

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 must be kept on a lead from 15th April to 30th June: This is the pupping or nesting period for most species. In order to give the little ones time to become independent, it's essential to keep your dog on a lead! We're counting on you!



To preserve the tranquility of this protected area, no form of accommodation is permitted in the nature reserve: no camping, no bivouacs, no huts.



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.



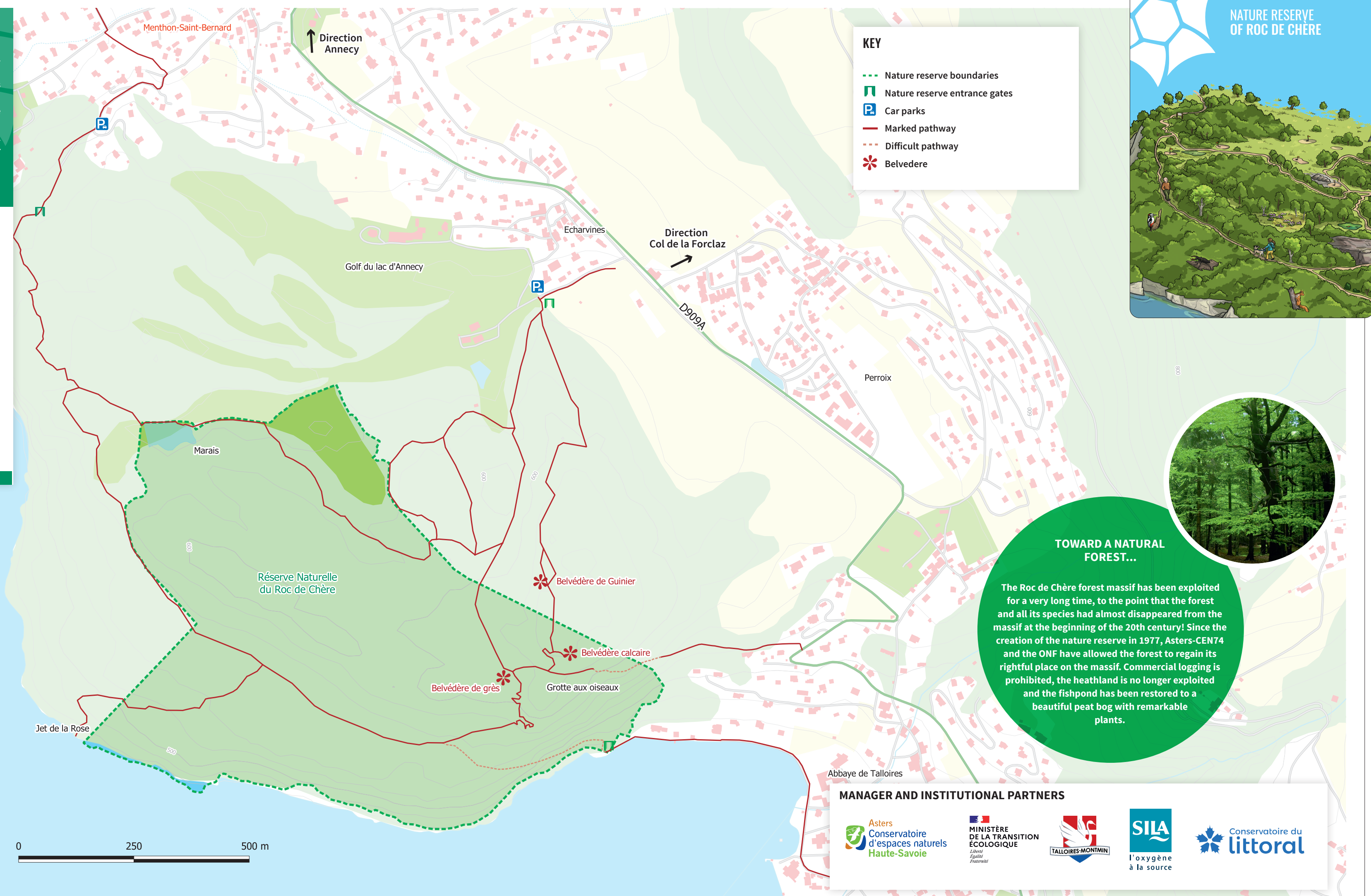
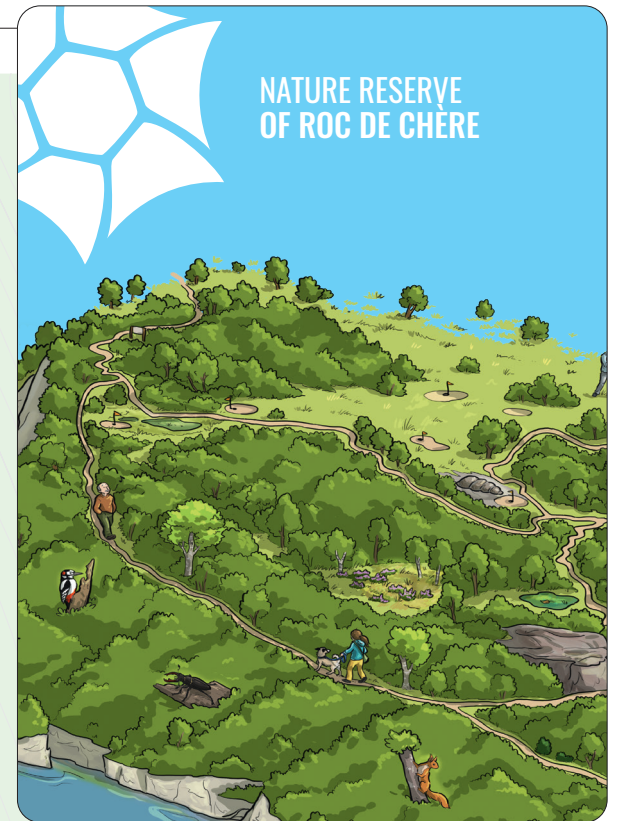
Flora are protected within the nature reserve. Look at them, breathe them in, but do not pick them.



