, it will provide high level sport & a convivial mood for the public with a village resolutely opened to all in the heart of the summer life of the territories.

The Tour Voile transcends specialties by mixing coastal raids and nautical stages. It is therefore by definition very difficult to perfectly master the different aspects. The Tour thus gives the lion's share to the most complete sailors. This marathon with a frantic pace and where no mistake is allowed will end with a new race format during the final on July 24.

Indeed, match-racing on the nautical stadium of Savines-le-Lac will allow to choose the winner of the 2021 edition among the first four. During this time, the remaining crews will compete in a 22 nautical mile charity raid for the benefit of their partner associations.



## PROGRAM :

Stage village based in Savines-le-Lac with paddock, spectator area and race café open to the public and crews.

Thursday, July 22: coastal raid between Savines-le-Lac and Chadenas Bay in Embrun Friday,

July 23: nautical stadium in Savines-le-Lac Saturday,

July 24: 4-man final and charity raid with the remaining crews

[www.tourvoile.fr](http://www.tourvoile.fr)



## Focus on the diam DIAM 24



One of the particularities of the Tour de France à la Voile is to put all the crews on an equal footing since they all sail on the same boat since 2015, the DIAM24

This 7m25 trimaran has a mast height of 12m20 and can reach 26 knots in top speed (about 48km/h). It is a simple boat in its manufacture and its use (navigation, assembly, disassembly) and practical for an event like the Tour Voile which offers good sensations on board. It embarks a crew of 3 people. The helmsman directs the boat. He is mainly in charge of the speed but can sometimes participate in tactics. The trimmer manages the sail adjustments. It is a very physical position that requires many maneuvers. Finally, the N°1 oversees tactics and the rapid progress of maneuvers on board the boat. He also manages the daggerboards and the rotation of the mast. This boat is to be found all summer long on the lake at the Club Nautique Alpin de Serre Ponçon to discover the sensations of sport sailing.



# A REGION RICH IN DELICACIES

AND LOCAL PRODUCERS !

## Winning duo for the craft brewery of Serre-Ponçon and the GAEC of Chabrières

The beautiful story continues for the local beer of Serre-Ponçon. Medal winner in 2020 at the Concours Générale Agricole, the brewery is distinguished this time for its infrastructure.

A new building allows to triple the production while reducing the quantity of water used and transforming part of the waste into biogas. These investments have been rewarded by the Regional Institute of Business Leaders in the category "Environmental Commitment". The cultivation of local hops continues. Providing 30% of the production needs, the hops are grown in partnership with the GAEC des Jardins de Chabrières



Cindy Combe and her brother Yoann have taken over their parents' farm and practice market gardening and cattle breeding in respect of nature and animal welfare. Seduced by the brewery project, they started growing hops to produce this 100% organic and local beer.

## AND MORE +

Diversification obliges, Cindy also proposes a country table which is worth the detour to savor the products of the farm, in front of the peaks in the middle of the fields. Specialty? The peasant pizza cooked on a wood fire.

Infos : [www.basp05.com](http://www.basp05.com)

[www.les-jardins-de-chabrieres.fr](http://www.les-jardins-de-chabrieres.fr)



## The vineyards of Serre-Ponçon

Delphine and Emmanuel BERTELOOT, originally from Burgundy but from the Alps at heart, have taken the crazy gamble of rehabilitating the vineyards of the Embrun region on the slope of the Serre-Ponçon lake, on a mountain terroir at an altitude of 880 meters. Today the estate has 4.5 hectares of vines spread over two historically viticultural villages, Saint-André d'Embrun and Puy-Sanières. Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Mollard, an endemic grape variety of the Hautes-Alpes that thrives at high altitudes, are cultivated and vinified in certified organic agriculture.

Infos : [www.domaine-du-mont-guillaume.com](http://www.domaine-du-mont-guillaume.com)



## First "natural" vintage of the Hautes-Alpes PGI

Further south, below the dam on the Avance plains, the Allemand estate, which has won many medals at the Concours Général Agricole, is no longer in the limelight. The last born of the domain?

The Cuvée Pompom ! First "natural" wine of the IGP of the Hautes-Alpes. Named after the

horse that worked the plots in June 2020, it is the first certified sulfite-free vintage. Harvested by hand, it is vinified according to the "natural" method, with indigenous yeasts, without filtration, without the addition of sulfites or additives of any kind.

