

WILD UPPER VAL DE BAGNES

The picturesque villages of the Upper Val de Bagnes are a favourite destination for nature lovers and travellers looking for authenticity. Follow the Dranse de Bagnes river, and you'll come across villages with liting names: Lourtier, Fionnay, Sarreyer and Bonatchiesse - all little corners of paradise where you can forget time and indulge in slow food. A hidden treasure, the preserved natural area of the Upper Val de Bagnes is protected in the Federal Landscape Inventory. The exceptionally rich landscape demands respect and a degree of humility from hikers. Ibex, chamois, bearded vultures as well as red frogs and butterflies all call this remote, wild place home. And at the end of the valley, where the road ends, is the majestic Mauvoisin dam, the last trace of civilisation before you get to Italy.

www.verbier.ch/summer/inside/destinations/tourist-destinations/upper-val-de-bagnes

Don't miss MAUVOISIN DAM

The walk to Lake Mauvoisin - a turquoise blue expanse nestled in a spectacular Alpine panorama - is well worth the detour. The 250-metre-high concrete giant of the same name is the highest arch dam in Europe. Built between 1951 and 1958 in the heart of the protected natural area of the Upper Val de Bagnes, it literally overlooks the Val de Bagnes and generates 1,000 GWh of electricity per year. Inside, an educational trail winds through an old gallery and takes visitors upwards. It explains how electricity is generated and tells the story of the dam's construction. At the top, the magic continues with a photo exhibition, and a breathtaking view of the lake, waterfalls, mountains and valleys as far as the eye can see.

www.verbier.ch/summer/inside/destinations/must-see-places/mauvoisin-dam



Hiking suggestion TOUR DE BEC DE SERY VIA THE PASSERELLE DE CORBASSIÈRE

Start from the Cabane Brunet mountain hut and head towards the Col des Avouillons pass. The first section of the climb is fairly gentle and takes you through the "Pron Sery," a peaceful, bucolic spot where rivers and streams flow. Tough in places, the path continues to the Col des Avouillons where the views of the Corbassière glacier and the Combins massif reward your efforts. Once you reach the pass, the trail leads you down to the foot of the glacier where the famous 190-metre long Corbassière footbridge crosses the moraine. Return via La Maye, using the Sery footbridge, before heading back to the start at Cabane Brunet where you can enjoy a delicious apple pie, the undisputed speciality of the house!

Itinerary: 9.5-km loop, Duration 4.5 hrs, 650 m D+/D-

New this summer: Thanks to the VIP PASS - free shuttle from Fionnay to the Cabane Brunet from July 15 to August 15

www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/tour-du-bec-de-sery-lourtier-en-summer-2794073



Spotlight VIA FERRATA OF THE GORGES DE MAUVOISIN

Downstream from the Mauvoisin dam and overlooking the deep gorges carved out by the Dranse, the Gorges de Mauvoisin via ferrata is divided into 2 sections so anyone can have a go on the cables and monkey bridges. The first section, «Saxifrage» is suitable for beginners and children from 8 years old. The second section, «Tichodrome» on the other hand, demands a high level of fitness and a certain amount of confidence in the void, as the commitment is much greater. For experienced climbers, the two parts can be linked together. Learn more about via ferrata in safety by taking part in an introductory session with a mountain guide on the first section.

Dates: Every Wednesday from 7 July to 29 September from 8.45 am-1.15 pm

Prices: Free for VIP Pass holders / or Adult / Child: CHF 100

www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/via-ferrata-des-gorges-de-mauvoisin-mauvoisin-en-summer-2788121



Local culture SHEPHERDS' HUTS & OLD VAULTED STABLES

Shepherds' huts (*îtres*) and vaulted stables (*écuries*) dot the landscape on the pastures of the Val de Bagnes at an altitude of between 1,800 and 2,500 m. More than 600 buildings have been recorded and the presence of humans on these sites has been documented back to the Mesolithic period. About 30 of these buildings have been restored using the original dry stone technique. The Association ArcAre has also been working since 2013 to protect and revive this mountain heritage. Find out more on walking tours such as the Tour des Ecuries du Crêt and Vasevay or the Tour du Lac de Mauvoisin via the Giétro and Lia stables.



Accommodation CABANE DE CHANRION

In an isolated and unspoilt spot at an altitude of 2,462 m near Lake Mauvoisin, the Cabane de Chanrion mountain hut blends in perfectly with the landscape. Recently renovated and extended, the refuge has comfortable dorms, modern bathrooms and a bright dining room, while the large windows highlight the outside as the main feature of the décor. In short, the hut is a chic eco-friendly lodging with simple, yet modern comforts. A simple menu of local products with contemporary touches and a superb wine cellar await the gourmet visitor. As for activities, the surrounding peaks tempt mountaineers, singletracks challenge mountain bikers, several itineraries attract hikers, and there are grand walking tours for adventure lovers, such as the legendary Haute-Route or the Tour des Combins.

Capacity reduced to 47 beds during COVID, (normally 59 beds). Reservations required

Dates: Daily from 14 June-17 October

Rates: half board adult: CHF 45 / child up to 9 years: CHF 35.

www.chanrion.ch