



Piste fun with the world famous Matterhorn in the background

The **Valais** (Wallis in German) is Switzerland's third-largest canton. It is a region of 4,000-metre peaks – first of all the world famous majestic **Matterhorn** – the twelve largest **glaciers** (fully twenty percent of the canton is covered by glaciers!) and a multitude of alpine passes. The canton's uncountable vineyard owners produce some of the finest wine in the country! And in every village you'll find a traditional Valaisian-style restaurant, serving up the traditional Swiss speciality raclette (melted slices of cheese with boiled potatoes and mixed pickles).



some highlights

Zermatt (1,620 m / 5,320 feet), situated just in front of the majestic **Matterhorn** (4,478m / 14,663ft), is one of the world's most famous mountain resorts. The idyllic village in the heart of the Alps has become one of Switzerland's most renowned mountain resorts. There are no petrol-driven cars allowed in Zermatt! **Horse-drawn carriages**, as well as electric cars, are the only means of transport.



For **skiers and snowboarders**, Zermatt has everything to offer from the simplest to the most challenging slopes, each sector accessed by its own transport route. There are also various **sled runs** and as a **non-skier** you'll find more than 30 km of scenic trails for relaxing walks. Ask for a map at the tourist office!

Zermatt has many spectacular **mountain railways**. The cog-wheel railway to **Gornergrat** (3,130 m / 10,134 ft!) is a particular highlight. It's the **highest cog railway in Europe** and one of the most popular in the country. Along the way you're rewarded with magical views (sit on the right-hand side) and from the top you will enjoy an exciting view of Monte Rosa! The **Klein Matterhorn**, at 3,820 m / 12,338 ft, is the highest station you can go. The highest cable station in Europe provides access to the **highest skiing on the Continent!**

In Zermatt itself you should not miss visiting the oldest part of the village, with houses and barns which are 200–250 years old, the original main street about 1 metre wide, etc. And visit the **Matterhorn Museum** (at Bahnhofplatz 57). The museum tells the exciting story of the Matterhorn – from its origins in Africa and the terribly dramatic first ascent to the present day. CHF 10.–, students 5.–. Notice: November until mid-December the museum is closed.

How to get to Zermatt: take the mountain train Visp-Zermatt (hourly connections); it takes 65 minutes and is a scenic trip! There are hourly train connections to Visp from Bern (55 min), from Lausanne (1 h 32 min), from Zurich (2 h) and from Geneva (2 h 16 min).

The Tourist office is next to the train station (027 966 81 00), »www.zermatt.ch
Budget accommodation: Zermatt Youth Hostel, Staldenweg 5 (027 967 23 20) »www.youthhostel.ch/zermatt; Matterhorn Hostel, Schluhmattstrasse 32 (027 968 19 19) »www.matterhornhostel.com

For other highlights in the Valais (i.e. **Saas-Fee, Verbier, Crans-Montana, Sion**) check out »www.myswitzerland.com and ask at the local tourist offices for budget accommodation. ☰

WINTER SPECIAL



Zermatt Youth Hostel offers:

3 overnight accommodations (dorm) incl. halfboard CHF 143.30; 5 nights CHF 235.50. Ski pass for 3 days from CHF 196.–, for 5 days from CHF 309.–. Upgrade (dorm to double) possible (3 nights 75.–, 5 nights 125.–). Valid: Nov 1st–Dec 17th 2010, Jan 9th–28th 2011 and Mar 13th–8th Apr, Sunday–Friday.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.– per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.–/night).

Bookings at Zermatt Youth Hostel, 027 967 23 20, zermatt@youthhostel.ch