

# Chalet Tontine

**238 Route du Pont, Les Houches 74310**

We welcome you to this wonderful corner of the world.

## About the Chalet

Chalet Tontine is a bright demi-chalet with views of the Aiguille du Midi and Massif du Mont Blanc (Dôme du Goûter, Aiguille du Goûter, Glacier de Tacconnaz). The chalet is located at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, in Les Houches. Chalet provides everything you need to spend a fabulous holiday in the Chamonix Valley. The chalet is a spacious 115m<sup>2</sup>, with a wood burning stove, open plan double height living area, 2 double and one twin bedrooms as well as an additional twin sleeping area suitable for youth. Twin bedroom can also be configured as a double. There is also a full size sauna with an adjacent shower/wc - a rare treat for French Alps.

Outdoors - a private terrace and garden, backing on to woodland.

## Chalet Layout

### Ground floor

*Hallway* with coat rack and storage for skis, boots and helmets. State-of-art electric boot dryer.

*Laundry area* with a washing machine and dryer.

*Electric sauna* with glass wall, shower, wc, changing area with a bench.

*Double bedroom* with en-suite bathroom (shower). Electric wall mounted radiator, automatic dehumidifier.

### 1st floor

Spacious open plan double height lounge, kitchen area, double bedroom, patio doors and bathroom.

The *living area* has a large leather corner sofa, large smart tv, a large dining table and an efficient wood burning stove.

Large patio glass doors allow access to the private balcony area with garden table and chairs. Steps down into the garden lead to more garden furniture complete with gas BBQ.

The *second double bedroom* is located on this floor overlooking the front of the property. In this room is a double bed, wardrobe and chest of drawers.

A *full size bathroom* is on this floor, with a full bath, overhead shower and wc.

This first floor has additional electrical underfloor heating to the wood burning stove.

The kitchen has an electric hob with extractor, a full size electric fan oven. a full size dishwasher and a full size fridge, Nespresso machine, microwave/toaster oven combo.

All cutlery, crockery and glassware, cooking utensils are new for this season, as well as the toaster, kettle, fondue and raclette.

\*You will find some useful recipes for traditional fondue and Tartiflette at the end of this booklet\*

## 2nd floor

From the lounge a wooden staircase leads to the second floor which has a mezzanine area with *office work space*

Limited height *sleeping area* with 2 single beds and a bookshelf is separated with a curtain.

A *large bedroom* with a further 2 single beds (which can be put together to create a double), wardrobe and velux window. Electric Wall mounted radiator.

The property has sufficient space outside to park 2-3 cars. The superb location offers magnificent views of the Aiguille du midi, Massif du Mont Blanc and Chamonix valley from the lounge, terrace and garden area.

## Operations

### BBQ

BBQ runs on butane and the bottle is stored under it. **NB! Operating instructions prohibit keeping the gas bottle under the burners during operation.** In order for the gas to flow, the small lever on the gas regulator needs to be moved to a vertical position while pushing the opposite button at the same time.

Should the bottle run out of butane during your stay, there is a spare located by the firewood under the balcony. Please let us know as soon as possible so a replacement for the spare will be arranged.

### Boot dryer

Boot dryer has rocker switches on the left and electronic control in the wall outlet. It can be turned on/off by pressing the orange button on the top of the

electronic control. For safety the control is programmed to turn off after a predetermined amount of time.

## Dehumidifier

Ground floor bathroom has an automatic dehumidifier installed – it is programmed to run automatically at night; it drains into the shower and no intervention or adjustment is required. Please let us know if you find the bathroom still unduly humid.

## Electric shutters

There are electric shutters for the patio doors and top window. The controls are located on the wall left of the patio doors. Please press the button *once gently*. Repeated pressing will cause the shutters to jam.

## Front door

In case you have not previously encountered this style of lock: in order to be able to lock the door with the key, the door handle has to be moved up as far as possible.

## Heating

The heating for this property is provided by solid fuel (Wood burner - see instructions below), under floor heating and wall mounted electric radiators.



You will notice that most rooms have electronic thermostats installed. These are controlled remotely and automatically. The target temperature for the check-in time is 20C in the lounge and 18C in the bedrooms, 17C in the entrance hall and sauna. You are able to adjust these by a few degrees up or down to get the desired comfort level, just keep in mind that underfloor heating in the main lounge and main level bedrooms takes a while to heat up or cool down. Thermostat's upper limits are set to 22C (except the bathroom). If you have special needs and require higher temperatures, please let us know and these limits can be adjusted remotely. Adjustment is done using arrows on the

bottom right of the screen, these buttons become visible when touched. Please do not change any other settings of the thermostats and any of the dials on wall heaters. To get the property really warm quickly on a cold day, it is best to use the wood burner.

In the 1st floor bedroom it is recommended to rely on the underfloor heating and use the wall heater only in extreme cold, if needed - this is the only heater that is controlled by the dials.

## Hot water

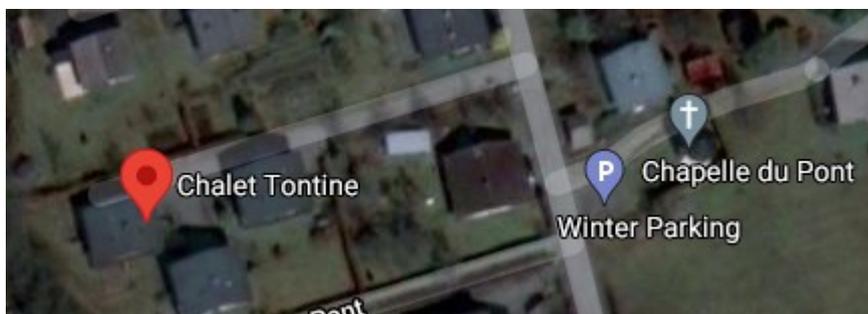
The water boiler is also electric and programmed to heat overnight. Should all of the hot water be used it will obviously take some time to reheat. Please let us know if you require re-heating during the day and we will adjust the program.

## Microwave/Toaster oven combo (Magimix)

Providing instructions for every kitchen appliance in this document would certainly be unnecessary, but we wanted to highlight this somewhat unusual gadget. Basically the control knob has various positions that mean various combinations of microwave and regular heat power, where the vertical squiggly line icons signify microwave and horizontal regular heating element. Obviously it can be used as a microwave only (max power is 3 vertical waves) or toaster oven. More details can be found in the little booklet nearby.

