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# Sport style, History and Discoveries!



Follow the guides!

1 Your journey begins at the lower station. During your walk, you can make use of this mini-guide, but also follow the signposts to “Gare supérieure du téléphérique (Monnetier)”. Walk alongside the railway towards the centre of the village. At the crossroads, take the “chemin du bois Méringuet”.

2 Cross the bridge above the motorway and your climb up the Magical Mont Salève has begun!

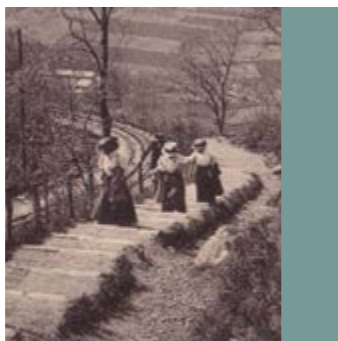
3 You will see the glacial erratics, which are granite and gneiss rocks (Mont Salève itself is made of limestone) carried by the Arve glacier from the Mont-Blanc region during the glacial periods that ended 15 000 years ago. Many rocks were cut to make cider presses or basins or to build the railway at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today only a few blocks measuring over 80 m are left.



4 Walk up the steps carved out in the rocks. You will then see the funicular tunnel, one of the remains of the old cog railway that operated until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The expansion of the quarries has somewhat erased the traces of this mode of transport, which was revolutionary at the time.



5 You have now stepped into the history of Mont Salève! This staircase is part of the Pas de l’Echelle path. It was described as the scalamunitum (“Monnetier staircase”) in 1320 and is probably the oldest on Mont Salève. The staircase was cut out in the rock, and at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the cog railway ran alongside it. Train passengers and walkers were only a few yards away from each other!



6 Climbing up, you probably glimpsed the Château de Monnetier (or de l’Ermitage). Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it was originally the home of hermits, monks who had vowed to live in seclusion. A motto was engraved in the stone: naître, souffrir, mourir (Be born, suffer, die). The château was seized and burnt down by the Genevans at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The site then remained in ruins for three centuries. In 1885 the château was rebuilt and turned into a guest-house, and in 1926, a family bought the château at an auction. The site was turned into a holiday resort, with a swimming pool to delight the guests and a tennis court that became an ice-rink in the winter. Since 1989, it has no longer been open to the public. It was finally sold and is still undergoing renovation work.



7 Time for a little break! You are right at the heart of a valley formed by the currents beneath the glacier, which melted over 20 000 years ago. You are now entering the town of Monnetier-Mornex, which united two villages of the same names. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these villages became fashionable holiday destinations for Geneva society and passing tourists. A large number of guest house-hotels were built. The arrival of the cog railway added to its reputation among visitors. Take the time to stroll through the village.



8 Continue your walk. You are now approaching the oratory of Notre-Dame de Salève. Admire the view! This is the ideal moment for a selfie, and don’t forget to share it with the hashtag #telepheriquedusalève. There is free wifi in the stations. Here, there is a choice of two paths. We recommend taking the path to the left of the oratory.



9 A few kilometres further on, you will not be far from the Chalet de la Croix. This is a restaurant serving traditional and family cuisine.

10 The last part of the climb is not the easiest! But there is a picnic area just ahead!

11 The Botanic Gardens signal your arrival. After enjoying the view, are you ready to go back down in the cable car?



12 You will travel back above the Salève quarries. Quarrying began during the Middle Ages. 490 000 tonnes are quarried here each year, with 70 % going to the French market and 30 % to the Swiss (housing, railways, motorways, etc.). The site will be quarried until 2034. Meanwhile, the mining companies are committed to returning the site to its natural state, with artificial and natural ageing of the rock, replanting of vegetation and trees,...



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# Family style, between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc



Follow the guides!

A When you leave the upper station, take the steps to your right, next to the Buvette Sympa, where you can stock up on a few calories before your journey. Go straight ahead along the path parallel to the games area and which cuts across the road. Continue straight ahead through the woodland.



