

Press kit

# Orcières

WINTER 2023-24



A unique  
**destination**

Ski  
**differently**

Winter  
rendez-vous





# Orcières, an unspoilt staggering mountain resort

## in the Southern Alps, renowned for its Mediterranean hospitality!

Orcières is the strength and power of the great Alpine destinations with a touch of the exceptional sunshine and hospitality of the south. Perched at 1,850 m on the edge of the Ecrins National Park, the ski area reaches an altitude of 2,725 m, and provides breathtaking views of the most beautiful 3000-m peaks of the Ecrins: Vieux Chaillol, Pointe des Estaris, Grand Pinier, Petit Pinier and Tête de Dormillouse.

Ideally located between the Mediterranean and the northern Alps (around 2 hours from Marseille and Grenoble), the 100 km of slopes make this one of the biggest ski areas in the Hautes-Alpes, with facilities that are adapted to all levels of ability.

The great diversity of the landscape, with its larch forests, steep granite faces, snow-covered slopes and vast plateaus provide so many playgrounds for enjoying a wide range of outdoor activities, including atypical activities such as dog-sledding, cross-country skiing, snowtubing, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, snakegliss, ice falls, XXL zip lines, paragliding, nights in igloos, etc. As a leading resort for families since 1962, this destination is ideal for a stress-free holiday (resort with the 'Famille Plus' accreditation) and is also the perfect base camp for sporty visitors, those looking for a festive atmosphere and fans of outdoor activities.

The 22 traditional hamlets which make up the community all showcase the unique terroir and long-lasting traditions such as genepi, tourtons, mountain agriculture, woodworking, breeding and cheesemaking, etc.



### Orcières' 7 greatest assets



**300 DAYS**  
of sunshine a year!



**SKI AREA**  
with an altitude which  
guarantees exceptional snow  
conditions!



**A WIDE RANGE**  
of non-skiing activities, an  
indoor 'Palais des Sports'  
leisure complex and the  
leisure centre with its Nordic  
area (cross-country skiing, sled  
dogs, go-karting, etc.).



**UNIQUE ACTIVITIES**  
and numerous events!



**A RESORT WITH  
ATTRACTIVE PRICES:**  
Orcières has the 'Famille Plus'  
accreditation and offers many free  
and original activities, special deals for  
families and great places to stay.



**A UNIQUE REGION**  
with authentic mountain villages: The  
traditional village of Prapic in the Ecrins  
National Park for a taste of genuine old-  
fashioned mountain life and the Serre-  
Eyraud hamlet with a world-class freeride  
spot for skiing off the beaten track  
through the larch forests.



**SOUTHERN GATEWAY**  
to the Ecrins National Park  
and large natural areas.

## Ski passes at great prices!

"The earlier you purchase your ski pass online, the cheaper it will be!" that's the idea behind **the dynamic pricing approach** adapted to the needs of each skier. To limit the wait in the queue at the ski lifts and spend as much time skiing as possible, the new ski area management team has set up machines where you can collect your ski passes. For every ski pass purchased online, you'll receive a QRcode that you just have to scan at the machine to pick up your pass.

On top of the dynamic pricing system, Orcières strives to provide everyone - whether you're a beginner or experienced skier - the possibility to enjoy all or a part of the ski area with passes ranging from 3 hours to 6 days. A day pass with unlimited access to the beginner slopes is perfect if you're looking to get back onto the slopes for example! And to make life easier for holidaymakers, **access to the swimming pool and ice rink** is now included in the price of a ski pass, from 2 days onwards.

Find out more: [pass.orcieres.com](https://pass.orcieres.com)



## THE ULTIMATE RESORT FOR GREAT DEALS

### Free skiing for beginners!

Every Tuesday from 8am to 9am, beginners can enjoy a stress-free, safe experience to learn the basics of skiing. They will be guided by an instructor from the ESF ski school to discover the joys of skiing on a green slope reserved just for them. Access to the ski tow, the instructor and all equipment (provided for the one-hour session) are completely free-of-charge!

Booking at the Tourist Office before midday on Monday.  
+33 (0)4 92 55 89 89

### Orcières invites children to come in spring: from 17 March to 14 April 2024

A ski pass is being offered to children under 10 with no conditions attached as part of the 'springtime in the mountains' scheme. The stay includes 7 nights accommodation, 6 day ski passes for 2 adults with unlimited access to the swimming pool & ice rink, and ski passes for 2 children under 10 years.

Prices and info: from €350 a week. Prices based on an apartment with 2 rooms, 4 people (2 adults, 2 children) with ski passes. Further information available at [reservation.orcieres.com](https://reservation.orcieres.com)







# The easy-going resort

The Orcières Merlette 1850 resort was awarded the 'Famille Plus' accreditation in 2006 and was designed with an easy-going atmosphere and stress-free holidays in mind. Since its creation, families have always been a priority for Orcières with adapted facilities ('Famille Plus' room, 'Palais des Sports' leisure complex, 'Maison de l'Enfant' kids' club, etc.), numerous activities and entertainment and specific accommodation (village clubs, hotels and apartment buildings, etc.), and a ski area suitable for families (3 Télémix®, 2 fun slopes, etc.). The ski lifts, ski lessons and the 'Palais des Sports' leisure complex can all be reached on foot. The resort has 18,800 tourist beds and over 200 shops, accommodation and service providers are on-hand for holidaymakers. The 4.8 million visitors in winter are proof of the resort's great hospitality and it provides the best possible services for families.