## Parking

Cars can be generally parked either in the space in front of the entrance or in front of the garage door. **Importantly, when snowfall is likely, the space in front of the garage needs to be kept clear overnight to provide access to snow removal in the morning. Please utilize overflow parking by the chapel nearby if needed.**



## Patio sliding doors

Patio doors are locked with the handle positioned *horizontally* and unlocked *vertically down*. Do not use excessive force, it is likely to damage the mechanism.

## **Raclette set**

An extension cord is provided (generally located on top of the refrigerator) that will enable you to use the set on the table, inside or outside. Warning - it will get very hot, please do not leave unattended. When using it inside on the dining table, please put it on one of the felt placemats to protect the wood surface.

## **Recycling/Garbage**

In France it is required to sort the household waste into recyclable and garbage. There are separate small recycling bins in the cupboard under the sink, marked "papier/plastic" and "verre/glass". The former is for various clean paper and plastic containers, also cans and the latter for glass bottles and jars. The closest corresponding large collection containers are located on Avenue des Alpagnes just across from the bus stop. The rest will go in tied bags to the household waste container located at the same place.

## **Radio/CD player**

There is a stereo system with FM Radio and CD player.

## **Shower in the Sauna**

Please note that shower in the sauna has a drain with an effective hair capture cone – it tends to fill with hair fast and thereafter does not drain well. If you notice that water is not draining as expected, it probably needs quick cleaning, it is very easy, just lift it out and clear the hair:



## **Telephone**

Cordless telephone is available and calls can be received at +33 4 56 37 31 35. Outgoing calls to fixed and mobile phones in the EU as well as select countries are free.

## Terrace & balcony furniture

During the summer season you will find a set of furniture out on the terrace along with an umbrella and gas BBQ. While reasonably weatherproof, it is recommended to remove the pillows when it is expected to rain, they may also be placed inside by the balcony doors when you check in.

Please keep the umbrella folded down when not in use, it will last considerably longer as there are often strong and gusty winds in the valley.

You may also find soft seat cushions for the balcony chairs brought inside when you check-in, please feel free to use them. As the balcony is well covered, it is not necessary to remove them during precipitation.

There is a set of felt place mats on the shelf under the TV - they can be used either inside or outside.

## Towel rack

The towel rack in the 1st floor bedroom can also provide supplemental heat and is additionally controlled by a digital thermostat just outside the door. This thermostat is generally set higher and should not need adjusting, the towel rack itself has a knob which can be adjusted for desired temperature. Pushing the knob once provides quick 15min heat with a fan.

Towel rack in the ground floor bathroom is of analogue variety and is controlled by a push button and a dial.

## TV/Satellite/Streaming

LG flat-screen smart TV in the **lounge** has a number of built-in apps, notably **Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Spotify** which the guests can enjoy.

It also has 3 HDMI inputs that can be switched using the remote controls <input> button that are currently connected as follows:

*HDMI1-SFR*: SFR Cable box, controlled by a separate white remote control. Provides a number of French as well as a few international TV channels

*HDMI2-PC*: TV will operate as a monitor for a small PC running Ubuntu Linux desktop, best use would be running a familiar internet browser (Chrome/Firefox) - possibly logging into cloud base media services, e.g. Eurosport, Netflix etc. Wireless French AZERTY keyboard is connected to the PC.

*HDMI3-SAT*: Freeview Satellite box, controlled by a remote control labeled "Manhattan". Here you will be able to find a wide array of UK channels, all flavors of BBC as well as a number of other UK and international channels

You will also find another LG Flatscreen TV set in the **lower level bedroom**, it is at this point not connected to a cable service or antenna so can therefore be

only utilized with an additional device via HDMI (e.g. laptop, Chromecast, Apple TV or similar box). There is a Chromecast device connected at the moment so the guests can cast from various compatible services on their phones that are supported by Chromecast (eg Netflix, Spotify, Youtube etc).

## Sauna

Sauna is electrically heated and controlled by a digital thermostat on the adjacent wall.

Turning the round dial will change the desired sauna temperature (recommended between 75C and 90C). If the screen is dark - one click of the dial will turn it on and clicking it again will turn the heater on or off. Heating



sign will appear when the heater is on. Number in the middle is the current temperature and the smaller one in the corner is the target temperature. Quick double click will toggle the air circulator on/off (a light icon means it is on).

Next to the thermostat there are light controls, you will be able to turn sauna lighting on/off as well as adjust brightness of the 2 circuits separately (not recommended).

**PLEASE READ DETAILED SAUNA RULES AND FEATURES BELOW IN DETAILED SAUNA SECTION BELOW BEFORE FIRST USE!**

## Velux Skylights

Opening the skylights slightly helps regulate temperature on the second floor, especially in hot summer weather. Please make sure they are firmly closed when leaving the house or when precipitation is likely. You may need to use a plastic broom handle to safely close the skylight that is located by the mezzanine.

## WIFI

ID: SFR\_8A88

PASSWORD: provided before check-in, also posted in the house

## Wood-burning stove

Operation is generally pretty straightforward, fire-starters are provided along with some kindling. There is no damper to worry about, in front of the burner there are adjusters for the air inflow. When lit, you can keep the door slightly ajar only for a short moment until the flames are going. Never operate the stove with a door open.

## **Work space**

Please feel free to use the HDMI monitor, keyboard (AZERTY) and direct ethernet connection if needed. There should also be plenty of outlets to plug in your equipment under the table.

## **Security & Safety**

### **Lock Box**

To stop keys being lost we have fitted a lock box to the door frame. The code is provided before check-in. We suggest using this box each time you leave the chalet. Replacement keys are expensive and if you lose the key you will be charged accordingly. Usually around 100€.

### **Shutters**

The valley frequently experiences strong gusts of wind, it is essential that all shutters (wooden and electric) are properly secured in either the open or closed position using the latches.

### **Fire Alarms**

There are two fire alarms, one on the stairwell and one on the top floor. The batteries are regularly checked. Please do not remove these batteries.

### **Carbon Monoxide Monitor**

This monitor is located near the chimney and does not require any attention from the guests.

### **Fire Extinguisher and Fire Blanket**

Both of these items are located on the first floor near the kitchen.

