

ZERMATT INSIDE

February 2016, 14th Year, No. 1



Municipality of Zermatt, Citizens' Community of Zermatt, Zermatt Tourism, Zermatt Bergbahnen AG
Gornergrat Railway/Matterhorn Gotthard Railway

Your opinion is important to us

After golden letters adorned the covers of the last six issues of "Zermatt Inside" to mark the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn , the first publication after the anniversary year of 2015 appears in a familiar guise – with the familiar blue title page.

For the new year, not only the front page has undergone a change , but the content has also been presented by the «Zermatt Inside» makers.

In the future, clubs from Zermatt, Täsch and Randa and their members will be given a permanent place on the "Zermatt Inside" pages and the opportunity to present themselves and report on their club activities, special events or upcoming anniversaries.

How club members can optimally use the newly created section in "Zermatt Inside" as a platform is explained on page 7 of the current issue. Meanwhile, the column "Zermatt back in the day," under which Dr. Th. Julen had published a historical article about Zermatt in each issue since 2013 , as well as the column "What do our children do in their free time?", which focused on the leisure activities of primary school students , were discontinued.

And now it's your turn, dear readers!

Support the editorial team in finding topics and actively shape the content of "Zermatt Inside"!

We'd like to know which regional topics interest you and which articles you'd like to feature in upcoming issues. Are you interested in revisiting a previously published article, or do you know of a promising topic that more people should know about?

Write to the Zermatt Municipality. We're looking for informative, exciting, moving, and inspiring stories. Further information on choosing topics can be found on page 7 of the February issue.

www.inside.zermatt.ch

The SwissPass public transport card

ALREADY IN SUCCESSFUL USE

MGB: On 1 August 2015, the public transport sector introduced the SwissPass throughout Switzerland. The card, equipped with a chip, simplifies access to Swiss public transport. The card initially includes general and half-fare travel passes, with network subscriptions and other services to follow later.

The SwissPass is a card with a chip and uses proven RFID technology, which is already being used successfully in ski resorts in Switzerland. Only the last name, first name, and a customer number are printed on the card. The card can be read electronically, and public transport season tickets can be checked. For the MG-Bahn, this also means that a general season ticket is recognized directly at the turnstile on the Täsch–Zermatt shuttle .

Customers no longer need to obtain an exchange ticket at the counter.

Automatic Renewal : The automatic renewal of the Half-Fare Travelcard and GA Travelcard eliminates the need for annual renewal. However, customers are notified with sufficient advance notice of a potential cancellation of their Half-Fare Travelcard or GA Travelcard , and cancellation can be made at the counter, by phone, or by email. Automatic renewal eliminates subscriptions such as the 2- and 3-year Half-Fare Travelcard and the Half-Fare with Visa and Half-Fare with Platform 7 combination tickets. The price advantage from purchasing a multi-year Half-Fare Travelcard is therefore eliminated , but a loyalty discount of CHF 20 is introduced if the Half-Fare Travelcard is not canceled. The distinction between monthly and annual billing is also eliminated; a GA Travelcard must simply be purchased for at least four months.

Another advantage is the customer portal, where booked services can be viewed and managed. Scanning subscriptions also prevents counterfeiting and misuse.



Official handover of the SwissPass: Fabio Herzig, Head of SwissPass, to Fernando Lehner, CEO of MGBahn.

The ski pass on the SwissPass
In addition to public transport subscriptions, the SwissPass includes additional services such as Mobility, PubliBike, SwitzerlandMobility, and ski tickets to selected ski resorts. For example, with the Gornergrat Bahn, you can book tickets online in advance on the gornergrat website. Buy tickets and load them onto your SwissPass – no need to queue at the ticket office . In Zermatt, you can also load individual ski day passes onto your SwissPass at the ticket counter.

Turnstiles renewed
To ensure that the SwissPass, among other things , works at every turnstile, the MGBahn on the Täsch–Zermatt shuttle, the Gornergrat Bahn and the Zermatt Bergbahnen have upgraded the turnstiles for their systems.

The SwissPass at a glance

- **1 card for**
 - GA, Half-Fare and network subscriptions
 - Mobility – Carsharing (locations Upper Valais: Zermatt, Sass-Fee, Visp and Brig)
 - PubliBike (analogous to mobility with bikes)
 - SwitzerlandMobility
- **Shuttle hubs and tracks of the ZBAG** can be used with a SwissPass (with a valid ticket) can be passed directly
- **Automatic renewal**
 - Card remains the same
- **Contact details** can be found on www.swisspass.ch can be changed yourself
- **Services** are continually being expanded

Pumptrack Zen Plugs

CYCLE PLAYGROUND IN PLANNING

So-called pump tracks are very popular worldwide. Children and young people can be active in sports, an average biker will find an ideal Practice area and professionals an optimal training area. The municipality is planning a similar facility in the Zen Stecken area, thus offering the population a place for sporting activities.

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Gondola promotion

Cult gondolas are best-sellers

the Zermatt cable cars found new owners for the 50 gondolas on the Gant–Blauherd cable car within just five days. They will use them as a garden house, playground, or fondue parlor. The gondolas will be replaced next winter. The last unsold gondola will be awarded in a photo contest.

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Zermatlantis

MATTERHORN MUSEUM WITH RECORD RESULTS

More than 50,000 people visited the Matterhorn Museum Zermatlantis in its anniversary year of 2015. However, this record result is no reason for the museum's management to rest on their laurels. New innovative projects are planned for Zermatlantis. Edy Schmid, who has directed the museum since 2008, reveals this in an interview.

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Traffic in and around Zermatt – where to go?

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TRANSPORT CONCEPT

IE The Zermatt transport concept was presented at the general meeting on December 1, 2015, and we would like to give you another overview.

Zermatt is one of the top tourist destinations in the Alpine region. Economic prosperity is increasingly offset by traffic problems. The municipality of Zermatt has therefore developed a traffic plan. All forms of mobility were taken into account and economically viable solutions were sought to meet the needs of locals and guests.

New traffic concept

IC Infraconsult AG has been providing technical and procedural support to the municipality of Zermatt since 2013. The concept, developed over two years, analyzes the current situation and describes visions, goals, and measures designed to reduce traffic congestion in Zermatt or make it more manageable. The Zermatt traffic concept was presented at the IC Infraconsult general meeting on December 1, 2015.

The basic framework of the transport concept is the clarification of the key issues of an improved external transport connection from Zermatt to the Matter Valley and a more compatible handling of inner-city traffic.

Strengthening pedestrian traffic

In urban traffic, the unique appeal of walking throughout Switzerland should be further enhanced, while also supporting cycling. Electric vehicles, with their limited widths and low speeds, allow visitors and residents to experience a unique coexistence, which should be maintained and promoted as a special quality in the long term . Organizational measures can improve traffic flow using electric vehicles.

External transport connections

For external transport connections, the concept proposes, among other things, to specifically improve the safety standard of the Täsch–Zermatt access road so that Zermatt



In Zermatt, among other things, pedestrian traffic is to be further strengthened.

accessible via two secure transport systems, thus ensuring sufficient security of supply . Given the canton's strained financial situation, the major challenge will be to convince the canton of the need for the investment.

The bottlenecks that occur during peak tourist season in the return of skiers are to be resolved in the short to medium term with an improved bus service . In parallel, organizational measures and, in the long term, the introduction of a new, townscape- compatible means of transport (NTM) in the Vispa region are to be addressed. However, based on a preliminary project (the so-called Spike People Mover), the general feasibility of the latter with regard to flood protection was denied. The municipality is therefore examining how flood safety could also be ensured with an NTM in the Vispa region .

Measures

A total of 54 measures were included in the transport concept . Some of these measures have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. These include the reorganization of the station square, the improvement of bus boarding, and the construction of photo viewpoints. Likewise, the planning for the reorganization of traffic flow proposed in the Spiss District Plan was further refined in a preliminary project. The plan includes the urgent renovation of the Spiss Bridge and a new bridge over the Vispa River.

Together with the working groups, the municipality has developed an implementation and enforcement plan in order to be able to address the measures in an appropriately prioritized manner .

Further information

You can download and read the summary of the traffic concept at www.gemeinde-zermatt.ch/news (dated November 30, 2015).


The Security Department is available to answer your questions and provide input.



The reorganization of the station square is just one of the 54 measures included in the transport concept.

Construction periods spring and autumn 2016

GENERAL PROVISIONS

 The municipal council sets the construction schedule for the current year in January. Out of consideration for Zermatt 's roads and bridges, special transports may not exceed the maximum permissible total weight of 26 tons (vehicle and load). Starting this year, a plan of the construction site installation must be submitted to the Zermatt municipal building department before construction begins.