## 10,000 M<sup>2</sup> of activities at the 'Palais des Sports' leisure complex

The resort is a pioneer in the world of après-ski with this indoor space covering 10 000m<sup>2</sup> with swimming pool, bowling alley, skating rink, spa, cinema and concert hall! Located in the centre of the resort and easy to access, this is the perfect place for families. The pool complex offers two large pools, waterfalls, water jets and a slide. As a bonus, there are also swimming and aqua aerobics lessons on offer. Just a few metres away, a 1,600 m<sup>2</sup> ice rink awaits skaters of any level. Our ice rink, with light shows and musical accompaniments, is open to all – a real dance floor on ice!

Price & info: Pool/ice rink: €7.00 per adult, €5.50 per child  
+33 (0)4 92 55 89 96 - [www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)

## MAGICAL EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT:

### Brought to you exclusively from Orcières: 'Santa comes to you'!

Orcières certainly knows a thing or two about the magic of Christmas! The 'Santa comes to you' initiative is a unique gift for families. By registering in advance at the Tourist Office, parents can create a surprise in the form of a real-life Father Christmas coming to distribute presents to their little kids on 24 & 25 December 2023. An emotional experience guaranteed!

Prices & info: €15 per family or free of charge with all holiday reservations made via [reservation.orcieres.com](http://reservation.orcieres.com).

## La 'Maison de l'Enfant', (children's place): where kids rule!

The resort has thought of everything for the well-being and comfort of children and parents. The 'Maison de l'Enfant' is open for children aged from 3 months to 11 years and has a range of different areas designed as colourful havens. The house 'Les Oursons' day-care centre for toddlers aged 3 months to 6 years, has a comfortable sleeping area and play activities run by education leaders who are both kind and competent.

Prices & info: from €178 (1 to 6 participants).  
Bookings and information: +33 (0)4 92 55 72 78  
[www.esforcieres.com](http://www.esforcieres.com)

## The first snow play area especially for children in France!

This fantastic place of fun is the perfect spot to learn to ski. It has been welcoming the little ones since 1967. Little skiers from 2 and a half to 6 years old are introduced to the pleasure of skiing with ESF instructors who integrate essential notions such as fun, freedom and the imagination into their teaching methods! Equipped with inflatable structures, coloured hoops and ingenious trails, this is one of the best snow play areas in France!

Prices & Info: €43 per session (half-day), €185 for 6 sessions. Max. 7 children per instructor.  
ESF: +33 (0)4 92 55 72 78  
[www.esforcieres.com](http://www.esforcieres.com)

# Meeting the expectations of holidaymakers



## Top-quality self-catering apartments with the 'Qualité Confort Hébergement' (Quality Comfort Accommodation) accreditation ranging from 1 to 5 'griffes\*' (like the star system)

Orcières has introduced a proactive policy to support its property owners and help them to make better use of their buildings. The 'Qualité Confort Hébergement' accreditation was created in 2018. As a result, over 200 apartments already have this accreditation and have been beautifully renovated, using locally-sourced-materials.

Owners must respect one of the eco-responsible measures relating to the reduction of energy or water consumption in the furnished accommodation, the sorting of waste or the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products.

The price for an accredited '3 griffes' apartment for 4 people starts at €280 (excluding administration and service charges, and excluding cancellation insurance) Prices and booking: [reservation.orcieres.com](http://reservation.orcieres.com)

\* griffe means "claw" and refers to the bear, symbol of the resort.

## Family accommodation: all-inclusive paradise at the Villages Clubs du Soleil / Belambra

In Orcières, holiday clubs are a lifeline for families looking for enjoyable and stress-free holidays. They're all ruled by the same policy: to offer all-inclusive holidays at great prices. The kids' clubs welcome children between 4 months and 17 years old and organise activities such as sledging, snowshoeing outings, skiing for teens, etc.

Possible deals: half-board or full board + ski passes + swimming pool + ice rink + equipment hire. Events and entertainment are also included.



## Reaching the peaks of Orcières by train! The sleeper train at affordable prices!

Reaching the peaks of Orcières by train! For a weekend away without the tiring journey, infuriating traffic, cost of the tolls and petrol... The sleeper train leaves Paris at 9pm every Friday night to take fans of the mountains to Gap train station early the next morning, for the luxury of being able to ski on Saturday morning without feeling exhausted! The Orcières Merlette 1850 resort is just 45 min from Gap (7 shuttle services from Gap on Saturdays). The return trip on the Sunday is based on the same principle. This initiative is based on the concept of slow tourism and turns your weekend away into an original adventure. Trains generate up to 30 times less greenhouse gases than a car.

Train ticket price: a little over €50 per person for a return journey Paris-Gap. Add €2.10 for the bus journey.

## BOOK YOUR PERSONALISED HOLIDAY IN JUST A CLICK thanks to the cutting-edge booking platform!

Thanks to the innovative online booking platform [reservation.orcieres.com](http://reservation.orcieres.com), holidaymakers can book the accommodation, activities and entertainment that suit their needs in just one click. This user-friendly platform helps you to manage your holiday budget, organise your time and treat yourselves to some new activities you've never tried before!



