

# PAYS-D'ENHAUT

Château-d'Oex | Rougemont | Rossinière



PAYS D'ENHAUT  
CHÂTEAU-D'OEX - ROUGEMONT - ROSSINIÈRE



View of the Lac de l'Hongrin from the Monts-Chevreuil



# *“Another time. Another place.”*

---

**Welcome to the Pays-d’Enhaut!** Nestled high above Lake Geneva in the heart of the Vaud Alps, this little paradise is full of surprises. Far from the stress of city life our regional mountains are uplifting, pure and limitless and offer so many benefits and opportunities. Whether you’re visiting in summer or winter, the towns of Château-d’Oex, Rougemont and Rossinière are ideal places for a change of scene. With many recreational, cultural and sporting activities on offer, the leisure and entertainment calendar also features original and festive events.

**Tie up your boot laces and don your skis** or snow shoes any time of year, then roam the peaks of our beautiful region. Take time out in one of the many alpine chalets and soak in the warm, authentic hospitality. Another world beckons where time stands still. Then, indulge your curiosity on a trip to the cheese cellars at L’Etivaz. This local speciality cheese finds its way onto every discerning gourmet’s table.

**Come for a day, a weekend, or maybe longer.** Recharge your batteries as a family, a couple or solo traveller and enjoy the best that life has to offer.

**Reach to the skies as you take off in a hot air balloon** from Château-d’Oex, the world’s ballooning capital. Visit our villages and marvel at the rich architectural heritage. Then, explore our museums, churches or chapels and uncover the riches of local history and customs.

**With our mountains as a backdrop,** you’re free to create your own magical experiences! Pays-d’Enhaut Tourism hopes you have a very pleasant stay with us. Please feel free to visit our three information centres in Château-d’Oex, Rougemont and Rossinière.

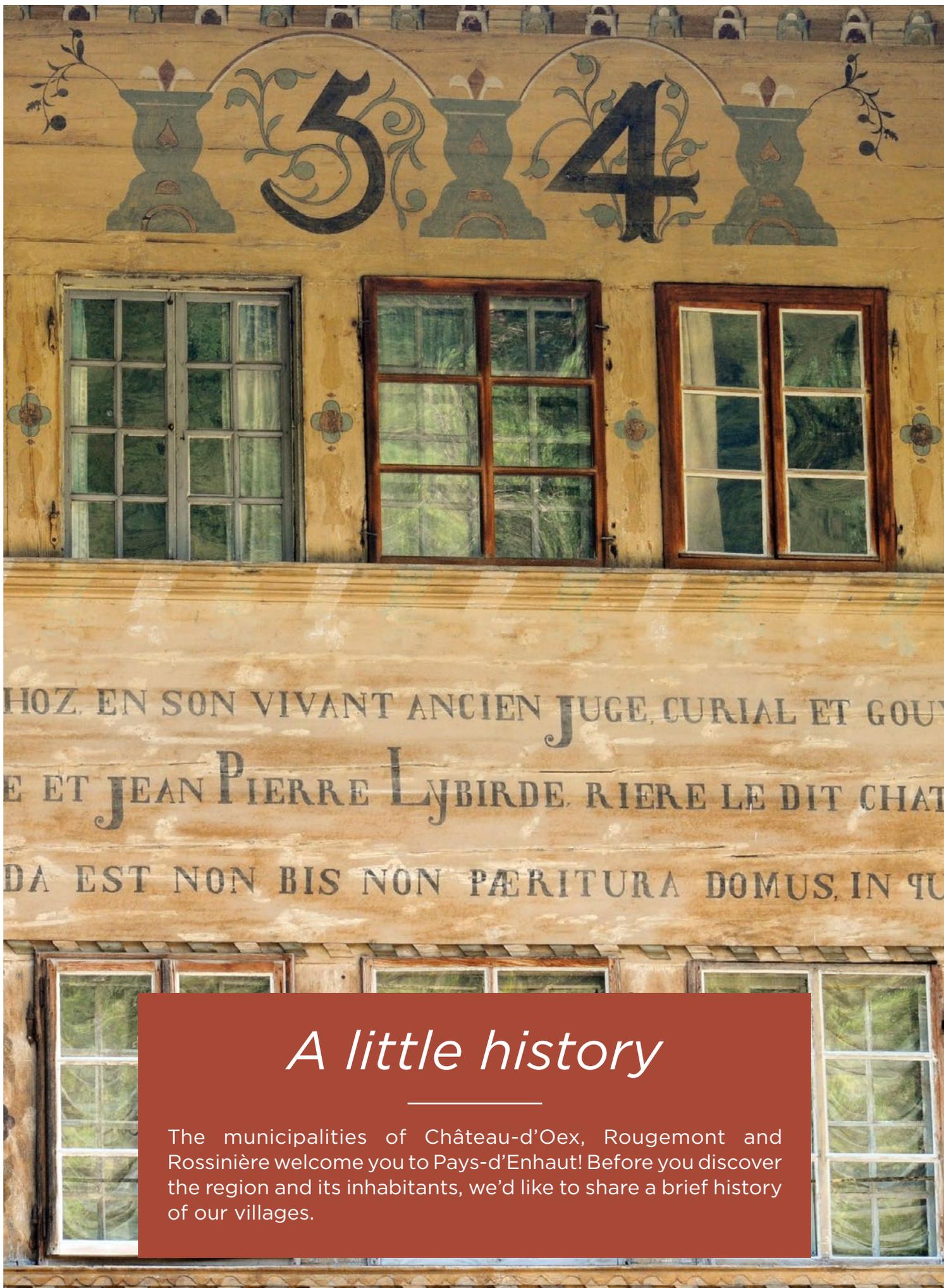
# Contents

---

A little history	<b>p. 4</b>
The legends of Pays-d'Enhaut	<b>p. 8</b>
At the heart of the Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut Regional Nature Reserve	<b>p. 15</b>
Major events through the seasons	<b>p. 17</b>
Take to the skies in the Pays-d'Enhaut!	<b>p. 20</b>
Shared traditions, shared culture	<b>p. 23</b>
The Pays-d'Enhaut for gourmets	<b>p. 25</b>
Winter sports	<b>p. 28</b>
Summer in the mountains	<b>p. 32</b>
Accommodation	<b>p. 35</b>
Travelling by train	<b>p. 36</b>
Practical information	<b>p. 37</b>

Press pack 2019

Photo credits: Dylan Nicolier, dylannicolier.ch | Sebastien Staub, sebastienstaub.com | Fabrice Wagner, photowagner.ch | Marc-André Marmillod, marmillod.net | Claudie Baumberger | Pays-d'Enhaut Tourisme



## *A little history*

The municipalities of Château-d'Oex, Rougemont and Rossinière welcome you to Pays-d'Enhaut! Before you discover the region and its inhabitants, we'd like to share a brief history of our villages.



View of Château-d'Oex



Château-d'Oex's Olympic swimming pool



Breitling's Orbiter 1 capsule

## CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

A mountain village situated between the Alps of Vaud, the Saanenland and Gruyère, Château-d'Oex was one of the strongholds in the Valley of the Sarine considered a “secondary” castle during the era of the Count of Gruyère. The most important fortification was situated on a verdant hilltop bordering Château-d'Oex: La Motte. The castle was probably a centre for the local community. At the time, the castle and the village of “The Villa of CEx” located on the side of the mountain were opposite each other. The name Château-d'Oex is believed to derive from the Celtic “hoch gau,” which in turn became “Ogoz ou Oex” (the high country). This would explain

the link with the “Pays-d'Enhaut” – the “Oberland romand.” At 970 metres above sea level, Château-d'Oex is surrounded by three mountain ranges that reach almost 2,000 metres.

Several events have marked the history of the municipality, notably fires and the creation of communication channels: **The fires** of 22 May 1664, 1 April 1741 and 27–28 July 1800 largely destroyed the village of Château-d'Oex.

**The Col des Mosses road**, begun in 1865 and completed in 1868, provided new access to the plain for the village and the Pays-d'Enhaut region.

**The arrival of the railway** also accelerated the increase in boarding houses and prompted the construction of imposing hotels. Between 1900 and 1904, the arrival of the MOB railway relaunched the old direct route to the Riviera via the Col de Jaman, thus consolidating the development of tourism.

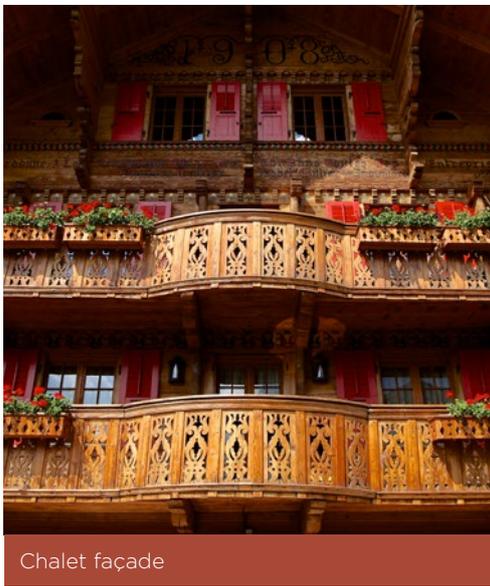
Since then, as well as during the preceding 19<sup>th</sup> century, many famous travellers, such as Victor Hugo, have done us the honour of visiting our region.



### COLLINE DU TEMPLE



Jumping from valley to valley, passing from peak to peak, a giant arrived in the Pays-d'Enhaut. Wanting to drink from the River Sarine, his head, which was a little heavy that day, and his burden, which was no lighter, made him topple over in such a way that his hood spread out and formed the little mountain on which the temple of Château-d'Oex was built.



Chalet façade



Rougemont Priory

## ROUGEMONT

Rougemont is located half way between Château-d'Oex and Gstaad. Its history is closely linked to its church and priory.

Count Wilaire of Gruyère gave the Rougemont lands to the monks of Cluny before departing on a crusade. Beginning in 1080, the first

priory built the church, helped by the monks and local inhabitants. The village became the property of Bernese bailiffs in 1555.

On Christmas Day, the monks sang their last Christmas carol before vacating the premises. The church then became a protestant place

of worship. At the same time, the Bernese introduced teaching, and the area enjoyed economic prosperity thanks to the production of cheese, which was exported to Vevey, then Lyon, even as far as Constantinople and other destinations. In 1798, Rougemont became part of the Pays de Vaud.