B Walk past the paragliding area called “la table d’orientation”. Access to the slopes is forbidden. The descent is abrupt and dangerous.



C To your right is the monastery and Buddhist centre. Inaugurated by the Dalai Lama in 2011, the temple is a site dedicated to seminars and meditation. But it is also open to the public, with a restaurant and a teaching area (a list of lessons is available on the centre’s website).

D Go straight ahead and you will arrive at another restaurant: L’Observatoire. The antenna you can see provides all the Lake Geneva basin with television and mobile services relayed from France and Geneva.



E Walk to the right of the tower. At the signpost “Observatoire alt. 1244 m”, head for the Grande Gorge Nord. When you arrive at the car park, cross the road and go through the barrier. Go down into the pastures along the edge of the forest. At the signpost “Grange Gaby Alt. 1210 m”, turn left onto the path towards “Esserts, La Muraz”. Go down near the Grange Passet farm and, at the corner of the hedge, turn right and go along the wide stone path for 50 m.

F Turn left along the road that goes under a small bridge and then continue past the signpost for the Club Alpin Suisse refuge chalet. The bridge is one of the traces of the old cog railway that went up to the Mont Salève summit.

G Turn left towards the Treize Arbres and you will arrive at the cable car station.



www.telepheriquedusalève.com  
Tel. +33 (0) 450 39 86 86

Before you set out on your hike, please find out what time the last cable car leaves.

The last cable  
car won’t wait  
for you!



PANORAMA, HISTORY, DISCOVERY

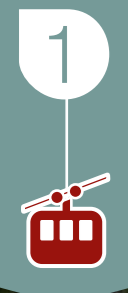
Le Téléphérique  
du Salève

Opening date:  
1932  
Departure station  
(FR-Etrembières):  
410 m  
Upper station  
(FR-Monnetier-Mornex):  
1097 m  
Speed: 7 m/sec  
1200 m of cable without  
pylons  
60 people maximum  
per cabin  
Reversible system

Download  
the free app



For more information  
about the cable car,  
download the free  
audio guide  
on your smartphone



# Sport style, History and Discoveries!

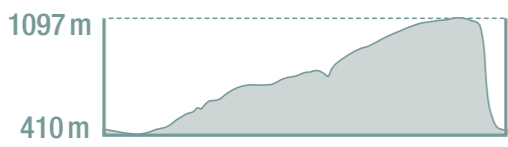


Discover an energetic walk rich in history. The circuit will take you through some of the rich history of Mont Salève and its cable car. You will follow in the tracks of the first cog railway in the world, which carried local residents and tourists from Geneva to the summit of Mont Salève between 1893 and 1935.