16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 14 APRIL 2024  
OPENING DATES

# SKIING FOR EVERYONE!

There are 100 km of slopes across the Orcières ski area and the highest point reaches 2,725 metres! With a spectacular 360° view across the Ecrins mountains, skiing becomes limitless. On the edge of the Ecrins National Park, this is a fun and sporty ski area. The ingenious lay-out and modern ski lifts provide the opportunity for everyone to ski and make the most of this exceptional environment, whatever your level of ability. The various fun areas such as the Snowpark and boardercross, snowtubing, the XXL zip-line, dog-sled-ding outings, igloo village and beginners areas all make this ski area a place where you're guaranteed to have a great time and experience something original!

## New !

### The 1st open-air art gallery: 'Large Format' photography exhibition on skis!

The resort is organising its 1st photography exhibition on skis. It is an open-air photography trail featuring 65 large format photographs from 3 different photographers that will be on exhibit for one year. The photos will be displayed in 3 different places in the Orcières ski area: Along the Rocherousse trail (accessible via the Telemix), on the 2 panoramic terraces at Py Marty and Les Sirènes (can be reached on skis) and on the Forest des Marches trail (can be reached on foot from the resort).

The exhibition showcases the artworks in this fantastic natural high alpine environment, providing an original way to travel around and really embrace your experience in the mountains.

#### The following 'LARGE FORMAT' photographs are on display:

1. 'Semeuses de joie' by Caroline Riegel: a selection of 25 photos of smiling nuns at the Tungri monastery, in Zanskar, the Himalayas.
2. 'Mélusine et autres féeries' by Cathy Bernot which invites viewers on a dreamlike voyage that awakens the senses, in search of various natural sites where the fairy Melusine appears to be watching you...
3. 'Le sel du désert' by Lolo & John: portraying the journey across the desert in Mauritania in search of camel riders and nomad communities in the Atar region.

The exhibition is the result of a partnership with the town of Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas and the Retours du Monde Festival.



### THE PLEASURE OF SKATING

Orcières wanted to revive its historic partnership with 'Les Rapaces' of Gap. This professional ice hockey team came 5th in the last French Championships, and also competes in the Magnus league, the highest level in France for this sport. Thanks to this new partnership, the season's matches will take place at the Palais des Sports leisure complex. Holidaymakers can expect to experience some spectacular sporting events.

## Prices for the season

**6-DAY SKI PASS  
POOL + ICE RINK**  
adult from €230 to €242  
child from €193.50 to €203.50  
seniors from €212.50 to €223.50

**2-DAY SKI PASS  
POOL + ICE RINK**  
adult from €90.50 € to €95  
child from €76 to €80  
seniors from €84.50 € to €89

**1 DAY SKI PASS**  
adult from €41.50 to €43.50  
child from €34 to €36  
senior from €38.50 to €40.50

**1 DAY SKI PASS BEGINNERS €25**



**51 RUNS**  
9 green, 17 blue,  
18 red, 7 black



**28 SKI LIFTS**  
including 3 telemix®



**1 OFFICIAL  
FIS-CERTIFIED**  
+ 1 slalom stadium



**2 SKI SCHOOLS**



**5 LIVE WEBCAMS**



### Areas just for beginners

There are 4 areas right at the centre of the ski area where beginners can come and discover the joys of skiing with complete peace of mind thanks to the gentle inclines and ski lifts, all designed especially for beginners. The 2 areas right at the foot of the slopes can be reached on foot and the other two are up in the mountains and can be easily reached, one via the Télémix® on Rocherousse plateau and the other one is at the top of the Drouvet 1 chairlift. A great way to enjoy the views while you learn the basics!

## Fun areas for an adrenaline rush!



### The Rochasson boardercross

Local champion Alizée Baron took her very first jumps at the boardercross slope in Orcières! This 1,000 m slope is now at the top of the Estaris charlift and is a great place to experience something new thanks to the raised bends, jumps and moguls!



### The snowpark

On Rocherousse plateau at 2,280 m, fans of freestyle skiing will have a ball in this 16,000m² area. There are modules adapted to each level of ability, so beginners, those with an intermediate level and the more experienced can practice or try out the stunts of their dreams! There are several rows of obstacles including boxes, rails and rainbow rails.

## SKIING FOR EVERYONE!

### 2 panoramic outings accessible to all skiers!

You don't need to be a pro to get to the top of the slopes in Orcières and enjoy skiing with a 360° view of the Ecrins mountains. These 8 km and 9 km outings each involve skiing only on easy blue runs and depart from the resort's two highest peaks, then leading you over the ridges, across high-mountain plateaus and then back to the resort, without the stress and with the Ecrins mountains serving as the backdrop.

**Outing 1:** 6 km route with 800 m difference in altitude, departing from the Drouvet peak at 2,665 m, down the Bouquetins slope and then the Vallons blue run, via Montagnou and then back to the centre of the resort.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> panoramic** outing takes skiers from the peak of Fressinières resort at 2,725 m down 5 blue runs, winding past frozen mountain lakes, across Rocherousse plateau and then down the Bagnols slopes. Skiers can stop off there to recharge their batteries at the Bergerie des Bagnols, a former mountain chalet that has been converted into a restaurant serving local specialities. This 7 km outing with 900 m difference in altitude also ends at the centre of the resort.