### Rougemont, Switzerland's most beautiful village!

2017 was an outstanding year for Rougemont. Indeed, the destination was classified as one of Switzerland's most beautiful villages by the association of the same name. The title graces a heritage that is exceptional in both historic and architectural terms. An authentic, peaceful mountain village, Rougemont boasts several

ancient chalets with carved pediments and façades richly adorned with flowers, biblical inscriptions or the names of former owners. Some of them are more than 400 years old! On request, the tourist office will be pleased to organise visits to the village by experienced guides to help you discover more of these special features.



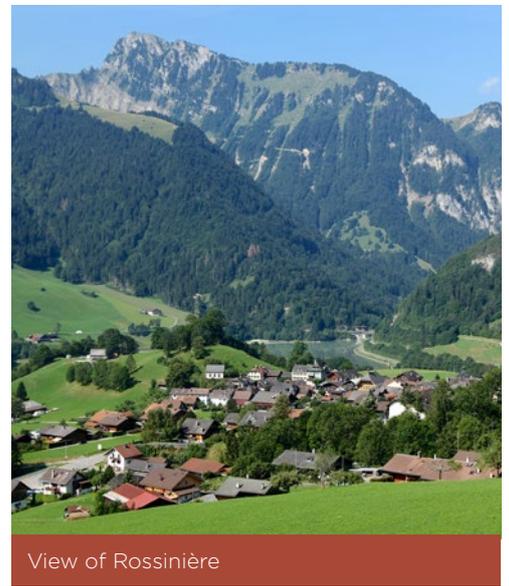
Detail of a shingled roof



The Balthus Chapel



The Grand Chalet in Rossinière



View of Rossinière

## ROSSINIÈRE

Rossinière is a municipality of 500 inhabitants, with a variety of economic activities and a rich natural and architectural heritage. The landscape has been shaped by the area's original activities of agriculture and forestry. This typically pre-Alpine village cultivates an approach to tourism that encourages encounters and exchanges while nonetheless preserving its customs and quality of life.

Built at the foot of Mount Cray in the Sarine Valley, Rossinière boasts several historic monuments. Indeed, it is difficult to come to Rossinière without stopping at the Grand Chalet, once home of the painter Balthus. Built in 1754, this chalet constructed from planks is still considered one of the greatest wooden buildings in Switzerland, indeed in Europe, to this day. Classified a monument of national importance, as is the Cathedral of Lausanne, its five-floor façade is adorned with 113 windows. Even if the imposing residence is not open to the public, its exterior, grey roof, woodwork, friezes and painted decorations are worth the trip alone.

**Balthus.** Completed in 1765, the Grand Chalet was built on the edge of the village by a notable cheese maker, who equipped it with spacious cellars for maturing cheese. The cellars could accommodate up to 600 loaves, intended for sale to the merchants of Bulle, or for export via Vevey and Lyon. Altered by several successive owners, the building was finally bought in 1977 by Count Balthazar Klossowski de Rola, who moved in with his wife, Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola, and their daughter Harumi. He lived there until his death in 2001. Today, this unique, timeless place is still the family's home as well the site of the Balthus Foundation's activities.

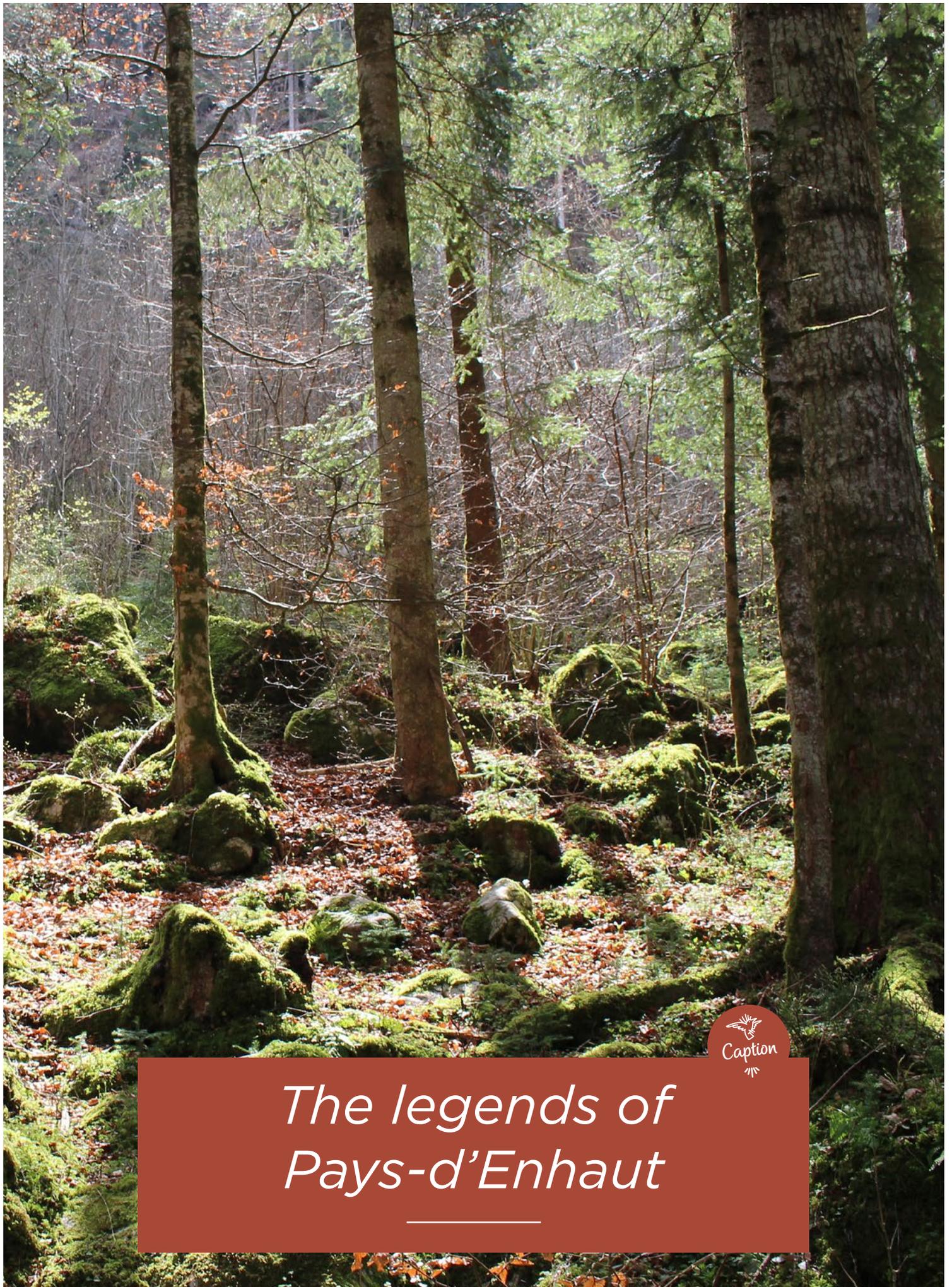
Over the years, in this impressive building nestled in a hollow of a valley in the Pays-d'Enhaut, the painter and his wife gathered their contemporaries - painters, writers, film-makers and poets - to share their respective practices, come up with new ways of combining the arts, and to question the world.

**Balthus Chapel.** Located at the centre of the village of Rossinière, the Balthus Chapel is a space dedicated to the memory of the artist. A new installation presents a film by Wim Wenders about Balthus's studio. Visitors will find information on the artist's life as well as a library that enable them to delve deeper into the universe of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's greatest figurative painters.



### ORIGIN OF "PÉTOLET"

In days of old, goats were the masters of the upper reaches of the village of Rossinière. According to legend, their "pétoles" (droppings) would plummet down into the village. This is the origin of the nickname "Pétolet" given to the inhabitants of Rossinière.



*The legends of  
Pays-d'Enhaut*

---



Forest in Rougemont



A hidden cabin



Living mountains

In the mythology of Vaud, “les fées” (fairies) are supernatural beings, at once terrestrial and celestial. While the “servans” (elves) lived in or near houses, the “fées” chose mainly to dwell in silent, remote places, in the deep, mossy crevasses of boulders and forests, high places, and

caves. There, high up in those quiet regions, well above the noise of the plain and the trouble of the cities, they had their little green plateaus, boulders, grottos, their clear streams and resting places. Lovers above all of silence, blue skies, pure air and bright sunlight, the good

fairies of Vaud were only happy in quiet solitude. Kind rather than malevolent, they appear in Vaud mythology as good, peaceable spirits of the mountains, of which they were the charming and jealous guardians.

---

## ELVES AND LEPRECHAUNS

In the mountains of Vaud, “servan” (elf) is the popular name for the spirit of the family or the house. The elf is helpful, a joker or mischievous, and sings in chalets, stables and old houses. The services that these roguish and malicious spirits rendered were all voluntary, but they would recompense themselves by playing tricks on the masters of the house or the female servants. They were characterised not so much by being small, but by their invisibility; above all, by their capricious nature, which was sometimes obliging (as their name suggests), sometimes angry, sometimes gentle and sometimes with a tendency to tease and be vindictive. But thanks to the elves, more than a few arduous tasks would be completed while the person under their protection slept. The elf was the protector of children,

the herds, possessions, the fields, far-off properties, uninhabited chalets. He could act as a second conscience and a frightening spectre for disloyal servants, and for thieves tempted to make a bad move. What did they ask in return for such good, indeed precious services? First and foremost, silence and discretion about their own persons, a place of shelter beneath the beloved roof, a little helping, usually the first, of the soup of the day, or of the milk from the evening milking session. This frugal pittance was poured into a special tub that was deposited on the roof of the chalet. A hundred misfortunes would befall anyone foolhardy enough to show the slightest lack of gratitude, refused such food, neglected or contaminated this meal – in a word, anyone who dared to commit a grave

offence! Misfortune would befall a servant girl or shepherd who spoke ill or inappropriately of the elf! They could expect some nasty tricks to be played on them. Or rather: the cattle would no longer be watched; the bedroom and kitchen would no longer be swept at dawn; water and wood would no longer be brought punctually; night time and sleep would be troubled by strange noises, and implacable resentment would be satisfied. There would be a terrible din and unusual revenge would be taken. Or, moreover, the poor, vexed elf, contrite, would one day disappear in some solitary wilderness or an old, ruined hovel from whence, at night, he could be heard groaning or seen wandering in the form of a young man or a ghost, or perhaps an animal, such as a cat, a fox or a marten.

