

#### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS

VALDANNIVIERS.CH



Valais ENGRAVED ON MY HEART

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# WELCOME TO THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS

#### - A PLAYGROUND LIKE NO OTHER -

Located in the district of Sierre, the Val d'Anniviers offers a wide variety of experiences in the heart of the Alps. There are no fewer than 490 km of signposted hiking trails and almost 200 km of mountain biking trails awaiting you.

The winter season is just as appealing, with 220 km of ski pistes and numerous possibilities for snowshoe hiking, cross-country skiing and ski touring on offer. You are also welcome to take advantage of a wide variety of other activities, most of them for free or at a discount thanks to the Pass Anniviers Liberté. There are more than 150 events organised in the valley each year, so you'll have no time to be bored! With legendary sporting occasions such as the Sierre-Zinal and Grand Raid races and cultural highlights such as the *désalpes*, heritage days and other gastronomical celebrations, the Val d'Anniviers earns its reputation as a dynamic and festive tourist destination all year round.

In addition to this myriad of attractions, it is the memorable experiences that we would especially like to share with you during your stay in Anniviers. With breathtaking scenery, a warm welcome and traditions still very much alive, you're sure not to leave disappointed!

Welcome to the Val d'Anniviers!

# THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS ID CARD



Municipality
ANNIVIERS

Region CENTRAL VALAIS

Lowest village **NIOUC** 902 M

Highest village **CHANDOLIN** 2,000 M

Highest piste BELLA TOLA 3,026 M

Tallest mountain WEISSHORN 4,506 M



### ACCESS

- Bus service between Sierre railway station and the Val d'Anniviers
- SBB railway station in Sierre
- A9 motorway to Sierre
- Airports in Geneva and Zurich, trains to Sierre

## **DISTANCES\***

- Sierre 17 km
- Geneva 192 km
- Zurich 200 km
- Milan 240 km
- Paris 626 km
- Stuttgart 391 km

\*Measured from Vissoie

# THE IMPERIAL CROWN & ITS PEAKS



Surrounded by a mountain range with multiple peaks over 4,000 metres, known as the Imperial Crown, the Val d'Anniviers is a paradise for nature, winter sports, wide-open spaces and great ideas!

The Imperial Crown is composed of multiple mountains visible at the end of the valley above Zinal. It is also called the "five 4,000ers", as it boasts five peaks over 4,000 m: Weisshorn, Zinalrothorn, Obergabelhorn, Matterhorn and Dent Blanche.



# WINTER: WHEN EMOTIONS PEAK

Breathtaking scenery, unspoilt nature, modern sporting infrastructures: the Val d'Anniviers is the perfect place for practising all sporting activities, from skiing to extreme sports and winter hikes. You can also take advantage of three ski areas with just one pass, and there is a free bus service between the Anniviers villages. Dig out your skis, hiking boots, sledges and ice skates and get ready for an unforgettable stay in the mountains.

#### SKIING

Skiing in the Val d'Anniviers means hurtling down the slopes with a magnificent view of the Imperial Crown. As the majority of the pistes are located at altitudes between 2,000 and 3,000 m, snow is guaranteed from November to April. A single ski pass gives you access to all the pistes in the Val d'Anniviers: Grimentz/Zinal, St-Luc/Chandolin and Vercorin (220 km of pistes in total).

- **3 ski areas**: Grimentz-Zinal, St-Luc-Chandolin and Vercorin
- 1 ski pass
- 220 km of pistes for all abilities
- **1 free bus service** linking all the Anniviers villages
- **1 snowpark** with different kickers, boxes, jibs and rails – located in Grimentz
- **1 freeride area** where you can really let loose, reserved for experienced riders – located in Zinal
- **1 Avalanche Training Center** in Zinal to practise locating avalanche victims
- 1 ski cross course for a fun-filled time with its jumps and banked turns – located in Grimentz
- 2 fun slopes/Grizislope for budding skiers who are also entitled to kids ski cross – located in Zinal and St-Luc
- **1 Planet Park**, a unique playground with a space shuttle, slides, a zipline, swings and a balancing beam course located in St-Luc
- 1 speed check allowing you to measure your speed in the Grimentz ski area
- **1 slalom** to emulate the pros in the Zinal ski area