In accordance with municipal regulations, the use of motor vehicles (trucks, two- axle tractors, and motorized carts), construction machinery, and drilling, blasting, and excavation work is permitted only during specific periods (construction periods). Helicopter flights are subject to the provisions of federal law and the agreement of April 13, 2004, between the municipality and Air Zermatt.

Permitted construction periods spring 2016

Approved period

Monday, May 2nd to Wednesday, June 1st, 2016 evening
(Early construction site installation on Friday, April 29 – special transports in this context require approval)

Permitted construction periods autumn 2016

Approved period

Monday, October 3 to Friday, October 28, 2016 evening
(Early construction site installation on Friday, September 30 , 2016 – special transports in this context require approval)

Uniform operating times

The following standard operating times apply to motor vehicles, construction machinery, and drilling, blasting, and excavation work:

7:30–12:00 and 1:00–6:30 p.m. (Monday–Saturday)

Data for approved early and/or extended geothermal drilling

Approved period spring

Monday, April 18 to Friday, April 29, 2016 evening
Thursday, June 2 to Friday, June 10, 2016 in the evening

Approved period autumn

Monday, 19 September to Friday, 30 September 2016 evening
Monday, 31 October to Friday, 11 November 2016 evening

Closing days 2016

Bridge access: Friday, May 6, 2016
Whit Monday: Monday, May 16, 2016
Corpus Christi: Friday, May 27, 2016

New: Curfews for journeys with combustion engines

From 1 July to 31 August 2016, no permits will be issued for special transports with vehicles with combustion engines in and through Zermatt.

As of December 1, 2016, no permits will be issued for special transport for construction purposes.

restrictions

Motor vehicle traffic/construction machinery

On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, no transport may be carried out using vehicles with combustion engines .

No excavated material may be removed on Saturdays.

Crane removal/November

The removal of cranes by helicopter in November is permitted on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the third and fourth weeks of November upon written request.

General provisions

1. Application

Requests for special driving permits must be submitted in writing to the Security Department no later than 24 hours before the start of the journey. Requests submitted later will not be processed until the following day.

2. New: Weight limit

All trucks used require a permit . Excavation material transports and special transports must not exceed the maximum permissible total weight of 26 tons . Three-axle vehicles are permitted up to this weight limit (total weight).

3. New: Early construction site installation

Special transports carried out with trucks and other vehicles with combustion engines as part of the early construction site installation require approval.

4. New: Construction site installation plan

A site installation plan must be submitted to the EWG Construction Department. Further information can be found in the relevant information leaflet on the EWG website (see box).

5. Blocked days

On these days and on Sundays and public holidays, motor vehicle traffic, the use of construction machinery and the carrying out of drilling, blasting and excavation work are generally prohibited.

6. Speed

The maximum permitted speed in urban areas is 20 km/h for all vehicles.

7. Truck transport goods

Trucks may only transport excavated and demolition material. Where space permits (except on public land), trucks should deliver building materials, components, and components to the construction site during the excavation period on their way there , from which the excavated material is being transported .

8. Transport tracked vehicles

Tracked vehicles, except those with rubber tracks, may only be transported on low-loading vehicles . The tracks must be cleaned beforehand. A written request must be submitted to the municipality's traffic department beforehand.

9. Street cleaning

To prevent contamination of municipal roads and paths, the construction site access road must be paved with asphalt or concrete. This measure must be implemented over a width appropriate for the vehicles and along the entire length from the road to the construction site (max. 50 meters) .

Appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that no dirt gets onto the road when leaving the construction site. Companies whose construction site exits cause excessive pollution of public roads will be billed for the resulting special expenses according to the client's external rates. The violation of regulations will also be subject to a fine.

In addition, the provisions of the traffic regulations apply. The municipal council may require additional measures in special cases .

10. Penal provisions

Violations of the above provisions will be punished with a fine of between CHF 50 and CHF 5,000, unless the penal provisions of federal or cantonal laws apply.

Information sheet on construction site installation plan

For the use of public land, the EEC must submit a notice of **use at least 10 working days before the start of construction**. A site installation plan must be submitted, which usually contains the following components, if applicable for each implementation stage:

Requirements for construction

- Site plan showing the locations of Material and personnel barracks as well as material emerge from storage
- Location of any crane systems, including the swivel ranges
- Location of construction site toilet

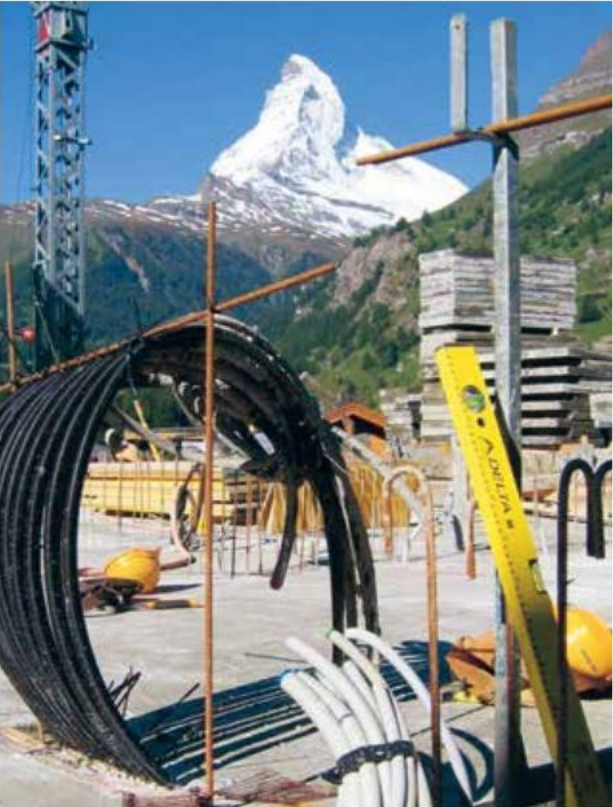
Requirements for drainage and ditch applications

- Construction site drainage according to SIA 431
- Connection and location, time, to the public sewerage or drinking water supply
- Application for excavation in public areas (supply and disposal lines of any kind according to the form "Application for Excavation Permit in Public Road Areas". Note: The infiltration areas must be kept free of soil compaction.)
- In the case of street lighting interruptions and work on them: Proof of sufficient Lighting of public areas

Traffic management requirements and construction site traffic

- Traffic management on public roads and paths adjacent to the construction site, while the construction period
- Traffic management on construction sites (supply and disposal) and handling of goods handling
- Paved parking spaces for vehicles of the main and auxiliary construction trades
- Use of public land by application form «Use of public land» including fully completed application form
- Attaching installations to public Candelabra and traffic signs or the removal of fences requires a permit
- Measures to keep public areas clean land

For further information, please contact the Construction Department and the Civil Engineering and Safety Departments at 027 966 22 15 or email: bauabteilung@zermatt.ch



In Zermatt, special regulations apply during construction periods.

Change of command at the Zermatt base fire brigade

ZERMATT FIRE DEPARTMENT UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

After a total of eight years, Roger Bayard was ceremoniously farewelled as commander of the base fire brigade and Axel Schmidt was appointed as the new commander as of January 1, 2016.

Challenges are increasing

Not only does Zermatt grow a little each year , but the demands on its fire brigade are also increasing. More complex technologies, value retention, environmental protection, and sustainability in operations have increased in recent years. Furthermore , the strained traffic situation in Zermatt makes access difficult for large vehicles . The diverse tasks of today's fire departments around the world definitely no longer consist "only" of extinguishing fires.

Technical assistance, water rescue, oil/ Chemical rescue operations or traffic accidents are just a few of the types of operations that require optimal training and perfectly functioning equipment.

Members urgently needed

In recent years, a great deal of effort has been required to maintain the operational capability of the Zermatt Fire Department . At the beginning of 2016, a considerable amount of time and effort was invested to

People were recruited for the fire service . However, due to natural and fluctuation -related departures, the number of firefighters on the roster as of January 1, 2016, remains well below the target of 100 firefighters stipulated in municipal regulations.

The staff is still searching for a moderate solution to remedy this situation. Although there is a general fire service requirement in Zermatt, this has so far been waived. However, it is currently too early to say how long this will be possible.

With enthusiasm and camaraderie into the future

Despite increasing demands and the shortage of firefighters, Axel Schmidt is optimistic about the future. He is certain that, with his existing fire brigade, management, and the authorities, he will overcome these problems. Things aren't always easy at the moment, but new solutions are continually being sought, tested, and implemented. The Zermatt Fire Department operates at a high level and is working hard to become even better and bigger.



