

THE URBAN ARCHIPELAGO OF CLERMONT AUVERGNE MÉTROPOLE, SURROUNDED BY THE VOLCANOES OF AUVERGNE, LIVES WITH ALL THE INTENSITY AND DYNAMISM OF A LARGE METROPOLIS WHILE ENJOYING THE FREEDOM AND SERENITY OF THE WIDE-OPEN SPACES AROUND IT.

AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY THAT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY DAY, AND THAT VISITORS CAN ENJOY AS PART OF A CULTURAL CITY GETAWAY, A COUNTRYSIDE BREAK, A SPA VISIT OR A WORK MEETING.



The Buvette Eugénie (pump room) in the Royat Chamalières spa centre



This is a city which takes pride in its several thousand years of history and in its famous residents. Its origins go back to the erstwhile city of Nemessos, capital of the Arverni tribe. A symbol of the city's proud past, Vercingétorix, victorious at the Battle of Gergovia, sits imposingly astride his horse, sword raised, in Place de Jaude. And in this hall of fame we also find Pope Urban II, who, speaking at the Concile de Clermont in 1095, called for the First Crusade. And Blaise Pascal, scientist and man of letters, who, at the top of the Puy de Dôme, revealed the existence of atmospheric pressure.

A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION

These days, Clermont also prides itself in the inclusion of the Chaîne des Puys and the Limagne fault as a UNESCO World Heritage site, making it France's first natural location to join the prestigious list of exceptional geological phenomena, alongside Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Grand Canyon in the US. This has placed our unique landscape, which goes back to the division of the continents, firmly in the spotlight.

HERALDING A BOLD AND BRIGHT FUTURE

The city is looking ahead and enthusiastically paving the way towards its bid as European Capital of Culture for 2028. The abundance of events throughout the region, the scores of theatres, the cultural events and museums, novel design techniques, and the participation of all those involved, primarily that of its residents, demonstrate a genuine collective ambition.



EVERYDAY PLEASURES

Firmly rooted in a region where nature is everything and where the idea of terroir makes itself clearly understood, Clermont Auvergne Métropole lives with the seasons and enjoys every moment. Winter's bite adorns the trees in the parks and gardens with frost, covers the slopes with snow, making them ideal for sledding, and creates a yearning for sipping hot chocolate in tea rooms! Sparkling spring introduces pink and white blossom to the orchard, and the gentler temperatures create an opportunity for walks among the volcanoes; long

summer evenings make for a constant pretext for lingering on the terraces of the cafés; and after an extended and extraordinarily balmy summer, autumn is suddenly upon us. A few gusts of wind send the leaves cartwheeling in the wind, and it's time to enjoy mushrooms, and blazing fires in the hearth. The city and countryside constantly intermesh, providing ever more pleasures to match the mood of the day, the colour of the sky and the flavour of the month. So it's down to you to come and make the most of it all and... révélez-vous!

The Chaîne des Puys and the Limagne fault: UNESCO World Heritage site.



10.05 AM **EXHIBITION** AT THE MUSÉE BARGOIN 12.30 PM IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF MONTFERRAND 2.15 PM

OF THE AVENTURE MICHELI

ON PLACE DE JAUDI



8.05 PM AT LA COMÉDIE THEATRE

REVEAL YOURSELF





CITY & HERITAGE

SHAPED THROUGH THE AGES, CLERMONT-FERRAND WAS BUILT AROUND TWO TOWNS: ANCIENT CLERMONT AROUND THE HILL AND MEDIAEVAL MONTFERRAND, BESIDE THE FERTILE PLAIN OF LA LIMAGNE, IN THE NEOLITHIC ERA.



