

LES PACCOTS – LA VEVEYSE

ENJOY TRADITION AND NATURE

The district of La Veveyse, on the outskirts of the canton of Fribourg, faces south, towards Vevey and Lake Geneva. Only a half hour drive from Fribourg and Lausanne, it attracts visitors all year round, with sporting and leisure activities in the fresh mountain air. Les Paccots and Rathvel are ideal starting points for winter sports. Snowshoe trekkers will find a large network of signposted trails and a lot of unspoiled nature in this Pre-Alpine countryside. Winter hikers also flock to the area for the peace and quiet. The indoor ice rink in Les Paccots is also very popular with locals and day trippers.

Summer visitors can experience the austere beauty of the region by foot or by mountain bike. Mountain restaurants and Alpine huts attract visitors with their specialities, including 'soupe de chalet', fondues and of course, meringues with double cream. You can even combine feasting and fitness in Les Paccots with the

fun 'E-bike and fondue' package. The Rand'eau theme trail, which entertainingly informs visitors about aspects of water in the area of Corbetta, is a fun way for a family to discover nature.

The region has several nationally protected landscapes: the Lac des Joncs, a very deep, 5,000-year-old mountain lake, is part of the national amphibian spawning areas and is home to endangered species such as the turtle and the red-eyed dragonfly. The Niremont, a small mountain range, forms part of the moorlands of national significance and provides a habitat for many rare plants and animals. Nature enthusiasts can visit these protected areas on woodchip-covered paths. Illustrated interpretive panels, oversized board games and other outdoor play equipment help to raise awareness of the need to protect these fragile landscapes. >>



BÉNICHON



Autumn – For centuries the canton of Fribourg has celebrated ‘Bénéichon’, the local patois word for ‘blessing’. It was originally a religious festival to give thanks for the harvest gathered during the warmer months. Today, locals and visitors continue to tuck into the delicious regional specialities on the Bénéichon menu. In Châtel- St-Denis, Bénéichon is always held on the third weekend of October. >>

GOURMET TRAILS



Gourmet hiking – Whichever gourmet trail you choose, calorie counting is definitely off the menu! On the family-friendly ‘L’Épicurien’ hiking trail (2 hours), walkers stop at the top of Le Niremont, take out their fondue kit and cook their own lunch. On the ‘Le Cerf’ trail (3.5 hours), walkers enjoy a meal at the cosy mountain restaurant. The package also includes a starter, dessert and a visit to the petting zoo. A healthy appetite is a must for the ‘Panorama’ trail as it takes in four mountain taverns in four hours! >>

SKI TOURS



Sporty – The popular signposted ski tour route, the Creux des Tables (movement touring track), takes you through the most beautiful winter landscapes to Le Pralet (altitude: 1,568 m) in two hours. >>

FEASTING AND FITNESS



Fondue to go – The ‘E-bike and fondue’ package is a real crowd pleaser. First, you conquer the Alpine paths around Les Paccots on a state-of-the-art electric mountain bike. Second, all this physical exertion makes you hungry. Thankfully, you have everything in your backpack to prepare a delicious ‘moitié-moitié’ fondue. Third, you get to choose the best spot outdoors to enjoy your well-earned lunch. There is also the very popular ‘Snowshoes and fondue’ package during the winter months. Advance booking required. >>

KEY DATES

- 1938** The first ski lift in Les Paccots opens
- 2000** Inauguration of the gourmet trails
- 2013** Launch of the Rand’eau theme trail
- 2014** Rando prize for the Rand’eau theme trail

IN NUMBERS

- Population:** 1,002 inhabitants (village), 8,000 inhabitants (commune)
- Language:** French
- Altitude:** 1,061 m (Les Paccots)