The use of motorised land vehicles is prohibited to preserve the peace and quiet of the fauna and the walkers and to limit the erosion of the paths.

KEY

- Nature reserve boundaries
- Nature reserve entrance gates
- Car parks
- Marked pathway
- Difficult pathway
- Belvedere

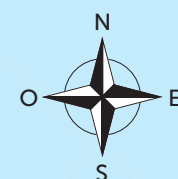


TOWARD A NATURAL FOREST...

The Roc de Chère forest massif has been exploited for a very long time, to the point that the forest and all its species had almost disappeared from the massif at the beginning of the 20th century! Since the creation of the nature reserve in 1977, Asters-CEN74 and the ONF have allowed the forest to regain its rightful place on the massif. Commercial logging is prohibited, the heathland is no longer exploited and the fishpond has been restored to a beautiful peat bog with remarkable plants.



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MANAGER AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



The Roc de Chère nature reserve, located in the communes of Talloires-Montmin and Menthon-Saint-Bernard, is managed by Asters, Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Haute-Savoie.

THE PURPOSE OF A NATURAL 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

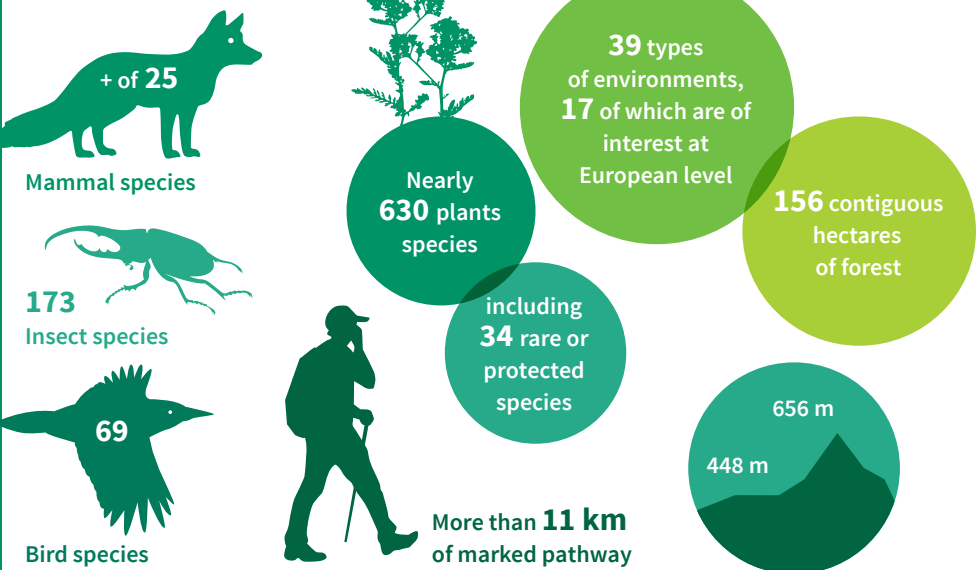
A project for the conservation and management of species and natural environments exists in this area, in search of a delicate balance between humans and nature.