Roger Bayard handed over the position of commander of the base fire department to Axel Schmidt as of January 1, 2016.

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Up and down, back and forth – fun on the bike without pedaling

THE COMMUNITY PLANS TO PUT A PUMP TRACK INTO THE ENTRANCE ZEN

How does one move around on a bike on a level surface without pedaling ? Pump tracks make it possible. Such bike playgrounds are enjoying increasing popularity, and rightly so: They train coordination on the bike, promote outdoor exercise, and are incredibly fun. Such an adventure park is now to be created in Zen Stecken , bringing together people from different cultures and ages.

Bringing together diverse groups of people, from children and young people to sports enthusiasts and entire families, under a sporting credo. This project places particular emphasis on the integration of the foreign population.

From Australia to Zermatt

Pump tracks consist of undulating hills and banked curves; a kind of equivalent to the mogul slopes on flat terrain in winter sports. The hills and curves are arranged to create various circuits, which can be combined in any way and, with sufficient stamina and technique, ridden for longer periods (see map). By coordinating the loading and unloading of the front and rear wheels along the undulations, energy for forward movement can be generated and maintained without pedaling. Because this active loading and unloading is described as pumping and is ridden on a track, such a system is called a pump track.

Pump tracks originated on the other side of the globe. At the turn of the millennium, Australian World Cup mountain bikers built these wave tracks in their front gardens to have ideal training opportunities right on their doorsteps to improve their motor coordination and cornering technique. Over the last decade, pump tracks have spread worldwide and are often an integral part of public playgrounds, amusement parks, or even school facilities.

Zen Stecken location

After various preparatory work and clarifications, on 22. In October 2015, the application for the construction of a pump track, which council member Iris Kündig Stoessel presented to the council, was approved. The pump track is intended as an interim use for five years and therefore does not compete with the already planned local recreation area in the Zen Stecken area. This area has a significantly longer planning horizon of five to ten years and will be further developed in parallel. The pump track is planned for the green space behind the bus turnaround.

The interim use occupies an area of 950m², spread across four plots. The entire area is designated as a sports and recreation zone, making a pump track compliant with the zoning regulations. While two plots are already owned by the municipality, a lease agreement with a minimum term of five years has been concluded with the landowners of the other two plots. This will take effect once a legally binding building permit for the pump track has been obtained.

The municipality would like to take this opportunity to thank the landowners for their willingness to rent out their land.

Financing and technical details

The total construction costs amount to approximately CHF 70,000. Of this, CHF 20,000 will be co-financed by the canton and federal government (see info box). The local planning office BikePlan AG, which has previously designed and implemented similar facilities, is responsible for the project development . The construction material will be a soil-clay mixture , which will be procured locally in collaboration with local construction companies. The pump track will have a total length of approximately 300 linear meters, a track width of 1.50 meters, and a maximum height of 1.20 meters.



The popular pump tracks are true playgrounds for cyclists.

Photo: trailnet.ch / Jan Hellman

(bends). It will be a free, public infrastructure, operated and maintained by the local community. Seating and a barbecue area will provide opportunities for relaxation and social interaction. Posted rules of use and binding opening hours will ensure smooth operation. Since the pump track is used exclusively by bicycles, there will be no disruptive noise emissions.

Revitalization and cultivation

The pump track aims to encourage meaningful and physical activity-promoting leisure activities among children and young people, as well as foster intercultural exchange through sport. Children and young people , as well as adults of various nationalities, can actively participate in the project through various channels such as the Inner Mattertal Youth Workplace, immigrant associations, school sports, or the Mattertal Bike Club, whether in the construction or in the revitalization of the pump track. This creates a shared sense of achievement and a strong sense of identification with the sports facility itself.

Bianca Ballmann, a youth worker at the Mattertal Youth Office, considers the pump track project and last year's founding of the Mattertal Bike Club a great asset for leisure activities for young people in Zermatt, Täsch, and Randa. Interested young people can get involved in these projects and make a social contribution to the community and region. Yannick Imboden, president of the newly founded Mattertal Bike Club, is also very pleased with the municipality's initiative : "The pump track is an ideal tool for promoting young talent to acquire good riding technique. It also offers us a space where people can meet, ride together, and exchange ideas." Leo Schuler, director of the Zermatt Orientation School, warmly welcomes the expansion of the leisure offerings : "The pump track, as a new and trendy form of exercise, is a great and attractive option for our students and creates new opportunities for outdoor school sports." In the context of mountain bike -specific destination development, which, in addition to implementing a mountain bike route network , also supports the local scene, Adrian Greiner of the municipal bike department sees a central function in the pump track: "The pump track is an excellent playground for promoting the local scene and igniting the fire for mountain bike culture. Our children are the future hosts of Zermatt. If we make their eyes shine, this sparkle will later be reflected in the eyes of our guests."

Current project status and further schedule

The project will be launched soon. If the building permit process goes according to plan and there are no delays due to objections, it can be assumed that the pump track can be built in early June and opened for the start of school in August.



In total, the pump track at Zen Stecken requires around 950m² of space.

Cantonal Integration Program (KIP)

As part of the Federal Office for Migration's national strategy, the Canton of Valais has developed the Cantonal Integration Program 2014–2017 (KIP). The federal government specifies the priorities and provides initial funding for projects, provided the canton and municipalities ensure continued funding. Municipal councilor Iris Kündig Stoessel took advantage of this opportunity. In her search for a project for young people, she found an ideal partner in Adrian Greiner, who is already responsible for the future mountain bike destination Zermatt–Matterhorn. He had the idea of creating a pump track, and Iris Kündig Stoessel found the right way to obtain funding from the federal and cantonal governments.

Clubs can present themselves

ANNIVERSARY OR SPECIAL OCCASION ARE IN THE FOREGROUND

In the editions of «Zermatt Inside» you will find individual and current

Articles also recurring sections

Until last year, the sections "Zermatt in the old days" and "What are our

Children in Leisure Time?" was published. Now a new section is to be implemented.

Since club life accounts for a very large portion of leisure activities for many residents , we would like to create a new section so that local clubs (including those in Täsch and Randa) have a platform to introduce themselves.

Maximum three clubs per issue

We will provisionally reserve one page per issue so that a maximum of three clubs can present themselves . The size of each page will be set at 1/3 of a page. For an anniversary or special event, up to 1/2 a page can be made available. Consideration will be given primarily on a first-come, first-served basis.

Content of the article

What activities does the club offer? How

How many exercises or training sessions are held each year? Which age groups are targeted?

Contact details?

Special event, etc. Inform the audience about the key points of your club in a short article .

contact

Please contact Oliver Summermatter, coordinator of "Zermatt Inside ," early at oliver.summermatter@zermatt.net or call 027 966 22 66 so that your options can be discussed in detail.

Number of characters	
1/3 page	1900–2500 characters
1/2 page	3000–4000 characters
Photo/Image	at least 300dp resolution



ZERMATT INSIDE

TOPIC SELECTION

What topics interest you?

What should we report on?

Should a previously published topic be revisited?

Participate actively in the topic selection process now!

We welcome your feedback

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Your opinion is important to us!

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Old wood

inside/outside

A look at the Grand Council

GRAND COUNCIL SESSION OF DECEMBER 2015

IEC The implementing law to the Federal Law on Spatial Planning cleared the first hurdle in December 2015 .

During the first reading, Parliament had to consider 50 amendments, most of which were submitted by the SVPU and the Lower Valais C factions. In particular, the amount of the value-added tax for future land zoning, the building obligation, and whether the people should vote on the law were discussed intensively.

Regarding the treatment of the value-added tax, there was considerable controversy. The Commission proposed a rate of 40 percent. This was strongly opposed. Several factions wanted a reduction to 20 percent, while the Left Alliance even wanted to force an increase to 60 percent. Parliament ultimately voted in favor of 20 percent by a narrow majority. In the final vote, the

The law was passed surprisingly clearly with 102 yes votes and 20 abstentions. accepted.

The spatial planning law will now be prepared for second reading in the winter and will then be submitted to the Grand Council for consideration.

The new WKB capital structure was passed without any changes. The single share capital is introduced, and third-party shareholders will adequately compensated. The canton receives more dividends and retains the absolute majority. The decision on

The accompanying measures for the restructuring of the share capital of WKB were approved with 112 votes in favour and 9 abstentions. taken.