**DURATION:** 2 h 30     **DISTANCE:** 5,5 km

**ELEVATION:** 670 m     **DEPARTURE:** Salève lower cable car station car park

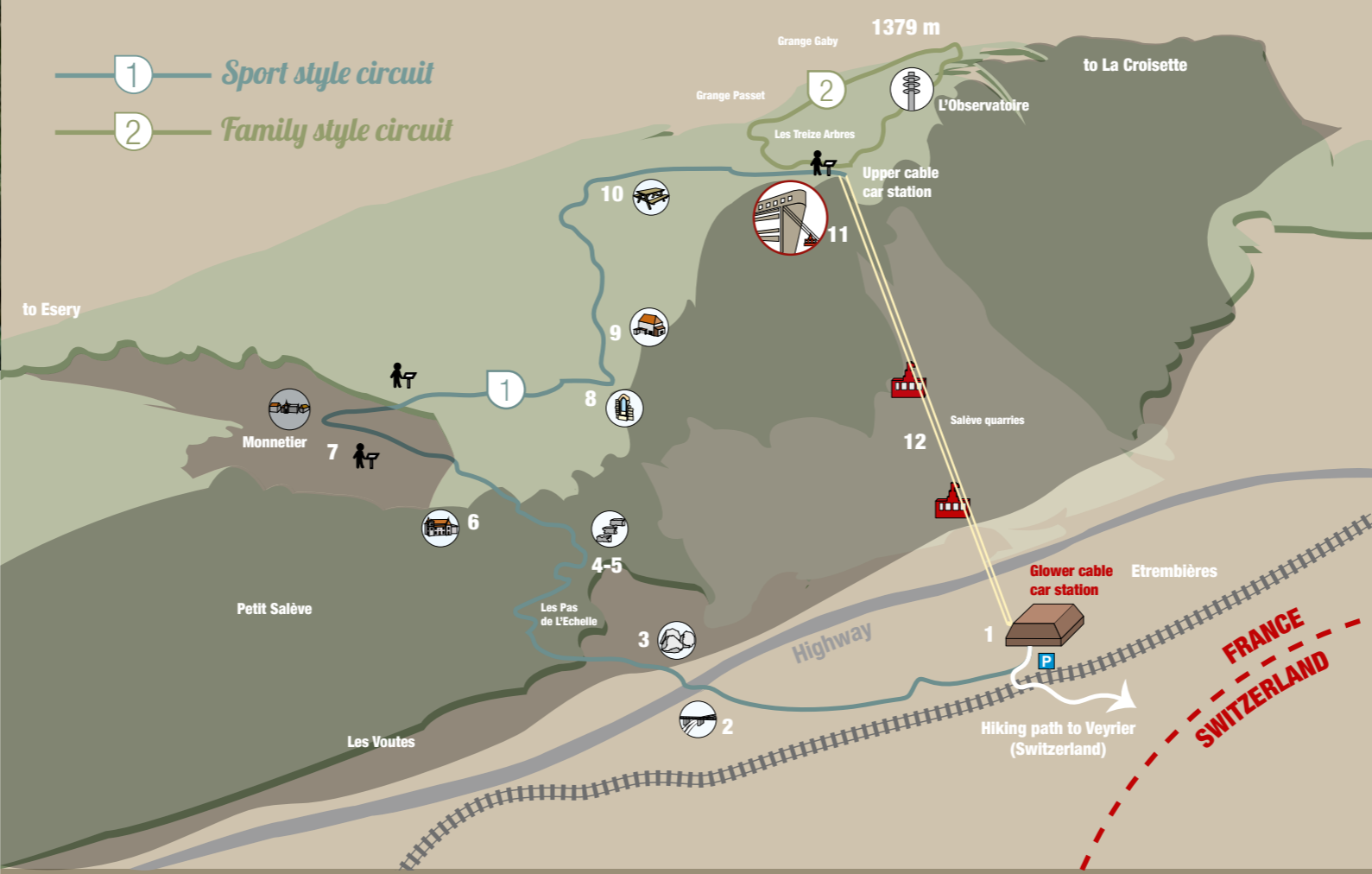
**DIFFICULTY:** average



**Return by cable car:** don't forget to buy your ticket either in advance online, from the ticket office in the lower station or from the terminal in the upper station (bank card only). You must **have a ticket to take the cable car back down.**

# Routes and areas of interest

Mont Salève : 1379 m • Téléphérique : 1 097 m • Prealps mountain range • Limestone rock



- 1 Departure station
- 2 Bridge over motorway
- 3 Glacial erratic
- 4-5 Long-standing stairs and former tunnel
- 6 Chateau de Monnetier
- 7 Village of Monnetier - Mornex
- 8 Oratory
- 9 Chalet de la Croix
- 10 Picnic area
- 11 Botanical garden, cable car stop
- 12 Le Salève quarries

*This is a simplified and schematic map. It is an overall guide of both trails. Under no circumstances should it be considered a real map. Hiking guides are available to buy at the resort downhill.*



# Family style, between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc!



Enjoy a family outing suitable for children of all ages. Get up close and personal with Le Salève in its meadows and woodland. Soak up the stunning scenery between Lake Geneva and Mont Blanc as you explore its paths. You may even meet certain animals which call Le Salève home: cattle, sheep, donkeys and more.