#### PLUS

- Ice skate at five outdoor rinks
- **Push your limits** on 13 km of cross-country skiing trails in Zinal
- Hurtle down 13.2 km of sledging runs in Chandolin and Grimentz
- **Snowshoe hike** on 180 km of signposted trails
- **Reach** the summits when ski touring at our Rando Parcs with our nine courses in St-Luc, Chandolin, Grimentz, St-Jean and Zinal; over 40 km and approx. 6,600 m of elevation gain
- **Relax** in our swimming pools and wellness centres in Zinal, St-Luc and Grimentz

#### And more:

Ice climbing, paragliding, fondue hikes, electronic biathlon...

#### **MAGIC PASS**

The "Magic Pass" is valid from the summer opening of the resorts (in May) until the end of the following winter season. The Magic Pass offers free access without restriction to all partner facilities.

😳 MAGICPASS.CH

# IN SUMMER: an open-air playground

The Val d'Anniviers is a veritable playground for sports enthusiasts and thrill seekers. Grab your hiking boots, mountain bike or e-bike. Take advantage of the downhill scooter trails, minigolf courses, tennis courts or swimming pools. With the Pass Anniviers Liberté, you benefit from discounts on the ski lifts, free travel with the PostBus and free access to a wide range of cultural highlights, events and facilities.

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#### **SPORTS & LEISURE**

- Hike all over the valley 420 km of trails
- **Run** on more than 200 km of signposted paths and trails
- Rush down 200 km of bike trails with your mountain bike or e-bike
- Discover the adrenaline rush of a bungee jump from Europe's most impressive suspension bridge in Niouc or the zipline crossing the gorge at a height of 190 m
- Scale the length of our two via ferratas: there is one in Moiry offering a jaw-dropping view of the Moiry dam and lake and another in Niouc running along the cliff between the Navizence river and the suspension bridge
- Speed downhill on your mountain bike at the three courses in the St-Luc bike park
- Win the match point at one of our four tennis courts (Grimentz/St-Luc)
- Have fun playing minigolf in Zinal
- **Relax in our swimming pools** in St-Luc, Grimentz, Vissoie and Zinal
- **Crack the codes and riddles** of the Foxtrail treasure hunt in Zinal
- Have a great time at our Indoor Park in Grimentz
- Take to the skies with a paraglider on a tandem flight supervised by professionals
- Dip your toes in our mountain lakes
- Test your skills on the pumptrack in Grimentz and conquer its jumps and banked turns
- Take a kayak excursion on the Moiry lake
- Hurtle downhill on a scooter or mountain cart in Zinal and St-Luc/Chandolin
- Put your grey cells to the tests in the escape rooms in Grimentz and Vissoie

#### **PASS ANNIVIERS LIBERTÉ**

From May to November, Pass Anniviers Liberté holders can enjoy free or discounted access to a wide variety of transport and leisure facilities as well as visits to attractions.

Information and prices:

ANNIVIERS-LIBERTE.CH



#### WALKING TOUR OF THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS IN SUMMER

Every tour can be customised to suit your interests

Discover the Val d'Anniviers on foot with our tailored tour (min. 3 nights). Take your time to soak in the amazing scenery as you walk at your own pace through the unspoilt nature and villages typical of the valley. The tour includes:

- 3–10 nights in a hotel (mountain hut) / double room in Sierre / Salgesch / Chandolin / St-Luc / Zinal / Grimentz / Vercorin
- Full board (half board with picnic lunch)
- Baggage transfer for each person between stages, except in mountain huts
- 2 trips per person with the PostBus
- 1 hiking trail map as well as travel documents

😳 VALDANNIVIERS.CH/TVA

# **10 VAL D'ANNIVIERS "MUST-SEES"**

If you have to be selective about where to visit, here are 10 highlights you won't want to miss.

## **MOIRY DAM AND GLACIER**

With its exceptional colours, this site is one of the pride and joys of the valley. The Moiry lake is a real little corner of paradise linking the dam to the glacier. A must-see in autumn to enjoy the spectacular colours.

### **ZINAL GLACIER CAVE**

The Zinal cave is a hidden gem tucked away at the foot of the Zinal glacier waiting to be discovered in winter accompanied by mountain professionals.

