



1,200 ponds

The first pond was created in the 12th century. At the time, poverty was important and the main diet was fish. For this reason, the Lords and the Monks decided to create ponds in order to increase fish breeding. Nowadays, there are 1,200 ponds in the Dombes area. The Dombes is the first carp producer in France.

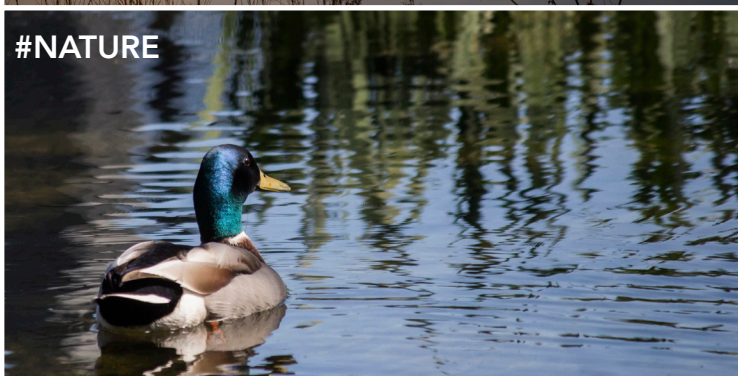
To evacuate the water of a pond, the (sluice) gate is opened to allow the water to flow into another pond. This process can take several days because the water must drain slowly. By this way, all the fishes will be gathered near the gate in the fishing ground. Then, when the pond is almost empty, the fishermen collect the fishes with a net. A pond is emptied every year. Once it is emptied, its ground is used to cultivate crops for about 1 or 2 years. After that period, the pond is filled with water again.



#UNIQUE



#EMOTION



#NATURE

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Nearby the Dombes, you can discover :

- **The Bresse** region with its well known Bresse Chicken, Bresse farms and the royal Monastery of Brou
- **The Bugey** with its vineyards and Ain River
- **Lyon** : Gastronomy's Capital, Basilica of Fourviere and the «Vieux Lyon»
- **The Beaujolais** with its vineyards



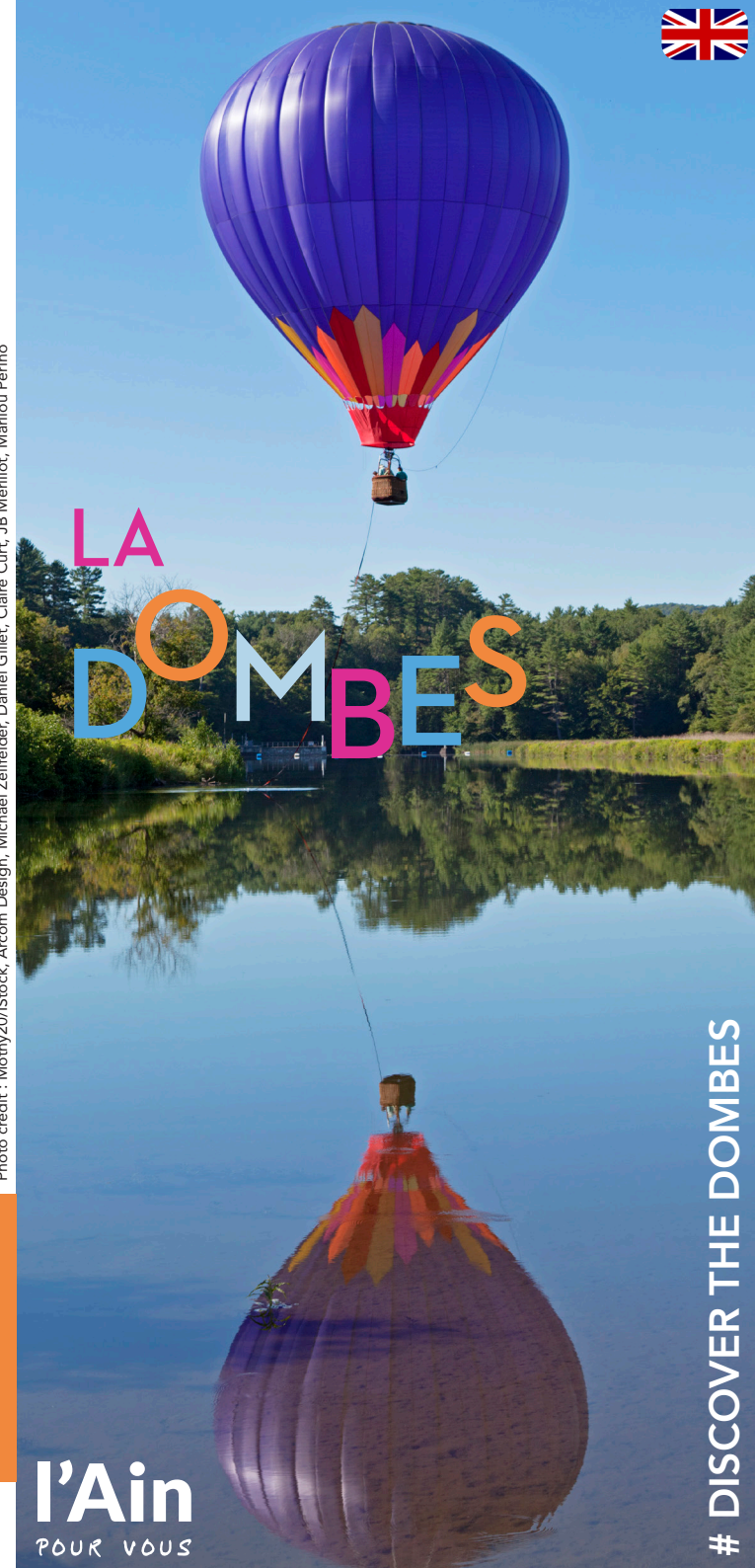
For more information :

