



- Following the Elephants**
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 - 5 - Castle of the Dukes of Savoy
 - 6 - The alleys
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- Cultural and scientific treasures**
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- Faubourg Montmélian**
- 13 - Rue d'Italie & faubourg Montmélian
 - 14 - Oratory, convents & charity
 - 15 - Les Chartreux tower

Promenade Confort ("Comfort Walk" label)
 The route is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. However, there may be minor obstacles (very uneven cobblestones, steep slopes) that could increase the time needed to complete the walk.



DISCOVERY TRAILS



Following the elephants!

2 km
1:30

TOURIST OFFICE
2 reception points
 5 bis place du Palais de Justice, Chambéry
 Tél. 04 79 33 42 47
 Information and bookings.

La Ruche Boutik'
 The Tourist Office shop
 240 rue de la République, Chambéry
 Tél. 04 79 85 71 13
 Carefully selected range of local and original products

'Following the Elephants' trail
 Contributors: Grand Chambéry Alpes Tourisme with the assistance of the Chambéry City of Art and History department and the Amis du Vieux Chambéry society. Coordination: Chambéry-Combe de Savoie Rotary Club. Participation: Valentin Huy, Retina France and the Association des Paralysés de France, together with 'Chambéry en Ville', the commercial and artisanal union. Special thanks to Monique Dacquain for the trail's extension to the Faubourg Montmélian.

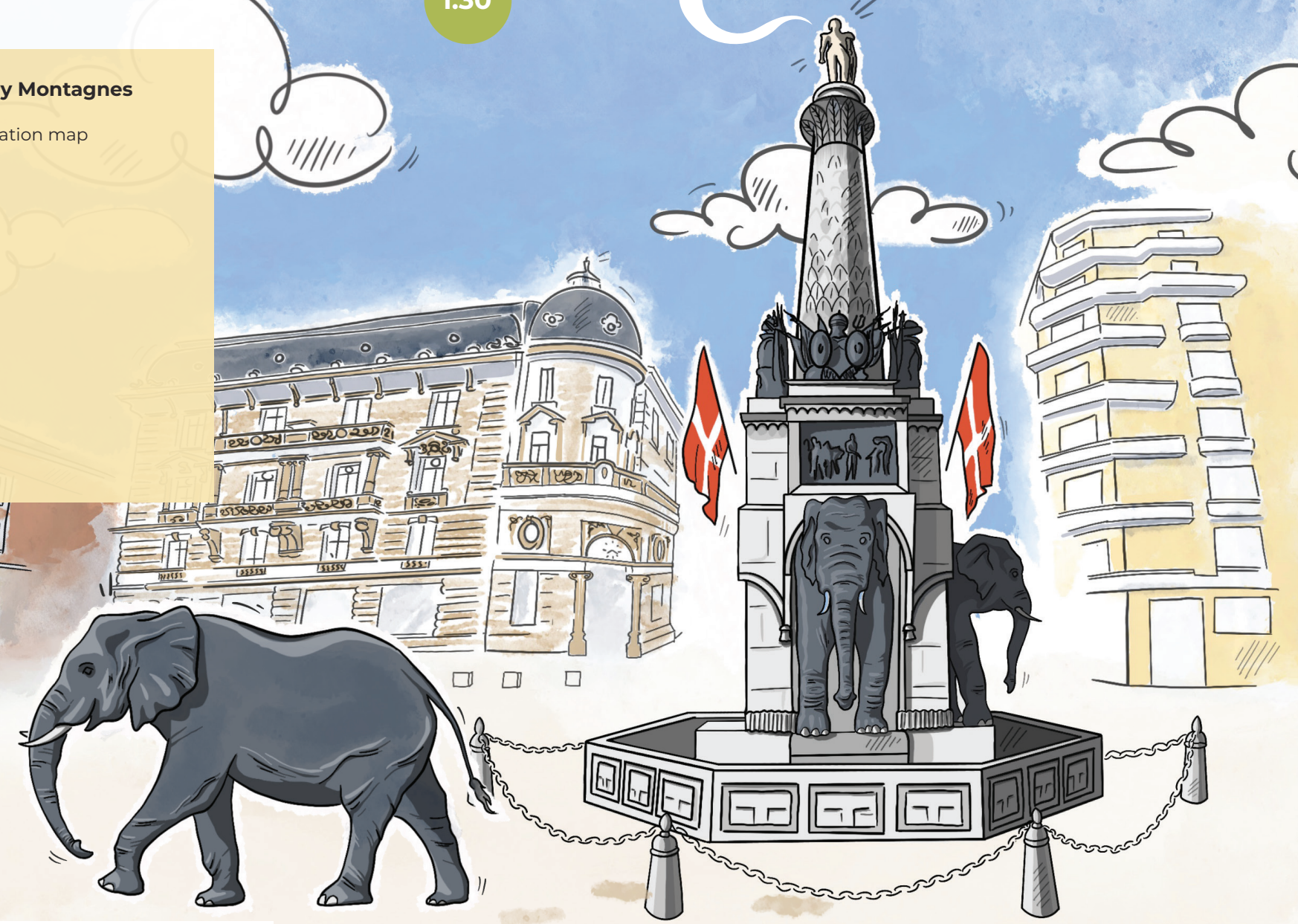
City of Art and History
 Chambéry belongs to the national network of Cities and Lands of Art and History ('Ville et Pays d'art et d'histoire'). The French Ministry of Culture's Directorate of Architecture and Heritage assigns the 'Cities and Lands of Art and History' label to local communities that strive to bring their heritage to life.

