

## NEARBY

### \* Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende



The name of the village derives from a monastery built at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in honour of **Saint-Dalmas**, the Christian martyr who evangelised the valley in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The original hamlet gradually expanded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when houses were built first for the miners and employees of the Vallauria zinc treatment plant and later for the workers of the hydroelectric plants.

### \* Tende Pass



The pass has been known since the protohistoric period. Roman votive deposit were found during excavations. Its location, at the highest point of the « **Real Strada** », the Royal Road, allowed muleteers from Tende to prosper as they offered their transportation services to merchants. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the ridge was extensively fortified by the Italians. The Central Fort, the major building of the defensive system, was flanked by five half-buried forts. Between the two World Wars the fortification was completed with underground bunkers, in compliance with the Alpine Wall defensive system, « **Vallo Alpino** ».

### \* Castérino



The Valley was originally used by shepherds who built seasonal dwellings and started growing cereals, such as rye. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a few holiday homes were built, especially by the explorers of the Merveilles and Fontanalbe Valleys. Today, the hamlet is a cross-country skiing family resort and, in the summer, the starting point for numerous walks in the Mercantour National Park.

### \* Merveilles and Fontanalbe Valleys



As early as the Neolithic Age, valley settlers started engraving slabs of stone, « **ciappe** », along the mountainside in front of **Mount Bego**. The site is the largest historic monument in France.

### \* Granile



The historical origin of Granile is unknown. The hamlet is a cluster of homogeneous houses with traditional wooden balconies. In Sainte-Anne's Church there are trompe l'oeil paintings from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT

### \* Musée départemental des Merveilles



Avenue du 16 septembre 1947  
☎ 04 93 04 32 50  
www.museedesmerveilles.com

### \* Maison du Parc National / Office de Tourisme



103 Avenue du 16 septembre 1947  
☎ 04 93 04 73 71  
www.mercantour.eu  
www.tendemerveilles.com

### \* Musée de l'Abeille



7 Place du Lieutenant Kalc  
☎ 04 93 04 76 22  
www.tendemerveilles.com

### \* Musées (collections) d'Art Populaire



For information :  
☎ 04 93 04 73 71  
www.tendemerveilles.com



The Roya-Bévéra Valleys belong to Towns and Countries of Art and History, a national network of the French Ministry of Culture and Communications

### Nearby towns and regions

Arles, Briançon, Fréjus, Grasse, Hyères, Martigues, Menton, Carpentras et le Comtat Venaissin, la Provence Verte et le Pays Serre-Ponçon Ubaye Durance are all labelled Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire.

ADTRB-Pôle Culture 3<sup>e</sup> pavillon des Ecoles  
Bd Jules Ferry 06 380 SOSPEL ☎ 04 93 04 22 20  
contact@vpah-royabevera.com | www.vpah-royabevera.com

## INFORMATION IN TENDE

### Tourist Office

103 Avenue du 16 septembre 1947, 06430 Tende  
www.tendemerveilles.com | ☎ 04 93 04 73 71



● **From Nice** on the RD 2204, to the Col de Braus and the Col de Brouis. Approximately 1 h 30 minutes

● **From Menton** on the RD 2566 to the Col de Castillon and the Col de Brouis. Approximately 1 h 10 minutes

● **From Ventimiglia (Italie)**  
Approximately 45 minutes.



● **On the Nice-Vintimille-Cuneo line**, Tende station



● **The 905 line Menton - Tende**



• photos - ADTRB - Archives départementales D06, musée départemental des Merveilles, R. Masséglia, C. Toubert / OT Tende



Theatrum Sabaudiae 1682, Tenda

## A LITTLE HISTORY...

This region was originally inhabited by Ligurian tribes, who were romanised by **Augustus** in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. The county of Tende was created after the disaggregation of the county of Ventimiglia in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The marriage in 1261 of **Guglielmo Pietro**, Count of Vintimille and Tende, with **Eudoxia Laskaris**, daughter of the Byzantine Emperor **Theodore II**, ensured centuries of power to the ruling family. In 1581, **Henriette of Savoie-Villars**, the last descendant, relinquished the county to the duke of Savoy.

The Lascaris, Counts of Tende, prospered and remained autonomous mainly due to the Col de Tende, the ancient pass between the Mediterranean and Piedmont, and the taxes they could impose, including the « salt tax » and the « right of way » tax. In 1860, some territories of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont – the Lower Roya Valley, for example – were annexed to France. Tende, instead, became part of the Kingdom of Italy and was Italian until 1947, when, after a referendum, it was incorporated into France with the rest of the Upper Roya Valley.

## ...AND URBAN PLANNING.

The location of the first dwelling of the village of Tende is unknown, but since the Middle Ages, the town has developed on the south-facing slope of the mountain, overlooking the Roya river.

Today the town retains its original medieval structure: the main streets run parallel to the slope, and the **carugi** (narrow alleyways that are sometimes covered) are perpendicular to the slope. The town used to

be surrounded by walls which had a series of access gates. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the development of the « **Real Strada** » (the Royal Road) under the Duke **Charles-Emmanuel** of Savoy, the town extended its boundaries outside of the medieval rampart. The height of the buildings changed over time, particularly between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



LET'S DISCOVER

# Tende