DOMBES TOURISME
Place du Champ de Foire
01400 Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne
+33 4 74 55 02 27
www.dombes-tourisme.com



Leaflets and maps
available at
the Tourist Office

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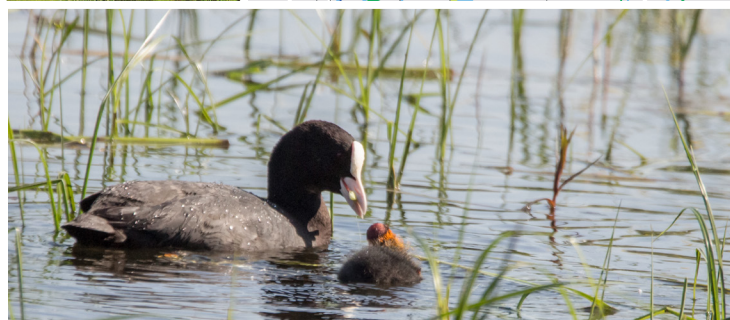
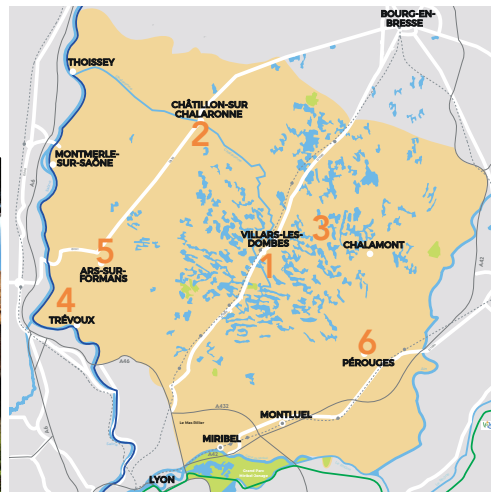


LA
DOMBES

l'Ain
POUR VOUS

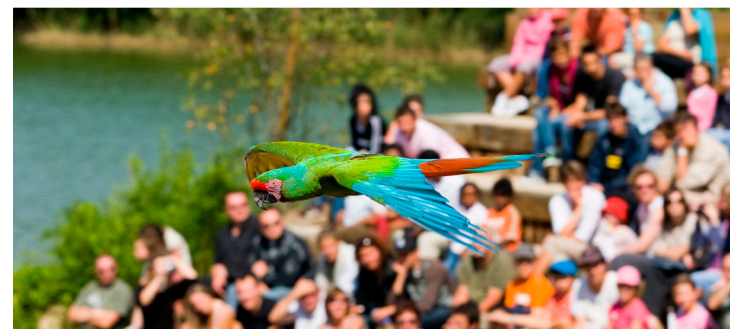
DISCOVER THE DOMBES

Discover the DOMBES



Birdwatching & walking

There are different ways in Dombes to observe birds and nature. You can enjoy 5 observatories (Valeins, Birieux, Monthieux, Villars-les-Dombes and Versailleux) or have a walk along the ponds thanks to several footpaths. Don't forget your binoculars !



1 Bird Park

With nearly 3,000 species of birds, the Bird Park is the largest and most important ornithological park in Europe. With over 40 years of experience the bird park offers to visitors a world full of fascination and discovery in a scenic setting.

RD 1083 - 01330 Villars les Dombes
www.parcdesoiseaux.com



2 Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne

Our own "Little Venice" with its beautiful flowers and trees. Châtillon is one of the region's most attractive 'side trips'. Every Saturday morning, a superb local market takes place in the old medieval market hall.

www.dombes-tourisme.com



3 Notre Dame des Dombes Abbey

Cistercian abbey built in red bricks that was completed in 1863 and designed by Pierre Bossan the same architect who designed Fourvière Basilica in Lyon and the basilica in Ars-sur-Formans.

01330 Le Plantay
www.dombes.chemin-neuf.fr



4 Trévoux

Between the Dombes and the Beaujolais, on the left bank of the Saône, discover Trévoux, the most beautiful Bend of France. You will be surprised by the city's original history, capital of the former Principality of Dombes and by his heritage.

www.ars-trevoux.com



5 Ars-sur-Formans

Saint Jean-Marie Vianney the patron saint of priests was parish priest of Ars-sur-Formans from 1818 until 1859. Nowadays his shrine is located in the village and it welcomes nearly 500,000 pilgrims and tourists annually. Visit the basilica, presbytery and wax museum created by Grevin of Paris.

www.ars-trevoux.com



6 Pérouges

This medieval gem is the only "Most Beautiful Villages in France" in the region. Let yourself be delighted by its cobbled streets, its imposing fortress church, its beautiful architecture and its delicious sugar cake. This lively village, with passionate craftsmen, is a must.

www.perouges-bugey-tourisme.com



Gastronomy and local products

Take the time to stop in a restaurant and try the regional gastronomy. Frog legs, carp from the Dombes, Bresse chicken in cream sauce, Bugey wines, local cheeses...