

# Not to be missed

## Grand Parc Miribel Jonage

At the gateway to the Dombes region, enjoy one of Europe's largest peri-urban parks. At l'Atol, you'll find water and land activities, and at l'Iloz, walks and activities for children. Discover the many events organized throughout the year. Taste the «Saveurs du Grand Parc» with its honeys, flours...

L'Atol +33 4 78 80 56 20 - l'Iloz +33 4 37 26 85 10  
www.grand-parc.fr



## Le Parc des Oiseaux

Welcome to Europe's largest bird park. Birds of the world, wild birds... a unique concept! Admire the world's finest show of birds in flight, a unique event made possible by a wide variety of species and passionate caretakers.

01330 Villars-les-Dombes  
+33 4 74 98 05 54 - www.parcdesoiseaux.com



## Ars-sur-Formans

Discover the sanctuary of Ars, where some 350,000 pilgrims and tourists converge every year, drawn by the story of Jean-Marie Vianney, Saint Curé, patron saint of all parish priests. Contemplate the work of the Ateliers Grévin at the Wax Museum and relive, life-size, the highlights of an extraordinary man.

Ars-Trévoux Tourist Office  
+33 4 74 08 10 76 - www.ars-trevoux.com



## Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne

A medieval town of character, full of flowers, discover its corbelled houses, suspension bridges and 15th-century halles, home to one of France's finest markets. Enjoy a stroll along the castle ramparts and take in the arboretum.

Dombes Tourisme  
+33 4 74 55 02 27 - www.dombes-tourisme.com



## Notre-Dame des Dombes Abbey

A Cistercian abbey, it was founded by Trappist monks who came to Dombes to drain some of the ponds and improve living conditions. Its red bricks and unusual architecture will win you over. You'll also discover muscine (a secret recipe) and other farm products: apples, cheeses, juices, fruit jellies...

1600, route de l'Abbaye - 01330 Le Plantay  
+33 7 80 77 47 66 - www.dombes.chemin-neuf.fr

## Miribel

Admire France's tallest religious statue, «La Madone», at Mas Rillier. Listen to its 50-bell carillon in a custom-built campanile with exceptional acoustics. The ensemble is listed as a Historic Monument. Every month, a free carillon concert is offered, and in summer, tours, family events and the Swing Sous les Etoiles festival.

Dombes Côtière Tourisme  
+33 4 78 55 61 16 - www.dombes-cotiere-tourisme.fr

## Montluel

Over the centuries, this ancient seignury has preserved the riches of its past. Stroll through its narrow streets to discover its history and monuments: The Collégiale Notre-Dame-des-Maris, the Tour Carrée, the Apothicairerie and the Ancien Hospice are all well worth a visit. Take the high ground to discover the buildings in the upper part of the town: La Madone, the Chapelle Saint-Barthélemy and the remains of the old feudal castle, now converted into an open-air theater, will amaze you.

« Le Costellan » Tourist Office  
+33 4 72 25 78 54 - https://lecostellan.3cm.fr/

## Montmerle-sur-Saône

Let yourself be seduced by this charming commune on the banks of the Saône. Follow the towpath upstream to the Minimes site. A 17th-century chapel and a tower surrounded by vines offer a magnificent panorama of the Val de Saône and the Beaujolais mountains.

Val de Saône Centre Tourist Office  
+33 4 74 67 20 68 - www.tourisme-val-de-saone.fr

## Pérouges

This medieval gem is the only «Most Beautiful Village in France» in the Ain department. Let yourself be enchanted by its cobbled streets, imposing fortress church, beautiful architecture and gourmet sugar galette. This lively village, with its passionate craftsmen, is a must-see.

Plaine de l'Ain Tourisme  
+33 9 67 12 70 84 - www.plainedelain-tourisme.com



## Trévoux

The medieval town of Trévoux lies on the banks of the Saône in the heart of a Pays d'Art et d'Histoire. Take a stroll through the capital of the Principality of Dombes, home to some 15 artists' and craftsmen's workshops, a fortified castle, a Parliament and two museographic spaces to help you understand its unusual history.

Ars-Trévoux Tourist Office  
+33 4 74 00 36 32 - www.ars-trevoux.com



## Nature walks

What better way to discover the Dombes than by taking a walk? Along the water's edge, across the fields, through the undergrowth... the Dombes reveals itself a little more with each new circuit.

A word of advice: the banks of the ponds are ideal places for birds to nest, so keep your dogs on a lead and stick to the marked trails. Don't forget your binoculars - the Dombes is full of surprises!