**DURATION:** 2 h 00     **DISTANCE:** 4 km

**ELEVATION:** 160 m     **DEPARTURE:** Salève upper cable car station

**DIFFICULTY:** easy



**Return by cable car:** don't forget to buy your ticket either in advance online, from the ticket office in the lower station or from the terminal in the upper station (bank card only). You must **have a ticket to take the cable car back down.**

## TAKE CARE IN THE MOUNTAINS!

Even though Mont Salève is very near the town, the mountains are still a wild, natural area where some paths can be dangerous. Both itineraries below can be accessed without danger if you respect the safety instructions:

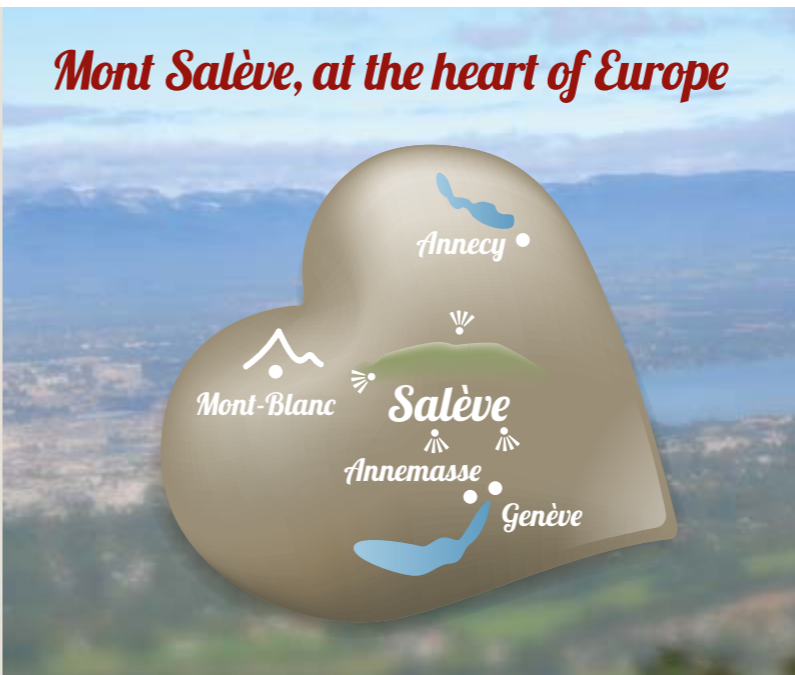
- Find out what time the last cable car is
- Find out about the weather conditions
- Stay on the marked paths
- Don't leave your children on their own
- Make sure you have the right equipment (walking shoes, clothes, water, telephone)
- Take care not to trigger rock falls
- Prepare your route beforehand and adapt it to your physical condition
- Stay away from steep paths that are covered in ice in cold weather
- You are responsible for your own safety

**Emergency number: 112**

## MARKINGS

Over 250 km of hiking paths at the foot of the Mont Salève summit are marked out and maintained by the Syndicat Mixte du Salève. Most of the hikes are complete circuits. The recommended direction is given, but the markings show both directions.

- Left, right, circular itinerary**
- Left, right, circular itinerary**
- You are on a Grande Randonnée (GR) trail**
- Geological circuit**
- Vantage point**
- Mountain-bike trails**  
The circuit number is written on the coloured stickers. See our website for more information about the mountain-bike trails.



## The role of the Syndicat mixte du Salève

Set up in 1994, the Mont Salève joint tourist board brings together 27 areas around Mont Salève. These areas pool their energy to harmonise the preservation of the landscapes, heritage and nature of Mont Salève with its role as a leisure and relaxation area for the 500 000 people who live near it.

- The 5 goals of the Syndicat:**
- 1 Protecting Mont Salève's natural and cultural heritage and its landscapes
  - 2 Raising awareness about the environment and sustainable development
  - 3 Highlighting Mont Salève as a natural green "lung" for the local population
  - 4 Ensuring the durability of pastoral agriculture on the Alpine summits
  - 5 Introducing visitors to the natural and cultural heritage, particularly through the Maison du Salève: [www.maisondusaleve.com](http://www.maisondusaleve.com)

