

# FOLLOW THE WATER



## BISSES IRRIGATION CHANNELS

Typical features of the Valais mountain landscape, bisses are ancient irrigation channels that once carried water from glaciers and alpine springs to the valleys. The paths that run alongside these silent witnesses to the recent past are now pleasant walks. In full flow from mid-May to mid-October, the Bisse des Ravines trail takes walkers high above the village of Bruson through flower-filled meadows and larch forests. The Bisse de Levron follows a sweeping route above Verbier from Les Ruinettes to the spectacular end of the bisse above Vollèges.

[www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/les-bisses-verbier-en-summer-2899643](http://www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/les-bisses-verbier-en-summer-2899643)



## FIONNAY WATERFALL

To encourage the growth of tourism in Fionnay at the end of the 19th century, plans were introduced to make the already impressive area even more attractive. The creators of the resort decided to divert a stream coming from the mountain to create an artificial waterfall. The waterfall appears to emerge from the cliffs and ends up in a small lake a few hundred metres below. What makes it so special? It can be turned on or off as needed or desired.

[www.valdebagnes.ch](http://www.valdebagnes.ch)

## VAL DE BAGNES, CRADLE OF GLACIAL STUDIES

The fact that we know today that glaciers move and at one time covered part of Europe and the whole of Switzerland is partly thanks to Jean-Pierre Perraudin, a farmer from Lourtier in the Val de Bagnes. With his keen sense of observation, he was the first to unravel the mysteries of glaciers. In 1818, the Giétroz glacier collapsed into the valley and blocked the river's passage. A lake formed but the pressure of the water eventually destroyed the dam, triggering a tidal wave. Jean-Pierre Perraudin took part in efforts to avert this catastrophe. At the time, he shared his observations with the engineer Ignace Venetz, who then brought them to a wider audience. These ideas were then taken up by the founding fathers of glacier theory.

[www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/fr/articles/048709/2009-10-28](http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/fr/articles/048709/2009-10-28)

## BLUEARK - INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR WATER SAVING

BlueArk is a technology innovation hub and laboratory based in Le Châble. Founded in 2018, it specialises in the management of natural resources, with a particular focus on the smart management and digitalisation of water. Its goal is to encourage and develop practical and innovative solutions to the challenges of climate change, particularly in the field of water. The ODILE project is a specific example of this. To help mountain farmers, a network of sensors has been installed to determine if and when to water the alpine meadows. If necessary, automatic valves are opened. As well as saving farmers extra work and unnecessary travel, this system also saves water and provides more fodder for the livestock.

[www.blueark.ch](http://www.blueark.ch)

## MAUVOISIN DAM

The walk to Lake Mauvoisin - a turquoise blue expanse nestled in a spectacular Alpine panorama - is well worth a detour. The 250m-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.

**Don't miss:** guided tour of the Mauvoisin dam (50% discount with the VIP PASS)

[www.verbier.ch/mauvoisin-dam](http://www.verbier.ch/mauvoisin-dam)

## HIKE OR FISH AT LAC DES VAUX

Flanked by two smaller but equally gleaming mountain lakes, Lac des Vaux attracts walkers for a leisurely picnic, fishing trip or invigorating swim up above Verbier and La Tzoumaz to an altitude of 2,543 m. It's an hour and a half walk from La Croix de Coeur, a panoramic restaurant 20 minutes' on foot from the top of the Savoleyres cable car. The Grand Tour of Lac des Vaux (if you decide to follow this route) then takes you back to La Tzoumaz through the great wilderness of the Arbi valley. The whole loop takes about four hours. The crystal-clear waters of the lake are home to rainbow trout and snapper which attract fly and grasshopper fishing enthusiasts. Permits are available from June at the tourist office in La Tzoumaz or in Verbier.

[www.verbier.ch/summer/inside/destinations/must-see-places/lac-des-vaux](http://www.verbier.ch/summer/inside/destinations/must-see-places/lac-des-vaux)



## RIVER CHALLENGES AT LA TZOUMAZ

Looking for a challenge? Head to the Espace Nature in La Tzoumaz and tackle the La Fare mountain stream! The cool water of the stream provides a deluge of fun, games and agility tests that will awaken the senses and invigorate both young and old alike. The concept is simple. Plunge into nature with your hands or in bare feet, accompanied by your family or friends, and feel the wonderful sensations of your body in direct contact with the elements: water, earth, grass, sun, wind and pebbles. The result is surprising, creating new and pleasurable sensory experiences that are sure to put a smile on everyone's faces!

[www.latzoumaz.ch/espace-nature](http://www.latzoumaz.ch/espace-nature)



## DID YOU KNOW?

**A huge new mural at the T-Resort**

The façade of the T-Resort hotel in La Tzoumaz has been decorated with a gigantic 400 m<sup>2</sup> artistic mural! Created by the Spanish and Mexican artist duo "Alegria del Prado", this fresco, the largest work in the open-air museum, is a beautiful tribute to the importance of the water cycle, inviting you to follow the journey!

[www.verbier4vallees.ch/en/media/press-releases/Inauguration-of-the-T-Resort-fresco\\_ptd\\_393447](http://www.verbier4vallees.ch/en/media/press-releases/Inauguration-of-the-T-Resort-fresco_ptd_393447)



## GLACIER ENCOUNTER

Before last summer, alpine glaciers were seldom talked about, but recently they have been a regular feature in the news. And for good reason: these titans always aroused admiration and interest, but are now on the verge of extinction! To give some insight into this sad phenomenon, at the end of last summer, an educational trail about the melting of the glaciers was established on the hills above Verbier. This valuable experience allows visitors to get to know more about glaciers by admiring one, touching it and discovering more about both its history and its future. Leaving from the Col des Gentianes, the marked trail starts at an altitude of more than 2,800 m with various stops along the way down to the Tortin glacier:

- A photo-bench to capture the moment
- Dated markers indicating where the glacier extended to in the past
- An interpretation panel showing the glacier's history
- A station near the ice explaining the role the climate plays in the health of the glacier
- A terrace where visitors can admire the glacier and reflect on what the landscape might look like in 2100 once the glacier has disappeared
- A walk on the ice (optional) to an ablation stake that measures the thickness of the melting glacier

[www.verbier4vallees.ch/en/media/press-releases/An-encounter-with-a-glacier-a-themed-trail-running-from-the-Gentianes-to-the-Tortin-glacier\\_ptd\\_404311](http://www.verbier4vallees.ch/en/media/press-releases/An-encounter-with-a-glacier-a-themed-trail-running-from-the-Gentianes-to-the-Tortin-glacier_ptd_404311)