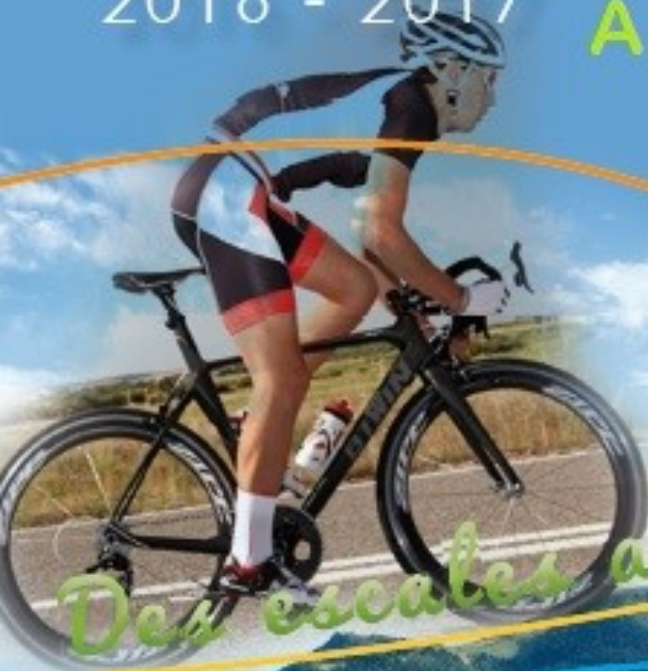


Valromey - Retord Grand - Colombier



2016 - 2017

A stay all along the year



Des escales au rythme des saisons



Natural sights
Culture and heritage
Places of artistic culture
Artists and galleries
Leisure activities all along the year
Local products

www.valromey-retord.fr



Natural sights...

Water has carved out magnificent landscapes

On the shores of the Séran river:

Bridge of Tines: between Bassieu and Hotonnes (signpost on the road D54), you'll find a natural rocky bridge and strange holes.

Puits des Tines: accessible from Sutrieu on the road D31, it's a spectacular 6 meters deep cavity eroded by the waters.

Gorges of Thurignin: between Champdossin and Belmont, signposted on the road D8, it's a wild place with a lot of potholes, deep and narrow gashes and small rumbling waterfalls; a path meanders along the river and permits a nice discovery.

Waterfall of Cerveyrieu: near the hamlet of Chassin (village Vieu), the Séran, Jurassic torrent and first category river for trout fishing, springs up in the Plateau du Retord. These waterfalls of 60 meters high offers a fine view over the southern Bugey and over the mountain named Dent du Chat.

On the shores of the Groin torrent:

The spring: access from the hamlets of Chongnes or Vaux Morets, intermittent spring with a more or less important level according to the rains.

Devil's break: on the road D30 between Don and Champagne, it's stretches over an impressive break of 50 meters deep, eroded by the river in the limestone. It's a good site for sporting canyoning.

On the shores of the Bèze torrent

Pain de Sucre: Between Poisieu and Brénaz, a strange six meters high conic stalagmite, created by the river. It's a good place to get some fresh air and to see the limestone called tufa which was used to build houses and churches 'vaults.

Ladies'bench: Between Poisieu and Brénaz, stone bench beneath a limestone vault on the ravine side. The place belonged to an old property; the ladies of the local middle class used to rest there.

Natural sights...

Site du Pic: Located at 1 km walk from the camping place of Songieu, you will see the stone made stairs, the petrified spring and the lovers 'bench. 200 meters further, there are two entrances of the grotto du Pic (private cave).

Lake of the Alliettes: on the roadside D31 between Songieu and Hotonnes; it's reserved for fishing day and night between 1st of May and 30th of November. Interesting flora; Picnic place.

The Grand Colombier Mountain: it's the highest point of the Valromey, 1534 meters high. It offers a great panoramic view over the Alps, the Mont Blanc, the lakes (Annecy, Léman, and le Bourget) and over the "Valromeysan" villages. Access roads from Virieu le Petit and Lochieu. Climbed by the racing cyclists of the Tour de France 2012.

The Plateau of Retord: large jurassian site, this is the spot in winter for Nordic activities, in others seasons for hiking, riding, horse riding, mountain biking...Interesting flora such as orchids, daffodils, thistles...

Plateau and Virgin of Fierloz: close to Artemare near the road D904. It's a karstic plateau, one of the most curious "lapiaz" in France: huge stone flags with deep fissures. A nice walk among box trees and maritime pines. Statue of the Virgin.

Remarkable trees:

- **President Firs** in the Grand Colombier Mountain, signposted since the road D120 after Lochieu.
- **Lime trees of Sully** located in Songieu close to the church, it's the 4th largest in France.

The Bugey Road and the Firs Road: two guide books explain itineraries to discover villages and hamlets. Available in Tourist Office in Champagne en Valromey.

Culture and heritage...