## L'ÉTIVAZ – A FOXY ELF

One of the most famous elves of our valley and also one of the most cunning was the one who lived at the Martines, a house close to our own. His character was most sardonic. In the darkness of the “galeta” (a spirit’s retreat), peals of strange laughter could be heard. He could be seen in various forms, sometimes as an animal, sometimes as a phantom; he seemed to be amused by the terror he inspired. A man from Château-d’Oex, passing the house during the night, which at the time should have been

uninhabited, was very surprised to see a light shining in one of the bedrooms on the upper floor. He gently leaned a ladder against the wall to find out what people were doing there. What did he see? A fox, seating, quietly threading his distaff by the light of a little lamp, and taunting him with comical grimaces. Another individual who was keeping a lookout near the barn, saw him at midnight in the same form – that of a passing fox. While the hunter was taking aim at him, the animal came straight towards

him, and as it did so became bigger and bigger, until finally it was larger than a horse. The hunter dropped his gun. A shot was fired; the vision vanished, leaving the hunter terrified and his gun in pieces. Many people have also claimed that they saw the elf in various circumstances, and my mother used to tell me that when she was a young girl, she was given five pennies to go and shout an insult at the elf in his retreat at the Martines’ house at midnight. She returned safe and sound, but “with a terrible fright.”

## ROUGEMONT – A NURSEMAID ELF

One fine Sunday morning, the people of Rougemont were coming out of church. Passing a house near the village, to their great dismay they saw a child that had been left alone sitting on the outside sill of an upper-storey window. Despite the danger of the situation on the

very narrow ledge, the careless child didn’t seem to be the least bit worried.

–“Cau t’a met inqué, mon boubo?”  
(Who put you there, my boy?)  
one of the passers-by asked him.

–“Oh! d’hé lominon!” (Oh! It’s the cat, or rather the elf), the child replied.

## THE ELF – GUARDIAN OF THE FRUIT

Near the same village, the labourers were busy mowing and drying the grass in an orchard while their master was at home. Pointing out a splendid apple tree loaded with superb fruit, they decided amongst themselves to raid it for their own benefit. They rapidly picked a large amount of fruit, quickly hiding it in the barn among the fodder. The man who had been instructed to put the result of the raid in a safe

place covered the fruit with a little hay and, having completed his task, ran to join his companions – not without trepidation.

Shortly afterwards, their master arrived, when straight to the barn and, to his workers’ consternation, climbed onto the pile of hay without saying a word. He then walked here and there, finally exclaiming as he walked on the pile of hidden apples:

– Eh! mâtin! chaï y est tsan-crameint dur par ché! (It’s terribly hard here.)

The workers – who pretended not to see anything, but who had heard their master’s observation – exclaimed: No sein mau areinds!... d’hé l’ôtroque lo la y a de. (We’re in trouble... It’s the other one – the elf – who told him about this business.)

## THE SOURCE OF THE CHAUDANNE

Those who have roamed the Pays-d'Enhaut will know that the water that flows down from the Morteys Valley, from Brenlaire or the nearby wetlands, converges in the shallows of the Mokausa. There, finding no escape on the surface of the ground, it disappears into the funnels sunk into the ground in the farthest north-eastern point of the plain, along the cliffs of the Bimis.

- Where does this water go?

This question is the subject of much speculation. Ordinary people, who

always like to find an explanation for the riddles of nature, did not hesitate to find a place for this water, which escapes so mysteriously, to re-emerge: they said it reappeared in La Chaudanne (between Château-d'Oex and Rossinière) in the form of a magnificent spring that even those least susceptible to the beauties of nature never tire of admiring. Based on this idea the story has been handed down from generation to generation that one day an intrepid researcher threw a few sacks of sawdust into the funnels of the

Verda; it didn't fail to resurface in La Chaudanne. People even say - to silence the most incredulous - that a pretty girl from Fribourg, to whose charms a handsome shepherd from Rougement had remained oblivious, drowned herself in despair in the lake of Mokausa. She disappeared into the waters without a trace; however, the spring in La Chaudanne deposited two beautiful blond tresses on its banks, which were recognised to have belonged to the poor shepherdess from Fribourg.



The Sarine in winter

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with scattered houses and small farms. The middle ground is dominated by dense, dark green forests covering the slopes. In the background, majestic mountains with rocky peaks and patches of snow rise against a clear blue sky. The overall scene depicts a harmonious blend of natural beauty and human settlement.

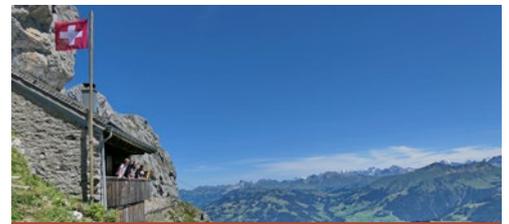
# *At the heart of the Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut Regional Nature Reserve*

---

The Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut Regional Nature Reserve illustrates the symbiosis between man, the natural world and culture.



View of the Gummfluh



A hut on the Videmanette



The park in winter



Numerous Alpine pastures, chalets with shingled roofs, villages with a rich history and stone bridges straddling the River Sarine all bear witness to a centuries-old culture. Even today, the inhabitants of the region celebrate their attachment to their roots with a great number of popular festivals and by continuing to respect their traditions. Above all, they appreciate the enchanting landscape that is their own. The nature reserves of the Pierreuse and the Vanil Noir are prime examples.

The Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut Regional Nature Reserve offers discovery trips: the "Grand Tour des Vanils" is a hike that lasts 11 days, designed for experienced walkers. The Nature Reserve also presents an entire programme of accompanied activities at lower altitudes to observe the fauna, to discover the villages and their architectural heritage, or explore the nature reserves.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**Location:** on horseback through the cantons of Fribourg and Vaud, 80 km from Lausanne and 60 km from Fribourg

**Surface area:** 503 km<sup>2</sup>

**Number of inhabitants:** 12,500

**Number of municipalities:** 14

**Number of regions:** 4 (Vallée de la Jogne: Cerniat, Charmey, Châtel-sur-Montsalvens, Crésuz. Vallée de l'Intyamon: Bas-Intyamon, Grandvillard, Haut-Intyamon. Pays-d'Enhaut: Château-d'Oex, Ormont-Des-sous (Les Mosses), Rossinière, Rougemont. Rochers-de-Naye: the upper reaches of the three municipalities of Montreux, Veytaux (including the Château de Chillon), and Villeneuve

## ADDRESS

Parc naturel régional Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut

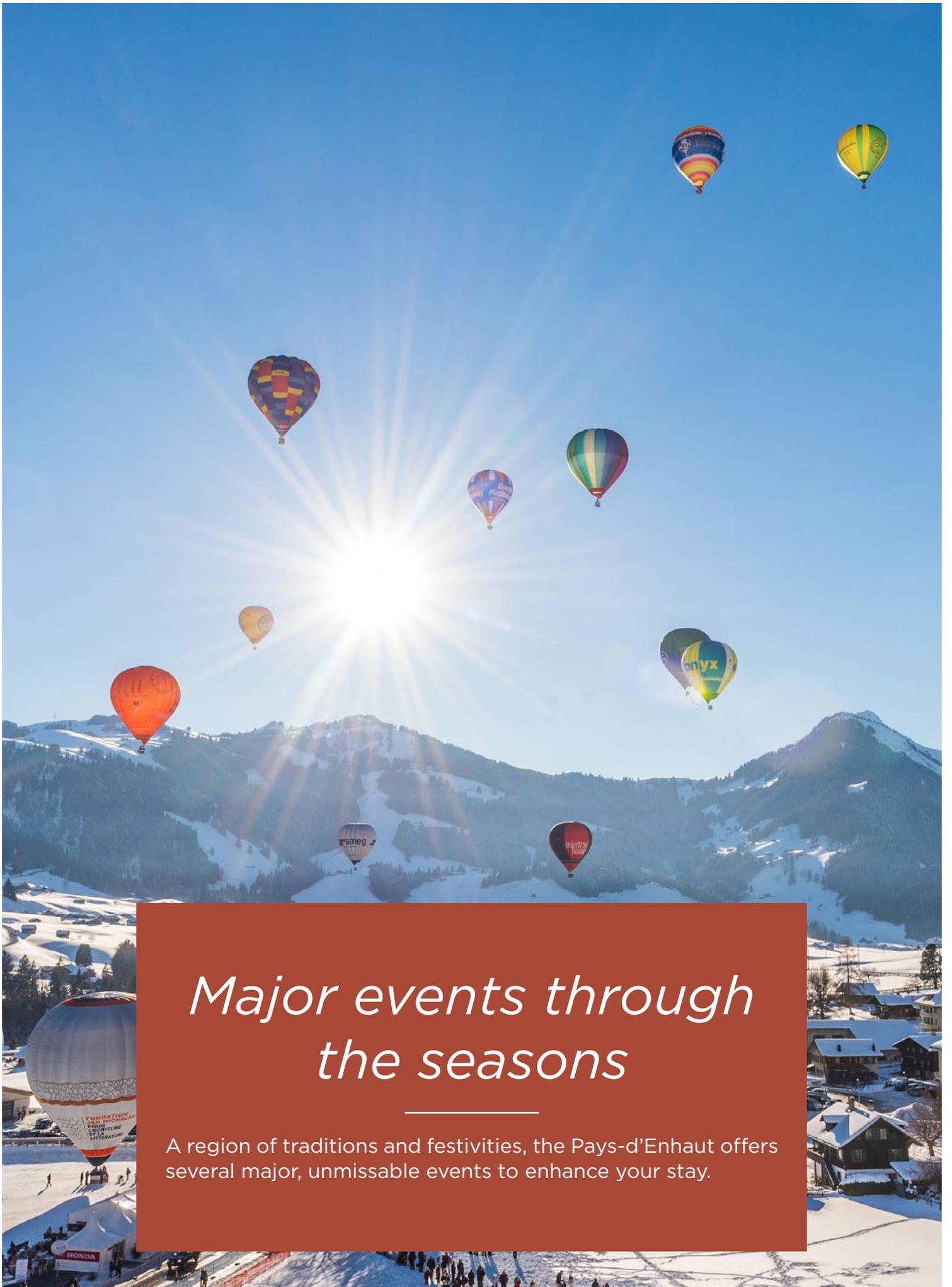
Place du Village 6, 1660 Château-d'Oex

Tel. +41 (0)26 924 76 93

info@gruyerepaysdenhaut.ch | www.gruyerepaysdenhaut.ch

## MISSIONS

- 1 Conservation and enhancement of the quality of nature and the landscape
- 2 Reinforcement of economic activities focused on sustainable development
- 3 Raising public awareness of and education in environmental issues



## *Major events through the seasons*

A region of traditions and festivities, the Pays-d'Enhaut offers several major, unmissable events to enhance your stay.



