

## WHY DO WE NEED REGULATION ?

The purpose of a nature reserve is to protect an exceptional and recognised natural heritage.

To find the right balance between heritage issues and human activities, regulations apply.

They serve as a safeguard and allow everyone to make the most of the site while preserving the fauna, flora, landscapes and natural environments. The agents of the nature reserves, the French Office of Biodiversity, the National Forestry Office and the National Gendarmerie, among others, are responsible for enforcing these regulations.



Dogs are not allowed, even on a lead, as they can harm ground-nesting birds and disturb wildlife. There are some exceptions, for sheepdogs or working rescue dogs.



Bivouacking is tolerated from 7pm to 9am but it is forbidden to pitch a tent outside these hours or for several days.



In order to limit the high fire risk - especially in summer - damage to the flora and disturbance of the fauna, it is forbidden to make fires.



The collection of fossils or minerals is prohibited in order to preserve the geological, archaeological and historical heritage of the site.



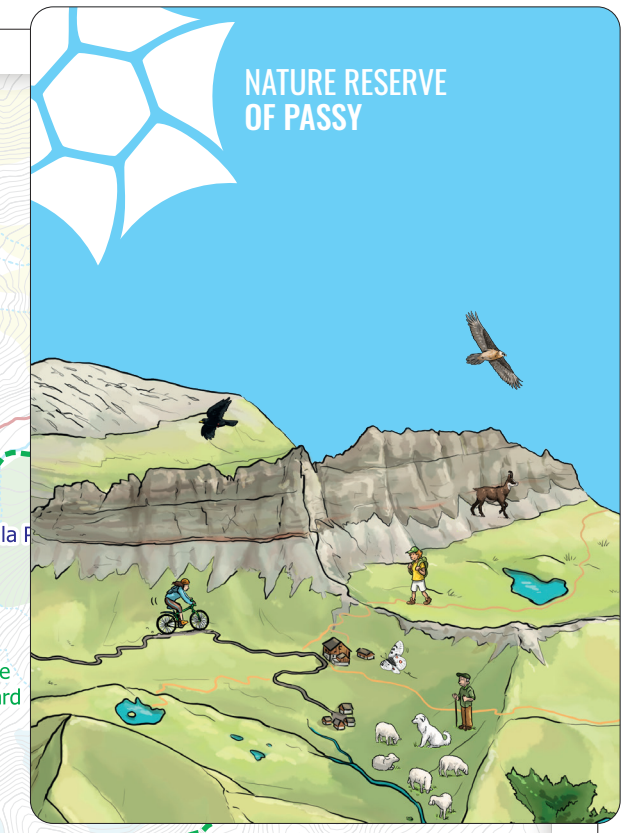
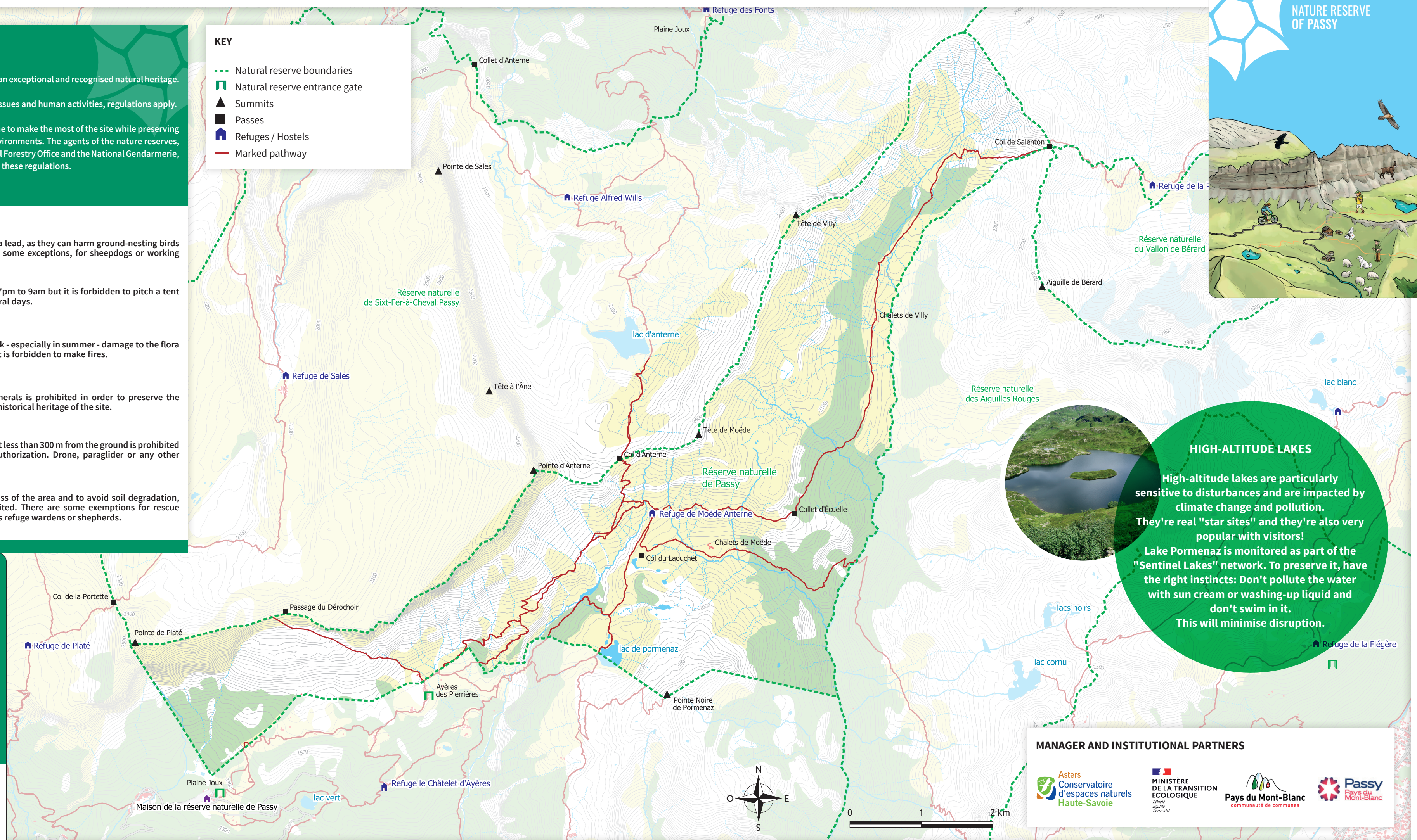
Flying over the nature reserve at less than 300 m from the ground is prohibited excepted with a prefectural authorization. Drone, paraglider or any other aircraft are concerned.