### Less than 10 km

- 11 Circuit du Vieux Jonc - St Paul de Varax - 5.5 km
- 1 Circuit de l'étang Chardonnet - Ste Olive - 5.5 km
- 2 Circuit de la Tour du Plantay - Le Plantay - 6.5 km
- 3 Circuit de l'étang Bozonnières - Bouligneux - 7 km
- 7 Circuit du Bois des Pommes - Mionnay - 7 km
- 6 Circuit de Gévrieux - Châtillon la Palud - 7.5 km
- 12 Circuit de l'étang Vernange - Monthieux - 8 km
- 10 Circuit de l'étang Les Léchères - St Paul de Varax - 8 km

### More than 10 km

- 8 Circuit de l'étang du Grand Birieux - Birieux - 11.5 km
- 14 Circuit de la Grange Chazey - Versailleux - 11.6 km
- 15 Circuit de la cité médiévale à l'arboretum - Châtillon / Chalaronne - 12 km
- 5 Circuit de des 11 étangs - St Nizier le Désert - 12 km
- 17 Circuit de l'étang des Vavres - St André de Corcy - 12.5 km
- 4 Circuit de l'Ain au Plateau - Villette / Ain - 12.7 km
- 16 Circuit des Moines - Le Plantay - 13.3 km
- 18 Circuit de l'étang Prêle - Chaneins - 14 km
- 13 Circuit de l'étang Moulin - Condeissiat - 14.5 km
- 9 Circuit du Bois de Chassagne - Chalamont - 15.1 km



## Birdwatching from an observatory

Birds land where they want, and rarely in the same place... What's more, most of the 1,400 ponds are privately owned, so it's not easy to know where to go to enjoy and discover the many species that inhabit the Dombes.

Several observatories have been set up in the Dombes. These are dedicated to the observation and discovery of birds.

These observatories are located on 5 ponds classified as «Espace Naturel Sensible de la Dombes», and are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Where to watch birds?

- Etang Prêle - Valeins **P** On site
- Etang du Grand Birieux - Birieux **P** Place du village
- Domaine de Vernange - Monthieux **P** Chemin de la Grange Volet
- Etang Chapelier - Versailleux **P** In front of the pond
- Etang Turlet - Villars-les-Dombes **P** Les Fermiers de la Dombes

A word of advice: for the best bird-watching experience, don't scare the birds, keep a low profile and don't make any noise.

## Angling in Dombes

You can fish in rivers or in dedicated ponds, with or without no kill (fish are released back into the pond after being caught).

To fish, you need a day pass, which you can obtain at various sales outlets (Gamm Vert, Maison de la Presse, Vival, etc.).

### Where to fish in Dombes?

- Rivière La Chalaronne à Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne ou Villars-les-Dombes
- Etangs des Prés Gaudet à Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne
- Etang Chaffaud à Villars-les-Dombes
- Etang du Domaine de la Dombes à St Paul de Varax
- Etang Hector à Lapeyrouse
- Etang Chamardin au Plantay
- Plan d'eau des Brotteaux à Châtillon la Palud
- Les Bassins de Birieux à Birieux



## Picnicking in the heart of nature

On the banks of a pond or river, at the end of a walking trail, at the foot of Notre-Dame des Dombes Abbey, in the heart of the arboretum at Châtillon... there's no shortage of places to picnic in the Dombes.

Put together your own picnic using local produce bought at markets, producers' stores, directly from the farm or in local shops.

A word of advice: make sure you leave no trace of your visit, and take your garbage with you.



**DOMBES TOURISME**  
+33 4 74 55 02 27  
(Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne)  
WWW.DOMBES-TOURISME.COM