### **LEGENDARY SKI PISTES**

Chamois, Lona, Prilet and Illhorn: these must-try pistes all start at an altitude of 3,000 m and finish in the villages of Grimentz, St-Luc and Chandolin.

## LAC D'ARPITETTAZ

Take advantage of some of the most beautiful panoramic viewpoints showcasing the peaks and their glaciers at this lake around two hours on foot from Zinal.

### **NIOUC SUSPENSION BRIDGE**

The Niouc suspension footbridge is the highest in Europe at 190 metres. The bridge is famous for its legendary bungee jump and via ferrata.







TOP



### **IMPERIAL CROWN**

Presiding over the valley and characterising the identity of the Val d'Anniviers, the Imperial Crown comprises five peaks over 4,000 m.



# **OLD VILLAGE OF GRIMENTZ**

Perched at 1,572 m, this gem is among the most well-preserved old villages in Switzerland. Grimentz showcases the authenticity of the region.



# **HÉRENS COWS**

At the heart of a wide range of local traditions such as the famous Swiss cow fights, raclette cheese and local salted meats, the Hérens cow is one of the emblems of Valais.



# **VIN DU GLACIER**

An ancient Anniviers tradition, Vin du Glacier (glacier wine) is produced through transvasage, adding the youngest wine to the old barrels, which is what makes it so special.



# FRANÇOIS-XAVIER BAGNOUD OBSERVATORY (OFXB)

With astronomy evenings, sun observations and a Planets Trail, the OFXB in St-Luc offers a variety of activities linking the Earth and heavens guaranteed to inspire young and old visitors alike.

# **SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE ANNIVIERS** VILLAGES

Charm, authenticity, nature. The villages of the Val d'Anniviers are characterised by their traditional architecture. Their raccards (typical wooden buildings on stilts), granaries and mills are reminiscent of days gone by and sure to delight visitors.





#### **CHANDOLIN**

Perched at an altitude of almost 2,000 metres. Chandolin is one of the highest villages in Europe inhabited all year round and its special location means it also enjoys the last rays of the day's sun. Once a stopping-off point for colourful personalities and poets in search of inspiration, Chandolin has preserved the authentic charm and original character of a village which developed haphazardly as per the ancient rural tradition.



#### ST-LUC

St-Luc offers spectacular views of the Val d'Anniviers and its peaks rising to over 4,000 m, including the famous Matterhorn. Clinging to the side of the valley, the village enjoys a particularly high level of sunshine. St-Luc is aptly nicknamed the "star resort" with the François-Xavier Bagnoud Observatory, the two planetariums and the Planets Trail leading up to Hotel Weisshorn.



#### GRIMENTZ

With its narrow streets adorned with geraniums, its chalets aged by the sun, its charming church and its century-old raccards, Grimentz is a veritable picture-postcard village located at an altitude of 1,570 metres. Considered one of the most beautiful villages in the whole of Switzerland, Grimentz is a tourist village which has succeeded in preserving both its heritage and its authenticity.



#### ZINAL

At the top of the Val d'Anniviers, you can find a kind of "ultimate resort". Visitors to this magical spot get the impression they are arriving in another world – the end of the valley and yet also the place where everything begins. At the foot of the highest mountains in the Alps, this little village has retained the ability to take us to new heights and make us look up in amazement. Radiant nature, infinite sporting opportunities, historical sights and, above all, the mountains right outside the door.



#### **VISSOIE & VILLAGES**

Niouc, Les Pontis, Soussillon, Les Barmes, Fang, etc. Strange names with unusual sounds which pique your curiosity and bear witness to a past steeped in history. Picturesque surroundings that you can't help but admire.

Vissoie... If you thought Vissoie was merely a stopover, a waypoint connecting the Anniviers resorts, take a little time to pause here and soak in its beauty. Visit the mediaeval tower, a testament to the village's former supremacy. You'll soon come to the obvious conclusion: Vissoie, far from the hustle and bustle of the resorts in the valley, has managed to preserve the charm of these must-visit villages.



#### **Heritage trails**

Our 14 villages and hamlets have a special history deserving of exploration. Heritage trails in each village give visitors the opportunity to travel back in time. The information is available in the form of a brochure or by scanning the QR codes displayed at the points of interest.