In order to respect the quietness of the area and to avoid soil degradation, motorised vehicles are prohibited. There are some exemptions for rescue services or certain users such as refuge wardens or shepherds.

## KEY

- Natural reserve boundaries
- Natural reserve entrance gate
- Summits
- Passes
- Refuges / Hostels
- Marked pathway



## HIGH-ALTITUDE LAKES

High-altitude lakes are particularly sensitive to disturbances and are impacted by climate change and pollution. They're real "star sites" and they're also very popular with visitors!

Lake Pormenaz is monitored as part of the "Sentinel Lakes" network. To preserve it, have the right instincts: Don't pollute the water with sun cream or washing-up liquid and don't swim in it. This will minimise disruption.



www.cen-haute-savoie.org  
 +33 (0)4 50 66 47 51 | contact@cen-haute-savoie.org  
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## MANAGER AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



The nature reserve of Passy, located in the commune of Passy, is managed by Asters, the Haute-Savoie Conservatory of Natural Areas.

### THE PURPOSE OF A NATURE RESERVE

#### KNOW

Science is a fundamental tool for better understanding the world around us and its fragility. The nature reserve is an open-air laboratory!

#### PROTECT

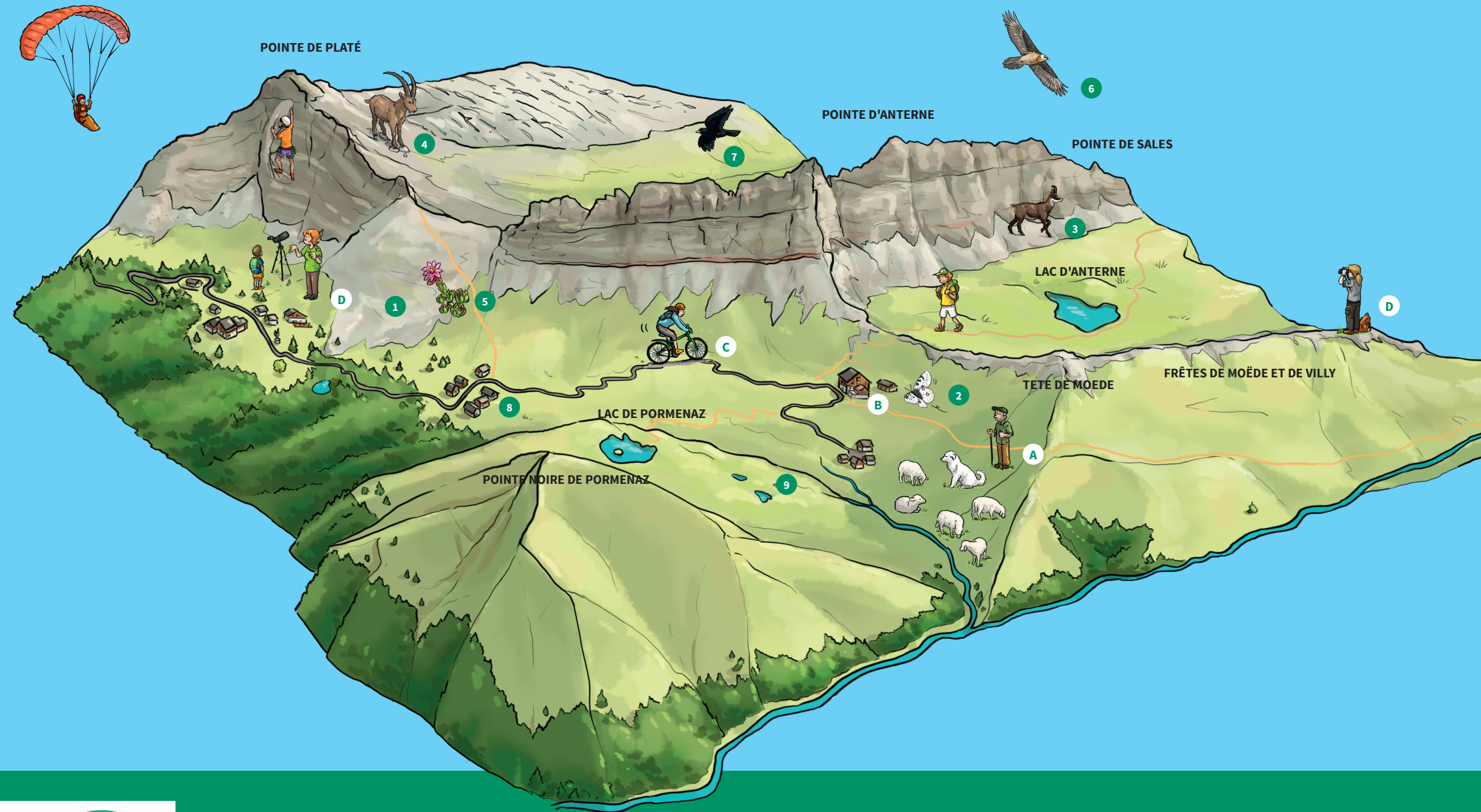
Specific regulations apply to each nature reserve. The manager ensures the protection of this area through environmental policing.

#### MANAGE

A project for the conservation and management of species and natural environments exists in this area, in search of a delicate balance between humans and nature.

#### SHARE

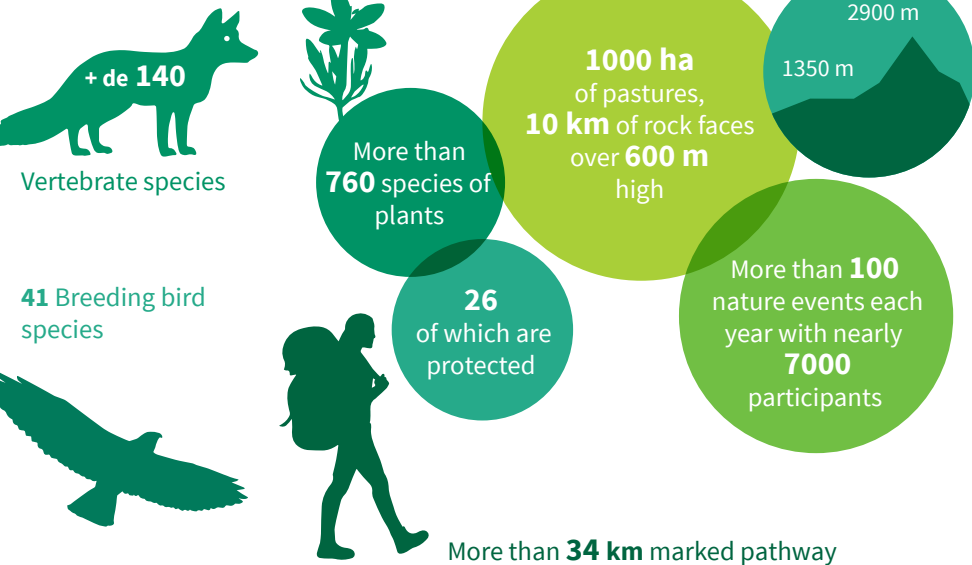
Loving, discovering, learning, respecting... this space is open to the public and takes visitors far beyond wonder..