Furthermore, the Labor Act from the 1960s was revised. 54 amendments were considered. The revision aims to adapt the cantonal implementing legislation to the development of federal law and the world of work, as well as to the new

Risks and standards in the area of data protection.

As regards the implementing law to the Federal Act on Seconded Workers and Against Undeclared Work, the main provisions affecting this law are flanking measures on the free movement of persons, undeclared work, employment inspections and labor market monitoring.



The Grand Council believes that the law can primarily promote good companies. The implementing bill was passed in a first reading with 103 votes in favor, 4 against, and 13 abstentions.

The main focus, however, was on the 2016 budget debates and multi-year planning. The double debt brake is increasingly becoming an investment problem for the canton. Over three days, financing was discussed across all departments. The Department of Transport, Construction and Environment (DVBU) generated the most discussion, as budget cuts amounting to millions were requested. However, the parliamentary groups submitted requests for between CHF 5 and 20 million for this department.

After seven rounds of voting, the road service was awarded 3 million francs.

There was no more money for protective structures and forests.

All other departmental budgets were accepted following a request from FIKO.

Surprisingly, Parliament approved the overall budget with 97 yes votes and 20 abstentions.

The supplementary credits for 2015. Partly emotional discussions took place about the individual Amendments were negotiated. For example, the Department of Economic Development was granted a loan of CHF 3 million to finance NRP (New Regional Policy) loans.

This is necessary to support projects for tourist accommodation (CHF 0.8 million), mountain railways (CHF 1.2 million) and international schools (CHF 1 million).

An additional loan of CHF 2.8 million to finance the penal system and inpatient therapeutic measures for the Department for the Execution of Sentences and Measures was opposed but ultimately approved.

The cantonal youth department was granted an additional credit of CHF 1.1 million.

The next session will take place from March 7 to 11, 2016.

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Buthan, Lodge Trekking October 28th – November 11th, 2016

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Tax return 2015 and tax advances 2016

THE TAX LAW HAS UNDERGOED NO CHANGES FOR THE 2015 TAX PERIOD

There have been many changes in the tax system in recent years . For the 2015 tax period, there will be some peace and quiet in this area for the first time.

In the cantonal vote of November 29, 2015, the citizens of Valais adopted the decree on the application of the provisions on the expenditure and debt brake in the context of the 2015/2016 budget.

As a result, the third stage of the increase in flat-rate deductions for premiums and insurance contributions, as well as interest on savings capital, has been postponed. In the coming years, there will be repeated proposals for changes to Switzerland's tax system.

On February 28, 2016, the people and the cantons will vote on the popular initiative of November 5, 2012, "For Marriage and Family – Against the Marriage Penalty." Let us be surprised by what awaits us and let us not forget: the people decide, and with the system of direct democracy, we have the majority of the ball in our hands.

As a reminder

To simplify the processing of tax returns, please refrain from:



The Tax Department and the Cantonal Tax Administration would like to thank all taxpayers and tax offices for their implementation!

Past experience has shown that this is largely implemented. However, there is still room for improvement.

VSTax 2015

The free VSTax 2015 software is available at www.vs.ch/vstax to help you complete your tax return . The software is now used by more than 75% of Valais taxpayers. Around 29% use the option to submit their tax returns as a file . If you have any questions about using the program, you can find the relevant contact persons at www.vs.ch/vstax-kontakte .

Tax advances 2016

The 2016 tax advance payments were delivered in February 2016. These serve as advance payments of taxes in installments and are levied in accordance with Article 193 of the Tax Act. These advance payments are to be paid within 30 days of the due dates listed below:

- 1st installment February 10
- 2nd installment April 10
- 3rd installment June 10
- 4th installment August 10th
- 5th installment October 10th

In the final tax settlement for 2016, the amounts paid will be credited to the corresponding tax year. Interest will be calculated as follows, in accordance with the State Council's resolution of August 12, 2015:

- Any amounts requested and paid in excess will be subject to interest at 3.5% on the final settlement.
- The default interest rate for unpaid or late payments is also 3.5%.



- The negative compensatory interest for outstanding amounts will be demanded in accordance with Art. 164 para. a StG with the final settlement from the general due date of taxes, March 31, 2017, and charged at 3.5% if the interest amount exceeds CHF 500.
- For advance payments made independently of the advance accounts, an interest credit of 0.15% pro rata is granted.

Taxpayers who have paid too little are advised to make a supplementary payment to avoid the compensatory interest.

Do you have questions?

Don't hesitate, we are here for you!

The cantonal tax administration (Tel. 027 606 24 51) and the specialist The Zermatt Municipal Tax Office (Tel. 027 966 22 40 or email steuern@zermatt.ch) will be happy to provide you with further information.

You can also find all tax information at www.vs.ch/steuern.




cold-star

Refrigeration and air conditioning, energy technology, heat pumps



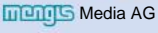
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Zermatt sewage treatment plant

Wastewater heat recovery using heat pumps

In September 2015, the new heat pump system for ecological dehumidification and heating of the wastewater treatment plant at the Zermatt Wastewater Treatment Plant went into operation . Thanks to this innovative heating system, 90,000 liters of heating oil can now be saved annually.

Wastewater is warm

The municipality of Zermatt always strives to minimize its impact on the environment . It is our capital and must be protected. The treated wastewater from the Zermatt wastewater treatment plant contains considerable heat potential. Because precipitation falls in the form of snow during the winter months and therefore does not enter the wastewater and cool it, the treated wastewater from the Zermatt wastewater treatment plant has a high temperature of 14–17°C during the heating season . Even during the snowmelt season, the wastewater temperature does not fall below approximately 10°C.

Wastewater heat and electricity instead of heating oil

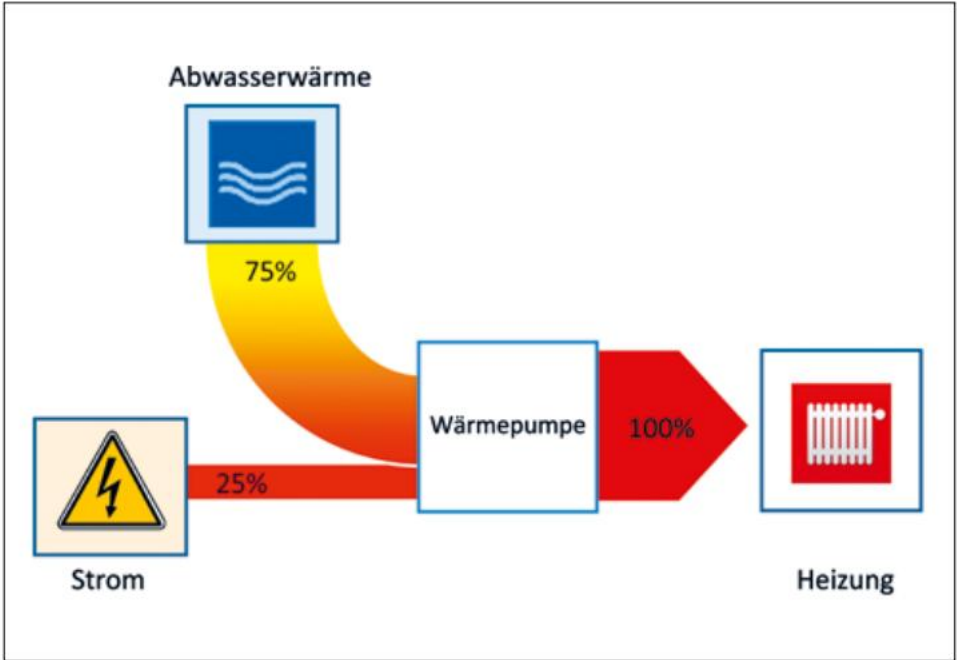
The heat pumps extract the energy contained in the treated wastewater and use electricity to generate heat. 75 kW of electricity is required to produce 300 kW of heat output (system design) . The remainder is extracted from the treated wastewater (see energy flow diagram).

For this purpose, the treated wastewater is pumped into the internal heating plant at the outlet of the new membrane biology plant , where the wastewater heat is transferred using plate heat exchangers and raised to a higher temperature level of 35–40°C using heat pumps and then fed into the heating circuit.

The modern plant was built starting last March and has been in operation since September 2015. The heating water is used to heat the supply air to the pretreatment building and the cavern year-round, with the goal of reducing indoor humidity to ensure a long service life of the installations . A small portion of the heating water is used to heat the operating rooms.