The Romanesque basilica of Notre-Dame-du-Port is a UNESCO World Heritage site as it lies on a French section of St James' Way

Jardin Lecog and its little lake

obbled streets and little squares, mansions built from Volvic stone, winegrowers' homes, large gardens and tree-filled courtyards, Belle Epoque luxury hotels and villas from the golden age of water cures in Royat-Chamalières: this city likes to change its tones and feels! It breathes in with the moving sunlight and lives in tune with its inhabitants: active, festive and serene.

The 12th century Romanesque Basilica of Notre-Damedu-Port is a stop-off point on St James' Way, and is built from arkose, providing an impression of perfect harmony, from the cascade of tiled roofs of the apse to its pointed steeple rising up at the transept. Perched at the top of the «central plateau», the cathedral, built between the 13th and 19th centuries, is different in style, t

different in style, totally Gothic, proudly displaying the sombre brilliance of its Volvic stone. On neighbouring Place de la Victoire, the terraces of the bars and restaurants fill up, children splash around in the fountain and Pope Urbain II points his stony finger eastwards, towards the Holy Land. A further vestige of the Middle Ages are the pretty, half-timbered and corbelled houses on the streets of Montferrand, reminders of the heyday of the Counts of Auvergne, pitting themselves against the omnipotence of the bishop of Clermont.

Oases of greenery and fresh air, the parks and gardens here are ideal spots to relax. Close to the universities, you can lie back on the gently sloping lawns of Jardin Lecoq, beneath the shade of the remarkable trees. Or you could find some relief a similar distance away and soak up the astonishing views of the city from Parc Bargoin. Replete with fresh air drawn in from the surrounding countryside, the food markets attract foodies looking for terroir and authenticity. For urban strolls and window shopping, people head to Place de Jaude and the pedestrian district, while bargain hunters are drawn out of bed on Sundays by a type of wistfulness: flea markets are sacrosanct here!



The River
Allier flows by at
Pont-du-Château,
looked over
by the ancient
castle





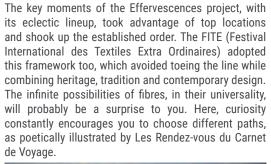
CITY & SENSATIONS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CLERMONT-FERRAND HAS A COPIOUS. IMAGINATIVE. POPULAR AND CHALLENGING ARRAY OF CULTURAL ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY, A DYNAMIC AND INVIGORATING CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO READY ITSELF FOR ITS BID AS EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2028.



opping the bill of major international events, the International Short Film Festival, set up by a few fans of the medium in 1982, is now the world's leading festival of its kind, and has enjoyed a dazzling career featuring no sequins or red carpets, but some 170 competing films from all over the world. It is also resolutely rock-focused, with a network of small venues, led by the Coopérative de Mai, as well as being home to alternative bands, an independent record label and a festival featuring the best of European music called Europavox, right at the start of the summer.

Because culture is an attitude, an opening of the mind towards the world and towards other people, it is intended to spill over into the public sphere. As well as the museums (the Musée Bargoin, dedicated to archaeology and textiles, the Roger-Quilliot art museum, the Resistance museum in Chamalières, the water transport museum in Pont-du-Château), culture makes itself happily at home on the street corner too.







The Effervescences project or series of events at the Comédie de Clermont / Scène nationale set the tempo for the Cultural Season









SPORTS & NATURE

NESTLED AMONG THE VOLCANOES OF THE CHAÎNE DES PUYS, CLERMONT SPREADS EASTWARDS TOWARDS THE FERTILE LIMAGNE PLAIN WITH THE RIVER ALLIER WINDING THROUGH IT. THE TECTONIC HOTSPOT OF THE CHAÎNE DES PUYS AND THE LIMAGNE FAULT IS NOW HOME TO EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE AREA DESIGNATED A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE. THIS MAJESTIC COUNTRYSIDE FORMS AN ENDLESS PLAYGROUND ON A GRAND SCALE