Infos : [www.domaine-allemand.com](http://www.domaine-allemand.com)

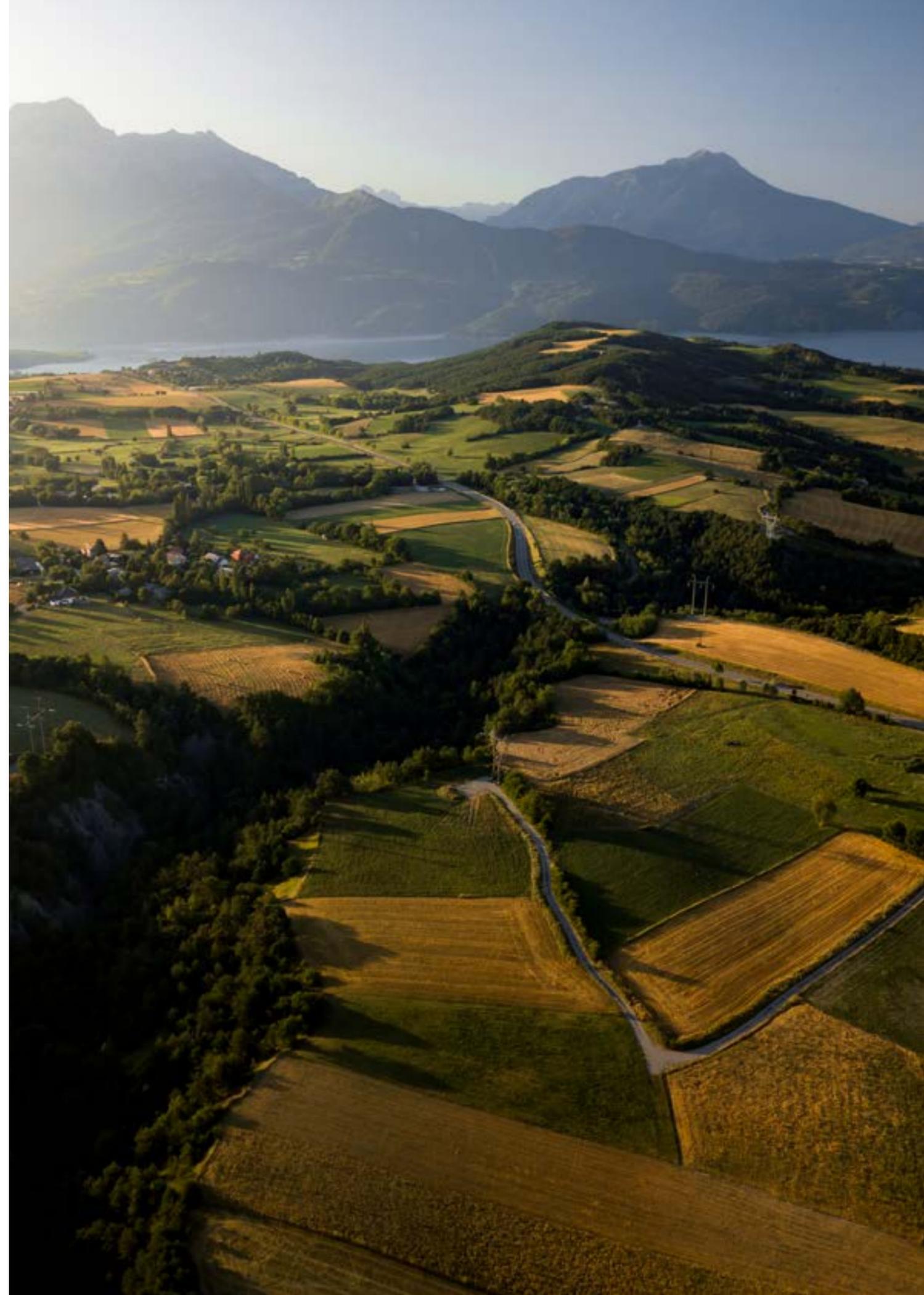
*Cheeses from Samuel's farm: when tourism and agriculture go hand in hand*

In the small village of Crévoux, at an altitude of 1600 m, Samuel Faure runs an organic dairy farm. From spring to autumn, his cows spend their time grazing in the larch forests and high mountain pastures, thus helping to maintain the ski area by preventing the growth of invasive vegetation on the slopes. The milk from the farm is used to make organic cheese at the Château Queyras cheese factory in the neighboring mountains. These cheeses can be found on the plates of local restaurants, along with his latest product, a Gruyère cheese from the mountain pastures that he has been producing himself in Crévoux for two years.