Festival au Pays des Enfants



Journées du Papier Découpé



Supertrail du Barlatay

## JANUARY

**International Balloon Festival (FIB).** Every year, this festival attracts balloonists, including the pilots of special balloon types, from all over the world. For nine days, hot air balloons take to the skies above Château-d'Oex and throughout the valley, offering a breathtaking spectacle. Wednesday afternoons are devoted to children, with captive flights, creative workshops, a balloon release and a sumptuous tea! [www.festivaldeballons.ch](http://www.festivaldeballons.ch)

## FEBRUARY

At nightfall, the **Rallye du Goût** (Taste Rally) at Château-d'Oex will take you on a three-kilometre trail along the River Sarine, punctuated with gourmet stopovers. By the glow of lanterns and moonlight, about ten local producers with the label "Pays-d'Enhaut Produits Authentiques" (Authentic Pays-d'Enhaut Products) share their expertise and passion, offering tastings of their produce, including speciality cheeses, cured meats,

charcuterie, sausages, regional honey, wines, syrups and plant infusions. The trail concludes with an excellent chalet soup and a plate of "desserts maison," all against a backdrop of folk music.

[www.rallyedugout.ch](http://www.rallyedugout.ch)

## MAY

The month of May sees the **Festival de la Folia** in Rougemont. This five-day festival of early music celebrates classical music as well as Rougement's exceptional historic heritage. Concerts are given in the village church.

[www.festival-la-folia.ch](http://www.festival-la-folia.ch)

## JULY, AUGUST

During the **Journées du Papier Découpé** (Paper-Cutting Festival), about twenty artists cut and exhibit their works in the underpass at Château-d'Oex railway station. For a weekend, visitors can observe

and engage directly with the artists, who have come from all over Switzerland. Workshops are also on offer.

[www.chateau-doex.ch/jpd](http://www.chateau-doex.ch/jpd)

The **Festival au Pays des Enfants** (Children's Festival) is organised at Château-d'Oex in July. For five days, young and old alike are delighted by street events, outdoor and indoor performances! The programme includes laughter, discoveries, apprenticeships and unforgettable encounters for children of all ages.

[www.aupaysdesenfants.ch](http://www.aupaysdesenfants.ch)

"Barlatay" is a patois word for the men who conveyed the Etivaz AOP cheese from the alpine pastures to the Etivaz cellars. In 2012, the "**Supertrail du Barlatay**" association was born with the aim of bringing back to life the history of the Barlatay, organising running trails, and promoting the Pays-d'Enhaut region, particularly the Etivaz area. Three running trails are organised in August. The Barlatay is expanding, and welcomes more than

600 runners and approximately 150 children each year. The trail has won fifth prize at the Swiss Trail Awards.

[www.barlatay.ch](http://www.barlatay.ch)

The Château-d'Oex **International VW Beetle Meeting** is organised every two years at the end of August by the Lémania Coccinelle Club. The event is attended by enthusiasts from all over Europe who come to share their love for these vintage cars - the Beetle or VW bus models dating from before 1981. Almost 1,500 vehicles are in attendance at each edition of the event, held on the airfield for balloons at the entrance of the village, much to the delight of the 10,000 to 15,000 visitors present over the weekend. [www.coccinelle.ch](http://www.coccinelle.ch)

## SEPTEMBER

Every change of season is a reason to celebrate. At the end of September, the **Désalpe de L'Etivaz** (cattle drive down from the Alps) marks the end of the summer and a season of hard work for the milk producers of Pays-d'Enhaut. It celebrates the moment when the cows come down from their Alpine pastures to spend the winter in the valley. Every year, about fifteen farming families, with 300 to 400 cattle between them, take part in this meeting. For the occasion, the "armaillis" - a local term for "mountain shepherds" - don their finest costumes, traditional dzepons (short jackets) and white shirts. The cows are adorned with their most beautiful bells. The magnificently decorated herds cross the village under the gaze of the spectators before continuing their route on foot to the barns.

[www.etivaz-aoc.ch](http://www.etivaz-aoc.ch)

## OCTOBER

In the woods above Rougemont, some of the world's most beautiful trees can be found, which are ideal for resonance wood. What could be more appropriate than a ten-day event devoted to showcasing this marvellous heritage? Each year in mid-October, the "**Le Bois qui Chante**" Festival (Singing Wood Festival) at Château-d'Oex thus pays homage to the great family of woodwind instruments. Attracting large audiences, it offers a rich and varied programme featuring classical and modern concerts, cinema screenings, conferences, children's events and hikes in the woods to discover the singing trees.

[www.bois-qui-chante.ch](http://www.bois-qui-chante.ch)



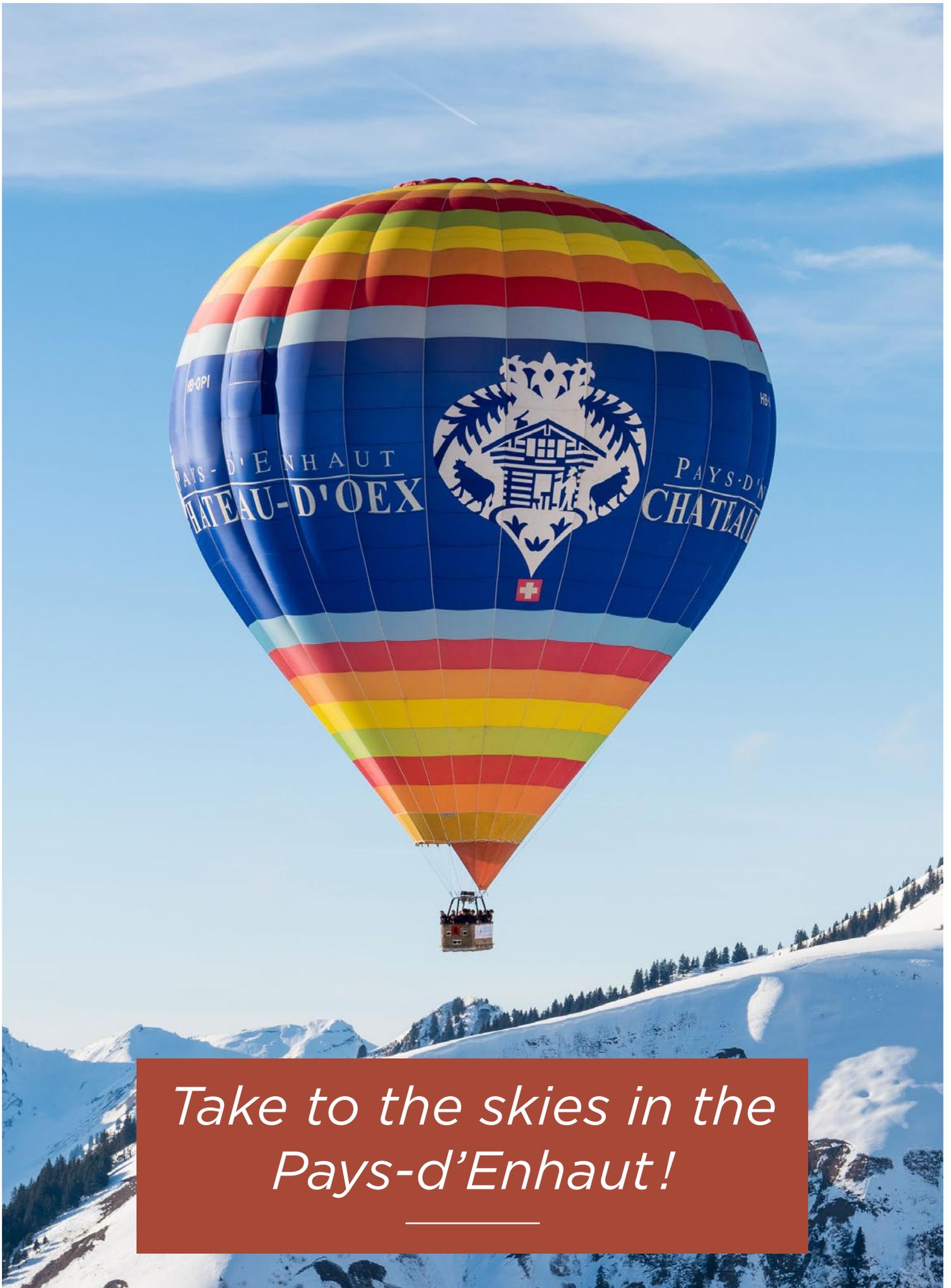
Meeting International VW Cox



Désalpe de l'Etivaz



Le Bois qui Chante



*Take to the skies in the  
Pays-d'Enhaut!*



International Hot Air Balloon Festival

## BALLOON TRIPS

Known far and wide for its International Hot Air Balloon Festival, Château-d'Oex is the ideal place to make your maiden voyage in a hot air balloon. Flights are offered every day of the year by SkyEvent SA, taking off from the airfield at the entrance of the village. Ballooning is an activity to be enjoyed alone, in groups, as a family or with friends, whenever weather conditions permit. The magic begins to take effect as soon as you take your place in the basket. Once the sail is full, the balloon rises skywards, as light as a soap bubble, up to altitudes of between 2,500 and 3,000 metres.