### **Snow & Ice**

Obviously during times of snowfall it is important to keep the front of the doorway clear from snow. We have provided a snow shovel for such times, and a bag of salt. The road is plowed by a tractor during heavy snowfall. No cars are to be parked overnight in front of the garage door during snowfall or when one is likely as it will restrict access for snowplows early in the morning.

## SAUNA

While sauna is clearly not part of the local culture, it is immensely popular in many places worldwide, particularly the host's native Nordic countries. It is credited with numerous health benefits, too many to discuss in detail but uninitiated yet interested guests can easily find information with simple internet search. Regardless, we find it to be a perfect complement after intense physical activity, be it skiing, trail running or hiking. It helps relax and recover muscles, soothe pains, improve circulation and cardiovascular conditioning among others. It will also help you relieve stress, sleep and feel better, clear both your body and mind and improve overall well being.

It is important to point out that sauna heat may not be suitable for everyone. If you have a cardiovascular problem or are pregnant, you should seek medical advice before using a sauna.

Sauna that you will find in the Chalet is heated by an electrical heater of modern design and contains a load of specially selected sauna stones that will provide long lasting smooth heat. It is also equipped with a climate device that improves heat distribution and makes the experience "softer" and longer. Hot air is also circulated over Himalayan salt balls that are claimed to have additional health benefits. More details, if interested, can be found at: <https://saunum.com/product/saunum-primary/>

The climate device can also be turned off to have a conventional sauna experience.

For the guests who have never had a sauna experience before, we are providing here a brief tutorial that should enable you to give it a try.

1. We recommend setting aside at least an hour for the full session with some wind-down time and turning on the heater about 1.5-2h before, depending on the outside as well as desired sauna temperature.
2. If you are new to the sauna, we recommend starting with temperatures around 75-80C and definitely with the climate device turned on. It often depends from individual to individual, the aim is to sweat and enjoy the experience.
3. Make sure that the glass door is closed as best as possible
4. As described above in the "operations" section - the control is pretty straightforward, during the heating the climate device/circulator should be turned off, i.e. the "light" icon should not show. You can monitor the temperature and when the desired level is reached, the sauna is ready and the heater will automatically maintain the temperature.
5. We recommend turning on the climate device for smoother experience, unless you are a hardcore purist.
6. You may notice the temperature indicator going a bit lower when the climate device is turned on - this is normal

7. Sauna is made of pure alder and not finished with any chemicals aside from light mineral oil to protect seats from stains from sweating. Nevertheless, we require the guests to sit on towels, both from a hygienic standpoint, heat comfort as well as to protect the wood.
8. Sauna can be enjoyed both sitting, possibly on different levels as well as lying down if there is room
9. People often use head coverings - sauna caps, especially in very hot saunas, They protect the head and hair from overheating. Small towels/turbans can also be used when suitable caps are not available
10. It is said that in Finland a lot of business gets done in saunas, perhaps sweating together with your business partners helps to build trust..
11. The aim is to get the sweat flowing and pores open, but not to push it to the limits of enjoyment, stay as long as you are comfortable. Experiment with pouring small amounts of water on top of the stones with the provided ladle. Keep in mind that hot steam can burn so do hover over the stones while doing it. Steam will change sauna humidity and provide a different feel - it is all down to personal preference.
12. Another often practiced method is the temperature contrast - jumping into snow or cold water/shower right after exiting a hot sauna. Avoid pouring very cold water over your head.
13. Take a break and relax on the bench (still use towels), meditate for a bit and if you enjoyed the session, go for another one.
14. Excessive alcohol intake is strongly contraindicated, but you may find a glass of beer very refreshing after the sauna
15. Turn off the heater and climate device when done or earlier, stones retain heat for quite a while. The control device limits heating to 3h, but can be restarted after turning it off.
16. You may want to open the door to the hallway slightly if dressing room seems too hot or lack fresh air
17. Please not hesitate to contact us with any of the questions you might have regarding the sauna

## SAUNA RULES

1. Do not use sauna, if you have cardiovascular problems or are pregnant
2. Do not consume excessive alcohol before, during or after using sauna
3. Always sit on towels
4. Sauna heat is not for everyone, use at your own risk
5. Do not leave sauna unattended when heater is on
6. Do not touch the heater when in operation
7. Keep the sauna door closed to avoid wasting heat and energy and overheating the dressing room

## TRAVEL

### Getting to Chalet Tontine

The chalet is nestled in the Le Pont hamlet of Les Houches in the Chamonix Valley. It is about a 1 hour drive from Geneva, a bit further from Grenoble and Milan. Trains also go through the valley from Saint Gervais (accessible from Geneva). There are also buses that run from the airports through the valley. We can recommend ChamExpress, which drops you pretty much at the door.

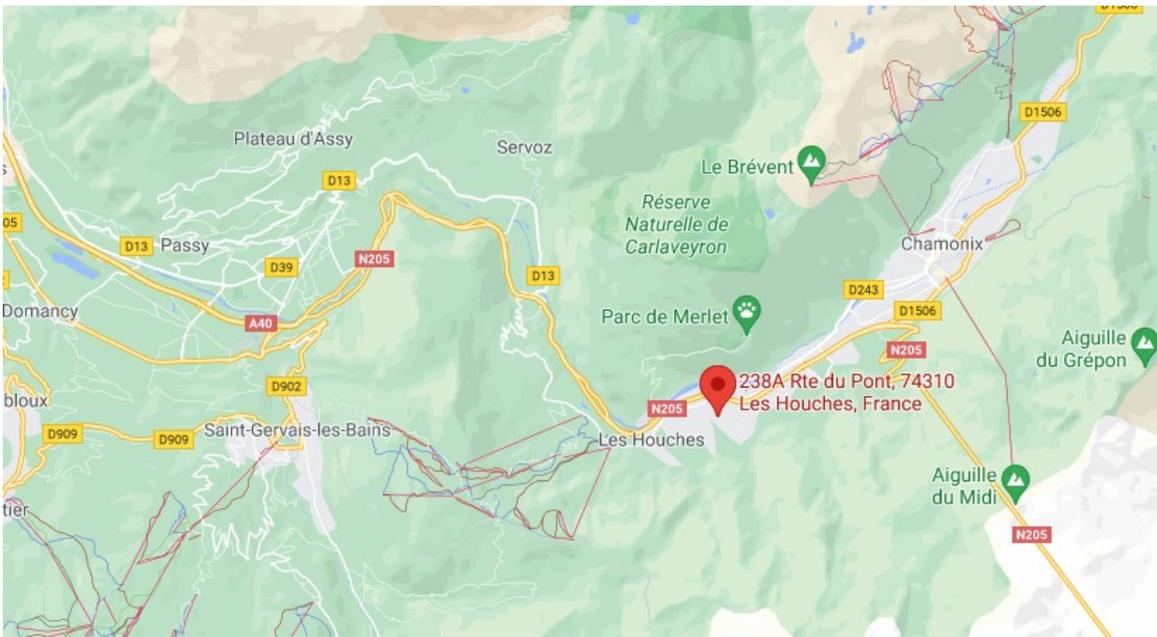
It is simple to get to, motorway all the way and extremely well sign posted due to it being near to the Mont Blanc Tunnel. If you follow signs to Chamonix, Mont Blanc Tunnel, you can't go far wrong.

