



THE GRAND SITE INITIATIVE

/ Composed of several, well-known sites visited by approximately 1 million people annually, the Grand Site in Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval represents the **best natural and cultural heritage the Haute-Savoie has to offer** whose features could easily be defined as divine.

/ Our region has joined forces with the government in the **French Grand Site** initiative to draw attention to and preserve the natural, historical, cultural, economic, and agricultural landscape over the long term.

GUIDE TO DISCOVER AT THE FER-À-CHEVAL CIRQUE



DISCOVER THE SITE THROUGH SIX THEMED ROUTES, FROM THE EASIEST TO THE MOST DIFFICULT.



INFORMATION USEFUL

ACCESS AND PARKING



YOUR HOLIDAY WITHOUT A CAR!

Did you know? You can access the Giffre valley and the sites by public transport:

- Giffre summer shuttles** serve the sites in July and August.
- The Y02 bus line** serves Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval from the Annemasse station.
- The Y94 bus line** serves Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval from the Cluses station.



Paid parking

From 8.30 am to 3.30 pm in May, June, and September, and from 8.30 am to 5 pm in July and August.
- Single car: €7
- Motorcycle €3
- Motor home: €10
- Bus: €20
- Yearly parking pass: €12



There is a dedicated parking area for motor homes.

However, camping is prohibited within the perimeter of the natural heritage site. Areas are available at the Pelly campsite (+33 4 50 34 12 17) and near the main town.



How busy is the site? Consult the occupancy rate of car parks in real time.



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

SITE REGULATIONS



Be aware that by taking certain hiking paths, you are entering a high-mountain zone. You must be prepared before you begin: **Be informed about how to access the paths, check the weather forecast that can change rapidly, take water, and bring solar protection.**



Keep and recycle your waste. Collection sites are available near the village. Helping us preserve the site is the best way to take advantage of what it has to offer.



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 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 pm.**



Some of the routes presented in this document are only accessible in summer.

NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE REGION

THE GORGES DES TINES

Glacier erosion created the Gorges des Tines, now the only connection point 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 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, Anterne Lake was formed during the Würm glaciation period (125,000 to 10,000 BC). 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 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 circulating in the area comes from a vast underground network in the limestone-laden Platé Desert and falls down the rocky cliffs to join Rouget Waterfall and the Giffre River.

The Fer-à-Cheval cirque is a protected national site and part of the vast Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval/Passy Natural Reserve that extends from Dent du Verre to the Platé Desert, with the highest altitude at 3,100 m on Mont Buet. Preserving this exceptionally rich natural landscape is ensured by respecting the regulations in place. Gathering anything natural from the area is prohibited. The use of flying objects (drones, paragliders, etc.) is not permitted, as it upsets the animals living here, especially the birds and raptors. Helping us preserve this space is the best way to take advantage of what it has to offer.

For more information: www.cen-haute-savoie.org

DISCOVER GRANDNESS

CIRQUE DU FER-À-CHEVAL

SIXT-FER-À-CHEVAL / PASSY

VALLEY TOURIST OFFICES

SIXT-FER-À-CHEVAL
10, place du Tilleul - 74740 Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval
+33 (0)4 50 34 49 36

MORILLON
Main town - 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

TANINGES
Rue de la Poste - 74440 Taninges
+33 (0)4 50 34 25 05

PRAZ DE LYS
Résidence Le Florian - 74440 Taninges
+33 (0)4 50 34 25 05

MIEUSSY
941, route de la Montagne - 74440 Mieussy
+33 (0)4 50 34 25 05

SOMMAND
Résidence Rovagne - 74440 Mieussy
+33 (0)4 50 34 25 05

GRAND SITE Sixt Fer à Cheval

haute savoie le Département

MONTAGNES DU GIFFRE

L'EUROPE S'ENGAGE en région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes avec la FRANCE

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BORET SNACK BAR



ALT. 1.388 M

2.5 HOURS
VIA THE BOUT DU MONDE
1.30 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 halfway 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



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VOGEALLE 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



VOGEALLE 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 Vogealle refuge. It can be accessed easily and gives off a refreshing mist that cools down summer hikers.



6

FOND DE LA COMBE
FOOTBRIDGE

ALT. 1.060 M



1H

The suspended footbridge is installed only during the summer months to help hikers reach the bottoms of several of the waterfalls located in the Bout du Monde.



7



BOUT DU MONDE



ALT. 1.222 M



1.5H

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 a magical place that invites you to meditate.



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 from Frénalay and is an excellent example of the unique, rocky beauty the high mountains have to offer.



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CHALET DE LAURA

At the heart of the site, Chalet de Laura offers a range of products directly from local Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval producers. There is also a snack bar open all day and in high season.

More info: +33 (0) 6 09 03 45 15



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 bike. Nevertheless, bike access is prohibited in the afternoons during July and August because of the high foot traffic at the site.



TREE CLIMBING

Apicale Association provides visitors with the opportunity to discover the site from the treetops. It is the best way to combine an educational activity about how trees work with the emotions that this beautiful site will guarantee.