After only a few minutes in the air, a splendid spectacle will reveal itself to you: a 360-degree view of the valley and its most beautiful peaks. Suspended in the air, amid utter calm, you will be able to admire the entire panorama of the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Eiger, encompassing views of the Grand Combin, the Cervin and the Jura, not to mention the entire Lake

Geneva and Fribourg regions. The adventure is complete when a flight certificate is awarded and a glass of friendship is drunk after landing and the balloon has been folded. Please note that flights are on offer at the end of the day throughout the summer in the Gruyère region, with views of the Swiss plateau.



Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones

## THE ADVENTURE OF THE BREITLING ORBITER

On 12 January 1997, Bertrand Piccard took off from Château-d'Oex aboard the capsule of the Breitling Orbiter 1 accompanied by his team mate Wim Verstraeten. Only a few hours after their departure, they were forced to shorten their stay in the air due to leaking fuel. The capsule finished its trajectory in the Mediterranean Sea, not far from Montpellier. The Breitling Orbiter's second attempt was in February 1998. Being forbidden to fly over China, Bertrand Piccard and his two team mates, Wim Verstraeten and Andy Elson, were forced to land in Myanmar. On 1 March 1999, the Breitling Orbiter 3 took off from Château-d'Oex with Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones on board. They then completed the first non-stop, round-the-world trip in a hot air balloon.

### *Where are the three capsules exhibited?*

- Breitling Orbiter 1:** next to the Musée Espace Ballon in Château-d'Oex
- Breitling Orbiter 2:** at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne
- Breitling Orbiter 3:** at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington

## L'ESPACE BALLON

**O** The Espace Ballon tells the story of the hot air balloon from its origins to the present day, without forgetting the 19-day, round-the-world trip made by Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones.

The Espace Ballon has been arranged in the former Town Hall, an historic building located in the centre of the village. The space features a welcome area dedicated exclusively to social activities, services and practical questions related to the balloon. The building also features a shop for visitors.

On the upper floor, an exhibition enhanced by high-quality multi-media features presents the hot air balloon in all its guises. History, invention, technology, adventure: no aspect has been neglected, ensuring the accurate recreation of the marvellous world of balloonists.

*“At the Espace Ballon, no aspect has been neglected, ensuring the accurate recreation of the marvellous world of balloonists.”*



L'Espace Ballon

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pair of black-handled scissors, cutting a piece of white paper with intricate black cutouts. The cutouts depict a mountainous landscape with a cabin, trees, and figures. The background is a blurred view of a similar cutout scene.

## *Shared traditions, shared culture*

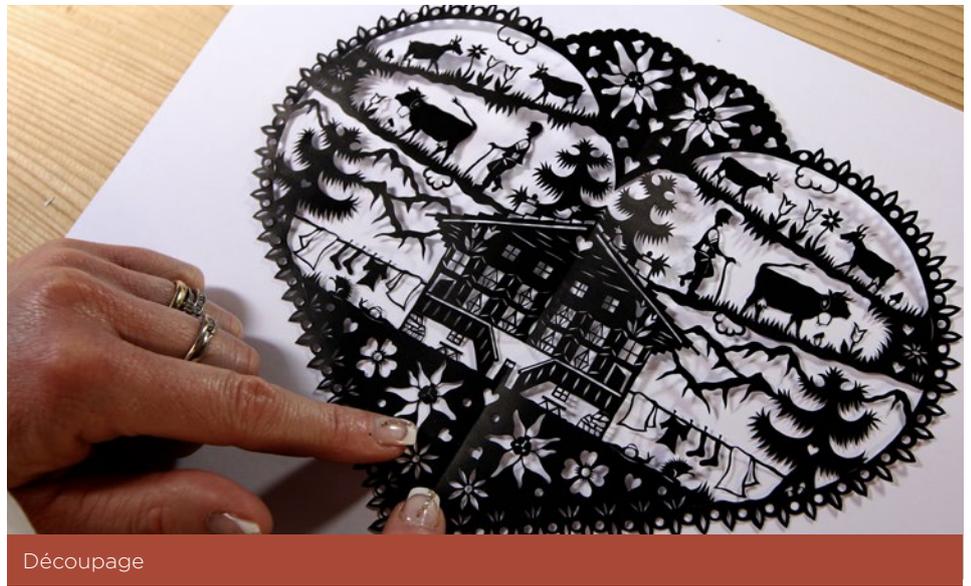
The Pays-d'Enhaut has carefully preserved its heritage and traditions down the ages. Both craftspeople and locals will be delighted to share their expertise and everyday lives with you. But what is so unique about this oasis nestled in the heart of the Vaud Alps?



Lace making



Wood carving



Découpage

## THE ART OF PAPER CUTTING

Centuries old, yet still current, *découpage*, or the art of paper cutting, is part of the Canton of Vaud's intangible heritage of living traditions.

The delicacy of detail, the magic of a childlike world and scenes of the everyday life of the past are the fascinating elements of a work of cut paper. Imported from the Orient, *découpage* first originated in Switzerland in the Pays-d'Enhaut in the Alps of Vaud, homeland of the fathers of this art form: Johann Jakob Hauswirth (1809-1871) and Louis Saugy (1871-1953). Many of their magnificent works are exhibited at the Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut in Château-d'Oex, which is responsible for the collections of these masters of alpine landscapes. For this reason, it is planned to renovate the museum in the near future with a view to turning Château-d'Oex into Switzerland's centre of cut paper.

If period *découpage* works portray daily life in the mountain villages of a bygone age, the art of *découpage* has now been updated and is perpetuated by young artists who have developed the genre by not only cutting Alpine scenes, but also urban scenes, animals or objects. To enable visitors to discover their work, the artisans open their studios so as to share their passion or even provide courses in this historic skill, which is very much alive.

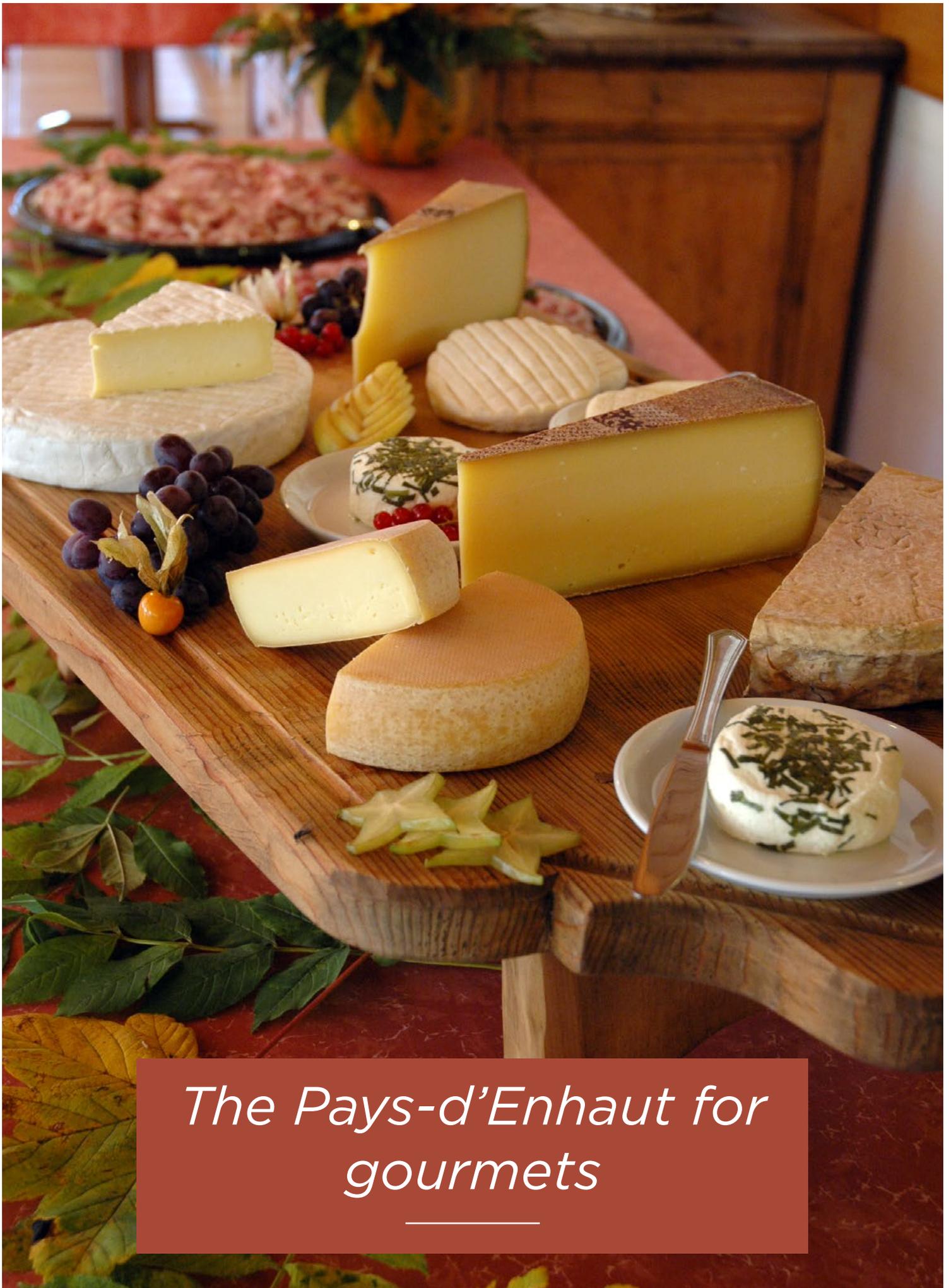


Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

The talents of the local inhabitants are manifold and closely linked to the region. Indeed, you will still find lace makers with golden fingers, manufacturers of *dzepons* (jackets that are part of traditional male costume), blacksmiths, shingle-makers, and manufacturers of belts and bell straps.

All of these handicrafts, which are part of local heritage, are showcased at the Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut. You will also find a room there dedicated to the origins of tourism in the region.

