

DISCREET VOLLÈGES

Gateway to the Val de Bagnes, the village of Vollèges is firmly attached to its traditions. Built around its 500-year-old bell tower, Vollèges is the capital of the only wine-producing commune in the region. Down one side flows a raging mountain stream, the Merdenson, which then runs into the Dranse de Bagnes. Keeping alive with ancient customs, Vollèges has a traditional bread oven built at the beginning of the 20th century which is a focal point for village gatherings. The Atelier des Terroirs produces local specialities such as the «Fratze» sausage. As well as the extremely popular Beer Walk, organised every summer along the small village streets, the commune of Vollèges also offers beautiful walks towards the Col du Tronc or La Crevasse.

www.verbier.ch/summer/inside/destinations/tourist-destinations/volleges

Don't miss FROM COW TO CHEESE

Every Friday morning, Sophie shares her passion and day-to-day life during a visit to the Etiez cheese dairy. All the secrets of raclette cheese, Vollèges tomme, Armanay and many other products from the Etiez cheese dairy are revealed, with a product tasting before heading to the Tronc mountain pasture to meet the Hérens cows.

Dates: Every Friday from 26 June to 27 August from 8.30 am–1.30 pm

Prices: Free for VIP Pass holders / or Adult / Child: CHF 15.

www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/de-la-vache-au-fromage-verbier-station-en-summer-3141022



Walking suggestion THE MINES TRAIL & MONT CHEMIN

Overlooking Martigny, Mont-Chemin (1,808 m), with all the qualities of a hill, is home to fascinating flora and lush vegetation. Beneath its surface, the geologically rich subsoil contains at least 150 identified minerals. To help uncover the mysteries of this site, Kobold - the mine dwarf - guides walkers on a winding path through larch forests and alpine meadows with magnificent views of the surrounding peaks and the Rhône valley. As well as 11 display panels along the way, discover abandoned tunnel entrances from which iron has been extracted for 15 centuries, and more recently, in the 20th century, lead, silver and fluorite. Get ready to venture into the tunnels, equipped with a headtorch and helmet.

The 4.3-km loop is easily accessible starting from the Col des Planches (about 1 hr 30 mins)

Don't miss the weekly event «From the mines to the mountain pastures», a guided tour of the Mont-Chemin mine followed by alpine cheese tasting

Prices: Free for VIP PASS holders / or Adults: CHF 20 / Children (6-12 years): CHF 10 / Free for children under 6 years

www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/sentier-des-mines-volleges-en-summer-2794105



Spotlight: ALPINE PASTURES AND REFRESHMENT BARS

A must-visit! Alpage du Lein, Col des Planches, Alpage du Tronc - these enchanting Alpine pastures and their buvettes (cafes) have given the Entremonts Valley its reputation. These humble spots bring together both locals and visitors for simple yet tasty pleasures. Comfortably surrounded by nature

and lulled by the sound of the Hérens cowbells, you can enjoy homemade products and typical local dishes (cheese, cured meat, croûte au fromage, assiette Valaisanne) in a friendly atmosphere. There's only one thing to do: ENJOY!



Local culture HÉRENS COWS

In their attractive black coats, Hérens cows are the pride of their owners and the people of the Valais. Every summer, these «ladies» fight to decide which cow will be crowned queen of the mountain pasture. This natural phenomenon is typical and instinctive of the breed and has given rise to regional queen fights that attract numerous breeders and passionate spectators from the Valais, the Aosta Valley and the Mont Blanc region.



Accommodation HOTEL BEAU-SITE IN CHEMIN-DESSUS

For nearly 110 years, the Hotel Beau-Site has been welcoming visitors to its idyllic setting on the hills above the Rhone Valley, a few kilometres from Martigny train station. This historic and eco-friendly building has 13 rooms offering total peace and quiet with old-fashioned charm. In the restaurant, chefs use organic, local and/or fairtrade ingredients to prepare vegetarian dishes, which you can enjoy on the terrace with a panoramic view of the Trient massif, the Catogne and the Grand Chavalard. Whether you prefer to stroll through the surrounding forests or go on a challenging hike up to the Pierre Avoi, the choice of itineraries from the Beau-Site are endless. And all year round, yoga retreats, tai chi courses and meditation weekends are on offer making it the perfect place to (re)connect with yourself.

Rates: Valid all year round (overnight stay including breakfast): Single room CHF 110 / room for 2 persons CHF 140 to 150 / room for 3 or 4 persons CHF 170 to 190

Half board: CHF 30/person

www.chemin.ch