By reservation only: +33 (0) 6 70 81 31 19



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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 66 19 67 25 (horse)
+33 (0) 6 66 13 61 26 (carriage)



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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 and dinner from May to September.

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



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.

8 CHALET IN
THE GRAND SITE

ALT. 955 M



4 MIN.

DEDICATED TO
DISCOVERING THE SITE

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

Open during the summer period.



1

FER-À-CHEVAL
RESTAURANT CHALET

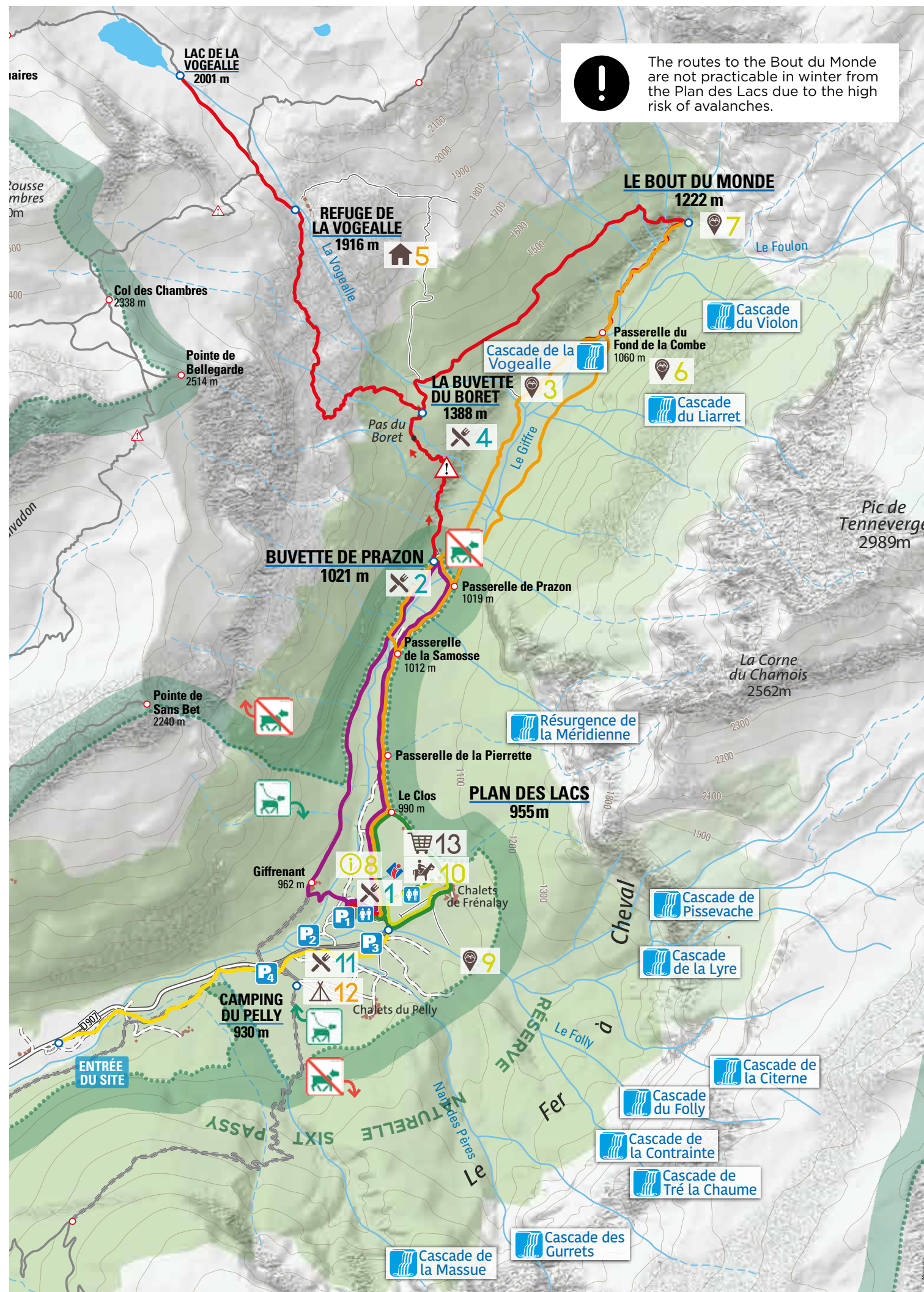
ALT. 955 M



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



- Access path to the site (35 min. | 7100 m.)
 - Walk through the heart of the site (30 min. loop | 740 m.)
 - Frenalay walk (45 min. loop | 750 m.)
 - Giffrenant walk (1.5 hour loop | 7120 m.)
 - Bout du Monde hike (3h loop | 7360 m.)
 - Le Boret hike (4h loop | 7550 m.) and La Vogealle hike (7h30 loop | 7190 m.)
 - Boundaries of the Sixt Passy natural reserve
 - Steep route in Pas du Boret, preferably taken for the climb.
- Times are given as an indication for a loop or a round trip from the car park.