### **If coming from Geneva:**

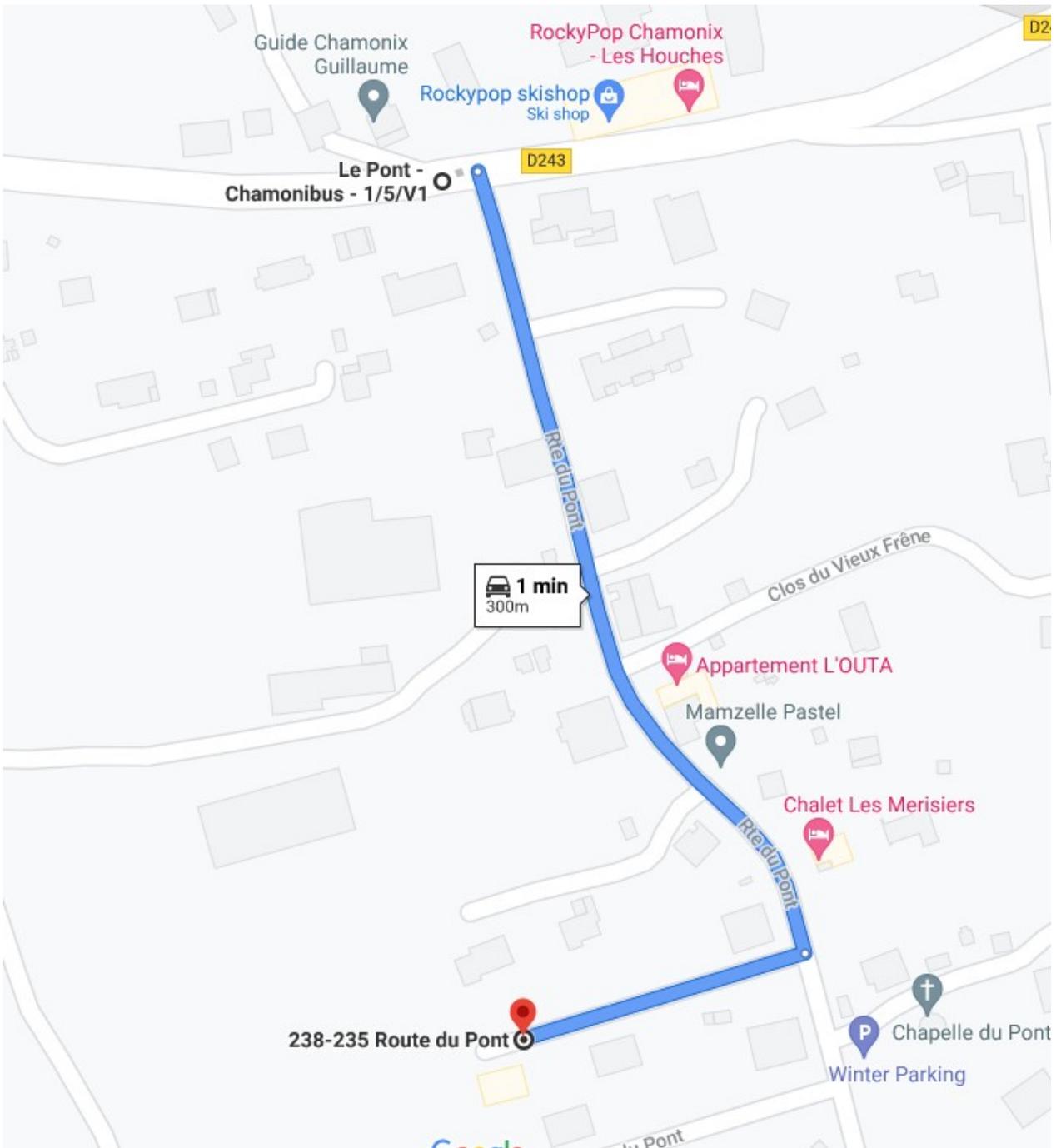
You may experience some queuing at the border, otherwise it is generally a very quiet route. It is worth noting that there are some speed cameras along the way, particularly in Switzerland, so do not exceed the speed limit (we have been caught a couple of times and it is expensive!). There are not any in France, other than one whilst driving out of the valley from Les Houches on the way back to Geneva.

### **The address is:**

Chalet Tontine  
238 Route du Pont  
74310 Les Houches  
Haute Savoie, France



Location of Chalet Tontine is precise on Google Maps, but navigation directions to the address by various other services may often be incorrect and it is advised in that case to set destination to the Hotel Rocky Pop at first. If you have reached the point where Route du Pont turns from Av. des Alpagnes, easily recognized as it is between Hotel Rocky Pop across the street and Le Pont bus stop as well as the street sign. Please follow Rte du Pont uphill about 240m until you see a water well on the right and Chapel on the left, there is a turnoff to a private street just before the well. Turn onto this street and follow to the end, about 80m and you have reached the Chalet, it is clearly marked with a sign by the entrance.



## Tolls

If coming along the A40 (mainly from Geneva), there are two tolls (peage) to go through. These are €1.90 and €4.10 respectively. They can be paid with coins, notes and cards. Aim for the ones with this sign which are not manned, and are suitable for tourists:



Getting about in the valley

### **Bus:**

There is a bus service that runs regularly along Avenue des Alpages that goes into Chamonix or to Bellevue and Prarion Ski lifts the other way. You can hop on and off this without charge. In peak season you shouldn't wait much more than 20 minutes at most.