### SKI LIKE THE PROS!

The FIS-approved 'Camille Ricou' slope, an exceptional slope for downhill skiing.

With a start at an altitude of 2,447 metres and a 2 km descent over a 600 metre difference in altitude covered in an average of 1 minute 20 seconds by the world's best skiers, this magnificent slope is acclaimed as much for its technical qualities as its exceptional snow cover. Good skiers can use it and see what the pros experience!

**This winter, the slope will once again host the Women's European Cup from 21 to 25 January 2024.**





### PATROLLER FOR A DAY!

Ski patrollers have always been greatly admired by the public. These passionate professionals are like the guardian angels of the ski area, ensuring the safety of skiers every day. Every week in Orcières, holidaymakers can get an insight into this profession by going along with the ski patrollers as they open the ski area in the morning. This is a great opportunity to explore the deserted trails and make the first tracks while enjoying the first rays of the sun. Allow a minimum of 2 hours.

**Prices & info:** free, sign up and then participants will be chosen at random every Thursday at the Tourist Office  
+33 (0)4 92 55 89 89

## Experiences with the pros



### Hop aboard the snow groomer!

When the ski slopes close for the day, holidaymakers are invited to hop aboard a snow groomer, to learn about this original profession and unveil the secrets of grooming the slopes. Participants will help groom the slopes for the next day. Riding the slopes on this incredible machine while admiring the sunset and enjoying the peace and quiet of the snow-covered peaks is every skier's unspoken dream.

**Prices & info:** free, registration and draw every Thursday at the Tourist Office - +33 (0)4 92 55 89 89

### Little mountain-top professionals

Every Wednesday during the school holidays from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm, young mountain explorers can set out to find out more about the professions of the mountains. This unique experience might lead to new careers. A behind-the-scenes tour of the ski area includes riding in a snow groomer, meeting the ski patrollers and discovering the snow production system, etc.

**Prices & info:** Free, from 8 years of age, during school holidays.  
Registration form available from the Tourist Office +33 (0)4 92 55 89 89

# A SKI AREA FOR A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE

### Alpi Traîneau mountain sled school: discover all the secrets of a musher

An original activity for the February holidays. Located on the Rocherousse plateau, the course involves the different phases of learning to mush. 3 unique days! From making contact with the pack, to instruction using your voice and leading your team independently on the 3rd day, apprentice mushers will become proficient in 3 days! Sessions last between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 mins for the outing on the last day.

**Prices & info:** €230 for the 3 days. Age from 8 to 15 years old, come in ski gear and with a helmet. Alpi Traîneau: 0660683244  
[www.alpi-traîneau.com](http://www.alpi-traîneau.com)



### Mountain sports in all different forms



### Snowtubing a the Winterparc

This is the perfect place to discover new downhill thrills! The gentle slopes of the Rocherousse plateau allow you to ride down the slopes in a rubber ring. The speed and feeling of pure glide make this a unique experience. You can do it alone or go as a group: up to 8 rings can be tied together, which spells a whole lot of fun – or trouble – for the most adventurous! A special lift carries the rings, so you'll reach the top of the slope without getting exhausted. There are also Baby runs for the little ones.

**Prices & info:** 1 hour activity from €16.5 per person in the morning and €17.5 in the afternoon. From the age of 4. Access via the Telemix® from Rocherousse.  
+33 (0)6 69 40 52 57  
[www.winterparc.com](http://www.winterparc.com)



### The 'Snakegliss'!

With their sledges tied together in single file, holidaymakers hurtle down the ski slopes at sunset. The 'snake' zigzags all the way down, for an enjoyable and thrilling ride! Whether as a family or with friends, you'll have a ball – particularly if you're one of the brave ones at the back, clinging on for dear life! An experience like no other! 3 options are available: discovery (3 km), 'apéro gliss' (6 km + mulled wine), sensational (8 km).

**Prices & info:**  
From €15 per child,  
€20 and €40 per adult.  
From 4 years  
+33 (0)7 83 51 23 62  
[www.orcieres-snakegliss.fr](http://www.orcieres-snakegliss.fr)

### The first and longest zip line in Europe!

This XXL zip line allows you to soar along at 110km per hour! The Roll Air Câble is 1.8 km long and stretches between the summit of Le Drouvet (2,650 m) and Lac Long (2,500 m). It takes adrenaline junkies head first hurtling through the air for 1 minute and 20 seconds! The skis go with you, which means you can keep skiing on arrival, very clever!

**Prices & info:** Roll 'air câble: €40 per person. (not including lift pass). From 8 years of age. Access on foot via the Télémix® lift or on skis (skis carried in a protective cover during the trip). +33 (0)6 84 44 88 10 - [latyrolienne.fr](http://latyrolienne.fr)



### My day in the ski area

Independent and completely safe cross-country skiing : With 2 permanent routes, both exercise enthusiasts and recreational skiers will be able to enjoy their hobby at their own pace all day long until the ski area closes.

