Annecy, France

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Quick Facts

- A commune in the Haute-Savoie department of France
- Lies on the Southern tip of Lake Annecy, and 35 Kilometers south of Geneva, Switzerland
- It hosted stage 18 of the Tour de France this past summer
- The area of Annecy includes 13 municipalities
- Is one of the three cities bidding to host the winter Olympics in 2018. The other two cities are Munich, Germany and Pyeongchang, North Korea. Annecy will be the 4th French city to host the winter Olympics if it’s chosen.
History of the Town

• One of the oldest inhabited areas of the Northern Alps—approximately 3,100 BC

• “New Annecy” began with the building of the medieval fortress and castle

• Duke of Savoy took refuge in Annecy after losing Geneva in 1526, making Annecy an even more important medieval city

• An important religious site for the protestant reformation in the 16th century

• In 1606 the Florimontane Academy was founded by Antoine Favre and Saint Francois de Sales

• Jean-Jacques Rousseau visited the town in 1728 and said that the medieval castle is one of the most picturesque in all of France.

• Today the town is driven by tourism as many people flock to the town when visiting the lake.
Haute-Savoie Department

- Region occupied by the Celts in 600 BC
- In 218 BC Hannibal passed through on his way to Rome
- Conquered by Rome in 121 BC
- Fell under Frankish rule in 534
- Fell under rule of the Duchy of Savoy in the 14th century
- In 1786, Mont Blanc was ascended for the first time
- The 19th century in this region was a time of wars and peace treaties giving the land back and forth between France and Austria
- 1924 Chamonix hosted the first ever Winter Olympics
- 1965 was the inauguration of the Mont Blanc highway tunnel, making the region more accessible.
The Rhone-Alps Region

Quick Facts
• Chief city: Lyon
• Population: 6,058,000
• Area: 43,698 km²
• President: Jean-Jack Queyranne
• 8 Departments: Ain, Ardeche, Drome, Isere, Loire, Rhone, Savoie, Haute-Savoie
• The region has 6 major lakes, including lake Annecy

History
• The region was first occupied by the Celts, then were taken over by Hannibal’s army, and then the Romans
• The area was united with Savoie when a Dauphin married the daughter of Count Savoie
• Later, the area was united with the region of Piedmont in Italy to create the Dukedom of Savoie
• Entire towns in the Region were destroyed during the religious wars of the 16th century
• Lyon was a chief city of resistance during the Revolution and WWII
Food of the Region

- **Cheeses:** Reblochon, Persillé, Gruyère, Saint-Marcellin, Tamié etc
- **Wines:** Fruity reds, famous Savagnin (left to sit for six years and loses 1/3 of its volume to evaporation), Roussette, Bergeron, and Apremont (or Abymes)
- **Signature dishes:**
  - Gratin Dauphinois: layers of thinly sliced potatoes cooked with cream
  - Small pâté’s combined with spinach
  - Pela des Aravis (or tartiflette): melted cheese on boiled potatoes
  - Fondue: melted Gruyere cheese with white wine
  - Farcement savoyard: a cake made with grated uncooked potato with prunes, dried pears, raisins, eggs and flour added
  - Caion: pork cooked in red wine with polenta
  - Matafan: potato pancake
  - Delicate, sponge-like pastries
  - Jams, jellies, and spirits are made from the grapes and fruits
The Sights

• **Palais de l’Isle**: The famous old prison built in the 12th century on the canal (see picture on first slide)

• **Château d’Annecy**: Served as the home for the counts of Geneva and the Dukes of Genevois-Nemours. Today it holds offices.

• **Cathedral of Saint-Pierre**: Built as a Franciscan Friary in the early 16th century and now houses artwork

• **Rue Saint-Claire**: Main street in Annecy, filled with romantic arches from the 17th and 18th centuries

• **Rue Royale**: Heart of the political and commercial activities of the town. Filled with shops and gardens and the famed fountain of Saint Jean.
The Sights, cont.

• Church of Saint-Maurice: Gothic style church which now houses some beautiful pieces of artwork from the 15\textsuperscript{th} and 16\textsuperscript{th} centuries
• European Gardens: Beautiful diverse gardens built after the annexing of the Savoie in 1863
• Pont des Amours: (lovers bridge) 20\textsuperscript{th} century iron bridge
• Impérial Palace: Has public gardens, a beach, and a casino. Built in 1913.
• Basilique de la Visitation: Houses the tomb of Francois de Sales and Jeanne de Chantal. Built in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century and has a beautiful view of the town.
• And, of course, Lake Annecy
Lake Annecy

• The second largest lake in France
• Known as “Europe’s cleanest lake” due to the strict environmental regulations set up in the 1960’s
• A lock in the route from Italy to Geneva, Switzerland expanded the town
• Bikers in the Tour de France circled the lake during stage 18 during the summer of 2009 race.
• It’s a popular area for Parasailing
Famous Figures

- Eustache Chappuis (1499-1556): An ambassador to the court of Henry VIII in England. He also opened a college in the 16th century, but it closed in 1888.
- Antoine Favre: a co-founder of the Florimontane Academy and author of the Fabrien code which was in use until Napoleon the 1st.
- Claude Favre de vaugelas (1585-1650): He was nominated into the Academie Francaise in 1635, the same year it was founded. He wrote the famous Academy dictionary.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778): Famous writer and philosopher
- Claude Bertholett (1748-1822): A chemist who did his work at montpellier and took part in the Egyptian Campaign. He also was a court-senator and then grand officer of the Legion d’honneur.
- Eugene Sue (1804-1857): Author of the popular novel “Mysteries of Paris”.
- Germain Sommellier (1815-1871): Engineer who invented the air drilling machine.
- Louis Armand (1905-1971): Engineer who perfected the French Railway System
Works Cited

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• Images from “google images”