The stop is approximately 200m from the Chalet and is serviced by Chamonibus lines 1,5 and V1

### **Train:**

There is also the Mont Blanc Express which travels from Saint Gervais all the way through the valley and to Martigny in Switzerland. It is apparently a very beautiful trip.

### **Car:**

There is ample parking throughout the valley, and a good amount is free (main exception being in Chamonix town centre). It is very difficult to get lost with one real main road through the valley. The parking only gets really difficult after a big dump of snow or real peak season (late August and February half term).

### **Taxi:**

There are a few taxis in the valley, although they are not that cheap. On a couple of occasions we have used taxis and found Taxi Valerie to be a good price and reliable. There are cards of theirs in the chalet and the number is +33 (0) 6 70 00 97 81 / +33 (0) 6 81 98 06 47

### **Walking:**

Most of Les Houches is accessible by foot, including the supermarkets and a range of fantastic walks. More information is later in this pack. The ski lifts are a long walk, so we'd suggest car (parking is free – and ample at Prarion lift) or using the bus, which will take 5 minutes maximum to Bellevue, or 10 minutes to Prarion ski lifts in Les Houches.

## Getting around

**We have provided some Tourist information leaflets for your use at the back of this information file.**

Chamonix is only a 5 minute drive away by car. There are lots of parking places free on the roads, including a large free car park at Plannards. There are also many paid car parks dotted around the town.

It is far easier to ditch the car and use the bus!

If you want to leave the car behind, there is a bus stop on the left hand side at the bottom of Route du Pont (Le Pont). The bus will take you along the Chamonix Valley. Please note that buses and trains are free to use in the Chamonix valley for guests, but may require having a "Carte d'Hôte" – we can provide them if needed for your stay– please let us know.

Should you wish to travel through to Courmayeur Italy. Then alight at Cham Sud bus station and you will find your bus there.

**The Cham Sud Bus Station.** From this station you can take the local buses along the valley and to all of the lifts. There are shuttles to Combloux and Megeve as well as larger shuttles to Geneva Airport. Travelling through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy is very easy and there is a regular bus line servicing Courmayeur.

Further information and current pricing can be found on these websites:

<https://chamonix.montblancbus.com/fr>

<http://www.sat-montblanc.com/horaire-timetables.aspx>

At the bottom of Route du pont (200m), a left hand turn will lead you to the Center of Les Houches. En route you will pass the Super U supermarket, the pharmacy, doctors office and a tabac. Over the roundabout and further along you will find a launderette, bike shop, ski hire shop and a microbrewery. Les Houches is situated at 1000 metres of altitude and lying at the foot of Mont-Blanc (4810m), Les Houches offers an exceptional panorama of the peaks surrounding Chamonix.

The village is made up of a number of hamlets, with oratories, chapels, old bread ovens and farms bearing witness to its past . Les Houches has undergone a number of renovations over the last 8 years. A new Tourist office, a cinema, a Bank, 2 x Boulangeries. a large pharmacy and a number of bars and restaurants.

We recommend the following nearby establishments (from experience):

Le Délice

LeSolerey - BrewPub

The Wine Factory

Le Tremplin

Le Basilic

(list is certainly not comprehensive, there are lots of good restaurants around)

Les Houches has two ski lifts.

### **Bellevue and Prarion.**

Live web cams : <https://panocam.skiline.cc/chamonix/houches>

#### **Bellevue Cable Car, 77 Pl. de la Fruitière, 74310 Les Houches**

The ski area of Les Houches / Saint Gervais extends from an altitude of 950m to 1900m. From the summit one has a spectacular 360° view of the Mont-Blanc massif. And with 55 km of slopes meandering through the forests, you will discover the real pleasures of skiing. When necessary, artificial snow coverage is assured by more than 120 snow maker machines.

Ski slopes : 4 black runs included the international world cup slope "La Verte des Houches" 13 red runs 8 blue runs 2 green runs 1 snow park ski lifts : 1 cable car 1 Drag lift 8 Chair lifts 4 Drag lifts 1 Carpet lift 1 Ski tow

New equipment on the SKICAMP : 2 snow tubing tracks, 1 toboggan run, zip-lines, swings and animation village. Playgrounds and photo albums free of charge.

#### **Prarion Cable Car, 117 pl du Prarion 74310 Les Houches**

Nearest bus stop : Le Prarion

Nearest parking : Lac des Chavants or Verney du Fouilly (free)

Email [leshouches.compagniedumontblanc.fr/](mailto:leshouches.compagniedumontblanc.fr)

From the village of Les Houches, get up to the amazing mountain scenery of the Prarion Plateau (1,900 m) and the incredible 360° panoramic view there. Spectacular view of Mont Blanc.

### **Mountain biking**

Have a go on the mountain biking downhill run from the top of the Prarion gondola lift. A singletrack runs through the trees, undergrowth and meadows, more technical trackways and sections, ridge-top runs and forest trails, with firm and fast sections and other wetter sections. A wide selection of features and routes in unique surroundings

### **Disabled Assistance:**

There are 4 parking spots for disabled persons at the entrance of the car park. The car park and the outskirts of the cable car are not paved but it's compact and accessible with a wheelchair. At the top station, the floor is covered with stones.

### **NEARBY STORES**

There are a number of convenience stores in easy walking distance from the apartment, and should provide a good variety for you.

### **Super U (Supermarket)**

About 150m in the direction towards Les Houches center along Avenue des Alpages on the left, parking is also available onsite.

04 50 55 51 70

Monday to Saturday 08:00 – 19:30, Sundays 08:30 – 12:30

Larger, and better fresh bread than Carrefour. Also sells toiletries and all sorts of products from cleaning to DIY.

## **Bio Marché (Organic Market)**

804 Avenue des Alpages (head towards the Les Houches center, and it is on the right after approximately 400 metres)

04 50 90 51 42

Monday to Saturday 09:00 – 13:00, 14:30 – 19:30 some Sundays in high season

## **Carrefour Contact (mid-sized supermarket)**

32 Place de la Mairie (In the village centre, take the stairs to the left of the Office of Tourism, market is to the right. If driving, there is parking behind it, accessed from Route des Gens)

04 50 54 50 26

Monday to Saturday 8:00 – 20:00, Sundays 8:00 – 13:00

Typically have better wines on offer than Super U.