A tasty stop off to try Auvergne's 5 PDO cheeses



360° views from the top of the Puy-de-Dôme

Potée Auvergnate, a local cabbage-based speciality

tanding out along the line of rounded volcanic hilltops, the imposing shape of the Puy de Dôme culminates at a height of 1465 metres. Swaddled in snow or bedecked in blazing autumn foliage, its peak, via the Sentier des Muletiers, makes for a classic weekend hike, as well as being a takeoff point for paragliders. Using the rising air currents, swarms of multi-coloured craft wheel through the sky, in the distance occasionally passing by the silent and almost motionless progress of a hot air balloon. And down below, golfers in Orcines or Royat-Charade can make the most of the little valleys to improve their technique, while mountain bikers bomb down the paths beneath the forest canopy. With 300 km of marked routes, trails around the peaks along former Roman roads, alongside craters or in the shade of the woodland, those who enjoy big outings and those who prefer short strolls will all be spoiled for choice.

And if the temperature gets too high, then it's time to head for the cool banks of the Allier River, the valleys of the Artière gorges or the shady millstream in Cébazat. Days divide themselves between strolling around beneath the willow and pine trees, picnics on the riverbanks and canoe trips from the watersports

centre of Pont-du-Château. Others, meanwhile, will prefer to spend their time patiently waiting for the fish to bite. For a glimpse of the very bowels of the Earth, the volcano of Lemptegy and Vulcania both provide some really unforgettable experiences of which Jules Verne may have approved! At Lemptegy you'll find minerals, bombs, volcanic chimneys and lava flows; at Vulcania, it's all about entertainment and immersive reconstructions. Whatever you go for, you'll be in for a novel experience!

Golf on the volcanoes in some gorgeous settings





32 DESTINATIONS FOR THE INQUISITIVE

- Musée Bargoin
- 2 Muséum Henri-Lecoq
- 3 Jardin Lecoq
- 4 Basilica of Notre-Dame-du-Port
- 5 Cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption
- 6 Hôtel Fontfreyde photography centre
- Auvergne's contemporary arts centre (FRAC)
- Parc Montjuzet
- Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation
- Parc Bargoin
- The mediaeval town of Montferrand
- 12 Roger-Quilliot art museum
- (13) L'Aventure Michelin
- **4** ASM Expérience
- 15 La Coopérative de Mai
- 15 Parc Montgroux
- Sémaphore Cébazat
- 18 Tour de Châteaugay, vineyards
- Orcines golf club
- **20** Royatonic
- 21 Royat casino
- 22 Royat-Chamalières spa resort
- 23 Lemptégy volcano
- **2** Vulcania
- 2 Puy de Dôme
- **26** Circuit de Charade
- 2 Château d'Opme
- 2 Plateau of Gergovia
- 29 Grande Halle Zénith
- **30** Cournon Lake
- **31)** Musée de la Batellerie
- 1 The banks of the Allier at Pont-du-Château







SPA TREATMENTS & WELLBEING

ITS BENEFICIAL PROPERTIES FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH AND GUSHING FORTH AT THE SURFACE AFTER A JOURNEY LASTING SEVERAL THOUSAND YEARS. A MECCA DURING THE REIGN OF NAPOLOEN III, THE ELEGANT SPA RESORT OF ROYAT-CHAMALIÈRES IS, THESE DAYS, A CENTRE OF WELLBEING.

