

# Annecy, France

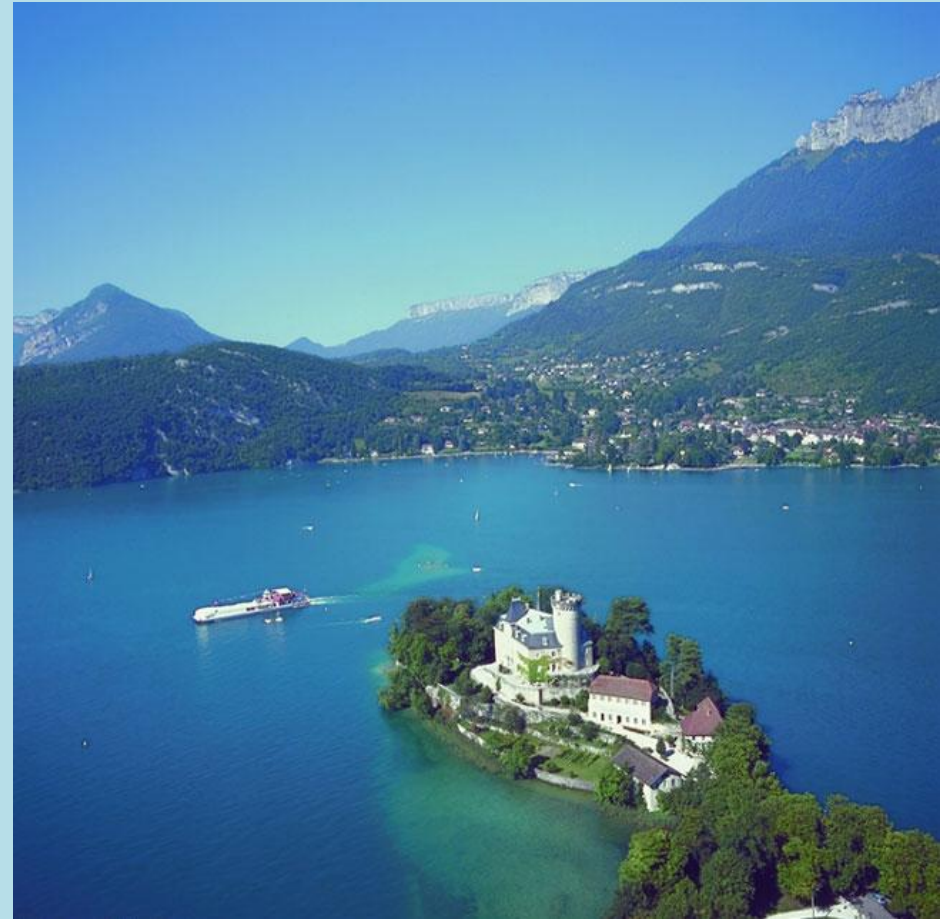


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# Quick Facts

- 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> century
- In 1786, mont blanc was ascended for the first time
- The 19<sup>th</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>
- President: Jean-Jack Queyranne
- 8 Departments: Ain, Ardeche, Drome, Iserre, Loire, Rhone, Savoie, Haute-Savoie
- The region has 6 major lakes, including lake Annecy



Lyon

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> century and now houses artwork
- Rue Saint-Claire: Main street in Annecy, filled with romantic arches from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



Château d'Annecy on Lake Annecy



# The Sights, cont.



- Church of Saint-Maurice: Gothic style church which now houses some beautiful pieces of artwork from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries
- European Gardens: Beautiful diverse gardens built after the annexing of the Savoie in 1863
- Pont des Amours: (lovers bridge) 20<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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-Jaques Rousseau (1712-1778): Famous writer and philosopher
- Claude Berthollet (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 Sommeiller (1815-1871): Engineer who invented the air drilling machine.
- Louis Armand (1905-1971): Engineer who perfected the French Railway System

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