> « **Méolion** » (3.4 km, 640 m elevation gain), duration approximately 1hr30 mins, starting from the foot of the slopes at Les Drapeaux (1,850m) and finishing at the Pointe de Méolion (2,474 m).

> « **Estaris** » (4.6 km, 800m elevation gain) uphill climb for 2 hours, starting from the resort (1,870m) and arriving at the top of the Estaris chairlift (2,670m). To ensure your safety, the descent takes you back along one of the ski area's blue runs.



# Orcières, sporty version through unspoilt nature

## A dog sledding exploration adventure with one of the best mushers of La Grande Odyssée, Philippe Desmurger.

This adventure is led by one of the mushers of La Grande Odyssée, Philippe Desmurger, who has 20 years of experience in long journeys. If you're a fan of wide open spaces and excitement, you'll enjoy this unique experience, as the sleds can reach speeds of up to 40 km per hour!

Taking control of a team of 3 to 5 dogs, apprentice mushers set off for a 2-hour excursion along the plateaus and peaks of Orcières and on the doorstep of the Ecrins National Park. Get ready for speed and excitement as your faithful team pulls you uphill and down, while you learn to communicate with the dogs. Physical and intense, this is an all-encompassing experience!

**Prices & info: €115 for 1.5 hrs / €135 excursion + fondue, €155 per person for a ½ day (suitable from 11 years old, ski helmet compulsory for children up to 12 years old, sledding time at least 2 hrs).**  
Alpi traineau +33(0)660683244  
www.alpi-traineau.com



## Secret spot! Freeride skiing in the larch forests in Serre-Eyraud

Serre-Eyraud is a haven of fresh-air appreciated by purists who mark their trail through the larch trees in a hushed atmosphere. This unspoilt ski area is a secret spot for skiers who enjoy authentic and freeride skiing. The resort may be small but it can be challenging, with a difference in altitude of 600 m (1,480 - 2,100 m). It is north/north-east facing which means the snow is of great quality. Its two technical slopes are a delight for 'riders', who will also appreciate the numerous off-piste skiing possibilities. Serre-Eyraud is the ultimate experience of nature and authenticity. The resort overlooks the little hamlet with only 20 inhabitants and offers a 360° view over the Champsaur valley. The slopes here follow the natural terrain, with preserved trails and moguls which have not been groomed using machinery. The result is a unique skiing area in the heart of unspoilt natural surroundings! With its 3 ski lifts, the area offers 10 km of slopes for all levels: 2 green runs, 2 blue runs, 3 red runs and 2 black runs. Here, you pick up your pass from the refreshments bar - a pleasant moment for a chat.

Prices in Serre-Eyraud:

1/2 day pass: Adult: €14.50. Child / over 65s: €11.50  
1-day pass: Adult: €18.00. Child / over 65s: €14.50  
6-day pass: Adult: €90.00. Child / over 65s: €72.50

## Cross-country skiing : getting up close and personal with the Écrins

Exploring unspoilt slopes in a silent and majestic setting is the dream of every cross-country skiing enthusiast! Clément Infante, a high mountain guide, offers freeride / free style cross-country skiing outings in complete safety. He knows Orcières like the back of his hand, down to the most remote corners where he'll take you to find the best snow. Clément offers trips over 2 to 3 days in the heart of the Ecrins park, with nights spent in a refuge or an auberge.

**2 days / 1 night package:** 1,500 m positive incline (in total) €180/pers for 2 days (price valid for a group of 4 people minimum). Meals provided. Overnight stay at the unmanned Pré la Chaumette refuge in the Champoléon valley. Bring a sleeping bag.

**Package of 3 days / 2 nights:** 1200m +E / day: €270 per person for 3 days (price valid for a group of 4 people minimum). Overnight at the unmanned refuge of Pré la Chaumette in the Champoléon valley and in an auberge in Prapic. Meals provided. Bring a sleeping bag.

Contact: clement.infante@gmail.com - +33 (0)6 32 93 04 71

## ICE FALLS

The ice falls can be reached from Orcières leisure complex. This activity is guided by mountain professionals and is a way to explore this magical world, while pushing your limits, all in complete safety. Budding mountaineers will be equipped with studs and ice picks and then assisted across the blue walls of ice by their guide.

Prices: Introduction or more advanced sessions at Haut-Champsaur. Adults and teens from €90 to €330 depending on the number of participants and the level of difficulty - +33 (0)6 89 88 04 31 guides2vallees@hotmail.fr

## LET'S TRY OUT LASER BIATHLON!

Young and old alike can explore the Nordic ski area in Orcières while enjoying an unusual sporting activity, biathlon. This ski area is a playground for discovering new skiing sensations on traditional ski touring or skating skis. After grasping a few technical basics, shooting requires concentration and skill. It's a sporting experience like no other!

Price: €48 per session (please bring traditional cross-country ski equipment and lift pass) - Monday and Friday 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm, suitable for 12 years and over. ESF - +33 (0)4 92 55 72 78  
www.esforcieres.com

# ORCIÈRES, ORIGINAL, RELAXING VERSION



## Relaxing outings

These nature walks or snowshoeing outings are for small groups, for an intimate experience.

