

The team behind the project

The Club Alpin Français Saint-Gervais is a public interest association affiliated with the French Federation of Alpine and Mountain Clubs (FFCAM). Its purpose is to develop knowledge of the mountains, to promote responsible access, and to preserve and safeguard natural sites and alpine heritage. It is entirely managed and administered by volunteer members.

The CAF St Gervais is co-initiator and responsible for coordinating the project. It handles promotion, financing, organisation, and supervision of the works.

The Compagnie des Guides Saint Gervais - Les Contamines, founded on April 15, 1864. Its objective is to structure the activity, train young guides, supervise clients, and promote the routes of Val Montjoie. In partnership with the valley's municipalities, it is widely involved in mountain development. The Compagnie is co-initiator of the project. It participates on a voluntary basis in its promotion, implementation, and execution.

The Municipality of Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc is the owner of the site. Committed to preserving its cultural heritage, it supports the project, a symbol of the dynamism and commitment of its inhabitants to promoting the development of a certain tourism at the turn of the 21st century and the marker of a true mountain culture.

The Municipality of St-Gervais Mont-Blanc provides the project with its legal and administrative expertise.



Join the project!



<https://linko.page/ancien-durier>

Donations by cheque payable to: Club Alpin Saint Gervais
Postal Address:
63 Avenue de Miage, 74170, Saint-Gervais-les-Bains

Donations entitle French Tax residents to an income tax reduction equal to 66% of the amount donated, within the limit of 20% of taxable income

OLD DURIER BIVOUAC



A WITNESS TO THE HISTORY OF ALPINISM IN DANGER

At the Col de Miage, between Val Montjoie and the Aosta Valley, between the Dômes de Miage and the Aiguille de Bionnassay, the oldest hut in the French Alps still standing is threatened with disappearing due to climate change.

The actors of Val Montjoie are mobilising to save it and we need you!

THE HISTORY OF THE OLD DURIER BIVOUAC

The Col de Miage is located between Val Montjoie (France) and Val Vény (Italy) at **3,358 metres** altitude. It is a difficult place to access, requiring a full day's hike over very challenging terrain. **Frequented since the 18th century** for **religious and commercial purposes**, then from the **late 19th century** by travellers seeking the **Tour du Mont-Blanc** and climbers eager for first ascents and **committed routes**, it had no shelter worthy of the name.

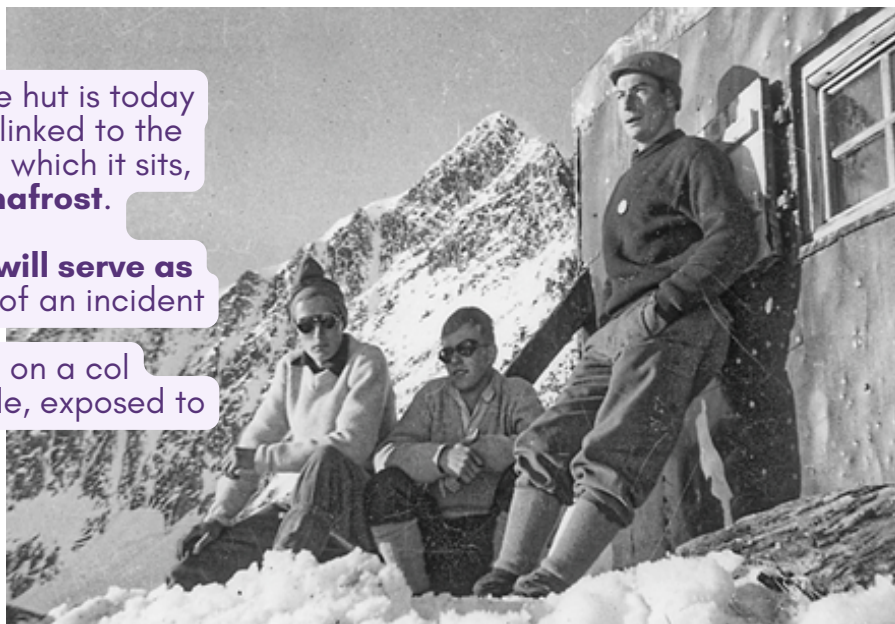


In 1899 the Guides of Saint Gervais, at the initiative of the inhabitants of the Miage valley and with financial support from the Club Alpin Français, **decided to build a bivouac shelter** at this location, in order to develop tourism. They built on the edge of the void, on a small snow-free platform, **a rustic hut with 6 sleeping places**. It was named "**Charles Durier**" in honour of a former president of the CAF.

It is an **unguarded shelter** made available to "travellers", placed under their "safeguard", whose hospitality is free. **Conditions are spartan**: one must carry up provisions and firewood. There are no sanitary facilities

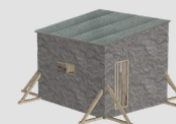
Restored on several occasions, the hut is today **closed due to the risk of collapse** linked to the subsidence of the rocky substrate on which it sits, **caused by the melting of the permafrost**.

Once relocated to a secure site, **it will serve as an emergency shelter** in the event of an incident affecting the current refuge. This is a significant safety guarantee on a col perched at over 3,000 metres altitude, exposed to violent winds, cold, and snow.



PROJECT 2026 - 2027

The restoration project consists of dismantling, relocating, and rebuilding the old hut, reinforcing it while restoring its historic appearance from the early 20th century.



The host terrain, near the new refuge, has little snow accumulation in winter. Moreover, it dries quickly in summer. At this location there are large boulders allowing solid anchoring

SUMMER 2026
PREPARATION OF THE NEW SITE, PLACEMENT AND ANCHORING OF A STEEL SUPPORT FRAME, DISMANTLING OF THE HUT, RESTORATION OF THE SITE.

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2027
INSTALLATION OF THE NEW FLOOR, REASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNAL FRAMEWORK AND WALLS, INSTALLATION OF AN EXTERNAL WATERPROOF STRUCTURE, FITTING OF THE ROOF AND EXTERIOR BRASS SHEET CLADDING.