THE SOURCE OF WELLBEING: MINERAL WATER, DRAWING

Relaxing between treatments at the Thermes de Royat



Detail at a former luxury hotel in the spa area

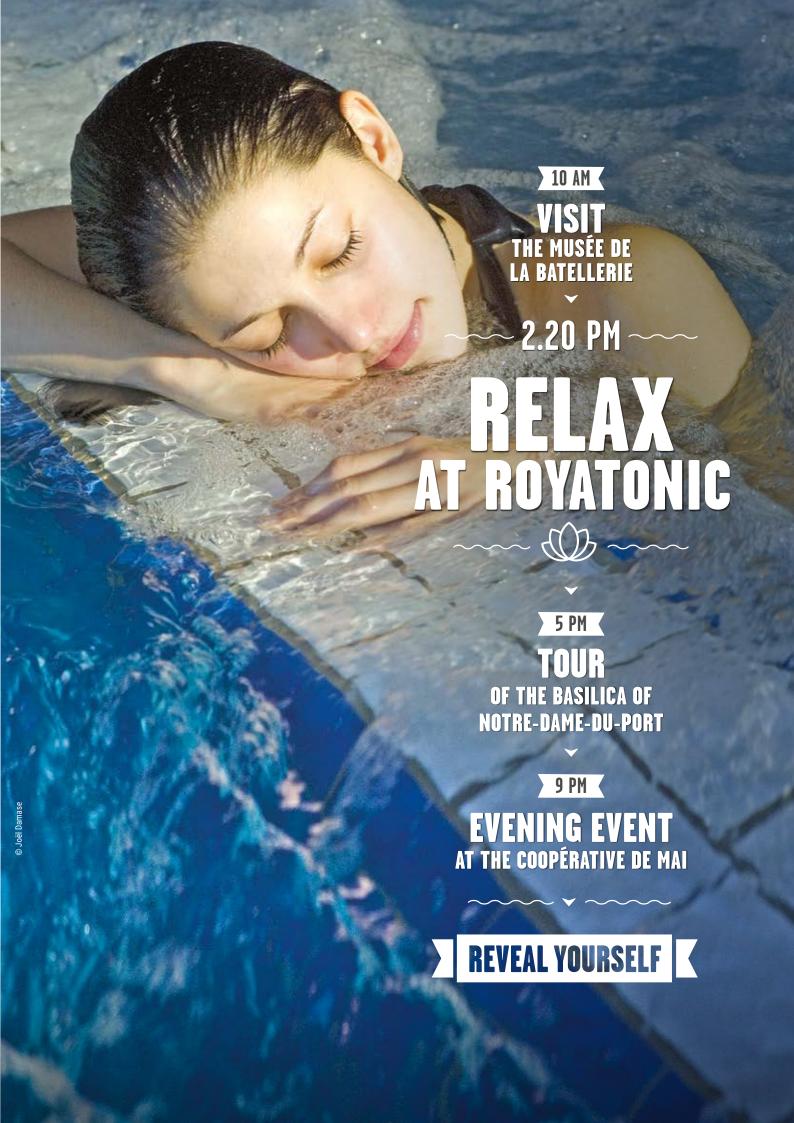
Fine food expresses itself to the full with the flavours of its bountiful terroir hile the Romans had exploited the location long ago, it was the discovery in 1844 of the

Grande Source which rekindled its name as a spa resort. The pleasant Tiretaine Valley thus became a therapy and holiday destination in which treatments, social events and entertainment were enjoyed by all. And after Napoleon III and Eugénie came to stay, Royat-Chamalières became more popular than ever. During the season, royalty, captains of industry and artists converged around the pump room, bandstand or casino. And the resort continued to embellish itself. The spa resort plays on its Gallo-Roman reminiscences; the Grand Hôtel with its highly ornate and imposing white walls, contrasting with the colourful enamel bricks of the Pavillon Majestic; the Paradis, looking like a feudal castle, with pretty Swiss chalets and neo-classical villas juxtaposed in the interlacing streets.

While this was a place that specialised in treating rheumatism and cardio-arterial illness, as well as providing medical alternatives this extended to treatment regimens for pleasure alone: water passage therapy, thermal baths, hydro-massage showers, warm mud applications etc.

And there's another centre which specialises in the idea of «letting go», called the Royatonic Bains & Spa. This focuses on a more contemporary approach to the spa, and also brings to mind the outdoor bathing tradition held so dear in Budapest. Here, you'll pass through indoor, cupola-topped lagoons to outdoor pools. With bubble beds, Jacuzzi, saunas, water jets, caldarium and tepidarium, water really is a source of contentedness here. And for something even more relaxing, how about a bit of me-time in the spa?