Céline Desmet is a mountain guide and provides an added bonus to these magical experiences by combining wellness sessions such as yoga or meditation. Under the trees in the forest or in mountain pastures, Céline enables hikers to relax their mind and body. This involves breathing exercises and sophrology, in order to forget the daily grind and reconnect with nature. Observation of the surrounding environment and the intermingling of different sensations are a great way to relax.

To take this relaxing moment even further, the outings are combined with tastings (jam, honey and cheese from the valley)

Price & info: €28.50 / adult and €23.50 / child - Céline Desmet +33 (0)6 65 45 08 99



## Getaways: "I CAN SURVIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS" discovering the life of a trapper

In the heart of the mountains, children can find out all about nature and the most adventurous can learn about the life of a trapper by practising the basics needed for survival. Lighting a fire, building a shelter, recognising animal tracks and edible plants, equipping yourself against the cold and knowing how to use a rope, etc. - a very true-to-life experience!

Prices & info: €16. Every Tuesday during the February school holidays at 9.30 am. 2-hour half-day trip. Bureau des accompagnateurs du Champsaur (Guides office) - +33 (0)6 63 64 05 97  
accompagnateurs-champsaur.com

## Snowshoe excursions 'by the light of the moon' with ESF

These nocturnal snowshoeing outings take place every Tuesday and Wednesday in small groups accompanied by an ESF guide who will reveal the secrets of the mountain world at night. It is not unusual to come across ibexes, foxes and other inhabitants of the mountains. This trip promises to be a unique experience and allows you to explore nature in complete peace and quiet amidst snow-covered larch forests. In the middle of the walk, participants will enjoy a meal served in a typical Champsaur auberge prepared with local ingredients: tourtons, 'oreilles d'ânes' (gratin casserole of wild spinach and either lasagna or crêpes), cheese and charcuterie, etc.

Prices & info : €32 Reservation required the day before +€21 for the meal. Suitable for all. Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Meeting point is the ESF chalet. +33 (0)4 92 55 72 78



## Chamois hikes and ice falls in Prapic

This easy, 2-hour snowshoeing hike departs from Prapic, a little snow-covered historic village in Ecrins National Park with an unspoilt natural environment. Wild animals seek refuge here in winter, far from the crowds. After crossing a larch forest and following the frozen Drac Noir river, walkers reach Charnières plateau and stop to observe their surroundings using binoculars while the expert guide unveils the secrets of the animals that live up at the peaks. Every day, you'll catch a glimpse of chamois, ibexes and marmots! On the way back, you'll be walking past the magnificent Pisse-Bernard ice falls, an unmissable sight of Champsaur Valgaudemar, dubbed the little Himalaya of the southern Alps.

Prices & info: Meeting point: Orcières village, 9.15 am - mid-day. Adult €29, Child (aged 8 to 14) €24 - for the second child onwards: 30% discount. Bookings must be made by 6 pm the day before at the latest - +33 (0)6 63 64 05 97 - equipment provided (snowshoes & poles)- accompagnateurs-champsaur.com





### Refreshments at the Ferme des Cabrioles and learn about mountain farming

The Ferme des Cabrioles is a member of the 'Bienvenue à la Ferme' network and is an accredited educational farm where visitors can learn about the farming practices of the mountains. On a visit to the farm, you will be able to meet the animals, discover how the farm operates and learn about the relationship between farming and food. During the visit, children will get the chance to spend time in amongst the goats and see how the milk is transformed into cheese. A visit to the farm and encounter with the animals can also be combined with a cheesemaking workshop where children can then taste their creations. There are other activities for families at the educational farm, including a 1.5 or 2-hour tour with cheese tasting, and a visit with snacks, (to be booked the day before) for an opportunity to try pancakes and natural yoghurt made using goat's milk. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes for walking.

**Prices & info :** €8.50 for a family + snacks: €5.50 per person.  
For groups, call us on: +33 (0)7 51 61 27 34 or +33 (0)6 12 33 19 22.  
Open to the public: Sunday to Friday, 11 am to 12 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm.

# EXPERIENCE THE MOUNTAINS DIFFERENTLY

## Informed consumption and local products: 'Esprit Parc National', the brand of an unspoiled land.

The Esprit Parc National brand is seal of approval that certifies eco-friendly production and services. Over 250 accommodation providers, traders, artisans and activity providers come under this ecological label of quality. Delicious mountain and dandelion honeys, organic cheeses from the Ferme des Cabrioles, syrups concocted from aromatic and medicinal plants... These are just some of the products made in Orcières which carry the 'Esprit Parc National' label. Every Tuesday during the holidays in February, producers with the 'Esprit Parc national' label who are committed to the preservation of biodiversity showcase local products (cheeses, honeys, génépi, meats, wild flower and fruit jams, birch sap).

Info: [www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)



## Getting to know the land: workshops on using mountain plants and flowers in jam-making

Passionate about nature, Stéphane Bertrand-Pellissier is an expert in extracting flavours from plants as he turns them into jam. In this way, the most unusual flavours are bottled, including larch flower, the genépi, dandelion, poppy, wild carrot flower and elderberry, etc. The range is as wide as the range of plants which can be harvested in the area surrounding Orcières. The chef of Les Gardettes restaurant invites you to discover the virtues of wild plants over the course of a workshop entitled 'Flavours of mountain plants'.