Heat pumps and heating pipes



Energy flow diagram of a heat pump

Wastewater heat utilization potential

The waste heat from the treated wastewater used to heat the treatment plant represents only a small proportion of the maximum possible. When the new heat pumps are operating at full load, they cool the wastewater by only 0.8°C. The resulting wastewater volume and the relatively high temperature offer potential for

Currently, a maximum of 15% of the The construction of a new heating plant in Spiss and a district heating pipeline could provide around 600 households with environmentally friendly energy during the peak winter season.

This requires investment in an additional heating center and a district heating network.

New toilet facilities at Zermatt train station

RENOVATION WORK COMPLETED

MGI: From the end of October to the beginning of December 2015, the toilet facilities at Zermatt train station were completely renovated.

During the renovation work, not only were the men's and women's restrooms modernized, but the disabled restroom was also relocated to the platform level. The new location is clearly visible and easily accessible for people with disabilities, even without an escort. Before the renovation, access to the basement required using the elevator. The new accessible restroom also features a changing table for small children.



The toilets at Zermatt train station were extensively renovated over a period of about a month.

From old to new

LAST CULT GONDOLA LOOKING FOR NEW OWNER

for the 2016/17 winter season, Gant–Blauherd gondola lift from 1970 with a modern 6-seater chairlift cable car. The new system, with a capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour, will transport Zermatt winter sports guests to Blauherd in 3.6 minutes .

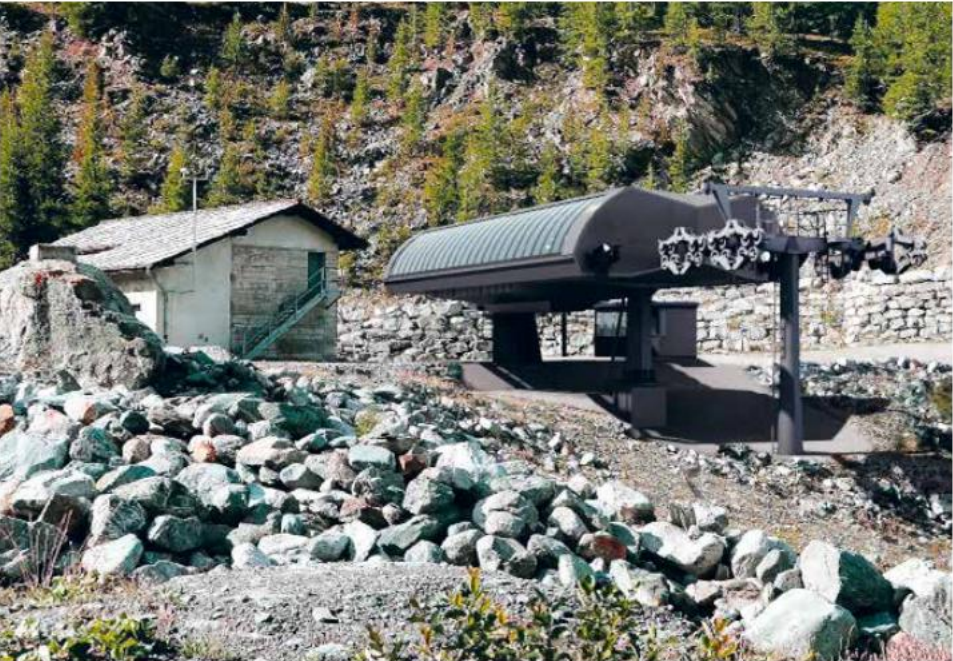
Find Zermatt's iconic gondolas new home

Whether as a garden house, playground, fondue parlor , or smoker's lounge – the discarded and already iconic gondolas of the Gant-Blauherd complex offer numerous creative uses. Visit www.matterhornparadise.ch/499 starting in early December. After just five days, the gondolas were sold out, leaving only the most unusual of the gondolas—the rescue gondola.

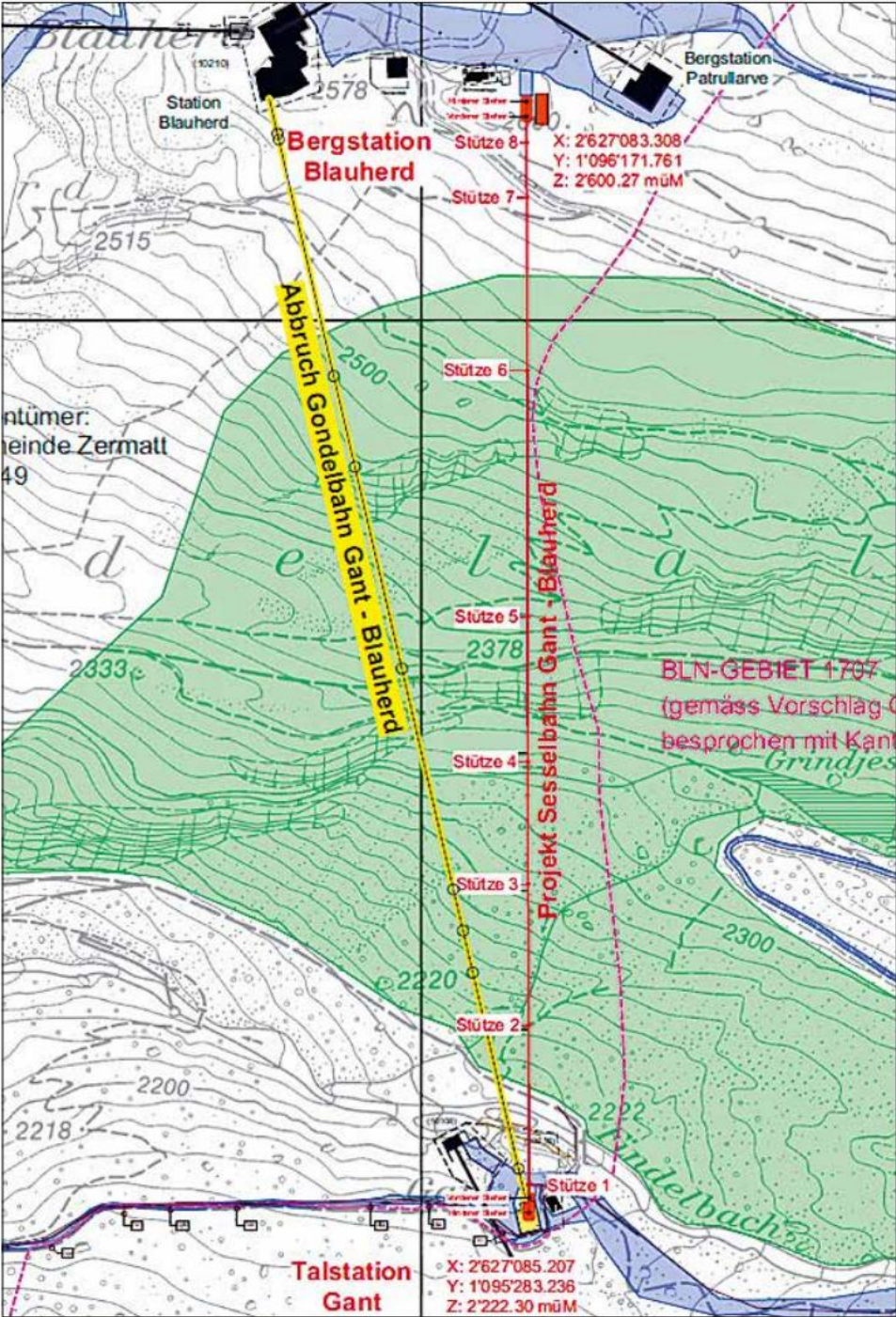
And these can be won throughout the winter season. The two top hotels CERVO Mountain Boutique Resort and Mont Cervin Palace have a cult gondola in the look and feel of the

The most original picture in the photo competition launched by both hotels will win the very last gondola . In addition, the creative ten selfies will be entered into a raffle for one night each at the CERVO Mountain Boutique Resort and the Mont Cervin Palace.

Technical data for the new chairlift	
Slant length	953.92 meters
Conveying capacity	1800 people
Vehicles	6-seater armchair
Rope diameter	43mm
track gauge	6.10 meters
Travel time	3.6 min
Number of supports	8 pieces



Gant valley station



Site plan of the old and new facilities.



The new mountain station will be located directly below the Patrollarve mountain station.



The new Gant–Blauherd chairlift has eight supports.



The guest with the most original selfie wins the very last cult gondola.

Skiguide Zermatt – The 3D navigation app for the ski area

Zermatt Bergbahnen is launching the Skiguide Zermatt app, the perfect digital companion for the international Matterhorn ski paradise. The app helps users locate themselves precisely in the area via GPS and navigate from point A to B on the 3D map . In addition to the navigation function, the app contains many other useful features for the perfect day of skiing. The free app will be available for iOS and Android devices during the 2015/2016 winter season .