**ARS-TRÉVOUX TOURIST OFFICE**  
+33 4 74 00 36 32 (Trévoux)  
+33 4 74 08 10 76 (Ars-sur-Formans)  
www.ars-trevoux.com

**DOMBES CÔTIÈRE TOURISME**  
+33 4 78 55 61 16 (Miribel)  
www.dombes-cotiere-tourisme.fr



















**LE COSTELLAN TOURIST OFFICE**  
+33 4 72 25 78 54 (Montluel)  
https://lecostellan.3cm.fr/

**VAL DE SAÔNE CENTRE TOURIST OFFICE**  
+33 4 74 67 20 68 (Guéreins)  
www.tourisme-val-de-saone.fr

**PLAINE DE L'AIN TOURISME**  
+33 9 67 12 70 84 (Pérouges)  
www.plainedelain-tourisme.com



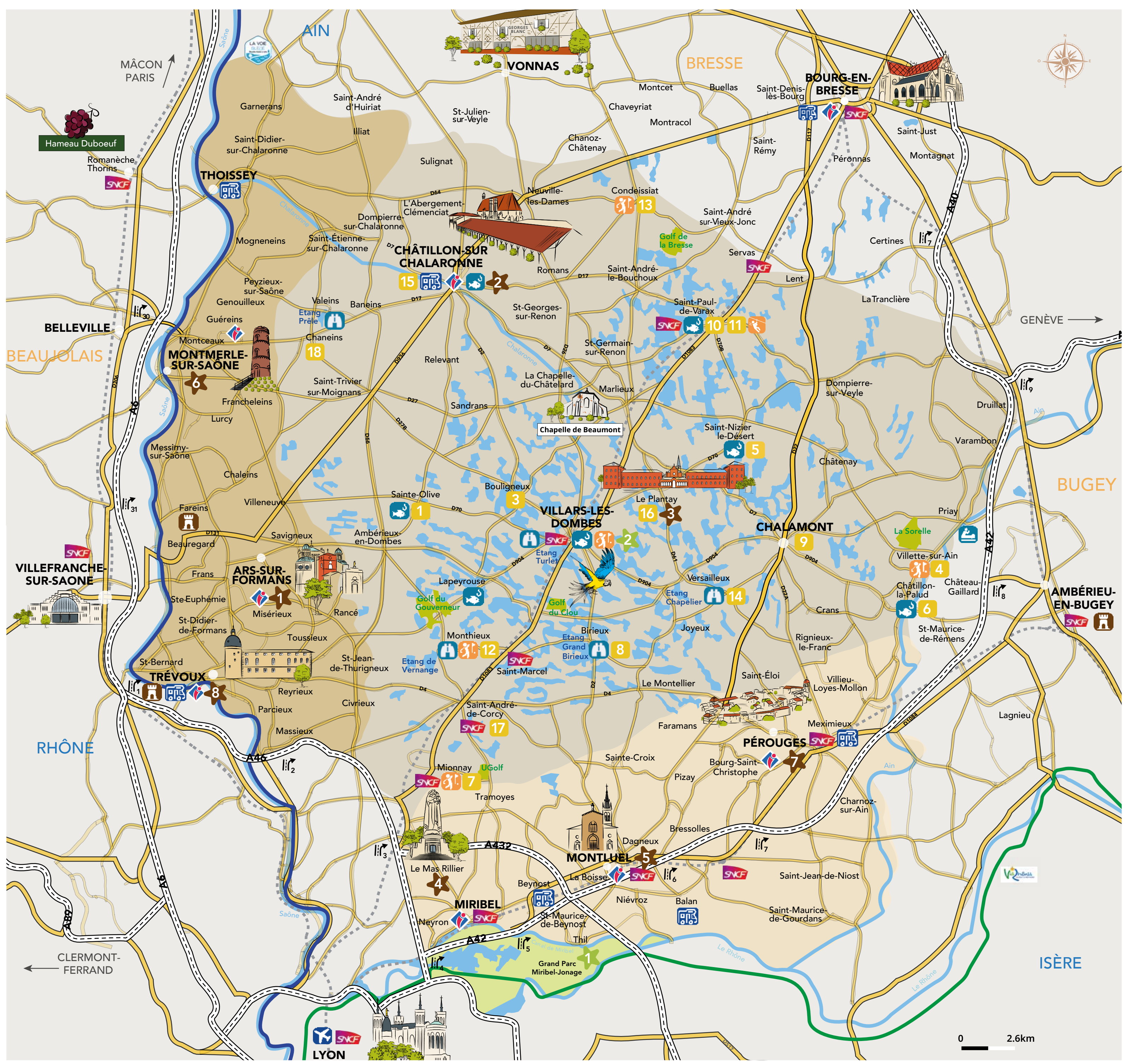
## Practical Information

-  Tourist Office
-  Fishing pond
-  Observatory
-  Golf
-  Walking circuit
-  Canoe
-  Accrobranche® (tree climbing)
-  Nature site
-  Heritage site
-  Castle with tours
-  Motorhome parking area
-  Airport
-  Railroad line
-  Train station
-  Freeway
-  Exit
-  Voie Bleue Moselle-Saône by bike
-  ViaRhôna

Swans on the Prêle pond  
© Claire Curt



Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne  
© Aurélien Lévy



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