Open-air activities

The mountains away from the pistes are alive with opportunities for shared moments of fun.

**Snowshoeing** – rejuvenation guaranteed while exploring the mountains’ wide open spaces and learning about mountain wildlife, far from the noise and commotion of the crowds.

**Snowshoe hiking** 1/2 day Wildlife and Nature: € 30 (from 8 years)
An unforgettable encounter with wildlife and wild flora in the heart of the Ecrins National Park. 9am to 12pm and from 14h to 17h. Tel +33 (0)6 83 95 12 97.

**ZEN 1/2 day snowshoe hikes and Grands Bains du Monêtier** : € 44 (from 8 years)
An unforgettable encounter with wildlife and wild flora in the heart of the Ecrins National Park followed by a delicious moment of relaxation at the Grands Bains du Monêtier. Tel +33 (0)6 83 95 12 97.

**Gentle snowshoe hikes around the Vauban fortifications, for culture.** Each winter guide-lecturers from Briançon’s heritage department and mountain leaders from Montagne Visa Trekking offer a range of original outings. Combining sport, natural heritage and the military heritage of the forts, these walks are open to everyone. Two circuits available:

- Fort des Têtes from the Fontchristianne valley
- Fort des Salettes from the Champ de Mars.

The trip starts with a few moments to familiarise yourself with the equipment after which your mountain leaders teach you the basics of walking with snowshoes, which is easy to master and fun. Snowshoeing will appeal to nature lovers who, even in the depths of winter, can explore the mountain flora and fauna. With a bit of luck you might see some of the local wildlife and be able to follow them thanks to the numerous tracks they leave in the blanket of snow.

Booking required for both outings
- In Briançon: Cité Vauban, Heritage Service (Service du Patrimoine) up to 5pm the day before
- In Briançon: lower town, Intersport Cycles & Ski shop, opposite the Prorel gondola, up to 7pm the day before
  - In Chantermerle: ESI Évasion, Le Serre d’Aigle up to 5:30pm the day before
  - In Villeneuve-la-Salle: ESI Buissonière, place de l’Aravet up to 6pm the day before
For more information call +33 (0)4 92 20 29 49 or +33 (0)6 77 10 63 08. Meet in front of the INTERSPORT Cycles & Ski shop, opposite the Prorel gondola, in the lower town.

The guide-lecturers will explain the history of the area to you, where Vauban left his mark and whose forts are now designated ‘World Heritage Sites’. The powerful and elegant architecture is certainly impressive and is heightened by the sumptuous snowy surroundings. The magic of these sites really strikes you as you enter the forts frozen in their winter slumber. You are then transported back to the 17th century and can imagine what it was like to be one of Louis XV’s soldiers. Information and booking (required) at the Heritage Department on 33 (0)4 92 20 29.
Nordic Skiing

Serre Chevalier is a famous Nordic skiing area. Enjoy a magical and timeless skiing experience along the Hautes Alpes' Guisane valley. Explore a succession of villages and hamlets, each one more delightful than the last, along 35km of pistes against a unique natural backdrop to make your holiday in the snow truly unique! Start in Villeneuve, from Le Monêtier to Les Guibertes, eight classic and skating circuits. European Cup standard 24-target Biathlon stadium.

Retro Classic: In this nod to the 1970s, Serre Chevalier brings you a route dedicated to classic cross-country skiing called the 'Rétro Classique'. This 7km course starts in Les Guibertes and is groomed after every snow fall.

Nordic walking

Nordic walking is another, more dynamic approach to walking. The principle behind it is simple: walkers accentuate the natural movement of the arms when walking and propel the body forward with the aid of two poles, which allow the walker to walk more quickly and for longer. The whole body is brought into use, increasing the body's energy requirements. Thanks to a simple and easy-to-learn technique, Nordic walkers enjoy improved well-being even on their first outings. Céliéri Pascale, tel +33 (0)6 61 48 04 57.

Mindful walking : € 20 (2h)
Walking consciously, it is the tranquility in motion: every step leads us to what we really are and helps us get in touch with our inner resources, cultivate our relationship to the world and develop our potential. Tel +33 (0)6 83 95 12 97.