SHARE

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



KEY FIGURES



ACTIVITIES IN THE NATURE RESERVE

- A** The team of the Roc de Chère nature reserve manager regularly scours the field. Their job includes scientific monitoring, restoration of the natural environment, welcoming the public and surveillance.
- B** A scientific committee supports the nature reserve manager in measuring the effects of climate change on certain natural environments. Birds are monitored every year, while the plants in the late-mown meadows of the golf course, especially orchids, are surveyed every 5 years. The Orange-Spotted Emerald, a small dragonfly which is rare in our region, thrives at the foot of the cliffs and is also regularly monitored (counting of exuviae).
- C** For more than 20 years, the golf team and the reserve manager have been working together to reconcile the practice of sport with the conservation of biodiversity. On the fringes of the impeccable grass playing area, the "rough" with its abundant grasses is a joyful mess! This natural grassland, typical of limestone environments, is home to a wide variety of species such as orchids and butterflies. In agreement with the golf team, this area is mown late to give the plants time to reproduce.
- D** Hiking, mountain biking, running or kayaking at the foot of the cliffs... are all activities practised in the nature reserve. They must comply with the regulations in force. It is therefore advisable to find out all you can about any activity in the nature reserve.

HERITAGE OF THE NATURE RESERVE

- 1** The now rare Stag Beetle is happy at the Roc de Chère. Before pupating, the white larvae feed on dead wood. Once they have become adults, the male grows impressive mandibles, which look like a deer's antlers.
- 2** The Woodpecker family is well represented on the massif. Black, Green, Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers drum on tree trunks. They dig lodges for their nests and feed on insects which they scavenge from dead wood with their large tongues and powerful beaks.
- 3** Beech can be confused with Hornbeam. However, on closer inspection, the beech's leaf, which is hairy and slightly wavy, differs from the hornbeam's leaf, which looks frilled and has fine teeth around the edge.
- 4** Heather has grown here as a result of successive deforestation which has impoverished the soil, depriving it of humus. This plant thrives on acidic, shallow soils. The dead plant parts pile up and decompose into the heathland which gardeners are familiar with.
- 5** Bithynia, one of the treasures of the Roc de Chère, are fossils buried underground. They're mainly found in the Golf Valley, where these molluscs lived in a lake a few tens of millions of years ago!
- 6** Boxwood is a species of evergreen shrub which produces small yellowish flowers in spring which bees like to pollinate. The scent of the seeds attracts ants, which spread the seeds. Boxwood is a very slow-growing plant which can live for centuries but is eaten by the caterpillars of the Box Tree Moth.
- 7** The Salamander is a small black amphibian with yellow spots, a long tail and 4 legs. The salamander lives in forests where it can camouflage itself and go unnoticed. It emerges in spring to give birth in pools. As soon as the eggs leave the body, they hatch into aquatic larvae.
- 8** The Western Green Lizard can grow up to 40 cm in length. Its bright green with yellow dots is easy to spot, but sometimes you have to be sneaky to spot it! A fan of warm, dry environments, it enjoys the sunniest slopes of the Roc de Chère.
- 9** The Orange-Spotted Emerald is a 4-5 cm long dragonfly with a green abdomen decorated with yellow spots. The female lays eggs by tapping the tip of her abdomen against roots which dip into the water to deposit the eggs in clusters. At the Roc de Chère these dragonflies are particularly fond of the foot of the cliffs.
- 10** Limestone pavements are surfaces carved out by the runoff of slightly acidic rainwater, which dissolves the rock. Cracks, gullies and basins form a labyrinth on which vegetation, often consisting of mosses, grows as best it can. At the Roc de Chère, most of the limestone pavements have slowly become forested over time.
- 11** At the Roc de Chère, the ponds are the result of rainwater meeting the impermeable rock. In the forest, protected by the shade of the trees, they remain in water for part of the summer. As the leaves fall, they're gradually filled in. This is why the ponds are maintained by the nature reserve manager, who wants to preserve them as they're home to a wide variety of small fauna.
- 12** The cliffs of the Roc de Chère, which are clearly visible above the lake, are made of limestone which formed about 120 million years ago, when the Alps (which didn't exist yet!) were covered by a warm, tropical sea. The many marine animals (shells, sea urchins or ammonites) which, as they died, were deposited on the bottom of the water, formed billions of pieces of debris, which are now the famous urgonian limestone!
- 13** The sandstone belvedere is not only an admirable viewpoint, but also a geological originality. This sandstone is made up of grains of siliceous sand in which heather, fern or birch grow... On the sandstone hilltops, large circular holes date back to the Middle Ages (14th century), when millstones were mined here!
- 14** The Golf marsh is located at the end of a marshy valley, crossed by a stream which has transported sandy materials which waterproof the bottom of a small natural depression. The marsh, which is wet from autumn to spring, allows typical vegetation to develop (iris, bulrush, sedges, orchids, willow, etc.). It's also home to a breeding pair of mallard ducks..

FIND OUT MORE

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