Churches and chapels: 28 in Valromey, you'll find a leaflet about each of them inside them and at the Tourist Office. **Bread ovens, wash-houses and fountains:** stone made with slated roof, bread ovens were the communal property where the inhabitants baked their breads. Nowadays local feasts take place in the summer time.

You simply must go there!

Church of Vieu: between Champagne and Artemare, one the oldest churches in the Valromey (11th / 12th century). Vieu was a place where the Roman legion came to rest; there were an amphitheater, a temple and baths supplied by an underground aqueduct (private place). The church was built on this site: stone slabs columns, beautiful porch, flamboyant styled choir, tufa spire.

Chapel of Retord: the highest location in the diocese (1200meters high); original fir-made furniture.

Site of Adoue: in the hamlet of Chongnes (Vieu village), spring beneath the rock used at the Roman period, statue of the Virgin sculpted by Quentric, chapel dedicated to the Virgin and bread oven. Paul Claudel found there inspiration to write his book "l'annonce faite à Marie".

Site of Poisieu: between Champagne and Brénaz on the road D30: a medieval fountain with an unusual gothic arch vault; a 12th century Calvary with several roman elements; a bread oven; an old place to cow shoe (in French "travail").

Ruins of Châteauneuf: between Songieu and Bassieu, Châteauneuf was the old feudal capital of the Valromey: ramparts and walls vestiges, nice viewpoint.

Site of the Carthusian monastery of Arvières: in the Grand Colombier Mountain, access from Lochieu, road then forest path and at least 10 minutes' walk. Founded in 1132 by Saint Arthaud, you'll find 5 carved trees symbolizing the monks 'life, a belvedere over the site, the spring of Saint Arthaud, some vestiges of the monks 'cells. Discovery guide book available at the Tourist Office. On the terrace of the site, the ethno botanical garden of Arvières: magic and secret plants, medicinal plants, prehistoric time plants...

Maquis Memories: the underground forces were important in the mountains of Jura: Monument on the road to the Lèbe pass after Belmont reminds the persons who died during the Second World War. Door shaped sculpture in the Plans d'Hotonnes represents the door opened on the Maquis of the Plateau of Retord hiding in the isolated farms.

Places of artistic culture...

Museum Bugey Valromey in Lochieu: located in the heart of the village, the permanent collections are to be found in a Renaissance house dating from 1561; it tells us about everyday life in the highlands. Tools and objects used in the traditional trades of wood, agriculture and farming. Opening times in summer: from 10 a.m. to 18p.m. excepted on Tuesday. First Sunday of the month: free entrance.

Exhibition 2015: “Antoine Duclaux, pintor 1783–1868”

The astronomic observatory of the Lèbe: on the road D8 between Belmont and the Lèbe pass, after the hamlet Puits des Barres on the right: the “stars path” with ten totems explaining planets, flora and birds. Diurnal astronomy: to observe the sun and discover the telescopes; exhibitions. Nocturne astronomy: to observe planets and stars with reservation.

Ain’terlude: gaming house with party games, games of skill, witticism...for children and adults. On Wednesday in summer from 10 to 12 a.m.

Val’Muse: Theater and music school and concerts organization.

Ciné Rencontre: movies every two weeks on Tuesday

Artists and galleries

Art galleries:

In Champagne en Valromey: painting exhibition (Serge Marie creations)

In Champagne en Valromey: lessons of graphic arts (Atelier Georges Leblé)

In Passin: painting, etching, draw (Atelier du Valromey / Petra Bertram-Farille)

In Fitignieu: painting exhibition, lessons (several technics arts and English courses) (Galerie de l’Ancienne Ferme / Sarah Cunnington)

In Ruffieu: exhibition of popular remains, rehabilitation of ancient objects and creation (La Conserverie/ Sylvie Derouf).

The Garden of Arvières

Magic and secret plants, medicinal plants, prehistoric time plants. The garden is located in the site of the Carthusian monastery of Arvières in Lochieu on the road of the Grand Colombier Pass. Guide book to discover the place available in Tourist Office in Champagne en Valromey.

Leisure activities all along the year...

Fishing:

- In the rivers such as Séran, Arvières: to catch trout from 16th of March until 16th of September. Fishing licence available in Champagne en Valromey (Tabac Presse Monte Cristo).

- In the Alliettes lake in Songieu: from 28th of April to 30th of November. Fishing licence available in the town hall. Nocturne fishing possible.

Archery initiation: Since 9 years old, in les Plans d'Hotonnes at the Biathlon Stadium; training session of 2 hours. Reservation: Activ'Plein Air.

Orientation paths: 6 paths with progressive difficulties, with a map, you have to find a number of signs as fast as possible. For families, sportsmen and sports-women. Maps on sale: stores of the ski resort.

Signposted paths from the following villages: Artemare, Chavornay, Béon, Lochieu, Brénaz, Ruffieu, Songieu, les Plans d'Hotonnes; Guide book on sale at the Tourist Office.

