



Geolocation

N°68264

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Silver Mines, old mining site - French Alps

La Mine D'argent du Fournel Musée des
Mines Château Saint-Jean
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France

Contact the commission

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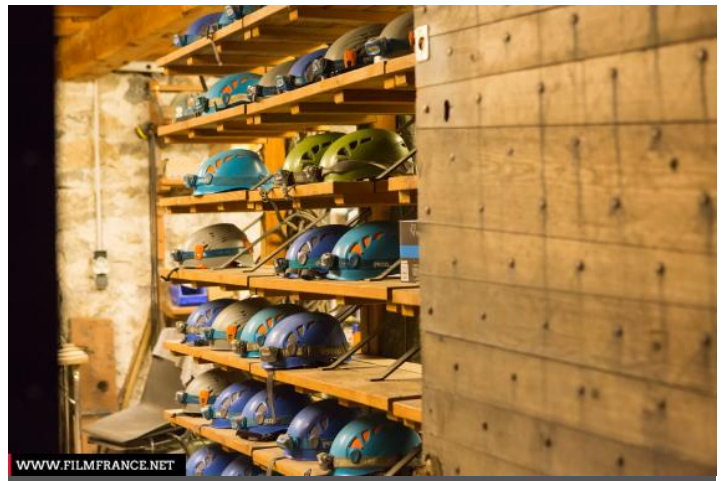
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Caption: Les souterrains de la mine



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Caption:

LOCATION TYPE

CATEGORIES

Cave Mine River Rock

ENVIRONMENT

Mountain, Riverside

GENERAL PRESENTATION

The Silver Mine is an old mining site in a small town in the French Alps called "l'Argentière-la-Bessée".

The mine is located in the Hautes-Alpes (05) department, at 30 minutes from Gap and 15 minutes from Briançon.

The Mine is 3km from the village center, in a natural environment on the edge of the Fournel torrent, in a deep valley bottom which forms a gorge 1km in length.

At the gates of the Ecrins National Park, the site is classified as a Historic Monument

The mine site was the subject of excavations and archaeological exploration before being made safe to welcome the public from the 1990s.

The site is made up of several old buildings, and underground galleries from different eras.

LOCATION CONDITION TYPE

Well maintained, In restoration - Work in progress

LOCATION HISTORY

The deposit of argentiferous lead in the Fournel valley has been the subject of a successful operation in the Middle Ages (X-XIII centuries). Using the technique of digging through the fire, work was pushed up to 100 meters of the day. Money extracted fueled mints of the archdiocese Embrun, Cézana and Grenoble. During the Industrial Revolution between 1785 and 1908, several mining companies have followed to completely extract the ore up to 300 meters below the slopes of the mountain. A factory was built in the bottom of the gorge Fournel and mining occupied up to 500 persons. Since 1992, the site is the subject of archaeological excavations and volunteer projects to rehabilitate the industrial heritage, which is now offered to the public.

1901-1910, Xth Century, XIth Century, XIIth Century, XIIIth Century, XIVth Century, XIXth Century, XVIIIth Century

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

DOMINANT STYLE

Gothic - Middle Ages

SPECIFIC STYLES

Covered - Indoor, Troglodytic

REMARKABLE ARCHITECTURAL

Corridor, Gallery (architecture)

ELEMENTS

MATERIALS

Exposed Beams, Building front : Wood - Shingle, Building front : Metal - Steel - Iron - Aluminum - Zinc - Sheet metal