

# The Mines

## Follow Kobold, the Legendary Guardian

The emblem of the «Sentier des Mines» is a gnome like figure, protector of the earth's precious metals. Highlighted on trees and stones, he helps to guide the visitors around the forests.



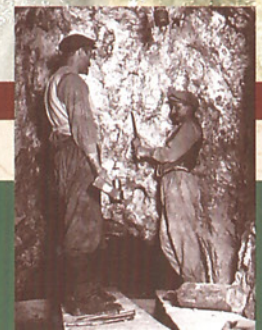
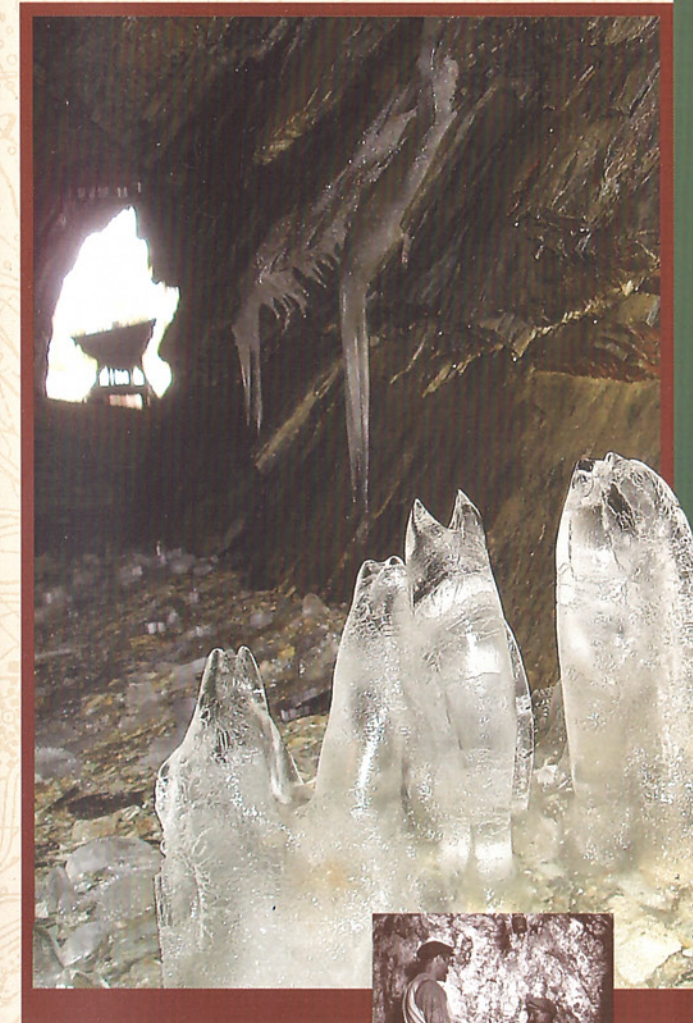
The Mont Chemin overlooks Martigny but with the discretion appropriate for a mountain peak which does not appear on any topographic map. Its position lying east-west, parallel to the Rhone Valley, highlights its exceptional character which is unlike the rest of the Valais with its fishbone formation of lateral valleys. With a Mediterranean climate on its southern flank and a continental one on its north side, the Mont Chemin has a rich and fascinating diversity of vegetation and flora sheltered from the more popular tourist destinations.

Located at the northern extremity of the Mont Blanc range, Mont Chemin is made up of crystalline rocks and marine sediment. Beneath its surface can be found some 150 minerals; a truly remarkable geological richness.

The extraction of iron, lead and silver from the beginning of the Middle-Ages, and of fluorine in the 20th century, was carried out extensively. Traces of this important historical activity can be seen by following the «Sentier des Mines» throughout this beautiful, natural environment of mid-level alpine meadows and forested pastureland.



## Sentier des Mines du Mont Chemin



### A mine entrance

The Botzi mine (closed in 1961) was the source of 25 655 tons of quartz used in the production of the well-known Langenthal porcelain or for cleaning products such as Vim®



### Blanc Chemin

A detergent produced from ground marble used as a washing powder or as a household cleaner after being, mixed with soap powder. The mining of marble ceased in 1965



### Slag

A residue left over from the smelting of iron ore in charcoal furnaces. Dating techniques indicate that these slag deposits go back to the Merovingian period (around 660 A.D.)

