

Summer at La Rocaille, why not..... ?



Another amazing winter season for those who made it out to the Portes de Soleil and La Rocaille. Despite a distinct lack of snow fall throughout the Alps, the skiing in Chatel was exceptional thanks to the investment in the snow canons. In Châtel and across the Portes de Soleil skiing was possible right through to the end of the season with well groomed slopes for all abilities. I even heard a few reports that the snow conditions were better than Chamonix!! We also had an amazing amount of gorgeous sunshine, can't be bad in the middle of winter.

Well the summer is now upon us and with it comes a plethora of summer activities. The mountains aren't just about skiing. For those that enjoy mountain biking there are a huge number of tracks available in the Portes de Soleil area, making use of the chair lifts to get you to the top to then come hurtling down. All the hard work is done for you and there is just the thrill and adrenaline left to enjoy.

For those wanting a gentler adventure there are a wide variety of hikes in the mountains for all levels from gentle ambles and beyond. We, at La Rocaille, can advise you of some of the walks close to the hotel having done some of them ourselves. If you would like a little more from your walk you can walk to a mountain refuge and spend the night. We can also organize a guide for your walks if you would like.

If water is more your thing then there are a number of activities on (or in) the Dranse. The Dranse is the river that runs down through the Abondance Valley all the way to Thonon and Lac Léman (or Lake Geneva). We work closely with a company who can organize the likes of rafting, hydrospeeding and many others. Watersports such as sailing, diving, wind surfing

and water skiing can be organised on the lake in Thonon and Evian. La Rocaille is ideally situated to make the most of both the mountains, and the lake and the sunshine.

The Via Ferrata is another activity not to be missed. Just 1km from the hotel is a rock climbing course with various levels. The Via Ferrata enables everybody to experience some of the thrill of climbing with a series of permanent hand holds and foot holds which make it possible to traverse across and up a rock face. Everyone doing the Via Ferrata wears a harness and helmet and is attached to a thick wire rope for the whole length of the course. For those without a fear of heights it is definitely worth a go. On the same theme of height, Abondance offers a type of assault course in the trees called Abracadabra. It has various levels of difficulty from age four and up to adult. It is definitely something we will be trying out this summer.

As in previous years the Portes de Soleil will be offering the Multi Pass again this year. The Multi Pass will be available at 1€ per day in participating hotels, of which La Rocaille is one. The Multi Pass allows you to gain access to various summer activities in the Portes de Soleil including swimming pools, chair lifts for walkers, tourist trains, Abracadabra, ice rinks. Many of the activities will be free with the Multi Pass and others will be discounted. Not bad really for 1€ per day don't you think?

So what do you think? If you haven't spent a summer in the mountains before and are still wondering what to do this year why not come and stay at La Rocaille and enjoy the many activities and the stunning scenery. Get away from it all, relax and see the other side of the mountains! Go on you know you want to!

See you in the summer

Susie and Alain