# CULTURE, HERITAGE & **DISCOVERY**

Anniviers, exceptional land of culture and heritage: observe the stars, make your own rye bread, visit a mill, sample a glass of Vin du Glacier, open the doors of a museum to discover the customs of yesteryear. Have we piqued your curiosity? Then let yourself be surprised, discover our wide range of activities and feel free to call in at our Tourist Information offices and ask for more information.



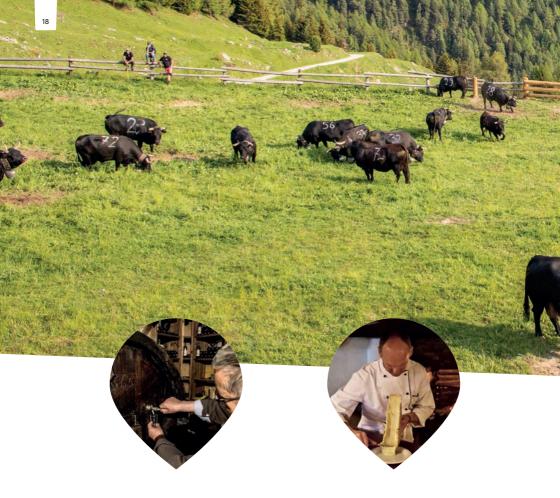


#### REMUAGE

Living predominantly off the land and from livestock farming, the inhabitants of Anniviers in times gone by were constantly on the move. Following the rhythm of the seasons, the villagers moved between Sierre, the villagers of the Val d'Anniviers, the spring and autumn pastures and the mountain pastures. The parish priest and schoolmaster also followed the villagers, leaving only a few guards in the village. This practice was known as the *remuage* (migration).

#### **HÉRENS COWS**

At the heart of a wide range of local traditions, the Hérens breed is a cultural emblem. This famous cow is used to produce exquisite culinary specialities such as raclette cheese from the mountain pastures and delicious salted meats, which are dried out in the mountain air, as has been the practice for centuries. The Hérens cows are also the stars of a major event in the Val d'Anniviers calendar: the désalpe. In the month of September, the cows return to the villages after having spent three months on the mountain pastures, where they "fight" all summer to establish a hierarchy within the herd.



#### **VIN DU GLACIER**

Vin du Glacier (glacier wine) is an Anniviers product through and through, born of an ancestral tradition. Every year, new wine, produced with Rèze, an autochthonous Valaisan grape variety, is added to the old larch barrels that are never emptied. The oldest one dates back to 1886. This wine, which can only be sampled straight from the barrel, has a rich and unique taste.

#### **REGIONAL PRODUCTS**

There are a wide variety of traditional dishes in the valley including Anniviers fondue (meat seasoned with spices), game and, of course, raclette. In St-Luc and Chandolin, fans of gourmet cuisine can look forward to discovering the Hotel Bella-Tola and Chandolin Boutique Hotel restaurants, both of which have appeared in the Gault&Millau restaurant guide.



# **THE VAL D'ANNIVIERS,** a Valley of culture:

- 1 observatory and 2 planetariums
- 8 museums
- 2 exhibition galleries
- 1 dam
- 1 copper mine
- Historical hotels
- 5 mills
- 14 heritage trails











Discover authentic flavours, local products and specialities: the Valais gastronomy is an integral part of the pleasure of a stay in the mountains. Whether you prefer a gourmet meal, a typical Valais dish or simply to finish the day with a good aperitif in a bar and sample Valais wines in good company, you won't be able to resist the temptation of a moment of gustatory pleasure.

### **MORE THAN 50 RESTAURANTS**

both in the villages and at altitude

### **CLOSE TO 50 SHOPS**

- · Food shops
- Other local shops

### **18 PLACES TO RELAX WITH FRIENDS**

bars, wine bars, pubs and tea rooms

**Restaurants, snack bars, bars and wine bars: O** VALDANNIVIERS.CH/FOOD-DRINK

# accommodation



You have a wide choice of accommodation options in Anniviers: hotels, apartments, campsites, bed and breakfasts, gîtes and mountain huts. Whether it's at more than 2,000 m, far from all the hustle and bustle, in the middle of nature, or in the heart of a village, you are sure to find what you are looking for. A range of high-quality accommodations, for all tastes and all budgets.