## **Pharmacie de l'Arve (Pharmacy)**

746 Avenue des Alpages, right next to the Bio Marche

04 50 54 40 24

Monday to Saturday 9:15 – 12:30 and 14:30 -19:15, closed Sundays

## **Jacquier Eric (Bakery)**

106 Rue du Mont Blanc (In the village centre, opposite the Marie, after the church)

04 50 54 40 76

Monday to Sunday 6:00 – 12:30 and 15:00 – 19:00

Tend to sell out of Croissants and Pain au Chocolat's by 9/9:30.

Croix de Savoie that they do is quite excellent.

## HOUSE RULES

We want you to enjoy your holiday, and would ask that the following rules be adhered to for your safety, comfort and for the maintenance of the chalet.

1. No Ski Boots inside the property - Please leave all skis and boots inside the hallway area. Ski Boots will crack the floor tiles and damage the underfloor heating system.
2. No smoking inside the Chalet - If you must smoke, please go into the garden area and dispose of the cigarette butts in the ashtray provided.
3. NEVER use the wood stove with the door open. This is a huge fire risk, will create an inefficient burn, and damage the filters inside the chimney.
4. Please do not leave hot fire embers inside the chalet. When clearing the ashes from the fire, please use the appropriate ash bucket and leave outside on the balcony to cool
5. Here in France Recycling and caring for our environment is second nature to us, we want to preserve the mountains and glaciers and take this very seriously - Please separate your garbage, the bins are at the end of Rue du pont.
6. When exiting the chalet, please be sure to cut all lights and non essential electrical items, turn down radiators and secure all windows and doors and lower the shutters.
7. This is a "smart home" with a number of wireless devices linking heating, sauna, lights, dehumidification, various temperature and motion sensors and exterior security cameras. The guests are welcome to set thermostats according to their comfort but are not allowed disable any of the sensors, devices, cameras or turn off internet connection, WiFi or servers.

## END OF STAY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

On the day of departure Check-out time is no later than 10:00 am.  
Please strip beds (**not** mattress or pillow protectors) and leave them in the bathrooms.

Please ensure that the crockery and utensils are washed, dried and stored in correct cupboards.

Please do not leave the dishwasher running upon your departure, ensure that

the dishwasher is empty and switched off.

All garbage and personal belongings should be removed from the property upon your exiting. Garbage and recycling collection is located on the Avenue des Alpagnes, across the bus stop by the turnoff of Route du Pont. If you are not familiar with the French system, the bins are sorted as: household waste, glass and recyclable paper and plastic.

The property should be secured and the key returned to the lock box. We hope you have a safe return journey, thank you for staying with us.

<b>Police</b>	<b>Gendarmerie</b>
Rue de l'Hotel de Ville	111, Route de Mollard
+33 (0)4 50 53 75 02	+33 (0)4 50 53 00 55
<b>Community police and traffic control</b>	<b>These guys are part of the military</b>

<b>Secours en Montagne</b>	<b>Ambulances</b>
69 Route de Mollard	<a href="http://www.ambulances-chamonix.fr">www.ambulances-chamonix.fr</a>
+33 (0)4 50 53 16 89	+33 (0)4 50 53 46 20
<b>Agencies for mountain rescue.</b>	<b>Emergency medical assistance.</b>

<b>Poison emergency</b>	<b>Firemen</b>
aussi en Grenoble	24 pl Mont Blanc
<b>+33 (0)4 76 42 42 42</b>	<b>+33 (0)4 50 56 02 22</b>

<b>Firemen Les Houches</b>	<b>Chamonix Hospital</b>
31 Rue Eglise	509 Route des Pèlerins
+33 (0)4 50 54 40 77	+33 (0)4 50 53 84 00

<b>Sallanches Hospital</b>	<b>High Mountain Office</b>
380 Rue de l'Hôpital	190, place de l'église
+33 (0)4 50 47 30 50	+33 (0)4 50 53 22 08
<a href="http://www.chi-mont-blanc.fr">www.chi-mont-blanc.fr</a>	<a href="mailto:info@chamoniarde.com">info@chamoniarde.com</a>

## Ski Areas

The Chamonix Valley with its 5 ski resorts : Grands Montets, Les Houches, Le Tour/Balme, La Flegere and Le Brevent Chamonix Mont-Blanc offers the perfect ski holiday.

Chamonix Lifts - Prices, Live Status, Slope Conditions

**<http://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/fr/>**

### Grand Montets

The Great Montets area allows you to ski the greatest height in the world in the heart of the mountains, close to a glacier. The Glacier Argentière, the Lognan and La Pendant also offer off-piste, known throughout the world and essential for freeriders. The quality of the snow coverage is remarkable until May. For freestyle enthusiasts, a snowpark and a boardercross are open in the Lognan area.

### Le Tour / Vallorcine / Balme

Domaine du Balme is probably the best ski area in the valley for beginners and intermediates. At the bottom three drag lifts make up the Vormaine area, ideal for complete novices or children with its green and blue runs. Off the back-side of Le Tour there is plenty of off-piste - this is arguably the favourite area of boarder's in the Chamonix Valley.

### Les Houches

The ski area of Les Houches / St. Gervais extends from an altitude of 950m to 1900m. From the summit one has a spectacular 360 ° view of the massive Mont Blanc. And with 55 km of slopes meandering through the forests, you will discover the real pleasures of skiing.

### Brévent-Flégère

Brévent and the Flégère ski areas are linked by a cable car. In 2000, the resorts formally joined now offer anyone a great day of diverse skiing with almost endless terrain.

La Flégère caters to almost all abilities of skiers. You can enjoy the numerous pistes as well as test out your off-piste skills with areas in close proximity to the piste. One of the most attractive aspects of Flegere is its south-facing position. This mountain is often bathed in sunlight till the end of the day!

## **Special information for winter season 2021/2022 :**

What are the sanitary measures on the slopes this winter?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic & in compliance with the governmental sanitary regulations, our team have deployed this summer an experimental “Health & Safety” welcome system up to the standards demanded by visitors & staff alike.