All of Chambéry Montagnes in your pocket
 Interactive destination map

See all events

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Do not litter.

The desire to always give a better welcome to customers and improve the quality of tourist services lies at the heart of the 'Qualité Tourisme' (Quality Tourism) label. As such, Grand Chambéry Alpes Tourisme is committed to making constant progress as part of a process of continuous improvement. Our aims? To satisfy our clients (individual or group), always better meeting the expectations of visitors. We would be delighted to welcome you in one of our 6 Tourist Office locations!
 Enjoy your stay in Chambéry Montagnes!



Self-guided tour CHAMBÉRY

Facebook and Instagram icons followed by **Chambéry Montagnes**



Have you noticed those little elephants that line the cobblestones of the historic town centre? Follow them! These discreet bronze guides will lead you through your discovery of all the treasures of Chambéry. It's time for a walk through history!

1 — PALAIS DE JUSTICE

This was the last public building erected while Savoy still formed part of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont. It embodies the Sardinian neoclassical style. It was here, on 29 April 1860, that the results of the referendum joining Savoy to France were proclaimed. This building symbolises the transition between the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont and France.

2 — LES HALLES - PLACE DE GENÈVE

Commercial hub and covered market. The Chambéry coat of arms can be admired on the facade.

MARKET

From 07:00 to 12:00
Les Halles: Tuesday to Saturday (reduced number of exhibitors: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday).
Outdoor market (in addition to Les Halles):
Tuesday (reduced number of exhibitors) & Saturday.
16:00 to 20:00 in summer. 15:00 to 19:00 in winter.
Wednesday: outdoor market.

3 — RUE JUIVERIE

This street takes its name from the fact that it once led to the Jewish quarter located at the foot of the castle.

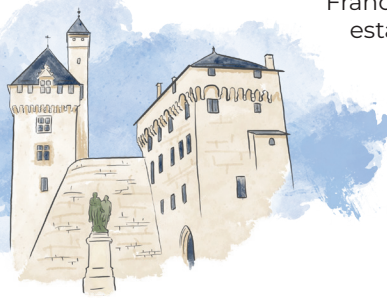
4 — RUE BASSE-DU-CHÂTEAU

This street immerses the visitor into medieval Chambéry, with its old shops and large stone benches once used to display goods. You can almost imagine the wooden shutters pulled down over the doorways at night. Before Rue de Boigne was cut through the town in 1830, this street offered the only direct access to the castle – hence its name. It contains the town's last aerial passage. These passages made it possible to connect the apartments of two buildings standing opposite one another. They were largely destroyed for fear that they would help spread fires.