# accommodation capacity 22,161 Beds

- Hotels: 891
- Group accommodations: 1,265
- Apartments/chalets: 18,014
- Mountain huts: 554
- Bed and breakfasts: 21
- Gîtes/hostels: 147
- Holiday villages: 1,269

#### Reservations

BOOKING.VALDANNIVIERS.CH

#### Accommodations

VALDANNIVIERS.CH/ACCOMMODATION



# DISCOVER **a truly vibrant region**

There are a whole host of activities organised all year round. You can get the list of the top events from the Tourist Information office to make sure you don't miss anything or check out valdanniviers.ch.

In Anniviers, we organise a wide range of events all year round: sports, concerts, culture, etc. New events are added to the programme all the time to ensure your stay here is magical.

Whether you are a couple, a family or a group of friends, make the most of our region by joining us for the main sporting and cultural events organised in the Val d'Anniviers. Experience emotion-filled moments together with us!

#### Activities and events

VALDANNIVIERS.CH/EVENTS Reservations

BOOKING.VALDANNIVIERS.CH



# **TOP EVENTS**

#### JULY

- Folk Music Festival Grimentz
- Open-air cinema Anniviers
- Craft market Vissoie
- Rock the Besso Zinal

#### AUGUST

- National Day Anniviers
- Festi'Val d'Anniviers Grimentz
- Craft market St-Luc
- Festival du Toûno St-Luc
- Artists' Day Grimentz
- Sierre-Zinal Anniviers
- Food market Chandolin
- International Yoga Congress Zinal
- Grand Raid BCVS Grimentz

#### SEPTEMBER

- Besso trail Zinal
- PALP Festival Grimentz
- European Heritage Days Anniviers
- Désalpes Anniviers
- Jazz sous les Etoiles St-Luc
- KM de Chando Chandolin
- 2PPFM Zinal

#### OCTOBER

• Grand Combat des Génissons – Niouc

#### December

- Christmas markets Grimentz
- Christmas/New Year Anniviers

#### JANUARY

- Three Kings Celebration Chandolin
- Extreme Carving Session Zinal
- Fly Bétrisey Reine Cup (paragliding) Zinal

#### FEBRUARY

- Nocturne de Chandolin Chandolin
- Carnival Anniviers

#### MARCH

- GiantXtour Grimentz
- Bella-Tola Trophy St-Luc
- Rando'clette 2130 Grimentz
- Les Becs Derby Grimentz
- The Sirotzée Chandolin

#### **APRIL**

- Waterslide Grimentz
- "La Tzigière" telemark race Grimentz
- Easter celebrations Anniviers
- Monoski Party Zinal

# QUESTIONS, Needs?



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#### Let's keep in touch!

Follow us on our social media pages to discover, relive and share everything that makes our region so vibrant.

(a) /valdanniviers

# LOST IN TRANSLATION? ALLOW US TO INTERPRET FOR YOU.

#### - A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO SWISS FRENCH -

SWISS FRENCH	english
Septante	Seventy
Huitante / quatre-vingt	Eighty
Nonante	Ninety
Vingt (pronounce the t)	Twenty
Service	You're welcome
Souliers	Shoes
Souliers de ski	Ski boots
Adieu	Вуе
Linge	Towel
Panosse	Floor cloth
Tela/Papier-ménage	Kitchen roll
Dîner	Lunch
Souper	Dinner
Cuissette	Shorts
Quittance	Receipt
Natel	Mobile phone

#### **TYPICAL VALAIS EXPRESSIONS**

T'as où les vaches ?	Where are you from?
T'as où les vignes?	Where are you from?
T'es le fils à qui?	Who are you?
Tcheu l'équipe!	Wow, there's a lot of us!
Mais des choses pareilles!	That's incredible!
Tcheu la volée!	An expression used after a big fall or after noticing someone is drunk
On part en piste?	Shall we party/celebrate?
Beau pays mais sec!	Fancy a drink?
Eh mais la cramine!	It's cold!
Tcheu la tschaffe!	It's hot!





Our plateform **BOOKING .VALDANNIVIERS.CH** is at your disposal all year round. Thanks to it, you can book or pay directly online.