This welcome system did work very well and we will continue this winter unless new measures:

Thermal camera (compliance with GDPR guidelines).

Hydro-Alcoholic solution.

Mask to be worn during all phases of the transport & in the confined waiting areas (Please come equipped)

Transport specially adapted (limited numbers, distance between visitors, special circulation measures....)

A full “Welcome & Safety” protocol for both visitors & staff

Regular disinfection of lifts, trains & buildings

Full information panels with instructions to be followed before & during the visit.

## WINTER OR SUMMER NON SKIING ACTIVITIES

**Merlet wildlife park** 2495, Chemin de Merlet, 74310 Les Houches  
07 67 22 82 69 <http://www.parcdemerlet.com/en/visitors-guide/>

Enjoy a snow shoe hiking experience with a small group of 5 to 8 people accompanied by a mountain guide. A great way to discover Merlet and its hidden treasures. Embrace the quietness of vast snow-covered expanses and get close up to the animals in the best conditions. After putting on your snowshoes your guide will take you through the forest to a secondary entrance to the park. Once inside, you will enjoy privileged closeness with the animals and will get to know everything about the mountain wildlife in an exceptional setting. You are alone in the world, facing the immensity of the Mont-Blanc mountain chain and, weather permitting, you will marvel at a superb sunset... a rare and truly magical experience!

**Dogsledding - Huskydalen** +33(0)6 84 99 34 67 Email [www.huskydalen.com](http://www.huskydalen.com)

This is hands down the most popular winter activity for non-skiers in the Chamonix valley. Head out into the mountains on your own husky sleigh, either as the driver of your own sledge or travel as a passenger with a musher. Enjoy the breathtaking mountain scenery as you speed along specially marked out paths in the forest.

**Aiguille du Midi** Chamonix's number 1 tourist attraction is the Aiguille du Midi, which you can visit on a two-stage cable car. You'll be whisked up to 3842 metres above sea level, where you can get panoramic views of Mont Blanc from the terraces and look back on the Chamonix Valley, way down below. From here you can watch skiers and mountaineers descending the arete onto the infamous Valley Blanche or heading up to climb to the summit of Mont Blanc. At the mid-way change over for the cable cars, you can go parapenting (more on this below).

**Step into the Void** - Also at the Aiguille du Midi is a thrilling experience "Step into the Void" where you can step into a glass box, suspended 1000 metres above a drop over the rock faces below. You can access this via the summit elevator at the very top of the Midi for some truly unforgettable views (if you're brave enough!)

**Mer de Glace** Experience the best views of France's longest glacier at the Montenvers – Mer de Glace site. Take the iconic rack and pinion train from Chamonix centre all the way to the top at 1913m, from where you can descend by cable car and around 400 steps to visit the ice cave within the glacier. There are a couple of restaurants, a mountain refuge and a gift shop up here as well as a glacier exhibit and crystal gallery.

**Tramway du Mont Blanc** Chamonix has another famous rack and pinion train line, this time down in Les Houches, connecting the town of St Gervais with this part of the Chamonix Valley. The Tramway du Mont Blanc normally opens for winter in mid December and it's more popular for non-mountaineering visitors to take a ride to enjoy the fantastic views, or to access some of the snowshoeing routes in this area.

**Paret descents** A great activity for groups of friends, where you take the last lift of the day up to Grands Montets ski area mid station, and slide all the way down the home run on traditional wooden 'paret' sledges. Great fun for anyone over 12 years old and for groups.

**Paragliding** See the Chamonix valley from a totally different perspective, 1000 metres above the ground on a tandem paragliding flight. After a short running take off, the wing lifts you and your pilot from the ground and you fly across the valley to enjoy some truly spectacular views. There are various take off points around the valley and different prices may apply for each location. If you're lucky you may be allowed to take the controls.

**Helicopter flights** Soar over Chamonix's glaciers and see the impressive mountains of the Mont Blanc Massif from the comfort of a 6-seater helicopter. Flights of 4 different durations are available, each one taking slightly different routes around the mountains. It really is an unforgettable experience. You'll find the CMBH helicopter base at the foot of the Grands Montets ski area where there's also a lovely restaurant in the woods (La Cremerie du Glacier) to grab a bite to eat and a drink.

**Snowshoeing** Discover some of the quieter parts of the Chamonix valley, where frozen waterfalls, secluded trails and mountain views await you. Join a half day, full day or a week long excursion with a local mountain guide.

**Hiking/Trail running** Mostly summer activity, the area has a lot of hiking trails of various difficulty, there is an easy trail passing by the property that connects Les Houches center and Taconnaz. You may also want to check out parts of the famous Tour du Mont Blanc - a trail system across 3 countries surrounding the tallest mountain in Europe.

**Ice climbing** Discover some of the best ice climbing in Chamonix or neighbouring Italy, either for beginners looking to experience it for the first time, or more experienced climbers looking to hone their skills. Take part in a 1 day outing, or join a course for up to 5 days.

**Snow Yoga** Join a yoga class with a difference, on the snow, with incredible views of Mont Blanc as you hold your positions. Individual classes are available, as well as longer retreats and private instruction.

**Ice Hockey matches** Watch Chamonix's local hockey team Les Pionniers compete in an evening hockey match at the ice rink in Chamonix centre (dates in red are played in Chamonix). Tickets can be bought on the door and it makes for an alternative and fun night of entertainment. Or head out onto the ice yourselves for a skate; you can hire skates on site for a small fee and little

children can borrow the balance penguins for stability.

**Dr Zhivago horse & carriage** Take a trip around the centre of Chamonix, or further into Les Praz on 'Dr Zhivago's' horse drawn carriage. This charmingly decorated carriage has become a much loved attraction in the centre of Chamonix and offers a relaxing way to explore the local area.

**Indoor climbing** Les Houches has an indoor climbing wall that you can access on weekdays all winter long. There are in the region of 100 routes ranging up to 22 metres in height and from 4 to 8c in grade. Courses are available on request.

