



CHÂTILLON SUR CLUSE

LA RIVIÈRE-ENVERSE

VERCHAIX

MORILLON

SIXT-FER-À-CHEVAL



VILLAGE

Heritage trail

HAUT-GIFFRE TOURISME
Bureaux d'informations touristiques

Tourist information offices
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haut-giffre.fr



SIXT

Fer-à-Cheval

THE VILLAGE HISTORY !

In 1144, the monastery established under the authority of Ponce de Faucigny of the Abbey of Abondance, became an abbey. The founding canon naturally became its first abbot.

The abbey contributed to the development of the use of the mountain environment and encouraged the use of pastures (Alpine pastures). Most of the Sizerets (Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval inhabitants) were farmers and stockbreeders, but depending on the period and the economic climate, they also worked as miners, stone masons and, occasionally, smugglers.

In the mid-19th century, the valley welcomed its first visitors who came to contemplate its splendours. In 1854, Sir Alfred Wills, an English judge and mountaineer, discovered the valley and fell in love with it. He built the Nid d'Aigle in the cirque des Fonts. Every year, he welcomed a small group of British visitors to the chalet. Since then, he has been regarded as the precursor of mountain tourism in Sixt.

Gradually, the valley's inhabitants began to take advantage of this growing enthusiasm for mountain activities. Initially calling themselves "independent guides", they founded the Compagnie des Guides de Sixt in 1865. Skiing was introduced at the beginning of the 20th century and the first ski lift was installed in 1951.

In 2000, the abbey, which had been converted into a hotel at the end of the 19th century, was bought by the Conseil Général de Haute-Savoie. It is now the subject of a restoration programme as part of the European "Phénix, la renaissance des Patrimoines" project.

1 LA MAISON DE LA MONTAGNE & LA PLACE DU TILLEUL

Formerly the granary of Sixt Abbey, the building was extended in the early 19th century to become a primary school. Today it serves as the Tourist Office as well as the reception offices for the Ecole de Ski Français (ESF ski school), which is only present in winter.

The Place du Tilleul is the square where the Maison de la Montagne is located. It takes its name from the five-hundred-year-old tree that stood proudly in its centre until 2018. Since 2026, a new lime tree has stood here.



2 SIXT ABBEY AND THE SAINTE MARIE-MADELEINE CHURCH

It was founded by Ponce de Faucigny in the middle of the 12th century. The canons provided spiritual services to the local population. After the French Revolution, the cloistered buildings were sold as national property, and part of them was acquired by Albanis Beaumont, an engineer and geographer from Savoie who was involved in reviving local mining activity.

The foundations of the church date back to the 13th century. The choir, transept and first three bays make up the original abbey church. The cenotaph of Ponce de Faucigny, elevated to the title of Blessed, can be seen in the south transept. It was sculpted from Tines marble.

3 THE SAVOYARD GRENIER (GRANARY)

A small wooden structure separate from the house that protected foodstuffs and valuables from fire and pests.

4 SAINT-PONCE FOUNTAIN

The water from the fountain is said to have a number of virtues, including curing eyes and stomach aches.

5 THE VIVIER HAMLET

It takes its name from an old fishpond (vivier) set up by the canons to store live trout for consumption every Friday.

6 THE CEMETERY

Before the 19th century, it was located around the church, but was gradually removed for hygiene reasons and to prevent epidemics. It was decided to move it outside the town.

7 THE SMALL LAKE AND THE CAROUSEL

The Mairie lake was formed naturally by a resurgence from the Buet massif (3099m), which constantly flows into it. This little lake never freezes!

8 THE OLD WASHHOUSE

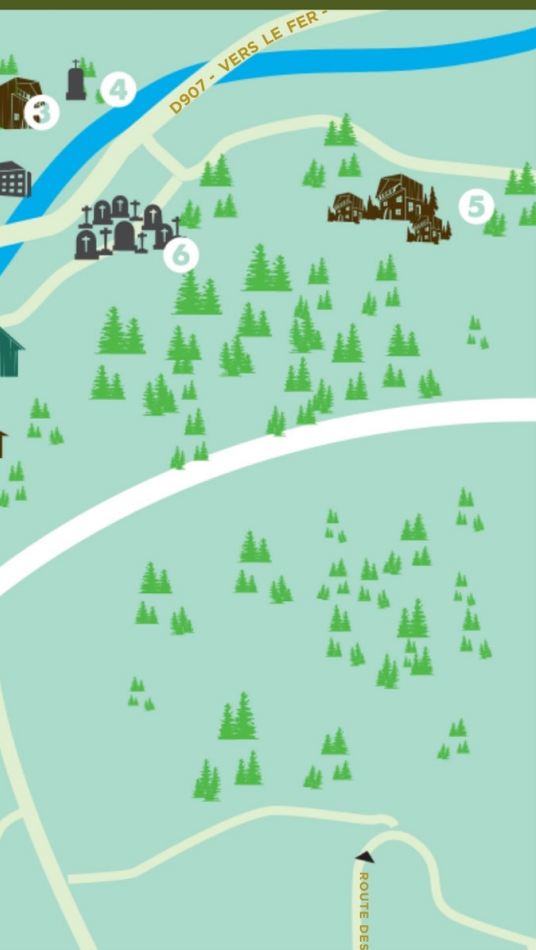
Still in use until the mid-20th century, it is made up of a drinking water basin, a rinsing tank and a wash-house. The concrete wash-house was built in the 1920s.

9 THE GIFFRE QUAYS

Built around 1920, their purpose was to contain flooding, stabilise the banks and ensure their long-term survival.

10 THE ALLAMAND HOUSE (MAISON ALLAMAND)

Dating from the 16th century, it is one of the oldest houses in the village. The mullioned window and twin windows on the façade bear witness to the building's age. Under the Ancien Régime, it was used as a hostelry for pilgrims and travellers stopping off in Sixt.





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