

## Rhône-Alpes Fast Facts

From Mont Blanc and Lake Annecy to Lyon, the Beaujolais vineyards and the beginning of Provence, Rhône-Alpes is a region of outstanding cultural sites and a rich historic past. Its easy access, world renowned cuisine, winter sports and summer activities, museums and festivals provide many reasons to spend dream holidays in the Rhône-Alpes.

**Capital:** Lyon – Classified by UNESCO as World Heritage Site in December 1998.

### Main Highlights:

- **The Alps** with Mont-Blanc, the rooftop of Europe – the Capital of Alpinism, Chamonix-Mont Blanc - 150 ski resorts – Winter Olympic Games for 3 times.
- **The Alpine lakes** with the 3 major European Alpine lakes (Lake Geneva, Lake Annecy and Lake Bourget).
- **The Art and Historical City Network:** Lyon, Annecy, Chambéry, Grenoble, Saint-Etienne et Valence.
- **The southern area** with the Ardèche department and its natural sites like the Pont d'Arc and the Drôme area with its little perched villages and lavender and olive tree fields.
- **The preserved nature** with two National Parks (Ecrins and Vanoise) and six Regional Parks.
- **Wide range of activities** – Every sport is possible in the Rhône-Alpes (hiking, biking, golf, spa, horse-riding, etc...) and even skiing in the summer.
- **Gastronomy and Wines** – The Rhône-Alpes region is the only French region to have five 3-Michelin-starred chefs with Paul Bocuse, Georges Blanc, Michel Troisgros, Emmanuel Renaut and the only female chef to have this distinction, Anne-Sophie Pic. Two main vineyards are located in the Rhône-Alps with the Beaujolais vineyards and the northern part of the Côtes du Rhône vineyards.

### The Three Most Visited Sites by International Tourists:

- The “Aiguille du Midi” cable car in Chamonix-Mont Blanc
- The Montenvers rack railway and the Mer de Glace glacier in Chamonix –Mont Blanc
- The “Brévent” cable car in Chamonix- Mont Blanc.

### Major Festivals:

- **The Design Biennial** in Saint-Etienne – From January to December – [www.biennale-design.com](http://www.biennale-design.com)
- **The Fourvière Nights** (Theatre, music, dance, opera, circus, cinema) in Lyon – From June to July – [www.nuitsdefourviere.com](http://www.nuitsdefourviere.com)
- **The Jazz Vienne Festival** in Vienne – From mid- June to mid-July – [www.jazzavienne.com](http://www.jazzavienne.com)

- **The Mountain Guide Festival** in Chamonix-Mont Blanc – August 15<sup>th</sup> – [www.fetedesguides.com](http://www.fetedesguides.com)
- **The Evian Championship** – Mid-September – [www.evianchampionship.com](http://www.evianchampionship.com)
- **The Lyon Dance Biennial** – September – [www.biennale-of-lyon.org](http://www.biennale-of-lyon.org)
- **“Les Sarmettes” (Beaujolais Nouveau launch)** – November 20<sup>th</sup> – [www.beaujolais.com](http://www.beaujolais.com)
- **The “Lumière – Grand Lyon Film Festival”** in Lyon – Mid-October – [www.festival-lumiere.org](http://www.festival-lumiere.org)
- **The Light Festival** – From December 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> – [www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr](http://www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr)
- **Criterium of the First Snow** – Mid-December – [www.valdisere.com](http://www.valdisere.com)

For more information: [www.rhonealpes-tourisme.com](http://www.rhonealpes-tourisme.com) / [www.rhonealpes.tv](http://www.rhonealpes.tv)