**Fat biking** Hire a fat bike from one of the local bike shops and head out onto the specially groomed trails that run alongside most of Chamonix's cross country ski trails. The wide, low pressure tyres help you get good grip on the snow & you can explore for hours. **Massage, Spas & Wellbeing**

**Massage, Spas & Wellbeing** Enjoy some pampering treatments, a restorative massage or a spa day at one of Chamonix' many hotel spas like the Aiglons, the Heliopic or the Park Hotel Suisse. Nearby you can also enjoy thermal springs and thermal baths in St Gervais

**Alpine Coaster** Take a thrilling descent on the Alpine coaster in Chamonix's leisure park, next to Planards beginner ski slopes. At over 1300 metres long, you can go as fast as you dare on the sleds as it's up to you when to use the brakes. Go solo or share a sled with a friend.

**St Bernard breeding kennels** Learn about this iconic breed of mountain dogs at their breeding kennels in Servoz, not far from the centre of Chamonix. A typical visit lasts an hour and there's a souvenir shop on site so you can take home your very own furry friend.

**Casino** Chamonix has its own casino where you can enjoy a mixture of traditional table games as well as electronic roulette and around 70 slot machines. It's open all year round and contains a bar and restaurant.

**Snow tubing** Slide down a specially designated piste on a large inflatable ring and yes, although it takes place in some of the beginner ski areas in Chamonix, it's not just for the children! You can find snow tubing in Les Houches, at Brevent, La Poya (near Les Buets) and at Les Chosalets at the foot of Grands Montets.

**Art Galleries** Chamonix has lots of art galleries and workshops, from traditional landscape painters and photographers, to retro decorations to more modern and pop-art style work, sculptures, postcards and prints. A few of the hotels and restaurants also feature art works that you can take home as a memento of your time here. There are also occasional art classes that take place throughout the year.

**Markets** In the centre of Chamonix at Place Mont Blanc, there's a regular Saturday market that takes place year round, from 07:30 to 12:30. Markets also take place in Argentiere every Sunday and every Wednesday in Les Houches.

There is also a Christmas market which runs from mid December to the end of the month, where you'll regularly find street entertainers and parades entertaining the crowds.

## Local Recipes

### Fondue

Not that we need one, but the dropping temperatures give us an excellent excuse to dig out the fondue pot and load up on one of our favourite Savoyarde specialities. Our favourite venues for fondue is Chez nous! Yes, take out the fondue from the cupboard above the oven, and spend the evening in front of the log fire, creating your own savoyarde experience.

***Before you dip in, know of a local tradition: If your piece of bread slips off your fork into the cheese, you're on the hook for the next round of drinks!***

#### Ingredients

1 clove garlic (halved)  
2 1/2 cups dry white wine  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
7 ounces Comté cheese (coarsely grated)  
7 ounces Beaufort cheese (coarsely grated)  
7 ounces Reblochon cheese (coarsely grated)  
1/16 teaspoon (pinch) ground nutmeg  
1/16 teaspoon (pinch) ground black pepper  
1/16 teaspoon (pinch) ground paprika  
3 tablespoons Kirsch or sour cherry brandy  
1 loaf bread (cut into bite-sized cubes)

#### Method

Rub the inside of a saucepan with the cut side of the garlic, doing so thoroughly to transfer the flavor of the garlic on to the pan. Discard the garlic.

In a bowl, whisk together the wine and cornstarch. Add it to the saucepan, bring it to a gentle, rolling boil. Reduce the heat, so that the wine is just simmering.

Add the cheeses, followed by the nutmeg, black pepper, and paprika. Using a wooden spoon, stir constantly until the fondue is melted and smooth. If you find the cheese is sticking, lower the heat.

Keeping the heat low to medium, continue cooking—never boiling—the fondue for 15 minutes until it has thickened.

Once thickened, add the Kirsch, stir, and cook for 1 minute longer.

Transfer the fondue by pouring into a fondue pot set over a flame. Provide each guest with a long fork and serve your hot, thick fondue with the cubed bread.

### ***Tips***

If the fondue gets too thick, particularly after it's been sitting for a while, add a few tablespoons of white wine and stir to thin out the mixture.

The alcohol in the fondue is key to lower the boiling point of the cheese, so the proteins don't curdle. Take care not to heat the mixture too high and reach the boiling point. If you don't want to use alcohol, use high-quality chicken broth in its place and keep the heat low.

### **Recipe Variations**

Swiss fondue: Replace the French cheeses in the fondue with Swiss options, such as Gruyère and Emmentale

## Savoyarde Tartiflette

Tartiflette Savoyarde, a baked gratin of potatoes, onions (or shallots), lardons (bacon), wine, cream and cheese, a staple of all ski lodge or chalet suppers, and a big favourite in our household.

There really isn't another dish that is as comforting as Tartiflette after a day on the slopes. The combination of soft potatoes, crisp lardons, golden onions all bound in a silky cheese sauce with a tasty, crunchy golden-brown topping is heaven in a bowl!

We like to enjoy ours with a large bowl of salad, cornichons and an artisan baguette or two!

### **INGREDIENTS (serves 4 so double up for 8 guests)**

- 1.2kg potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
- 200g smoked lardons (or smoked streaky bacon cut into small pieces)
- 2 large pink or red onions, peeled and diced (or 10 pink shallots)
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely diced
- 150mls dry white wine
- 1 x 500g Reblochon cheese
- 6 tablespoons crème fraîche
- butter
- salt and pepper

### **Method:**

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6 and butter an oven-proof gratin dish or shallow casserole dish.

Boil the potatoes until just soft. Drain them and allow them to cool before cutting them into slices.

Meanwhile, fry the lardons (or bacon pieces), onions and garlic until the lardons are crisp and the onions and garlic are soft and translucent.

Add half of the wine to the lardons and onion mixture, turn the heat up and de-glaze the wine for 2 to 3 minutes until half of it has cooked down with the other ingredients.

Add the cooked potatoes to the lardon and onion mixture and gently mix together. Spoon half of the mixture into the prepared dish.

Cut the Reblochon cheese in half through the centre, and then cut the two halves into cubes.

Scatter half of the Reblochon cheese cubes over the lardon and onion mixture, crust side up, then spoon the remaining lardon and onion

mixture over the top. Pour over the remaining wine and spoon the crème fraîche over the top. Season with salt (not too much as the lardons are salty) and pepper.

Scatter the rest of the Reblochon cheese cubes over the top, crust side up again, and bake for 20 to 25 minutes until the cheese has melted and the tartiflette is golden brown and bubbling.

Serve hot from the oven with salad, cornichons (gherkins), pickled onions, charcuterie and crusty bread.