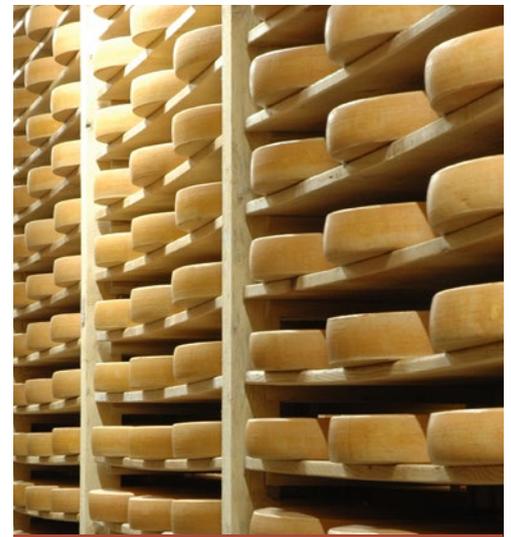


*The Pays-d'Enhaut for  
gourmets*

---



Cheese-making demonstrations, "Le Chalet"



Caves de l'Etivaz

### *The valley has many regional treasures to offer.*

As long ago as the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the region's cheeses were exported around the Mediterranean, demonstrating the high quality of these products. Today, thanks to the region's farming families and craftspeople, who treasure their heritage, the Pays-d'Enhaut remains the cradle of exceptional products.

The producers' expertise enables them to exploit their raw materials, transforming them into a wide variety of cheese and dairy specialities, numerous traditional charcuterie products, sweets, condiments and a range of syrups and herbal teas.

## MASTER CHEESE MAKERS

Besides these farmer-producers, the Pays-d'Enhaut can also boast several master cheese makers, who transform the region's milk with passion and expertise.

Michel Beroud of the Fleurette dairy processes the milk of about fifteen Rougement farmers. Their cows, which feed on the grass of Alpine pastures, produce milk that is flavoured with the scent of wild flowers, guaranteeing an incomparable taste similar to that of Beroud's famous Tomme Fleurette.

Pierre Buchillier crafts cheese by hand at the organic Les Moulins

dairy. He produces organic Gruyère AOP as well as a range of delicious cheese specialities such as the delicious P'tit Moulin.

The Henchoz family, of the organic Le Sapalet dairy, has succeeded in giving up their herd of dairy cows in favour of a flock of almost 800 sheep, which supply milk throughout the year. Cheeses, yoghurt and other specialities are developed at a frenetic pace, as demonstrated by the success of the astonishing Bleu du Sapalet.

## LA COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ETIVAZ

The Pays-d'Enhaut is characterised by a dynamic agriculture that represents almost 15% of the region's jobs. This characteristic can be explained in large part by the production of the famous L'Etivaz AOP, an Alpine pasture cheese that tastes of mountain flora. Every year, approximately 420 tonnes of L'Etivaz AOP, or 16,000 loaves, are sold on in Switzerland and abroad after the milk from the Alpine pastures has been processed in the traditional manner in large copper cauldrons and cooked over wood-burning fires.

This traditional manufacturing method is reproduced at the Le Chalet demonstration cheese dairy, which offers the spectacle of hand-crafted cheese known by the "Chalet bio" appellation, manufactured in the same way as in the Alpine huts in the summer.

L'Etivaz cheese is the first Swiss foodstuff to have been granted the AOP appellation.

## GREAT VARIETY

Besides this enormous range of cheeses and dairy products, the Boucherie artisanale du Pays-d'Enhaut, the organic producer Votre Cercle de Vie or the Ferme des Châbles all transform the region's beef and pork into numerous charcuterie specialities that are much appreciated by connoisseurs, such as Armailli, chantzet, various dried sausages and even dried Angus beef.

The Pays-d'Enhaut is also well suited to growing aromatic and medicinal plants. There are several enterprises that harvest and process plants to make herbal teas, syrups, hydrosols or condiments. These can be found at Jardin des Monts, Alpes en Fleurs or Herbolanne, for example.

## THE REGIONAL PRODUCT BRAND



Sixteen producers are united under the Pays-d'Enhaut Produits Authentiques regional brand, created in 1996 with the aim of promoting their expertise and showcasing this exceptional mountain region.

This great Alpine and cheese-making tradition serves to promote the image of this beautiful region far beyond the frontiers of the valley. Tasting these specialities while stopping in an Alpine pasture or at one of the dairies will enable you to meet passionate people who are proud of showcasing the region's raw materials.

*Discover all these products and many more besides at*  
[www.pays-denhaut.ch/produits-authentiques](http://www.pays-denhaut.ch/produits-authentiques)



Selection of local products



## *Winter sports*



La Videmanette

## SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

Whether advanced, intermediate or beginners, everyone will find what they're looking for on the slopes of the Pays-d'Enhaut.

Château-d'Oex's ski school, with its moving walkway, ski lift and sticks, gives all beginners the opportunity to discover the joys of skiing and snowboarding.

More experienced skiers can take the pistes from La Lécherette to Les Mosses. And don't forget the magnificent slopes from La Videmanette to Rougement - the longest in the region! The pistes of La Videmanette are connected to the Eggli to Saanen route, and are thus linked to Gstaad's "Bergbahnen Destination Gstaad" ski region.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

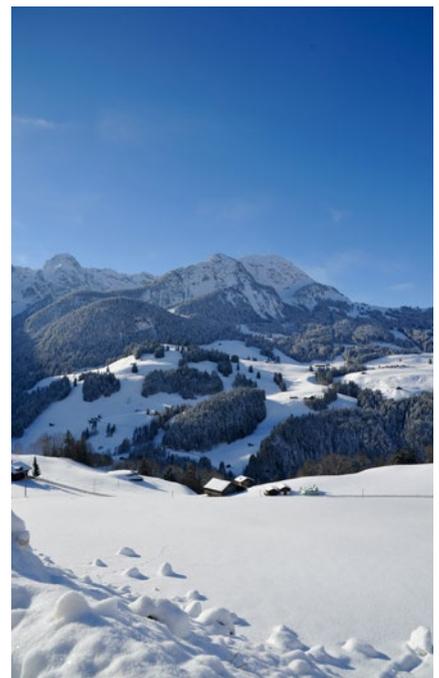
The Espace Nordique offers several tracks for enthusiasts of classic or skating cross-country skiing between pastures and forests on the sunny plateau of Les Mosses - La Lécherette. There are also 20 km of tracks between Château-d'Oex and Rougement.

## SNOWSHOEING

Discover another side of the mountains - in snowshoes, off the beaten track. This compromise between skiing and hiking is a great way to recharge your batteries and admire our winter landscape.

## BERGBAHNEN DESTINATION GSTAAD

53 installations / 220 km of slopes / up to 3,000 metres above sea level / 300 km of marked hiking trails / TOP 4 ski pass for 666 km, valid for all ski lifts in the 4 regions of Adelboden-Lenk, Gstaad, Jungfrau Ski Region and Meiringen-Hasliberg



## NEW! TIMED CIRCUIT LES MOULINS - LES MONTS-CHEVREUILS

Circuit number 6 from the "Sentiers raquette" (snowshoe trails) leaflet | Circuit number 461 on Suisse Mobile

The Monts-Chevreuil, part of the Château-d'Oex region, is the ideal place for roaming the mountains on cross-country skis or in snowshoes, being close to nature and crossing magnificent snowy landscapes off the beaten track.

**CLIMBING - TIMED CIRCUIT.** The Monts-Chevreuil massif was once used for downhill skiing. The ski lifts are no longer in operation, but the area has become a paradise for hikers in snowshoes or cross-country skiers.

The circuit, marked 6 and 461, is timed from departure (at the end of the car park at the La Croix d'Or restaurant in Les Moulins) up to the Monts-Chevreuil hut, situated at 1,700 metres above sea level. At Les Moulins, signposting provides information on departures and levels of difficulty. Runners and hikers should install the Timmy app on their smartphones and select the desired circuit. Once they've set up the app, runners can depart when they wish. The circuit is signposted and beacons are installed all the way to indicate times. An internet connection is not required.

**RESTAURANT ON THE PEAK.** Runners can record and share their times on arrival at the Monts-Chevreuil hut. Catering is available practically every day from December to March, as well as accommodation (by reservation).

**DESCENT.** Walkers climb down by the same route.

**THE MONTS-CHEVREUILS TROPHY.** Every year in February, this circuit is the scene of a night-time cross-country ski race: the Monts-Chevreuil Trophy.

On your marks... Get set... Go! Come and train on this new timed circuit!

[www.chateau-doex.ch/chrono](http://www.chateau-doex.ch/chrono)  
[www.monts-chevreuil.ch](http://www.monts-chevreuil.ch)

*Length of the timed circuit: 3 km  
Hiking time: 3 hours | Drop: 759 m | Level: difficult*

*Suisse Mobile number: 461*



The hut at Monts-Chevreuil

## WINTER HIKES

For visitors wishing to discover the Rougement area simply on foot, there are four winter hikes. Free for all, these hikes are practicable in all weathers, as long as there is sufficient snow. In the event of snowfall, the trails are rolled in the mornings for hiker's greater convenience. All the routes offer atmospheric scenery of unprecedented beauty. Most of them are also accessible from the village of Rougement and are of varying duration, from between 20 minutes and approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

## SLEDGING

Winter sports enthusiasts will be able to enjoy sledging at the snow club in Château-d'Oex, where there is a space reserved for them.

The Espace Barbapapa in Rougement offers the very little ones the opportunity to enjoy their first taste of winter sports.



Skating rink in Château-d'Oex



Snow Club in Château-d'Oex

## WINTER RELAXATION...

In winter, Château-d'Oex offers the ideal conditions for outdoor winter activities. So put on your skates and use the village's **outdoor rink** to perfect your skating skills, or perhaps improve your **curling**. And why not enjoy a peaceful ride in a **horse-drawn fondue carriage**? It's up to you to put together your ideal holiday!

## SKIING FOR ALL!



The Capdenho association in Château-d'Oex aims to make leisure activities accessible to all. This goal manifests itself in a ground-breaking service: the association organises chair-ski days in the Schönried/Saanenmöser region near Gstaad. Capdenho is responsible for training navigators for special-needs skiing and fund-raising to finance equipment and skiing days. The idea is to enable (physically or mentally) disabled people and their families to enjoy winter sports.



