

# LE SOUTERROSCOPE - CAVE OF BAUME OBSCURE SAINT VALLIER DE THIEY

**Explore the depths of the Souterroscope of Baume Obscure. Located in Saint-Vallier-de-Thiey, only 1 hour from Nice and Cannes. The site offers different ways to discover the place. A free or guided tour to see the cave dressed in sound and light. For a guaranteed fun coupled there with a treasure hunt by looking for clues and solve the riddles. Summer nights are offered to appreciate another facet of the place. Picnic in the site, in the heart of the Parc Naturel Régional des Préalpes d'Azur.**

# SUMMARY

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## Useful Links



Chemin de Sainte-Anne - 06460  
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# THE DARK BALM SOUTERROSCOPE



The Souterroscope of Baume Obscure is located in a protected natural area, the Regional Natural Park of the Préalpes d'Azur. Several tens of hectares of greenery cover this jewel of nature. In total, there are 9 caves, 3 of which communicate with the Cypress Cave, the Loube Cave and Services.

The Souterroscope de Baume Obscure spreads over 1200 meters and 80 meters deep. Accessible by stairs, the part that can be visited extends over 700 metres and 60 metres deep. Discover the different phenomena it shelters such as hydrology, the varieties of minerals or the Mediterranean karsts. And admire the different sizes of rock and the basins that are hidden there. After your visit to this underground world, fossils and minerals will no longer hold any secrets for you.

In addition to discovering the beauty of the underground rocks, the surface part is full of secrets. The site is located at an altitude of 700 metres. It is home to a wide variety of fauna and flora. Holm and pubescent oaks, Aleppo pines and Scots pine, lavender, thyme, rosemary, ash broom and boxwood perfume the atmosphere. Animals also graze in this area such as goats and sheep. In their domain, a historical and cultural heritage is to be discovered with troglodytic sites, dolmens, tumulus, chapels, old bridge and mill.

## A TREASURE HUNT



The fun and favourite way for the public to discover the site is the treasure hunt. Lasting 1h30, it will delight young and old alike. A real activity, it combines discovery, learning and fun.

## TREASURE HUNT IN THE DARK BALM SOUTERROSCOPE

Coupled with the self-guided tour, you will be guided throughout the treasure hunt by a voice. This voice tells you where to stop, look for and see the sound and light animations. Before starting the hunt, an animator will tell you the story of the Baume Obscure Souterroscope. Then he provides you with a scroll, a lamp and gives you a mission. The mission is to find characters (dragon, fairy, elves...) and solve riddles.

The last puzzle is outside and marks the end of the hunt. Around a table, solve the puzzle using the answers found during the visit or in a new challenge. Solving the puzzle will open the treasure chest. The winners will be able to choose among the many semi-precious stones (jasper, rock crystal, tiger's eye...).

## **TREASURE HUNT IN THE FOREST**

Based on the success of the treasure hunt, a 2nd edition in the forest was released in 2015. This one is based on the same principle as the one in Baume Obscure Souterroscope. The search for characters on a 800-metre marked out area and the resolution of riddles. The theme of nature is at the heart of the treasure hunt. We mainly find animals, trees, plants, historical and prehistoric heritage. Possibility to do this treasure hunt alone or combined with the Baume Obscure Souterroscope (allow 3 hours).

# A VISIT OF SOUND AND LIGHT



Other possibilities are available to you to discover the Dark Balm Souterrroscope in the form of a free or guided tour.

## **FREE VISIT**

Visit the exteriors and the Baume Obscure Souterrroscope thanks to an audioguide available in 4 languages (French, English, German, Italian). While following the signposted route in order to discover the secrets of the Souterrroscope de Baume Obscure. A sound and light show highlights the crystalline concretions, mineral formations and fossils. Streams, waterfalls and small pools of different colours give a fantastic dimension to the Souterrroscope de Baume Obscure.

Don't forget to go to the surface to admire the various historical remains and flora. Throughout your visit

you will be able to learn about the history, discovery, geology or mineralogy of the Baume Obscure Souterroscope. Count a little more than 1h15 for the visit including 15 minutes on the surface.

## **GUIDED TOURS**

For a better exploration and to learn even more, choose the guided tour. Accompany a speleologist guide and/or a naturalist. The visit is approached from a more varied angle on the surface and underground. For example, the layout of the Souterroscope, fauna and flora, hydrology, geology, cave life....

The guide adapts to the interests and desires of the group. For example, he can tell stories, anecdotes and legends that take place at the Baume Obscure.

1/3 of the visit concerns the surface and 2/3 the Baume Obscure Subterroscope for a duration of 1h30 to 2 hours.

## **NIGHT-TIME IN SUMMER**

For a more original visit, night sessions take place in July and August.

You have the choice:

- Nocturnal visit of the Baume Obscure Souterroscope with a guide. A specialist of the underground world during 1h45 will visit you. It's every Friday at 7pm or 7.30pm.

- Escape Cave

Make an escape game at night with your friends in an atypical place. You must be at least 12 years old. Each game counts between 2 to 8 participants. It's

every Wednesday at 7.30pm or 9.30pm.

- **Nightlife**

Observe nature and the sky with a naturalist and astronomer guide. In a sound circuit in the forest, discover the animals at night. And observe the stars with a telescope. It's every Friday from 10 pm.

It is possible to combine the nocturnal visit of the Baume Obscure Souterroscope with the nocturnal fauna

## **SCHEDULES AND RATES**

### **TIMETABLE OF THE SOUTERROSCOPE OF BAUME OBSCURE**

Open from 03/04 to 22/11/2021

November: permanent departures from 10:00 to 15:45 (visit with cave game) or 16:45 (visit without game).

April/may/june/sept/oct. April/may/june/september/october: permanent departures from 10:00 am to 3:45 pm (visit with cave game) or 4:45 pm (visit without game).

JULY/ AUGUST: Permanent departures from 10:00 to 16:45 (visit with cave game) or 17:45 (visit without game).

Departures at fixed times from 8pm to 11pm during the night.

### **RATES FOR VISITS WITHOUT A GUIDE**

From 16 years of age 9,50 €

children from 3 to 15 years of age 6,50 €

children under 3 years free

Visit without a guide and game in the cave

From 16 years of age 12,50 €

children from 3 to 15 years of age 9,50 €

children under 3 years free