### HERITAGE OF NATURAL RESERVE

- 1** The Dérochoir is the result of successive landslides. The first documented one dates back to 1471. The second and final one, for the time being, was in 1751. At the foot of the wall, a huge landslide cone forms an unstable slope.
- 2** The Small Apollo is a butterfly. It's found in the mountains, in open environments - its caterpillars prefer stonecrops or houseleeks, while in the adult stage it feasts on the nectar of thistles and other knapweeds. It's very beautiful, but don't do any more than look at it, because it's an endangered species which is protected at the France and international levels.
- 3** The Chamois can be recognised by its two hook-shaped horns, which both the males and the females have. It's difficult to distinguish between the two sexes: there is only a slight sexual dimorphism. However, the males, or billy goats, are stockier. The females live in groups, called "herds", with the young of the year.
- 4** The Alpine ibex, which is now protected, almost disappeared from the Alps at the end of the 19th century, mainly due to hunting and poaching. Successive reintroductions throughout the Alps have increased their population numbers. In the nature reserve, the ibex are monitored to ensure their state of health and to gain a better understanding of how their populations work.
- 5** Houseleeks are small plants which grow in clumps and have pink, red or yellow flowers in summer. They are very drought- and cold-resistant succulents which can cling to surfaces as hostile as bare rock. The Romans believed they had the ability to ward off lightning, hence the name Jovis barba, "Jupiter's beard", while the ancient Scandinavians used them to ward evil spirits away from the house.
- 6** The Bearded Vulture is a symbol of our mountains. Decimated at the beginning of the 20th century, it owes its comeback to the work of persevering ornithologists. If you're lucky enough to see one during your walk, you should know that this is thanks to the largest reintroduction programme in Europe! And don't worry, it's a scavenger which mainly feeds on bones.
- 7** The Common Raven is the largest of the corvids! Alternately feared and revered, it's the subject of myths and legends in many cultures. Long persecuted, it is now protected. It's the size of a buzzard and can be recognised by its hoarse call. The couples, which mate for life, engage in high-flying nuptial rituals!
- 8** Les Chalets d'Ayères: Originally, the term "Ahier" referred to the Sycamore. The terms "pierrières" and "roc" come from the numerous boulders which are a relic of the Dérochoir landslides, including the one in 1751 which killed 6 people and some domestic animals. All these chalets, which form a small hamlet, were alpine chalets for agricultural purposes. They were used in the summer to shelter shepherds and their families. They were also used as a milking parlour and for cheesemaking. Now they're second homes.
- 9** The Pormenaz wetland is made up of small, shallow bodies of water known as "laouchets". A rare and protected species, the sparganium or bur-reed, thrives here, as does an important biodiversity. In the long term, these wastes will fill in and become natural peat bogs.

### KEY FIGURES



### ACTIVITIES IN THE NATURAL RESERVE

- A** The breeding of milk-producing cows has been practised for a very long time and was once a tradition. Today, in the Passy nature reserve, there are mainly large flocks of sheep, often guarded by a shepherd and dogs who defend the animals against attacks by large predators. When approaching the herd, be aware of the behaviour of these dogs, keep your distance from the herd, remain calm and keep walking without running. Don't hesitate to talk to them gently so that they get used to and accept your presence
- B** The Moède-Anterne refuge welcomes many hikers, especially those who are walking along the Tour des Fiz and the Tour des Aiguilles Rouges. This refuge is also located on the route of the GR5 and the Grande Traversée des Alpes.
- C** The beauty of the sites attracts many mountain sports enthusiasts (mountain biking, hiking, climbing, paragliding, etc.). They have to comply with the regulations. Hikers are asked to stay on the paths. Climbers and skiers should limit disturbances to wildlife, especially in the winter. It is therefore advisable to find out all you can about any activity in the nature reserve.
- D** The nature reserve manager's team regularly scours the field. Their tasks include scientific monitoring, restoration of natural environments, observation and awareness-raising.

### FIND OUT MORE

[www.cen-haute-savoie.org](http://www.cen-haute-savoie.org)  
[rando.nature-haute-savoie.fr](http://rando.nature-haute-savoie.fr)  
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[www.passy-mont-blanc.com](http://www.passy-mont-blanc.com)

**The Passy nature reserve house :**  
 Located in Plaine-Joux, on the heights of Passy, this museum space welcomes visitors, schoolchildren and groups (by reservation) who want to learn more about the nature reserve: fauna, flora, landscapes, etc. Free admission.  
 Information: [reserve.passy@cen-haute-savoie.org](mailto:reserve.passy@cen-haute-savoie.org)  
 T. (+33) 4 50 90 23 07