WANT SOMETHING CHALLENGING?

BUSINESS TRAVEL

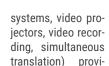
CLERMONT ENJOYS A STRATEGIC CENTRAL LOCATION,
PROVIDING VARIOUS MAJOR BENEFITS WHEN IT COMES TO
STAGING PROFESSIONAL EVENTS: AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION, INNOVATIVE FACILITIES AND AN
EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENT.



¿ L'Opéra Théâtre

et at the intersection of major motorways, this is an increasingly sought after destination in terms of business travel. Indeed it has the assets needed to manage large-scale events such as the Sommet de l'Elevage as well as company conventions, symposiums, meetings and team-building.

With the Grande Halle d'Auvergne, a huge exhibition and convention centre (12,600 m² under cover), the region's largest Zénith, in Cournon, and Polydôme, a Business Centre right in the city centre, a wide range of facilities featuring the latest technology (sound



des the perfect setting for all kinds of meetings.

Large-scale professional meetings often alternate with intense work sessions and times for relaxation and unwinding. L'Aventure Michelin has an extraordinary past, so a visit here is an opportunity to explore its history which goes back more than 100 years, and which turned rubber into a leading light of the economy. Another success story which reflects a pleasing team spirit and the concept of fair play, come and immerse yourself in the ASM Experience too, and get to the roots of the game of rugby. Set in the heart of the Parc Naturel des Volcans d'Auvergne, Vulcania is an amusement park that's in direct contact with the environment. An action-packed leisure park with a department set aside for company projects, which can be hired out privately. And there are other amazing locations available for your events too, including the Marcel-Michelin stadium, the Roger Quilliot art museum and the Opéra-Théâtre.

With a wealth of high-quality accommodation options available, featuring more than 1,800 hotel rooms the length of the tramline, and around 6,000 throughout the region, you can also be sure of restorative nights and minimal transfer times!



Le Panoramique des Dômes, at one with the volcanic landscape



Volcano evening at Vulcania

An inviting atmosphere on Place de Jaude at rugby matches



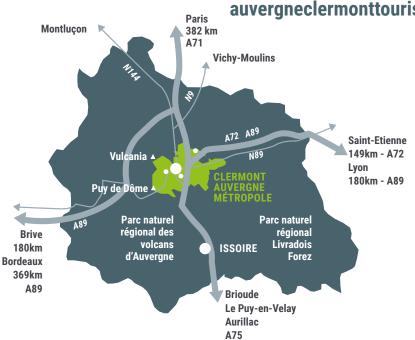


OPENING TIMES & HOW TO GET HERE

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clermontauvergnetourisme.com auvergneclermonttourism.com

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MAISON DU TOURISME

Place de la Victoire - 63000 Clermont-Ferrand +33 (0)4 73 98 65 00

info@clermontauvergnetourisme.com

> 1st July to 31th August:

Open every day, 10 am to 7 pm

> 1st September to 30th June:

Open every day, 10 am to 6 pm

Weekends and public holidays, 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm

Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, on Sundays during January and November, Monday mornings until 1 pm except during French school holidays and public holidays

ROYAT-CHAMALIÈRES

Place Allard - 63130 Royat +33 (0)4 73 29 74 70

royat@clermontauvergnetourisme.com

> November to March:

Monday to Friday: 9 am to noon and 2 pm to 5 pm (closed on Monday morning except during French school holidays)

> April to June, September and October:

Monday to Saturday: 9 am to noon and 2 pm to 6 pm

Sundays and public holidays: 9.30 am to noon

> July and August

Monday to Friday: 9 am to 6 pm Saturday: 9 am to noon and 1.30 pm to 6 pm Sunday: 9.30 am to noon and 2 pm to 5 pm



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Barcelona

Lyon

Marseille





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