5 — CASTLE OF THE DUKES OF SAVOY

The Count of Savoy Amadeus V bought this castle from the former lords of Chambéry in the 13th century, as the town then became the capital of the County of Savoy. In 1563, after Savoy's annexation by Francis I, the Dukes of Savoy established their capital in Turin, taking advantage of the protection offered by the Alps. Chambéry retained a key administrative role, however.



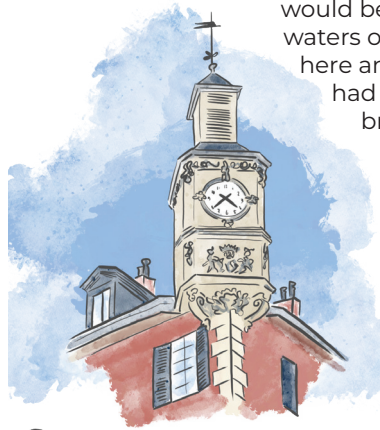
The Sainte-Chapelle church may be accessed during guided tours. The theme of its stained-glass windows calls back to the 16th century, when it housed the Holy Shroud.

Since 1993, the grand carillon has been located in the Yolande Tower. This instrument is one of the largest in the world, with 70 bells. Concerts on the first and third Saturdays of the month, at 11:00.

6 — THE ALLEYS

If Lyon has its 'traboules', Chambéry has its alleys! These are like corridors that allow people to pass between large buildings. The buildings of the town's historic centre are unique in that they feature a deep and narrow facade, a legacy of the 'toisé': a 14th-century tax calculated according to the main width of a building's facade. The narrower they were, the smaller the tax ... Hence this iconic structure that can be found throughout the historic heart.

7 — PLACE SAINT-LÉGER



A Chambéry local from the Middle Ages would be stunned to find that the waters of the Albanne no longer flow here and would surely wonder what had happened to those little stone bridges that once spanned this river. At that time, the two banks of the Albanne were considered streets: with the Grand'Rue on one side and Rue Grenaterie (later Tupin) on the other. At the end of the 16th century, this arm of the Albanne was covered up. The names 'Grand'Rue' and 'Rue Turpin' were lost to time, joined under the new name of 'Place Saint-Léger' – a small street space occupied by a church of the same name until 1760, where the Marmouset Fountain stands today. This was how the long and narrow 'Place Saint-Léger' we know today came to take the name of 'place' (square) rather than 'rue' (road).

Optical illusions recreating details of Chambéry decorate this area, created during the city's restructuring in the 1990s.

8 — HORLOGE AREA

Optical illusions recreating details of Chambéry decorate this area, created during the city's restructuring in the 1990s.

9 — RUE CROIX D'OR

Until the French Revolution, travellers from Piedmont who reached Chambéry through this street could gaze upon a fountain, located in the middle of the road and surmounted by a large golden cross. The magnificent memory of this cross has been passed down through the centuries, giving its name to the street. A great many mansions testify to its aristocratic character: those of Costa de Beauregard (no 113); La Pérouse, with the Coeur Flamant Fountain (no 70); Castagnery de Châteauneuf (no 18); and Marches de Bellegarde (no 19).

10 — HÔTEL CASTAGNERY DE CHÂTEAUNEUF

This mansion was built in the 17th century. The gates enclosing its court adjoined the Franciscan convent. Though these undoubtedly had a decorative role, they were mainly used to highlight the origin of the Castagnery de Châteauneuf family's wealth, as owners of large iron mines in Savoy (18 Rue Croix d'Or).

11 — CHARLES DULLIN THEATRE



The original theatre (1775) was made from wood, on the same site where the modern theatre stands today. In 1820, the Count of Boigne purchased the building and financed the construction of an Italian-style theatre. In 1864, a fire ravaged the building. Only the stage curtain was saved: painted by Luigi Vacca and depicting Orpheus' descent into hell. Today, this recently restored curtain is one of the four last painted curtains still visible in the world. The new theatre, inaugurated in October 1866, was dedicated to Charles Dullin, a great theatre man born in Yenne, Savoy.