Infos : [www.crevoux.fr](http://www.crevoux.fr)

**OUTING**

In summer, the commune organizes weekly pastoral outings to offer holidaymakers the opportunity to discover mountain agriculture. An easy hike allows to reach the cows in the mountain pastures. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with the shepherd before ending the outing with a tasting of local specialties from mountain agriculture.



# RESPONSIBLE AND UNUSUAL ACCOMMODATIONS

FOR A REJUVENATING BREAK!

## LE PETIT LIOU : ECO-RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AT THE CAMPSITE



Franck Velay took over the family campsite eleven years ago. He quickly decided to reinforce the natural touch of the place by making it part of an eco-responsible and environmentally friendly tourism. Thus, he installed solar panels that produce 30% of the electricity consumed by the campsite, compost bins, solar water heaters for the sanitary facilities, etc... As for food, the small grocery store offers local organic products and bulk food.

And the restaurant supplies itself with local producers. The ecolodges give pride of place to the natural spirit claimed by the campsite. By combining canvas and wood,

they offer a maximum of proximity with nature while proposing all the necessary comfort with bathroom and equipped kitchen as well as a careful insulation offering a temperate refuge even in full sunny day. Real little nests perfectly integrated into the environment.

The campground is a member of the Sites & Paysages network, which includes some fifty 3\* to 5\* campgrounds nestled in the most beautiful regions of France, where you can reconnect with nature and meet people who are passionate about their land.

Infos : [www.camping-lepetitliou.com](http://www.camping-lepetitliou.com)

## RELIVE THE HISTORY OF FRANCE IN THE ROOMS OF THE CHÂTEAU DE PICOMTAL

This medieval castle, a historic monument from the 16th century, offers a unique experience through its rooms whose style or decoration evokes different chapters of history. At the beginning of the year 2000, the new owners, while carrying out work, discovered inscriptions on the back of the floors they were dismantling. One hundred and twenty years earlier, in the early 1880's, the carpenter who installed

the floors in the various rooms confided in him. The man knows that it will only be read after his death. "Joachim's Floor", a book published in 2017 tells his secrets. Through his testimony, on himself and his village, it is thus a whole era that lives again confronted with economic progress and the advent of the Republic.

Infos : [www.picomtal.fr](http://www.picomtal.fr)



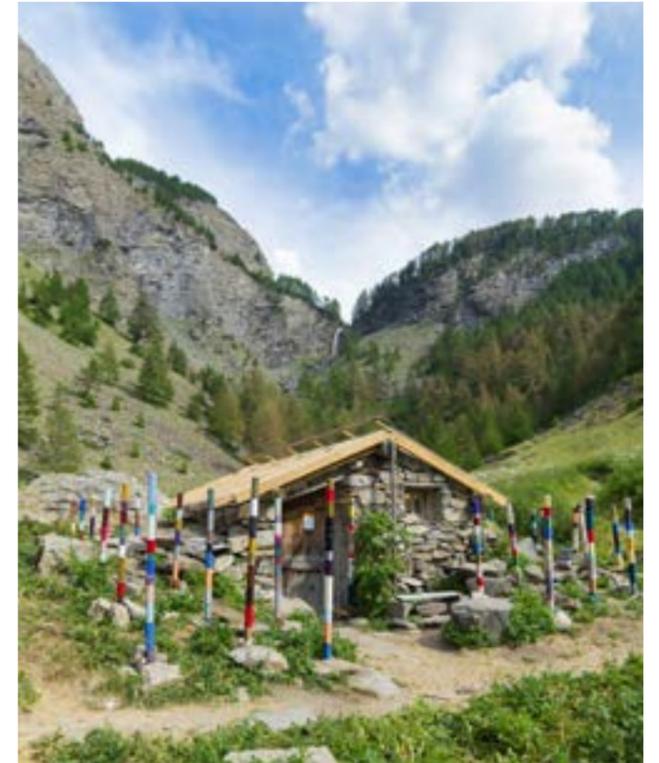
## SLEEPING IN A WORK OF ART, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAIN

The Fairies' Trail (Le Parcours des Fées) is also the shepherd's hut and the cube hut, 2 habitable works of art for unforgettable nights in the middle of the mountains and under the stars thanks to the transparent roofs.

