

To better understand the life of a Carthusian Monk



The museum of the Grande Chartreuse, two kilometres from the Monastery, is open on reservation all year long for groups.

This Renaissance building has almost the same architecture as the Monastery.

The Museum opens doors to the spiritual life of the Carthusian Monks and to their vocation of solitude and silence.

Completely renovated, the 20 rooms enable you to discover the Monastery as if you were there and to share the faith and emotion of these monks, thanks to documents, everyday life objects, engravings, but also films and testimonials.

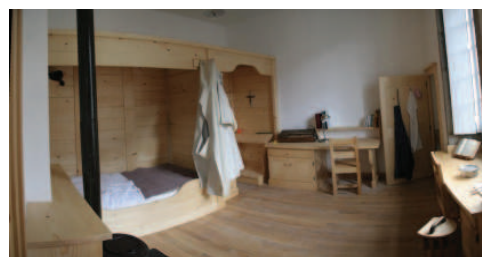


The Monastery is located at 1190 metres altitude, 2 kilometres above the Museum; and it is only possible to go there on foot. St. Bruno settled in the Desert of Chartreuse and for more than 900 years, this place has welcomed these Monks and their way of life. The Grande Chartreuse, Mother House of the Order is entirely devoted to the silence and meditation of the Monks. That is why the Museum was created in 1957.

A modern museography

The Museum, in the heart of the Chartreuse mountains, has already welcomed 5,5 million visitors who came to enjoy a peaceful atmosphere. This intentionally modern project is aimed at giving you the keys to understand the mystery of the Carthusian Order and to answer your questions about their human and spiritual life.

We have been awarded the Musée de France Label by the Ministry of Culture in recognition of the Museum's interest and the quality of the museography.



To know more about their 900-year-long History



One night in 1084, St. Hugues, Bishops of Grenoble, related his personal dream in which God appeared, building an edifice to his glory in the Desert of Chartreuse. 7 stars pointed out the exact spot. It turned out to be an enlightening vision, predicting the arrival of 7 men searching for alpine solitude, where they could praise God far from the hustle and bustle of the world.

Their guide was Bruno of Cologne. This priest of 54 years old wanted to flee the agitation of the century. Hugues led them through a maze of steep mountains to a wilderness of rocks and pine trees, known as The Desert of Chartreuse.

There, they built wooden cabins, the Notre-Dame de Casalibus Chapel, and a stone oratory; that is the origin of the Grande Chartreuse

On this same site, their presence has been like the diffusion on incense for 9 centuries. Secluded in their Desert of Chartreuse, secluded in their monastery and, if that wasn't enough, secluded in their cell.

They radically limited the comfort of the community life, giving priority to soliloquy prayers, meditation and work.



This voluntary retreat means they cannot welcome us nor meet us, and obviously, we cannot visit the monastery. The museum gives an insight into the life of the Carthusian monks and provides the key to understand their mystery.



Practical information for groups

The Museum of la Grande Chartreuse is pleased to welcome you. Our team provides a high level of service and is able to deal with everything from bookings to looking after you group. Our aim is to provide the public with a high quality presentation of the History of the Monks and their way of life.

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Tickets Fee

For groups of 20 people and more

Normal price: 7,00 €

Reduced price*: 5,50 €

*students, jobless, disabled, priests

Children: 3,70€

The audio-guide, available in 9 languages (French, English, Italian, Spanish, German, Polish, Dutch, Russian and Chinese) is included.



We recommend you book group visits in advance to ensure the best possible conditions the day of your visit. You can book by telephone or email. We will then send you a written confirmation of the booking.

We remind you the possibility of accessing the picnic room and the Chapel.

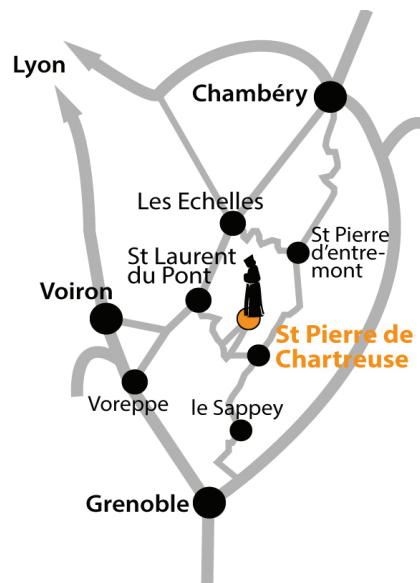
Contact reservation

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Travel time by bus

Grenoble: 45 min; Chambéry: 50 min; Lyon: 1h30; Annecy: 1h20; Genève: 1h45; Voiron (the Chartreuse Cellars): 40 min

Height restrictions for coaches

- RD 520 b, from St Laurent du Pont: height limited to 3.80 m
- RD 912 from Chambéry: height limited to 3.50 m

Free parking area for buses

A privileged place for all

The Museum of la Grande Chartreuse is a privileged place for all. It is a site of intimate silence and reflection, with an alpine garden, and its very convenient starting point for many mountain walks.

The Monastery

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Strolls and Walks

The Museum of la Grande Chartreuse is a true natural and cultural outing and the starting point for many walking tours, whatever your level is, including the walk to the Monastery which take about an hour.

The Chartreuse Cellars

To provide for the needs of the Order, the Carthusian Monks tried their hand at being livestock breeders, printers, illuminators, ironmasters, herbalists, pharmacists, and finally, since the 17th century, liqueur distillers. The Museum tells the story of the famous Chartreuse liqueur, but we recommend that all amateurs visit the Chartreuse distillery in Voiron. As the Museum and the distillery are only 30 kilometres apart, you can easily visit both sites the same day.

Further information: www.chartreuse.fr.



Into Great Silence

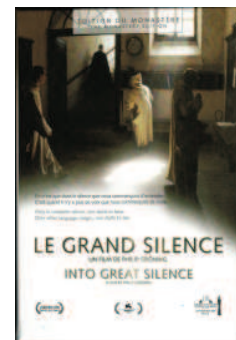
The movie about the Grande Chartreuse

Into Great Silence (2005)

This movie about la Grande Chartreuse shows for the first time the lives of these men who decided to live into “Great Silence”. Philip Gröning, the movie director, had to wait 16 years before being afforded the privilege to share their lives and make a film without music or commentary.

More than a movie, this is a true invitation to meditation and silence.

Germany 2005
Director: Philip Gröning
162 min



Jury's special award at the Sundance Film Festival 2006.
Bayerischen Filmpreis award for the best documentary of 2005 in
Germany