12 — PLACE DU THÉÂTRE

One of the three great gates of the fortified town stood here: the 'Porte Montmélian'. It was guarded by a doorman who closed the passage shortly after nightfall, reopening it at dawn.

*Chambéry's first town walls were built from in the 13th century and later expanded in the 14th century: this was a wall about 10 m high, punctuated by higher towers. It was demolished at the end of the 18th century. A section of this wall can still be seen at Rue Dessaix.

FOR MORE DISCOVERIES

Follow  or head straight to number .

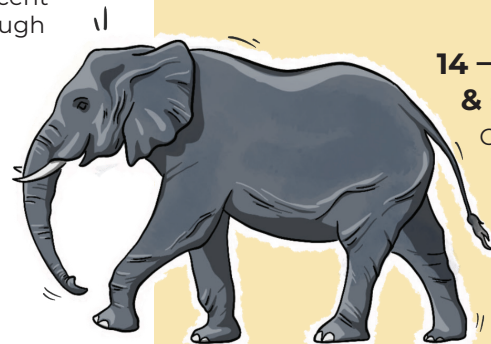
+ 800 m
+ 15 min

13 — RUE D'ITALIE & FAUBOURG MONTMÉLIAN

A straight line, like a corridor, that travelers had to follow between Chambéry and what is now Buisson-Rond Park, either to enter or leave the city. It wasn't until 1860 that the current Rue d'Italie was separated from the *faubourg*, when Napoleon III ordered the opening of Rue de la Banque to ease the exit from the city via the Curial military barracks. Numerous inns punctuated the *faubourg*. You can still make out the large carriage doors that once allowed horses and carriages to enter. Travelers got into the habit of staying here, freeing themselves from the constraints of the fortified city's opening and closing hours. It was also more affordable than staying within the city walls.

14 — ORATORY, CONVENTS & CHARITY

On the first floor of number 31, a small oratory is dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, the neighborhood's protective figure.



20 — CAMILLE COSTA DE BEAUREGARD

Ordained a priest in Rome, Camille Costa de Beauregard chose to return to Chambéry, turning down high-ranking positions at the Vatican to devote himself to the poorest in Savoie. In 1867, a cholera outbreak disrupted his mission: he took in the first orphans at his home, 44 Rue Saint-Réal. The space quickly became too small. Count de Boigne then granted him the former customs buildings, where Camille founded the Bocage orphanage, which would go on to care for up to 125 children. Beatified in May 2025, in the very cathedral where his faith had been awakened, his work continues today through the Fondation du Bocage, on the street that now bears his name.

21 — SAINT-FRANÇOIS-DE-SALES CATHEDRAL

This former Franciscan church was erected as a cathedral in 1779. Until then, Chambéry – part of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont – was religiously dependant on the diocese of Grenoble, and therefore France. Its understated facade reflects the humility inherent to the Franciscan Order. Inside, the building is distinguished by its elegance, in particular thanks to the trompe-l'œil artwork that almost fully covers the walls and vaults. The romantic organ, made by Augustin Zeiger in 1847, has been listed as a Historic Monument since 1988. In the ambulatory, a copy of the Holy Shroud can be seen, the original of which was housed here from 1453 to 1502.

22 — JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

Rousseau spent more than 10 years in Chambéry from 1731 to 1742. A plaque has been installed on the building in which he lived with Mrs de Warens.

23 — RUE DE BOIGNE

Chambéry owes this street to the generosity of General Count de Boigne. In 1830, its creation made crossing the city easier but was at the time seen as a "slash" through the old town, as many buildings were demolished. The street quickly became the social hub, attracting notable families, luxury shops, and tea salons. Its central section is lined with Italian-style arcades, affectionately called "les Portiques" by the people of Chambéry.

24 — TOWN HALL

This building was constructed in 1863 to symbolize the annexation of Savoy to France.



BEYOND THE TRAIL

Blue line on the map.