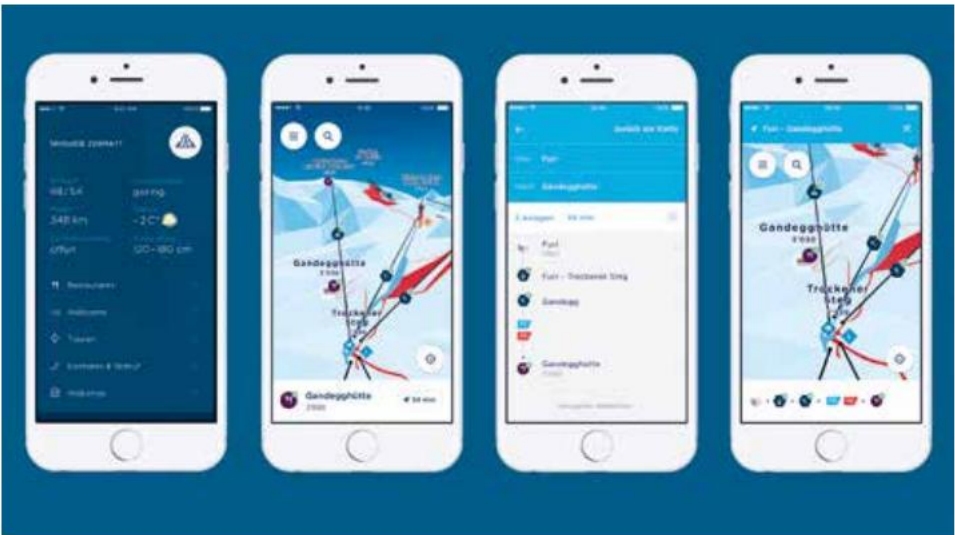
The heart of the app is the navigation function on the georeferenced 3D map. For example, if a user wants to travel from one of the valley stations to their favorite mountain restaurant, the app shows which lifts and slopes will take them to their destination and how long it will take. The time required depends on whether a leisurely or sporty driving style has been set in the app.

Users navigate on the 3D map within defined area views. A rail snap system prevents them from getting lost in the 3D space. This concept allows the map to be operated with only

One finger; a huge advantage given the often low temperatures in the high-alpine Matterhorn ski paradise. All content on the map, such as lifts, slopes, restaurants, and various points of interest, is interactive and provides detailed information in addition to live status.

Additional features

- *Mountain Restaurant Guide:* Thanks to the app , users can easily reach the desired mountain restaurant in the ski area. The Restaurant Guide lists all mountain restaurants and provides descriptions and photo galleries, as well as opening hours. Partner companies.
- *Warning messages for guest safety:* Users are always kept up to date on the wind and avalanche situation or any unscheduled closures of facilities and slopes in the ski area via push notifications or via a display in the app .
- *Webshop:* Queuing at the checkout is a thing of the past . Today, users can conveniently book their ski pass online in the Zermatt Bergbahnen webshop. The range of products in the webshop is constantly being expanded. Currently, in addition to ski passes, events, offers,



Try out the new app – we look forward to your feedback.

Rental equipment and ski lessons can be booked online.

- *Tour suggestions:* With the tour tool, users can follow predefined routes and always keep an overview.

Innovative implementation partner from Zurich

The Skiguide Zermatt app was developed by Zurich interaction design agency dreipol

Download

During February, the app for iOS and Android devices will be available in the can be downloaded free of charge from the respective app stores.

The largest igloo in the world on Rotenboden

A WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

in the Igludorf on Rotenboden, an igloo with a 13-meter diameter and a ceiling height of 11 meters was built during an intensive two-week construction phase in January . Approximately 3,600 snow bricks were used in the construction.

In cooperation with the Zermatt Bergbahnen, the qualified igloo builders Adrian Günter and Reto Gilli built the world record igloo at 2,727 meters above sea level. This also created the world's highest showroom, which features an exhibition on the 20-year history of the igloo village and a documentary about the exciting world record attempt.

Zermatt Bergbahnen supports this project in construction and media. They generously helped with the transport of the

required materials and manpower for this project. The world-record igloo will remain open for the entire winter season and can be booked as an event location. Upon completion, there will be an ice sculpture exhibition , and guests will have the opportunity to take photos and upload them to Instagram.

Zermatt, with the world's largest igloo, demonstrates its snow reliability and passion for innovation. The igloo village is a standout among all the resort's offerings, bringing guests closer to the snow experience in a unique and unconventional way.

Midweek Igloo Package

One night in the igloo village with half board and a Zermatt ski pass for two days from CHF 623.—.



A giant igloo has been built in Zermatt.

Everything for the youth

SKI CAMP TO PROMOTE SNOW SPORTS

skiing in Zermatt for a whole week for free; Zermatt Bergbahnen is making this experience possible for a school class from Uebeschi, Canton of Bern. The school class won the ski camp, including accommodation, ski passes, rental equipment, and ski lessons, as part of a competition organized by Seilbahnen Schweiz's snow sports camp campaign . With this, Zermatt Bergbahnen wants to set an example for promoting snow sports among young people.

The 5th and 6th grades of the Uebeschi BE primary school were able to explore and enjoy the international ski area of Zermatt and Cervinia/Valtournenche for a week in January 2016. The class was invited by the Zermatt Bergbahnen and the Zermatt sports shop Bayard Sport, which provided all rental equipment free of charge.

Snow sports camp campaign by Seilbahnen Schweiz

The school class won the ski camp as part of a competition organized by Seilbahnen Schweiz's snow sports camp campaign. Over four years, this campaign aimed to introduce as many young people as possible to snow sports during their school years .

Due to the very positive results, the campaign, which ends this winter, will be transformed into a definitive offer for bookable snow sports camp packages. By sponsoring the main prize in the campaign competition, Zermatt Bergbahnen is supporting the stated campaign goal of promoting snow sports among young people .



The happy school class from Uebeschi, who were able to enjoy the ski resort in Zermatt for a week as part of a competition.

Capitalize on success and continue to show commitment

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK OF ZERMATT TOURISM AT THE 81ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 3 FEBRUARY 2016

At the Zermatt Tourism General Assembly, it was clear that success cannot be a source of indolence. Zermatt's marketing organization outlines the direction the tourism industry is heading in and where action is needed.

"Zermatt cannot and will not rest on its laurels," said Daniel Luggen, Zermatt's tourist director, at the general meeting in the Matterhorn Hall of the Zermatterhof . Laurels in 2015 included the "Milestone," Switzerland's most prestigious tourism award.

The award ceremony commended the collaboration of an entire village, in connection with the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn. "It is important for the destination, also for the future, that this positive collaboration continues to be maintained and expanded," emphasizes Daniel Luggen in his annual review.

Innovative marketing

Luggen is presenting its marketing strategy for the future. The desired guest for Zermatt will be addressed even more specifically and efficiently . The target groups in the areas of skiing, biking, hiking, families, MICE , and Matterhorn tours have been defined. «We expect more success and

less wastage," says Daniel Luggen. A new product marketer will be responsible for each segment (see also the article on page 13). There will also be an increased focus on digital communication. Zermatt Tourism sees these tools as a great opportunity to consolidate its international position . It is also important that the e-fitness program already initiated advances the entire destination. The goal for Zermatt-Matterhorn is ambitious . The destination is to take the lead in digital marketing throughout Switzerland .

Steps for the future

Zermatt Tourism cultivates even more direct contact with customers . Zermatt Tourism is increasingly viewing not only guests as customers, but also service providers as customers . The service provided to them is being intensified. In a broad-based survey, Zermatt Tourism intends to determine which tasks the information and marketing organization will need to cover in the future.

Event management is also being strengthened; the open-air theatre "The Matterhorn Story" has shown that an event can help to survive in a difficult environment. Zermatt Unplugged is already such a



The image went around the world in 2015 and was voted PR image of the year in Germany: the key visual for the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the MatterhornPhoto: Robert Bösch and erdmannpeisker

A beacon in the event landscape. Zermatt plans to develop more events in the future. The theater on the Riffelberg has shown its potential. International ski races, such as a men's World Cup downhill race on the Gornergrat, are also planned.

or the Swiss Epic Bike Race could become future success factors. "We have to take care of our guests to ensure our future success," concludes Daniel Luggen.

Wo gibt es das beste Schnitzel der Schweiz?