**Prices & info :** Free, book in advance. From 6 years of age. Meet at 'Les Gardettes' restaurant on Wednesdays at 3.30 pm.  
+33 (0)4 92 55 71 11 - [www.lesdelicesorsatus.com](http://www.lesdelicesorsatus.com)



## MONTAGN'ARTDÉCO - A PAINTING STUDIO DEDICATED TO THE MOUNTAINS

A mountain vibe is guaranteed at the Montagn'Artdéco studio! Stéphanie Escallier is a passionate painter and opened her own art studio two years ago. She shares her passion for painting on wood in her one-hour workshops for children. The children can then leave with a holiday souvenir which they have created themselves (a painting engraved with their name).

**Prices & info:** By reservation only. From 6 years of age.  
€29 per child (Family deal from 2nd child).  
Shop open every day 10.00 am to midday and 1.30 pm to 7.00 pm. Further information:  
Montagn'Artdéco - +33 (0)6 19 60 12 37  
[www.facebook.com/lamontagnardeco](https://www.facebook.com/lamontagnardeco)

# Accommodation in the midst of nature

## The Ibex refuge, an unusual and eco-responsible mountain chalet. Enjoy a holiday living in harmony with nature

Located in the Pré la Beaume at 2,050 m, this former alpine chalet built in the 1840s is nestled in the heart of the mountains on the doorstep of the Ecrins national Park and a few steps from the path leading to the Jujal plateau and a charming stream. There is a stunning panoramic view across the peaks. The location is perfect for skiing to the Le Gourou slope, for enjoying ski touring or snowshoeing. The property is entirely self-sufficient. Electricity is provided via solar panels and heating and hot water are guaranteed thanks to the wood stove. Unchanged from its original appearance, it was completely renovated in 2021.

The Ibex refuge covers 100m² and can accommodate up to 8 people. It is equipped with all modern comforts and has 2 double rooms, 1 bedroom for 4 people, 2 bathrooms and 3 toilets. The furniture has been custom-made using local craftsmanship. Everything is designed to make you feel at home with books, games and a large kitchen equipped for preparing great meals. The accommodation has been awarded 3 stars and has the Orcières Qualité-Confort-Hébergement '5 griffes' accreditation. The owner provides transportation for the tenants by snowmobile.

**Prices & info:** from €2,200 a week. Further information on [www.reservation.orcieres.com](http://www.reservation.orcieres.com) or on +33 (0)4 92 55 89 69.

From  
€2.200  
/a week



From  
€300/night



From  
€290/night

## The Chalets d'Elena: luxurious nature

The Chalets d'Elena are set in unspoiled natural surroundings in a charming little village near Orcières. The architecture blends into the natural environment, inspiring utter relaxation. Elegant, minimalistic decor perfectly matches the serenity and beauty of the area. The spacious, 85 m2 chalet sleeps 5 and boasts a master suite with large bathroom and a panoramic view of the mountains, and a second just as cosy bedroom upstairs with an adjoining mezzanine. There's a spacious living area open onto the outdoors with large French windows and a reading corner, a fully equipped kitchen and a cosy lounge. This wonderful natural chalet also offers direct access to the wooden decking outdoors and a Nordic bath. This winter, a 3rd chalet will be available for epicureans in the hamlet of Jalets.

**From €300/night (private Nordic bath included - Beds made upon arrival - Bath towels provided) [www.chaletselena.fr](http://www.chaletselena.fr)**

Close by, there are two traditional 'mazot' huts with glass walls and roof, each with an elegantly decorated 20m² room with private bathroom. These rentals are called the 'observatories' and they stand on wooden decking on stilts to take your experience in the great outdoors to the absolute pinnacle.

**From €290/night (breakfast included, private Nordic bath included - Beds made upon arrival - Bath towels provided) - [www.chaletselena.fr](http://www.chaletselena.fr)**



From  
€110/pers.

## A POLAR EVENING AND NIGHT IN AN IGLOO: A NORDIC ADVENTURE WITH THE FAMILY!

The evening begins with a fantastic 1.5-hour walk (150 m positive incline, 2 km there and back) in the company of a guide. Participants explore the Rocherousse plateau, at 2,300 m, and admire the sunset from the Croix des Gardettes. From there, you'll have a 180° panoramic view across the Ecrins National Park, the resort and Champsaur valley. On the way back, a typical meal of the mountains will be served next to the fireplace in a cabin up on Rocherousse plateau, while you discuss the pure skies of the Hautes-Alpes. Then the ice doors of the igloos close and the magic of a night spent in the Williwaw igloo village begins. The next day, people of all ages will enjoy having breakfast in the heart of the snowy countryside!

**Prices & info:** from €110 per person (included: hike guided by a state-certified professional, meal, night in an igloo and breakfast).  
Contact and reservation - tel.: +33 (0)6 60 68 32 44 from 5.30 pm to 7 pm. [www.alpi-traineau.com](http://www.alpi-traineau.com)





# New Eco & Logical initiatives



## Reduce the loss of energy at the resort's apartment buildings

Much of the resort's infrastructure makes use of ecological materials (wood, cellulose wadding, pellet heating systems, etc.). The renovation plan for building exteriors (larch wood cladding), initiated in 2014, is systematically accompanied by prior thermal insulation.