Thematic paths: In Sutrieu: the path of the stars: planets, flora and birds; 1h30' walk. In Hotonnes: the nature path (Sentier des Sioux): created by the children of the primary school. In Lompnieu: the Path "Gilles Picollier": trees names in French and in patois. In Chavornay: the path of nature.

Trek itineraries through the region: Tour du Valromey: all around walking on the tops. Balcon du Valromey: all around walking at half slope. GR9 from Jura to the Mediterranean Sea, and GTJ, Great Trek in the Jura Mountain. **To guide you:** hiking professionals (ask for the list)

Biking:

- **Signposted itineraries:** number 27 all around the Valromey (44kilometers); number 23 on the roads of the Valromey and of the Grand Colombier Mountain (102 kilometers); number 24 on the roads of the Valromey and of the 2 plateaus of the Retord and of Hauteville (81 kilometers).

- **Itinerary of the Grand Colombier Pass:** cycling from Lochieu or Virieu le Petit with signposted level indications.

Mountain biking: 144 kilometers of signposted on the Plateau of Retord; and the GTJ VTT from les Plans to Culoz through Hauteville and the Grand Colombier.

Roller skating, ski roller and biathlon: at the Biathlon Stadium in the ski resort Les Plans d'Hotonnes.

Climbing in the trees: safe climbing, moving and resting with Marc Gentelet.

Acrobatic run of the Bugey: in Hauteville- Lompnes, from 3 years old.

Bathing: at the swimming pool in Champagne en Valromey opened from the 1st of July to the 31st of August every day from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Donkey trekking: in Brénod with Marie'ânes, The donkey-driver welcomes you, advises you and guides you.

Local products...

Cheese dairies:

- In Virieu le Petit: goat's, sheep's and cow's cheese; Bergère de Munet; on the market Thursday morning in Champagne en Valromey.

- In Brénod: regional cheese such as the "Comté"; Fromagerie de Brénod; every morning from 8.45 a.m. to 12.15 a.m.; on Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.; on Friday and Saturday from 2.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

Sweets: In Fitignieu: Confiserie Nelly; home-made macarons, dried fruits, short-bread biscuits...; on Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Honeys: In Vaux Morets: Ruchers de l'Arvières; honeys and products of the apiary; welcome and sale on rendezvous.

Plants, honeys and syrups: in Hotonnes / le Racht: Les Naturicultrices. Possibility of visit of the garden.

Jam and syrups: Chemin faisant: Picking of flowers and wild berries and transformation into jams, syrups and aperitifs. Products on sale in Hotonnes (restaurant le Coq'Ain), in Lochieu (Museum), in Chavornay (Savoie Fromages)

Wines of Bugey: The cellar of Claude Collomb in Massignieu (Belmont): Bugey guaranteed vintage such as Chardonnay, Pinot, Gamay, Mondeuse and sparkling wine; Sale and visit on rendezvous. The Caveau bugiste in Vongnes, (cellar and museum).

Snails: Les Escargots de la Source in Vieu en Valromey ; snail farming and transformation. Sale and visit on rendezvous.

Restaurants in the following villages: Virieu le Petit, Belmont Luthézieu, Lochieu, Ruffieu, Hotonnes, Les Plans d'Hottonnes, Le Grand Abergement, Le Poizat and Billiat.

Bakeries, butcheries and groceries in the following villages: Hotonnes and Champagne en Valromey

Markets: in Champagne en Valromey (Thursday morning); in Artemare (Friday morning); in Culoz (Wednesday morning); in Belley (Saturday morning).

Accommodation

Furnished flats or houses (week-end stay, week stay or more without meals) in the following villages: Chavornay, Belmont Luthézieu, Sutrieu, Songieu, Les Plans d'Hottonnes, Hotonnes, Le Poizat, Lompnieu, Talissieu, le Petit Abergement.

Gîte for individuals or groups with meals for a night stay, a week-end stay or more: Les Plans d'Hottonnes, Le Grand Abergement, Lochieu and Billiat. **Gîte for groups** without meals for a night stay or more: in Les Plans d'Hottonnes, Sutrieu, Brénaz and Songieu.

Bed and breakfast for a night stay or more: in Artemare, Belmont-Luthézieu, Virieu le Petit, Songieu and Hotonnes.

Hotels and inns: in Belmont-Luthézieu, Les Plans d'Hottonnes .

Campsites: in Champagne en Valromey, Songieu and Les Plans d'Hottonnes.

UNE DESTINATION Montagnes du Jura



OPENING HOURS

in Champagne en Valromey: from Tuesday to Saturday:
10.30a.m. to 12.30a.m. and 2p.m. to 5.30p.m.

In Les Plans d'Hotonnes:

from December to March : 7 days/ 7 from 9a.m to
3.30p.m. // Every day during school vacation.

Tourist Office

Valromey - Retord - Grand Colombier

3 place Brillat-Savarin / Maison de Pays

01260 CHAMPAGNE EN VALROMEY // France

Phone: 33 (0)479 87 51 04

Mail: officedutourisme@valromeyretord.com

Web site: www.valromey-retord.fr