Das vielleicht beste Schnitzel der Schweiz. Wer kann das schon beurteilen? Unsere Gäste, natürlich. Denn nur für Sie halten wir unsere Hausspezialität bereit – Tagtäglich.

➤ Durchgehende Küche von 11.00 bis 22.00 Uhr. ➤

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Hesch di igläbt?

Dear team players

It's now been over 100 days since I took on the challenge of becoming Head of Marketing at Zermatt Tourism. I received congratulations from colleagues and key personnel. And shortly after, many asked caringly, "Do you believe this?" Yes, did I? The time flew by, almost as fast as a game of volleyball. There was barely time to warm up, and then you were in the thick of it. In the midst of the challenges posed by external circumstances: the currency situation, the increasingly shorter stays, the developments in the online sector. We're also facing challenges internally: new appointments to the team, the reorientation of marketing.

As a volleyball player, I know that success can only be achieved through teamwork. This is even more true for major challenges – they can only be accomplished by a team striving for common solutions. In volleyball, we "serve" the ball, receive it, and skillfully thread a "pass" so the attackers can score. Only as a team are we strong and achieve our goals. That's why I look forward to constructive discussions and to scoring points together – together for and with the entire destination.

Yours, Janine Imesch



Strengthening the destination service

NEW MARKETING MEASURES ALSO CREATE NEW FUNCTIONS AT ZERMATT TOURISM

In the course of major restructuring, Zermatt Tourism even more intensively to the destination Service. The key point here is the creation of the positions of "Head of Destination Service" and "Event and Partnership Management."

"The restructuring measures bring radical changes. However, they are necessary in light of the changing market conditions and changing guest behavior," says Daniel Luggen, Zermatt's Resort Director. In particular, the creation of the "Destination Service" department is being pushed forward. A mandate solution was initially sought to manage the new department in order to implement the restructuring process independently, professionally, and expeditiously. Conny Schmiedehaus was hired for this mandate. She will dissolve and reorganize the former "Central Services" and the former "Guest Service Center" into the new "Destination Service" department. This will integrate the team of guest advisors, accounting, and billing departments. Marc-André Rey will continue to head the accounting department. Event and partnership management will also be integrated into the "Destination Service" department. Conny Schmiedehaus's mandate is limited until the end of August 2016.

Marketing with new goals
"Marketing will no longer be market-based in the future," says Janine Imesch, Head of Marketing. Marketing measures will now be aligned to specific target group segments. For this purpose, the relevant specialists will develop customized marketing plans.

So-called Product Marketers (PMs) will focus on the following topics: skiers, hikers, bikers, Matterhorn watchers (working title), families, and meetings and incentives (MICE). "We have been working on setting up



Service to the service provider: Louis Necker, a holiday apartment owner in Zermatt, has Dominique Williner explain the booking options on the Zermatt Tourism website.

"This new marketing strategy," said Daniel Luggen during the recent staff briefing. The fact that the Swiss tourism marketing organization Switzerland Tourism has initiated the same restructuring measures at the same time demonstrates that the new direction has recognized the signs of the times.

Significance of restructuring
For service providers, this reorganization means that there will be new contacts.
Spa Director: Daniel Luggen
Head of Marketing: Janine Imesch

Assistant to the Management and Board: Peter Kronig
e-Marketing: Pascal Gebert
Marketing support: Fabienne Schaller
PR/Media/Communication: Edith Zweifel
PM Ski and MICE: Nadine Rüdisühli
PM Hiking and Matterhorn Watcher: Dominique Mauderli
PM Biking and Families: Lara Wiesmann
The management team consists of Daniel Luggen and Janine Imesch. They also have the new head of Destination Services. Pascal Gebert, Peter Kronig, and Edith Zweifel are now members of the expanded management team.

IMPRINT

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The most beautiful day at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof

A DREAM WEDDING LOCATION

The Grand Hotel Zermatterhof has very special offers for every couple's big day. Because, like love, memories should last forever – unforgettable moments are guaranteed at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof.

The Zermatterhof's facilities are flexible and modular, suitable for a festive, intimate occasion or a large celebration with up to 260 guests. The technical equipment in the halls, such as microphones, video projectors, and screens, is modern and available to the guests. A wedding without the obligatory wedding dance is unthinkable.

Of course, there is also a dance floor and a stage for a band .

A wedding in Zermatt usually lasts a little longer. So why not stay at the venue and be a hotel guest? Wedding guests receive special rates and can round off the celebration with a leisurely breakfast and a trip into the Zermatt mountains .

You just need to answer a few questions , and you're ready to go: Do you want to get married in early summer, midsummer, or fall? How do you want to celebrate—the traditional Saturday-to-Sunday celebration, or are you dreaming of a proper "wedding weekend" that starts on Friday afternoon? And how will you celebrate—in a small circle or with lots of family and friends?

If you're planning a truly grand wedding, you should let your guests know the date well in advance . Accordingly, wedding planning should begin twelve to six months before your actual wedding date.

Come to us and we will explain in detail how we can support you on your most beautiful day.
Plan your wedding with us: +41 27 966 66 00 or events@zermatterhof.ch



«The wedding celebration at the Zermatterhof will be unforgettable»

Rainer Maria Salzgeber has lived in Zurich for more than 20 years . The 47-year-old football enthusiast from the Valais works for Swiss Radio and Television (SRF) in the city on the Limmat. The fact that the popular Valaisan derator still has intensive contacts in his old homeland and why he feels a special connection to Zermatt.

Rainer Maria Salzgeber, you have been working at SRF since 1994. Do you describe your work as a football presenter and sports journalist as a dream job – even after 22 years at SRF?

" I still consider it a great privilege that I've been able to turn my hobby and passion into my career. In my job, I travel frequently, meet interesting people, and attend and support various sporting events. Earning my income this way is priceless. At no point during my professional career have I felt like I had to work—my job is a pleasure."

Can you imagine a life away from the camera and without the spotlights?

«At this point in time, that is difficult to answer. But it's in the nature of things that sooner or later there will be a time without cameras and spotlights . It's important to me to be able to determine the possible end point myself. As long as I can continue to pursue my profession with great enthusiasm for the sport, and both the public and my employer are satisfied with my work, there's no reason to stop. Family life, leisure time, hobbies – an important part of my life already takes place today.

away from the spotlight.»

You also occasionally moderate panel discussions and events that have little or nothing to do with the world of sports. Why?

"Whether you're an athlete or not, for me as a presenter, the craft ultimately remains the same. My motto is always to take advantage of opportunities outside of sports that might challenge me in a different way and where I can bring my personality to the table. However, I wouldn't host an event that doesn't suit me, that I can't stand behind.

The decisive criterion is the material."

As is well known, the people of Valais also have They form a strong bond and organize themselves into so-called Valais clubs. Do you regularly meet other people from Valais in your adopted home of Zurich?

"No, I am not a member of any Valais club or association. In a friendship or among colleagues, people's origins ultimately don't matter. What is more important to me is Valais as my true roots.

Nevertheless, as people from Valais, you probably find it easier to find common ground when you are abroad. The reason for this is probably that we are a special people and that we quickly find common ground among ourselves.

ner finds; perhaps you attended the same school, have the same circle of friends or know the same people. We're just a little different than others..."

What connection do you still have to your old homeland?
"I regularly inform myself about what's happening in Valais via print, radio, and online media. My wife, who grew up in Brig, and I still have a strong connection to Valais. Most of our relatives live in Valais, and it's part of our routine to travel back to Valais for family celebrations, for example. However, the regularity of such trips has decreased somewhat . Perhaps also because our children are growing up in Zurich and their lives revolve around this environment. At home, however, we speak the Valais dialect, and my wife and I do everything we can to ensure that our ties to Valais are not lost for the next generation . Our two children are now reaching an age where we as a family will be spending more holidays in Zermatt again."

Also as a partner of the restaurant Baracca Zermatt in Kloten you are familiar with the Valais and in particular connected with Zermatt. What was the attraction of a Valais to open a restaurant?

"The Baracca Zermatt is, of course, another Valais-related commitment that I enjoy. The focus is on introducing guests to the culinary delights of Valais and the region's special ambience.

Zermatt is one of them. I remember the Whymper Stube restaurant in Zermatt well, where we often stopped for fondue – that's where it all began.


When the opportunity finally arose to become a co-owner of Baracca Zermatt, I jumped at the chance. It's a project I can fully support."

So Zermatt also plays a big role in your life?