## Artificial snow: gravity-powered network

The artificial snow network covering 60% of the ski area consumes little energy, thanks to a gravity-powered circuit that reduces energy production – in contrast with systems that pump and cool – the main source of natural water being Lac des Estaris at an altitude of 2,600 m.

Everything is done in accordance with the recommendations of Écrins National Park. Artificial snow may be unpopular with some people, but it does help guarantee that the ski area can stay open if the natural snow cover is insufficient. Providing 120,000 jobs across all lines of work, it plays an important role in preserving the balance between nature and economic activity. Here, artificial snow is simply water transformed into snow crystals when exposed to low temperatures. The water drawn from the lake goes back to its source at the end of the season when the snow melts.

## Heating system for the pool/ice rink: using ice to keep warm!

The 'Palais des Sports' leisure Complex runs with a power saving system. The power produced to make the ice for the rink is used to heat the swimming pool. The resort has introduced other initiatives such as photovoltaic panels on the roof of the tourist office. The new village centre is currently being switched over to a shared heating network.

## Accommodation committed to helping bees!

The Villages Clubs du Soleil are committed to the protection of bees and helping develop colonies, thanks to a partnership with the association 'Un Toit Pour les Abeilles' that works to encourage the protection of small-scale, local beekeeping. This partnership involves sponsoring a beehive and helping in its development, an initiative that plays a key role in the protection of bees. In becoming the sponsor for the Lus-La-Croix-Haute beehive managed by beekeeper Victor Brumelot, the Village Club d'Orcières is showing proof of their commitment to the environment and ecology by actively participating in the protection of nature and biodiversity.



Kids' club programme of entertainment on the theme of sustainable development: In an effort to carry these environmental initiatives over the long term and raise awareness for children, the Village Club has created activities for children to learn about the environment and have fun at the same time.

- > **Children learn about the issues** surrounding food waste, weighing food waste at the end of the meal.
- > **Educational vegetable** garden
- > **Games:** discover local wildlife, quiz on protecting the environment
- > **Workshops and activities** are organised about the importance of protecting the environment
- > **Any cardboard packaging** and other throwaway items are reused for the activities.
- > **Rainwater** is collected and used to water the plants

# WINTER EVENTS' CALENDAR

## Winter events for families



## Pop Song Live 6th April 2024

(date to be confirmed)

An unforgettable concert on the snow front to launch the Spring holidays, after a day marked by entertainment for the whole family. The pass is offered to children under 10 during the "Orcières invites children" operation (from March 17 to April 14)!

## Clap d'entrée 16th & 17th December 2023

A weekend of festivities to kick off the season, showcasing landlords.

## Noël des Oursons 24th & 25th December 2023

The magic of Christmas in Orcières! Numerous events mark this beautiful family festival. All the resort's shops will light up with the magic of Christmas.

## New Year 31st December 2023

A memorable evening to end the year 2023. On the program: a big concert and fireworks

## Memorial Elena Nolier 14th January 2024

A combi-race course for children from 8 to 10 years old in memory of the young Elena.

## 1st FERIA d'Orcières 30th March 2024

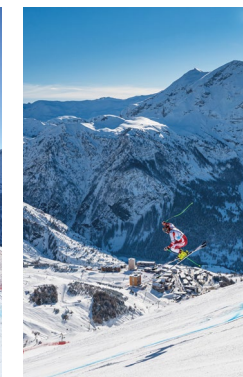
An intoxicating and festive day tinged with the flavors of the south. Timed challenges and crazy activities are on the program for the Derby d'Orcières and the Kermesse des Pistes. In the background, the streets come alive to the rhythm of bandas. A great concert comes to close this great unique event.



## Last Schuss 14th April 2024

To end the season in style, the skipass is offered to everyone! Color Ski and ski & mountain bike contests on the big air bag are on the menu for this resolutely festive day, in a musical atmosphere.

## Exciting winter event



## Women's Downhill Skiing European Cups 21st - 25th January 2024

Orcières Merlette 1850 will host the speed events of the Women's Alpine Skiing European Cup on the splendid FIS-approved 'Camille Ricou' downhill slope. Three races are on the programme: two descents and one Super G.



## Ski Games 16th & 17th March 2024

A ski cross race for children (under-11s and under-14s). 500 young French and Italian racers challenge each other at this great festive event.

## Trophée des Petits Champions 19th - 21st April 2024

For its 32nd edition, over 400 hockey players will come and compete on the ice at Orcières Merlette 1850.



## Winter sports challenges



## Trail running on the snow in Ecrins National Park: The Trail Etoilé d'Orcière 13th January 2024

A change of scene on a race under the stars through the heart of the Écrins National Park a unique sporting experience.



## The 'Montées Givrées' a festive and sporting event!

This cross-country skiing event is offered every week during the school holidays, at night time. 2.5 km further on and 500 m lower down.



## CONTACTS

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## GETTING HERE

### FREE SHUTTLE

Inside the resort  
and village < > Station

### BY CAR

Marseille > 2h30  
Aix-en-Provence > 2h  
Grenoble > 2h

### BY TRAIN

Gap train station  
Grenoble TGV station  
Aix-en-Provence TGV station

### BY PLANE

Marseille Provence  
Grenoble



www.orcieres.com