Chair-ski



Espace Barbapapa in Rougement





*Summer in the  
mountains*

---



Paragliding in front of La Videmanette



The joys of hydrospeed



Rafting on the Sarine

## WATER

Embark on an adventure...On the river! The Sarine offers as wide choice of activities for anyone looking for an unusual experience in a wild, natural setting. Whether for **rafting**, **canoeing** or **kayak**, experienced guides are available to accompany you to ensure your safety, whatever your level. At 15 kilometres, the rafting route from Saanen in the Bernese Oberland to Château-d'Oex is considered one of the most beautiful in Switzerland. Moreover, the route will take you through the stunning Vanel and Gérignoz gorges between rapids, dramatic rock formations and verdant forests. Sensational change of scene guaranteed.

With your face almost in the water, equipped with a float, palms and a reinforced wetsuit, the **hydrospeed** will offer you other, more sporting and physical sensations. There is a 10-kilometre course between Saanen and Rougemont where you will be able to let yourself go with the flow or surf the waves while admiring the landscape around you.

Those whose sea legs aren't so good should opt for **canyoning**. There are two possible water tours: one in the Torneresse canyon located 1 km below l'Etivaz, and the other on the Tine, 10 kilometres from Château-d'Oex. Special features of the programme include walking or swimming in the riverbed, diving and tobogganing along the rock faces polished by the water, visiting caves and even zip-lining!

Devote yourself to the pleasure of **fishing** in a beautiful setting... The Pays-d'Enhaut abounds with exceptional places for fly, worm or cast fishing. Settle along the Sarine or one of its tributaries, or scale the heights to find a spot on the banks of Lakes Lioson, Hongrin or Vernex, surrounded by stunningly beautiful mountain ranges. In these waters, which teem with fario or rainbow trout, the fish are sure to take the bait! Day or weekly permits can be bought at the Pays-d'Enhaut tourist offices.

The heated outdoor **Olympic pool** in Château-d'Oex is in an ideal environment. At the foot of the mountains, it offers not only a 50-metre swimming pool, but also a recreation area with a toboggan, a diving board and a paddling pool. Fun for all the family!

## AIR

Those in search of aerial thrills are sure to find what they're looking for in the Pays-d'Enhaut. Take off aboard a **hot air balloon** or float on the wind suspended from a **paraglider**. The region is known for its favourable micro-climate, and in only a few hours, its paragliding schools will enable you to make man's greatest dream come true: to fly like a bird.

**La Pierreuse** is the largest nature reserve in French-speaking Switzerland. Situated in the Pre-Alps, on the left bank of the Sarine south of Château-d'Oex, the Pierreuse

reserve encompasses 34 square kilometres of medium-altitude mountain landscapes. Its countryside combines unspoilt nature with traditional Alpine pastures, where

the famous l'Etivaz AOP cheese is made. The wildlife includes several rare species, such as ibex, chamois, marmot, golden eagle, lynx and black grouse.

## EARTH

**On foot**, roam at your own pace along our valley's 400 km of sign-posted footpaths. Whether hiking, Nordic walking or running a *vita parcours*, you will be able to combine sports with nature just as you please.

Whether by **mountain bike** or **electric mountain bike**, discover the Pays-d'Enhaut's trails away from motor traffic. The Pays-d'Enhaut has a large network of trails sign-posted for mountain bikes. Moreover, electric bicycles are available for hire in Château-d'Oex, making cycling accessible to everyone and enabling them to cover even greater distances! **Road biking** enthusiasts will also find what they're looking for when they climb the Col des Mosses, the Col du Pillon, the Col de la Croix or the Col de Jaun.

Attached by your climbing har-

ness, come and test Rougemont's **via ferrata**. There are three tracks on three levels that will appeal to beginners and experts alike. The tracks are 5 minutes away from the Videmanette station. For training or relaxation, there is also an indoor **climbing wall** in Château-d'Oex.

Do you feel like tackling a highly trendy new sport? Why not try **disc golf**? This playful, outdoor, ecologically friendly activity, which is also free, is suitable for children and adults, amateurs and advanced players. Based on the rules of golf, the game relies on a simple principle: you throw discs similar to frisbees, but smaller and heavier, into metal baskets along a trail of several holes. In Château-d'Oex, players can expect a trail of nine baskets in the pastures of Laitemaire, at 1,678 metres above sea level. Completely free of charge, the site is open from August. You will thus

have all the time in the world to overcome natural obstacles such as bushes, trees and uneven terrain. What is more, for nature lovers the place offers splendid views of Mont Blanc and the Dents-du-Midi.

### *And in case of rain, everything is planned for the family:*

- **bowling**, with 12 licensed Brunswick tracks equipped with automatic barriers to help the children to score and ramps to allow the little ones to play
- a **cinema**, with programmes for all the family
- **children's play areas** in some restaurants.



Disc golf



Biking along the shores of Lake Rossinière



## Accommodation

The Pays-d'Enhaut's hosts look forward to welcoming you as their guests. Throughout the seasons, they will be delighted to welcome you, to suggest places to visit, or simply to spend a moment chatting with you. The Pays-d'Enhaut has more than **2,400 beds** for tourists available in **various categories**, so there is something for everyone.

### *Do you prefer the authentic charm of a mountain chalet?*

Or perhaps the feeling of being at home in a **bed and breakfast** or a typical **guest house**? Others may prefer the services of a mountain **hotel**. Finally, those who love nature and enjoy temporary accommodation will appreciate the mountain **huts** and **camping sites**. There are also several apartments available in our region.

Pays-d'Enhaut Tourism has a **reservations centre** which, in collaboration with the region's estate agents, enables online users to rent and reserve accommodation for weekends and holidays all over the Pays-d'Enhaut region. Accommodation (hotels, chalets, studios and apartments) can be reserved online directly on the site [www.chateau-doex.ch](http://www.chateau-doex.ch).



## *Travelling to the Pays-d'Enhaut by train*

A little train with big style, the Montreux-Oberland-Bernois (MOB) links Montreux with Château-d'Oex every day. Why not try it? It's the ideal opportunity to leave your car and visit your destination in a relaxed manner. The hour-long trip offers more than just getting from A to B. As the line gradually reaches higher altitudes, the view of Lake Geneva and the surrounding mountains is revealed, offering a most spectacular panorama. This is then replaced by magnificent, verdant landscapes once the train has passed to the other side of the mountain. Travelling towards Château-d'Oex, let the rumble of the train rock you, and as the trip continues, you won't fail to admire

the region's rich architectural heritage: buildings classified as "historic monuments" and splendid wooden houses.

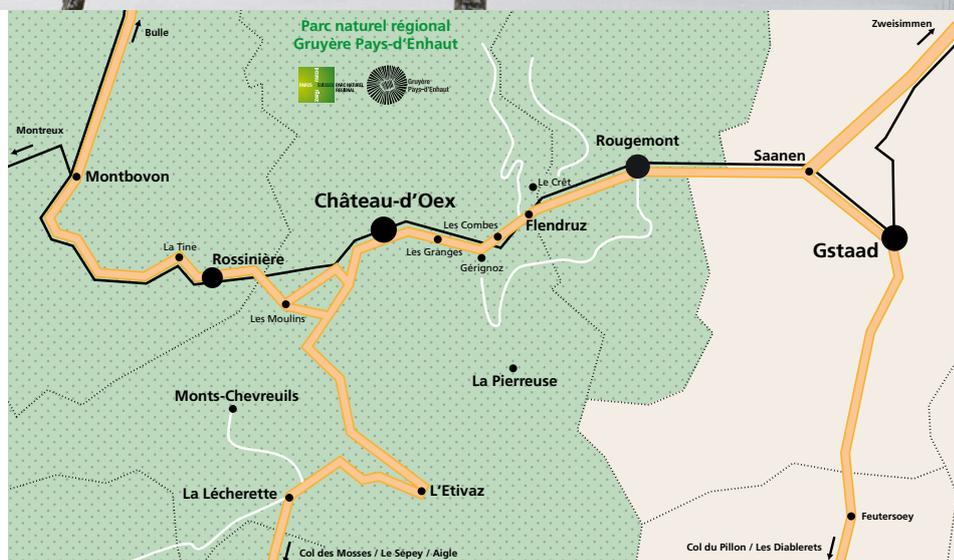
### **PANORAMIC OR CLASSIC TRAIN**

To enliven your journey, you will have the choice every day between two types of train: the GoldenPass Panoramic or the GoldenPass Classic. Very modern and comfortable, the GoldenPass Panoramic is Europe's first panoramic train. Featuring wide panoramic windows, it offers total immersion in the landscape and enables you to feel at

one with nature. Unique in Switzerland, the line also offers VIP seats at the front of the train that make the experience even more intense. Launched a few years ago, the GoldenPass Classic will appeal to the more nostalgic traveller. With its retro-style interior and coachwork, it will transport you in an instant to the splendid atmosphere of the travel of yesteryear, in the purest tradition of legendary trains like the Orient Express. Restaurant service possible in both trains.

# Useful information

All paths lead to the Pays-d'Enhaut!



## ✈ BY PLANE

Geneva Airport  
- Château-d'Oex: 2h

## 🚗 BY CAR

A1 motorway, Bulle exit: 30 min.  
Lausanne - Château-d'Oex: 1h15  
Montreux - Château-d'Oex: 50 min.  
Aigle - Château-d'Oex: 35 min.  
Berne - Château-d'Oex: 1h15

## 🚆 BY TRAIN

Geneva - Château-d'Oex: 2h10  
Lausanne - Château-d'Oex: 1h20  
Montreux - Château-d'Oex: 1h  
Berne - Château-d'Oex: 2h20  
Gstaad - Château-d'Oex: 20 min.

## THE LEGEND OF LA PERRAUSAZ

This legend transports us to the northern foot of the Gumfluh in the Pierreuse nature reserve, where the vengeance of a fairy made part of the mountain collapse.

Long ago – when no stone left its mark on the pastures that sprawled in the shape of a cup at the bottom of the valley, when abundant water escaped from the little lake that occupied the centre of this little nest of greenery – the Verda was famous far and wide, as much for the beauty of its location as for the excellence of its pastures. What cream, what cheese! The priors of the monastery of Rougement wanted nothing else on their table, and were pleased to give this excellent food produced on their own mountains of Rueblo and Comborsin to the simple monks. The pasture was the property of a rich family from Rougement, the Outrelègues. Every year towards the middle of June, old Aymon d’Outrelègue would arrive at the Verda with his herd, his servants and young son, Pierre, the only heir that heaven had granted him in his old age. The quiet and somewhat monotonous life of the chalet would then begin, lasting until autumn. They waited until the Gumfluh had donned its “white cape”; the first snow was the signal to leave. Only once, during the summer, was the chalet more animated than usual: for the Feast of Saint Madeleine. There wasn’t usually much amusement, but on that occasion, what joy! Three days of gaiety, merry gatherings on the fine grass, dancing right up to the peak of the Autwillemant.