"Absolutely! During my childhood, our family often spent holidays in Zermatt. For years afterward, I worked as a speaker at the Horu Trophy and at a tennis tournament in the summer. I often celebrated New Year's Eve in Zermatt, and four of my former schoolmates from middle school were from Zermatt.

Furthermore, I'm still close friends with several people from Zermatt . For example, Franz Julen, who was a valuable advisor to me when I moved from Valais to Zurich and is still a good friend today. My wife Chantal was a citizen of Zermatt, and most of her relatives still live in Zermatt or Randa. These circumstances ultimately contributed to our decision to celebrate our wedding in Zermatt."

The wedding celebration took place in 1999 at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof instead...
"On May 13, 1999. It was clear to us at that time that the church wedding should take place in the castle church in Raron. While searching for the right location for the subsequent wedding reception, we met at the Grand Hotel

Rainer Maria Salzgeber

Rainer from Upper Valais

M. Salzgeber has been working for over 20 years at Swiss television.

During this time he above all a name made as a presenter of various sports programs, with special football Affinity.

For his moderations around the European Football Championship

He has received several awards in Switzerland. Salzgeber was voted Swiss Sports Journalist of the Year and won the Swiss Television Award in the National category.

Since 2008, Salzgeber has also hosted the annual Sports Awards ceremony. At this glamorous gala, the Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year are chosen each December.

Salzgeber is one of the most sought-after Swiss moderators and presenters.

"Man does not live by sport alone": True to this motto, Salzgeber regularly moderates conferences, panel discussions, and symposia on non-sporting topics. "Panel appearances with a political, economic, or social background are always special challenges for me, which I enjoy taking on and approaching with the appropriate meticulousness."

Zermatterhof to the then director Jean-Pierre Lanz. He welcomed us so warmly and courteously that after just a few moments, there was no doubt that we should celebrate our wedding at the Zermatterhof. And the celebration turned out to be a memorable and unforgettable experience. The venue—we celebrated in the so-called "Blue Hall"—was magnificent, and the chef at the time, Heinz Rufibach, knew how to prepare a wonderful menu for our guests. I'm certain: there were no more suitable spaces or better conditions for a wedding celebration at that time . My wife and I would choose the Zermatterhof again anytime."

The connections to the Matterhorn village are therefore strong. It's only natural that you've already conquered the summit of the Matterhorn...
«I have already had the privilege of standing on the Matterhorn twice. However, I didn't climb the mountain myself; instead, I was lowered from a helicopter to the summit on two occasions using a cable winch. The moment I stood on the mountain was magnificent. I probably won't attempt the challenge of conquering the mountain one day . To be honest, I'm happy about every cable car that opens up a mountain. But that doesn't mean I want a cable car to the Matterhorn.

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Matterhorn Museum: a jewel

RECORD RESULTS IN THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2015 AND NEW SPECIAL EXHIBITION IN 2016

The Matterhorn Museum Zermatlantis welcomed over 50,000 visitors last year , a record. But that's no reason for the museum's management to pause . New projects are planned.

The Matterhorn Museum Zermatlantis is the second most popular museum in the canton of Valais after the Fondation Gianadda in Martigny . Opened in 2006, the Zermatlantis Museum has registered almost 400,000 visitors since its inception (see box for figures). The anniversary of the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn contributed to the annual record of over 50,000 admissions. "We were amazed that the

"The sunny August of 2015 was the absolute record month, with over 11,000 admissions," says museum director Edy Schmid, commenting on the figure. And: "It's nice to see how guests take the time to study the pictures and read the texts, often in a relaxed manner."

The anniversary triggered a lot

"We were bombarded with questions about the first ascent," recalls Edy Schmid of the summer months of 2015 at the Matterhorn Museum . It was interesting that the first climber of the Matterhorn, the Briton Edward Whymper, " was finally put in the right light," says Edy Schmid. This

This was also thanks to the special exhibition "The Search for Truth" created by Matthias Taugwalder . This largely freed the two Zermatt mountain guides, Peter and Peter Taugwalder, who were the first to ascend the peak. Visitors are fascinated by the research of Matthias Taugwalder, a direct descendant of the Taugwalder family who made the first ascent. Due to its success, his special exhibition has been extended until April 3, 2016 .

New members welcome

The museum is governed by a nine-member board of trustees. This includes the presidents of Zermatt's most important bodies: the Civic Community, Zermatt Tourism, the mountain railways (MGB and ZBAG), Seiler Hotels, Raiffeisen Bank (sponsor), and the local community. Individual members are also very welcome. So, why not become a member of this wonderful organization as a Zermatt resident? The Alpine Museum Zermatt Association currently has 300 members.

Membership for individual persons CHF 50 per year. This membership entitles you to the respective free entry to the museum.

Donations and rounded amounts welcome.

Registration
matterhornmuseum@zermatt.ch

Facts and figures 2015

Admissions	2014	2015
May	2507	3340
June	4900	4134
July	11089	10373
August	8046	11429
Total 2015		52379

In 2014, there was often bad Weather. This increases visitor numbers.

The summer of 2015 was dominated by activities surrounding the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn, which led to increased visitor numbers. The high number of over 50,000 visitors in 2015 is remarkable. worth noting, because in summer mostly sunshine.

Special exhibition Glacier Worlds

The next special exhibition is dedicated to the topic of glacier worlds. It will be

The remains of "Theo" will be on display again in early July after a long absence (scientific examinations, exhibition in Bolzano): the large skull fragment, bones, knives, and coins.

call

Zermatt residents who still have artifacts from glaciers or their surroundings in their cupboards at home are called upon to bring them to the museum : "If someone has found something that appears to be antique, they are obliged to hand it over – that's what the law stipulates ," says Edy Schmid.



The exhibits at the Zermatlantis Museum amaze both adults and children.

“We bow to the times of that time”

MUSEUM DIRECTOR EDY SCHMID ON HIS UNDERGROUND WORLD ZERMATLANTIS

Edy Schmid has directed the museum since 2008. He and his team explain, observe, monitor, organize, and shape Zermatt's subterranean past.

The museum's current team includes Edy Schmid, director; Peter Graf (during the summer months); Andrea Furger, Karin Biner, Lucie Biner, and Sonja Amstutz, all of whom handle reception and other duties. Starting this summer, a research assistant will be responsible for advancing the inventory of newly acquired museum objects. Edy Schmid spends up to seven hours a day , seven days a week, at the museum. When he 's not visible, he examines new materials that are submitted, looks after visitors, considers topics for new special exhibitions, and handles inquiries. Recently, a significant legacy for Zermatt was presented: the music and writings of the former pastor of Zermatt, the famous and universally respected Dean Gregor Brantschen (1894–1987). Edy Schmid is planning another special exhibition with these items in the near future.

Edy Schmid, what is your greatest joy when you walk down the stairs into the museum?
"Zermatt can be extremely proud of its museum. We observe how photos, objects, texts, and objects trigger active experience and wonder. That's a joy.
The museum isn't just a display case museum, but an experience museum. Visitors are sometimes surprised that the old 'Hiischini' still smells the same as it did over 100 years ago. You're in the middle of history. Anyone who bends down to enter one of the buildings pays homage to the time and the people of that time.

What surprises visitors the most?
"One often sees deep astonishment, even admiration, respect , and reverence for the simple life of those days. It 's understandable that it was all about survival, about a simple, austere existence.
Children and adults alike are amazed, for example, by the shoes of those days, the simple clothes, the open fireplace that served as a cooking stove, the small beds, and so on."

Do you come into contact with visitors?
"Yes, of course. We are often spontaneously asked questions about individual exhibits. This gives us the opportunity to tell many stories and thus make the experience even more immersive for visitors. In this way, we can contribute to a general understanding of history."

Are the visitors also surprised?
"Oh yes, and how! For example, a boy. When he was allowed to hold the 6,000-year-old stone axe in his hands, he looked at me wide-eyed. Awe shone in his eyes. He was aware: I'm holding ancient history in my hands.
Some visitors say: 'Do you realize what a treasure you have with this museum?'"

Do you also have helpers in the background?
"We have many helpers and supporters who support us. The board members, especially former teacher Klaus Julen, who continually advises and helps. But also residents who spontaneously bring items and share interesting information. And, of course, our board of trustees and our museum members, who are connected to the museum with more than just their financial contributions (see box, editor's note)."

What do you regret most?
"That we don't have the space to exhibit more objects. The museum is unfortunately bursting at the seams. And that more Zermatt residents aren't visiting their museum."

What is your wish for the future?
"I hope the core of the current exhibition remains. But we also want to make adjustments. However, the space constraints severely limit us."



Looking to the future: Museum director Edy Schmid.