LA SASSON

This statue represents Savoy. It was constructed in 1863 to mark the centenary of Savoy's first attachment to France (1792-1815). On 22 April 1942, as part of the mobilisation of non-ferrous metals, the statue was unbolted and sent to be melted down. Its base, which remained intact, then became an iconic symbol of the Resistance. It was partially rediscovered in 1950 and returned to its original placement in 1982.

CARRÉ CURIAL

The Carré Curial, built in 1805 following the design of Les Invalides, was an imperial barracks covering a square of 100 meters per side. It is named after Jean Curial, a general of the First Empire. Today, this iconic site in Chambéry houses administrative offices and has become a lively hub, animated by numerous nightlife venues.

25 — RECONSTRUCTION

This neighborhood once resembled the rest of the historic center. On May 26, 1944, the Allies bombed Chambéry because the railway yard was a major communication hub. While the targets were heavily hit, the high-altitude bombing was imprecise, causing heavy civilian casualties and destroying many buildings. Nearly one-third of the historic center was thus devastated. After the war, a large-scale reconstruction plan was launched.

CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC TREASURES



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The building that houses this museum was once a corn exchange (known as the 'grenette'), later becoming a library museum in the 19th century. This museum offers a prestigious collection of paintings from the late Middle Ages to the early 20th century.

MUSÉE SAVOISIEN

The Savoy Museum offers an essential permanent exhibition on the history of Savoie, from the Palaeolithic era to the present day, spread out over 2,000 m² across 7 discovery themes. The tour ends with the presentation of medieval wall paintings from Châteauneuf de la Rive in Cruet. The freely accessible cloister completes this immersion in Savoy heritage.

CASTLE MUSEUM

In the historic wing, two museum rooms reveal the castles history and the comings and goings of this key place of power, from yesterday to today: once the fortress and royal residence of the Dukes of Savoy – the beating heart of their administration – it now houses the Prefect's Office and the seat of the Savoie Department.

HÔTEL DE CORDON - CIAP

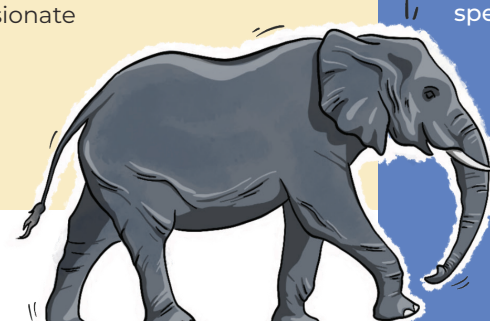
The CIAP (Centre for the Interpretation of Architecture and Heritage) – the only mansion in Chambéry open to the public – offers a permanent exhibition on the history and evolution of the town, with temporary exhibitions on architecture and heritage, as well as tours and workshops. Free, self-guided admission. Accessible to persons with reduced mobility.

GALERIE EURÉKA

The Euréka Galley, Chambéry's Scientific-Culture Centre, offers fun and interactive exhibitions to discover the world of science. Through immersive experiences, it invites young and old alike to awaken their curiosity and understand scientific phenomena.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The museum showcases specimens from the fields of zoology, botany, and geology: taxidermy animals, fossils, prehistoric mammals, shells, insects... all patiently collected by passionate enthusiasts.



For centuries, the residents of the *faubourg* lived in fear of major floods, as the area was crossed by three rivers: the Lesysse, the Albanne, and the Ru d'Enfer. Several convents that had not found space within the fortified city settled here instead: the Augustinians, the Carmelites, the Annonciades, and the Carthusians. They remained in the area until the French Revolution. The neighborhood was also home to various charitable institutions, including a hospice, a retirement home, and a shelter for the poor.

15 — LES CHARTREUX TOWER

Here stands the only watchtower of the suburb. Even outside the city walls, the entrance to the old suburb was marked by a narrowing of the road.