There would be plenty of secrets to confess the following Sunday. But the good monks, who were aware of the goings-on, had ample patience and were very forgiving. It is right to say that according to a laudable custom, the monastery was not forgotten. The second day of the feast, some strapping fellows left with two pails – one filled with cream, the other with milk; they dipped the pail of cream in every stream they passed, and the monks thus received their tithe as fresh as if they had collected it from the chalet themselves. Some bad individuals relied heavily on these presents; amongst themselves, they called them “the pails of mercy.”

On the days following the feast, there was little enthusiasm at the chalet, and people’s hearts weren’t in their work. Pierre in particular was surly, morose and disobedient, and caused his father much grief. While old Aymon had remained faithful to the practices of ancient times, the old memories of Celtic and Roman religion, his son pretended to despise these traditions of another age.

At the Verda chalet, as elsewhere, the custom was maintained of the master placing a little tub filled with fresh milk on a large flat stone in the form of an altar behind the chalet. A few moments later, the tub would be empty, but nobody had ever been able to find out who had emptied it, or how; and if anyone attempted to uncover the secret, they would be wasting their time. As long as a human eye was

focused on the tub, it would stay full. Besides, nobody at the chalet was tempted to see what was happening. For the master had uttered terrible threats against anyone displaying too much curiosity, and people knew that he would carry them out. Had he not once, for such a misdemeanour, tied a German labourer to a fir tree and left him there for three days and three nights, with no other food than sour cream and water? And thereafter he sent him away.

One fine day, Pierre promised to himself that he would reveal the secret. Hardly had his father deposited the tub than the young man positioned himself beside it like a sentry, remaining there until the middle of the day. Although his father had seen him, he said nothing to him and went inside to attend to chores as usual. In the evening, the tub was still full, but the milk was bitter and curdled. When the livestock returned, Pierre realised that his nanny-goat, a charming animal that he had raised himself, was missing. He whistled and called her by name, but in vain. Worried, he roamed the pastures, always calling the animal, which he believed was lost. At last, he heard a faint cry and found his little goat lying at the foot of the rocks. A line of blood stained her coat and marked with purple the fresh grass on which she was resting. Seeing her master, the poor creature wanted to jump towards him, but she could only raise her head a little; she soon let it fall heavily, giving the young man a last look that filled him with

sadness. Very close by, there was a stone marked with a drop of blood and which, falling from on high, had mortally wounded the pretty goat of the Verda.

The next day, Pierre again took up his post near the tub of milk. His father, who was lying in wait, called him, ordering him to follow him, and the pair went to sit in the shade of a group of fir trees opposite the rock face of the Gumfluh.

“Listen, Pierre,” his father said seriously, “You’re a big boy and are curious about many things. The moment has come to tell you a secret that has been kept in our family for centuries. It’s also written on a piece of parchment in the iron chest with silver studs at our house in Revers. If I were to die suddenly, you would find it there.

You see those two needles that dominate our pasture and seem, like two high towers, to guard the narrow passage of the Poche des Gaules? There’s a narrow band of grass on the side of the first: it’s the path of the fairies and leads to the cave of which you can see the entrance. Two fairies, the goddesses who protect our mountain, live there. In return for the protection that they give us and to ensure that we continue to receive it, every morning I fill the little tub that so intrigued you just now. They are the ones who come to drink the milk. Woe betide anyone wanting to prevent them from tasting it, or to deprive them of it; woe betide anyone, above all, who would make so bold as to explore their lofty place of residence and penetrate their

palace of stone! You saw what happened to the poor little goat yesterday: she was the one who paid for the sacrilege that you committed. Another time, it could well be your turn.

Pierre, taken unawares, astonished, looked at the needles, the path and the grotto. Squinting, he thought he could see two delicate white forms gliding along the green path. From then on, he believed in the Verda fairies, and nothing would have made him repeat his attempt of the morning.

Some years later, Pierre had become a handsome lad, a hard worker, strong, skilled at physical exercise and feared by all the young people of Rougemont, from Vanel to Granges.

What a fine sight it was when he went to Mass on Sunday mornings in his sumptuous garments of black velvet. He was a welcome companion for evening gatherings; he was also a solid support when a lover had difficulties with other boys. For a long time he remained unmoved by the charms of the young beauties of Rougement. But he ended up falling for them as well.

Well, at one of the feasts of Saint Madeleine celebrated at Verda, a young girl arrived with her parents, who had just moved into the area, near the hamlet of Flendruz, at Les Combes. People said that she was from Burgundy and that her family had fled the misfortunes of war. She spoke slightly differently to the patois of Rougemont, but in her mouth, her manner of speaking was full of charm. Her name was

Yolande Loys. The people of the village nicknamed her the Burgundian.

At the party in Verda, she was so merry and enthusiastic while being so reserved and decent. She knew how to put a brazen boy in his place. Her smile was so sweet that, from the very first evening, Pierre found himself wounded by love. The following day, to demonstrate his affection, he offered her a bouquet of everlasting flowers that he had gathered, risking his life ten times on the steep slopes of the Gumfluh. The third day of the feast, when cream was served for the last time at dinner, he gave the young girl a wonderful wooden spoon on which, during the long winter evenings, he had carved the victory of a shepherd over a raging bull.

Relations soon developed between them. Pierre fell ever more deeply in love, without making any progress. Yolande smiled at him affectionately, but every time that poor Pierre wanted to speak seriously and broach the subject of marriage, she pretended to hear nothing, or replied: “Wait till I go and fetch my herd from Burgundy.”

One evening, he came to the evening gathering with a great stone in his pocket. It was a stone as large as two fists, very heavy, blackish and sprinkled with particles that glittered like gold. A shepherd watching over his heifers at the foot of the Rubly had heard a stone clattering down the mountain and, finding it in front of him, had picked it up. From hand to hand, this stone had ended up before Pierre.

Even before that, people had muttered under their breath that part of the Rubly was made of gold. From that moment, nobody doubted it, and several reckless people had found death in mountain precipices while seeking their fortune.

When Yolande saw the glittering stone and the appealing shine of its particles of gold, her eyes lit up. She became kinder and more amiable than ever. At the moment when her friend was about to leave, she took him by the hand: "Listen, Pierre," she said. "If you find the gold mine on the Rubly, I shall be yours. But don't go risking your life to no avail, like those who have perished there. Only a fairy could tell you where it is. Do you know any in this village?"

- Yes, the cowherd replied.

- Well, here is a magic prayer that obliges her to tell you whatever you ask her.

And as she said this, out of a box she took a parchment roll covered in red characters. But Pierre interrupted her with a gesture.

- I would never, he said, want to harm the Verda fairies.

And he told her what had happened.

- That may be so, she said, but you love the fairies, whom you have never seen, more than me, whom you can see. As you wish! My magic prayer will remain at your disposal, but my door will be closed to you until you've tried what I am suggesting to you.

Alas! Three days later, Pierre came to his friend, begging her to give him the magic formula. Love had conquered everything - religious fear, filial respect, superstitious terror. All his hesitation had yielded to the memory of his idol's ravishing features. - One dark evening, he arrived at Les Combes, stopping only for a moment to take the terrible parchment with red letters and to hear a word of love. He then left for the mountain, agitated and furious. It seemed to him that the piece of parchment was burning his fingers.

Having arrived at the Verda chalet, he waited until everyone was asleep. His father had gone down to Rougemont. The herd and the head cowman were near the Autwillemant and were spending the night there. When the other servants of the chalet had gone to bed, Pierre, armed with his great iron-tipped staff, secretly went out towards the needle where the fairies' cave was located.

He was familiar with all the paths on the mountain. His experienced eye, his steady footing and his familiarity with the rocks made walking almost as easy at night as during the day for him. His heart, however, beat very hard when he arrived on the strip of grass that led to the cave. He had never gone any farther, and it wasn't without risk that he arrived at the entrance. He lit a torch of fir wood, and that very same instant he saw two dark, veiled forms pass. They signalled him to move away. But it was too late.

Scarcely had Pierre begun to pronounce his magic formula than the mountain began to tremble to its very foundations. A terrible sound echoed in the depths, and lightning crossed the sky. Soon, the base of one of the needles, the one in which the fairies lived, swayed and fell with a terrible crash onto the green meadows. The other, to the right of the passage of the Poche des Gaules, remained standing, and does so proudly to this day.

When dawn broke, what a sight! The beautiful Verda pasture had disappeared. In its place lay huge amounts of rubble and immense boulders; it was a scene of desolation and ruin. The people of the valley, woken by the commotion, came running at the crack of dawn. There was not a trace of the chalet! Pierre was no more. All that was recovered of him was his iron-tipped staff, and just beside it a strip of parchment with these words: The treasures of the Rubly shall belong to none. - The herd grazing some way off had been spared.

These events made such an impression on old Aymon that he died of grief, cursing the foreign girl. For her part, now frowned upon by the villagers, she also lost her cheerful demeanour, until a young shepherd from Charmey, owner of the Mocausa at the foot of the Brenlaire, persuaded her to marry him. Her only condition for the marriage was that the Mocausa should thenceforth be known as the Verda in memory of her unintended victim.



PAYS D'ENHAUT  
CHÂTEAU-D'OEX - ROUGEMONT - ROSSINIÈRE

## PAYS-D'ENHAUT TOURISME

info@chateau-doex.ch | t. +41 (0)26 924 25 25  
www.chateau-doex.ch

### BUREAU DE CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

Place du Village 6  
1660 Château-d'Oex |  
Switzerland

### ROUGEMONT OFFICE

Route de la Croisette 16 | CP 49  
1659 Rougemont | Switzerland

### POINT I DE ROSSINIÈRE

La Placette | 1658 Rossinière  
Switzerland

### REACH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