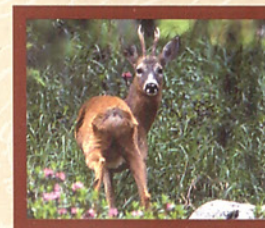
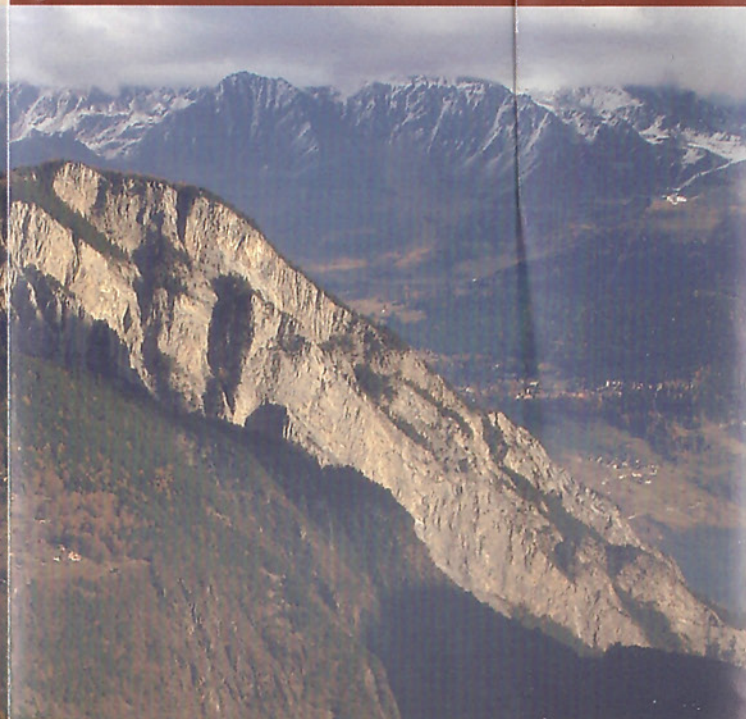
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[www.volleges.ch](http://www.volleges.ch)





# Natural Environment



## Roebuck

There are also stag, chamois, fox, badger in addition to wild boar which dig up the earth searching for worms and edible roots



## Squirrel

Brown or red, both are commonly seen in the forest. Rarer, are brown hare, two varieties of dormouse and stoat



## Common Marmot

On the high alpine pastures of du Tronc and du Lein their burrows can be spotted on the slopes close to the pathways

Bordered to the east by the Pierre Avoi, to the south by the Mont Catogne and encompassing the impressive overhanging rock face of the Crevasse within its boundaries, the topography of Mont Chemin is highly varied with sparse alpine grassland, luxuriant prairies and diverse forests.

Its mineral rich and well drained terrain is highly suited to the growth of larch trees which, in Mont Chemin, are said to represent the most beautiful forested meadowlands in Europe.

On its northern slopes, beech, fir and spruce inhabit a well maintained forest which is still commercially exploited today. On the south side, Scots pine trees cling to a landscape which is more arid and stony suggesting a hint of the Mediterranean further south.

*Herens-race cows beneath the larch trees*



## Long tailed tit

Ornithologists can spot passing migratory birds, as well as a variety of indigenous species such as nuthatch, woodpecker, finches, thrush, nightingale, crossbill, the alpine accentor and the golden eagle



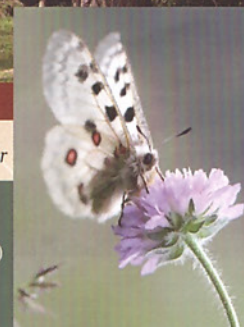
## European Globe-flower

Visitors will see gentian, orchids, cowslip and woodruff, in addition to wild strawberries, raspberries and blueberries

*Goilly des Planches, a paradise for tadpoles and frogs*



*Apollo butterfly on a pincushion flower*



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