- **The romantic** : the shepherd's hut is an old ruin at the foot of the Razis waterfall, totally restored and revisited by an artist for an anachronistic comfort, worthy of a charming guest room. The completely transparent roof opens on this incredible scenery which is magical under the stars.

- **The family** : the cube hut levitates above a scree, a vestige of an ancient shelter in this clearing, formerly a hay meadow. Its camouflage allows it to blend in with the surrounding nature. This invisible hut is then transformed into a real observatory on nature and wildlife that often ventures into this forest at the end of the day or early in the morning. Here too, the transparent roof promises a most enchanting night...

Infos : [www.parcours-des-fees.fr](http://www.parcours-des-fees.fr)





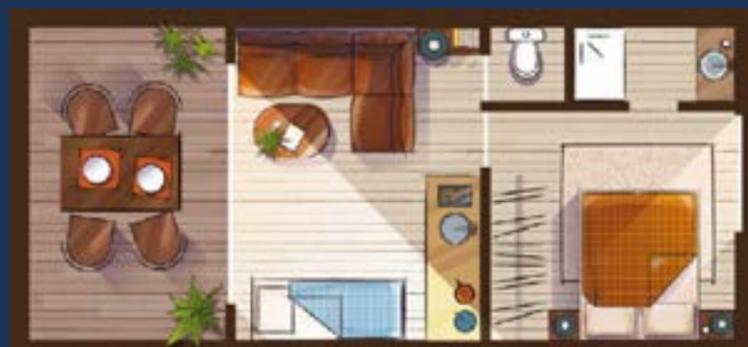
# NEW !

## The slow tourism takes its quarters on the lake with its floating accommodations

And if this summer the vacations were spent on the water including the night? In this year 2021, the Toues Cabanées are on the lake. Designed as apartments equipped in "slow" mode, the "Toues Cabanées", with a surface area of 25m<sup>2</sup>, await holidaymakers for evenings in the heart of an exceptional environment!

These flat-bottomed boats from the Loire River are moored in one of the most secret coves of the Serre-Ponçon lake, the Foreston bay, for a unique experience in the heart of the Alps.

. On the banks, the Paillote du Lac, a restaurant with its feet in the water, with its deckchairs and live music under the stars, completes the offer of this charming and wildly luxurious stay.



Infos : [www.touescabaneesdulac.com](http://www.touescabaneesdulac.com)



# ACCESS

## AIRPORTS

- > Marseille, 2 hours drive from Serre-Ponçon
- > Grenoble, 2h40 drive from Serre-Ponçon
- > Turin (Italie), 2h20 drive from Serre-Ponçon

## BY TRAIN

- > Nearest TGV stations : Valence, Marseille and Oulx (Italy)
- > SNCF stations in Chorges and Embrun, direct trains from Paris and Marseille

## BY ROAD

- > From Grenoble by Route Nationale 85 (Napoleon road) to Gap then Route Nationale 94 to Embrun.
- > From Marseille by the A51 freeway to La Saulce, then direction Tallard and Embrun by the National Roads 85 and 94.



## SERRE-PONÇON TOURIST OFFICE

Press Service

Thomas Loos : +33 (0)4 92 43 72 70  
+33 (0)6 15 78 79 44  
medias@serreponcon-tourisme.com  
www.serreponcon-tourisme.com

## PRESS CONTACT - PARIS

AGENCE PLRP  
www.plrp.fr

Émeline LE THOMAS  
emeline@plrp.fr  
+33(0)6 08 52 32 11

Philippine LAURAIRE  
philippine@plrp.fr  
+33(0)6 76 15 84 10

Visuals available on request

Photo credits : Nicolas Ceroni | Le Naturographe | Hélène Photographie | Nicolas Vigneron | JB Bernaz | Norman Lancelot | E-surfer | Nunatak | Rémi Morel | Florence Olivero | Arno Arts | Kaya | Patrick Domeyne | Damien Rosso | Domaine du Mt Guillaume | Le Petit Liou | Fées d'hiver | Jean-Marie Liot / ASO | Agence départementale de développement des Hautes-Alpes | OT Serre-Ponçon | x