16 — RUE DU LAURIER (LAUREL)

Rue du Laurier was once a canal fed by the Ru d'Enfer stream, which was covered over in the 19th century. Before that, the back façades of the suburb's buildings opened directly onto the water. *The laurel as the suburb's emblem?* One of Chambéry's most illustrious families—descendants of the Comnenus, emperors of Constantinople—built their private mansion in the *faubourg* (at numbers 72-74). Proud to host such a distinguished lineage, the neighborhood adopted the laurel from their coat of arms as its own symbol.

17 — THE PRINTING-PRESS ROTUNDA

Originally located at the corner of Rue Saint-François-de-Sales and Rue Victor-Hugo, this rotunda was built in 1912 to serve as the entrance to a cinema that was never opened. In the 1920s, the building was taken over by a printer. When the Liberty residential complex was built in 1990, the rotunda was moved in one piece using a lifting operation and placed at the entrance of the new Square Robert Marcon. It remains one of the rare examples of Modern Style architecture in Chambéry.

18 — PASSAGE DU MONT BLANC

This passageway was once a canal fed by the Albanne River. For many years, the water here was essential to the inns, used to water and wash the horses of the many travelers passing through. The canal was covered over in the 19th century. The street runs alongside the buildings of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, who arrived in Chambéry in 1816. Dedicated to education, they took action to establish a school for young girls, as many women in the suburb were working and needed a place for their daughters to learn.

19 — FONTAINE DES ÉLÉPHANTS

It was erected in honor of General Count de Boigne (1751-1830). After gaining fame and fortune in India, he became the great benefactor of Chambéry, his hometown. The Fountain of the Elephants, nicknamed the "Four Without Butts," alludes to the general's military campaigns in India, which are commemorated by the bronze statue standing atop the monument. Benoît de Boigne is said to have donated more than a third of his wealth earned in India to Chambéry. The city owes him the opening of Rue de Boigne, the construction of the theater, a secondary school, a retirement home, a shelter for the poor, and many

BEYOND THE CITY CENTRE

NÉZIN SHELTER ALBERT PERRIOL

Built in 1940, upon the orders of Albert Perriol, mayor of Chambéry, this air-raid shelter embodies the great vigilance and efforts deployed to ensure the safety of the people of Chambéry facing the many threats of the Second World War. Spanning 150 metres long, it could welcome up to 1,000 people. Chambéry, built upon the marshlands of Lake Bourget, had no cellars within the heart of the city, leaving locals with no shelter to protect themselves in case of bombing. From 1938 onwards, the city undertook an ambitious programme to build shelters in the neighbouring hills. In 1940, Chambéry was recognised as one of the leading French cities in terms of civil protection: with a population of 30,000 inhabitants, these shelters could welcome nearly 12,000 people. During the allied bombing of 26 May 1944, these shelters saved countless lives. Today, the Nézin Shelter, a symbol of Albert Perriol's resilience, foresight and commitment, forms a key part of Chambéry's historic heritage. A truly powerful testimony.

RAILWAY ROTUNDA

With a diameter of 108 m and a height of 34 m, the Railway Rotunda is the largest building of its type in France. Its metal structure, inspired by the architecture of Gustave Eiffel, never fails to impress with its size and lightness, particularly thanks to its bright and airy dome, which looks almost like lace. Built between 1906 and 1910, it bears witness to the history of cross-Alpine transport. Still in operation today, it houses an exhibition of historic railway equipment restored by the Savoy Railway-Equipment Preservation Association (APMFS), offering a unique immersion in the world of railways.

LES CHARMETTES JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU'S HOUSE

Nestled in an unspoilt valley, discover Les Charmettes, an iconic literary location visited several times between 1736 and 1742 by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Mrs de Warens. This country house, indelibly marked by their story, invites visitors to dive into the everyday life of this philosopher: dining room, music room, chapel and even Rousseau's bedroom. It was at Les Charmettes that he discovered botany and his love of nature. The garden, redeveloped in 1993, is home to over 80 species of medicinal, ornamental or edible plants.

How to get there – the site can be reached by car or via a walk from the heart of Chambéry - 'In the footsteps of Jean-Jacques Rousseau' trail.
Duration: 2.5 hours | **Distance:** 6.5 km
Elevation gain: 180 m

Focus – The station area

