






ZERMATT INSIDE

February 2020, 18th Year, No. 1



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

Municipality of Zermatt  Digital Schools The students from the inner Matter Valley learn how to use digital media. The opportunities and risks are highlighted. The background. Pages 9	Zermatt Tourism  Old traditions At the Folklore Festival in the upcoming summer of 2020, old traditions will flourish anew. In focus: Old clothes and professions. What exactly is planned? Page 13	MGBahn  Road renewal The Gornergrat Railway's track reconstruction will continue in spring and fall. The track renewal is a complex undertaking. That's what's behind it. Page 14	Zermatt Mountain Railways AG  Protecting wild animals Zermatt wants the wild animals better protect the region. For this purpose, around the village Eight wildlife sanctuaries have been established. Where they are located. Page 16	Destination Zermatt  archaeologists How did man in the Prehistory used the Alpine region? This is the question archaeologists are investigating. This is also the case below the Schwarzsee in Zermatt. Page 18
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Zermatt Mountain Railways AG

Alpine Lounge: Sustainable relaxation

Since Christmas, the Blauherd station has had another attraction. The Alpine Lounge has opened its doors just in time for the high season and invites you to linger, experience , and reflect.

The idea for a guest lounge arose during the renovation of the station buildings at Blauherd. The former station of the Gant-Blauherd gondola lift was completely renovated during the past summer season . Among other things, new staff facilities, such as a cloakroom, were created.

and a canteen. This restructuring created around 200 m2 of free space in the area of the entrance and exit of the former gondola lift . The decision

It was decided to make this space available to guests and to offer the Alpine Lounge as a place to relax . In addition to various seating options, including the old chairs from the destroyed Kummel lift, visitors can

A hot and cold water station, a smartphone charging station, public restrooms, and, of course, free Wi-Fi are available. The walls are covered with exciting facts and figures on the topic of sustainability.

activity and the environment in the Matterhorn paradise . Sandra Zenhäusern, Head of Marketing & Sales at Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, describes the idea behind the Alpine Lounge as follows: "Our goal is, on the one hand, to offer our guests the opportunity to rest or warm up from time to time, and, on the other hand, to convey the idea of sustainability and the environment . We want to demonstrate which measures are being taken to make tourism in Zermatt increasingly sustainable."

and to reduce our footprint on nature to a minimum." The guest lounge thus not only serves as a place for relaxation and well-being; raising awareness of the preservation of natural treasures and their careful use in a tourism context is the central idea that runs like a thread through the entire facility. So, if you want to know how many solar modules are in the Matterhorn paradise and how much energy they produce, or how artificial snow or glacier ice is created from water, you've come to the right place. Even for those who want to quickly drink a hot tea or warm up their weakening

If you want to charge your smartphone, the Alpine Lounge is the perfect place.

Municipality of Zermatt

Tax return 2019, tax advances 2020 and partial revision of the tax law

Information on completing the 2019 tax return

Income from renting holiday apartments

Anyone who makes their residential property available for payment must declare the income generated from it for tax purposes. This includes, in particular, income from **online**

online booking platforms such as Airbnb, Booking.com, etc.

If you meet the criteria for self-employment , records of income and expenses must be included with your tax return. If this is not the case, the income must be declared under heading 1110.

Important: For the 2019 tax period, the focus will be on the completeness of the declaration of real estate income.

Cryptocurrency and taxes

General

Bitcoin is a unit of account, a store of value, and a means of payment all at once. Bitcoin can be distinguished from one another and segregate. Bitcoin users are to be qualified as legal owners, analogous to the owners of cash. Bitcoin is not a security, but rather depends on a protocol and the corresponding technology . In addition to Bitcoin, there are numerous (around 900) other cryptocurrencies.

If they are structured similarly to Bitcoins, they will be treated the same as Bitcoins for tax purposes.

Qualification under wealth tax law

Bitcoin is subject to wealth tax. For reasons of procedural economy and contrary to the legal classification, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies must be listed in the securities register or as "other assets."

The user can provide proof of ownership of Bitcoin with a printout of the annual

The end-of-year balances of the wallets, i.e., the digital wallets, are provided. Since the end of 2015, the Federal Tax Administration has been calculating an average value for Bitcoin to evaluate the year-end balances.

If the tax administration has not set a year-end exchange rate due to a lack of trading , a cryptocurrency must be declared at the purchase price.

Income tax qualification

Capital gains from movable private assets are generally tax-free. However, if someone qualifies as a commercial trader, profits from trading in cryptocurrencies are taxable as self-employed income. The provisions

The provisions on self-employment and those on securities dealers are applicable analogously (ESTV Circular No. 36 of 27 July 2012).

Mining Bitcoins by providing computing power and receiving income in Bitcoin also constitute taxable income.

The EWG Zermatt now accepts Bitcoins as a means of payment.



From 1 February 2020, the payment of fees and taxes to the EWG Zermatt in the cryptocurrencies Bitcoin and Ether . The collaboration with Bitcoin Suisse AG enables the municipality to accept Bitcoin and Ether as payment without the municipality itself holding cryptocurrencies on its books.

Mayor Romy Biner-Hauser welcomes the project. "We want to keep up with the times in Zermatt and gain experience with new technologies. Bonfire is showing us how to do it, and so we too are trying to

innovations." With this decision, Zermatt is only the second municipality in Switzerland that accepts this payment method.

Fees of up to 150 francs can be paid directly at the counter of the residents' registration office and on Upon request, tax invoices can also be paid online with Bitcoins or Ethers (email to: steuern@zermatt.ch).

Medical and healing costs

Starting with the 2019 tax period, the costs of medications and remedies will only be deductible if they are prescribed by a doctor or a recognized naturopathic practitioner.

Important: From now on , pharmacy receipts will only be accepted as medical and treatment costs if the doctor's prescription is included.

Capital payments and rental values of real estate abroad

· **Capital payments** must be declared. The relevant information must be entered under item 7 of the tax return and marked with a cross.

Otherwise a fine may be imposed!

· Net rental value of properties abroad

land will be taxed at 3% of the tax value estimated. For countries where a tax or cadastral value exists for the property , confirmation from the cadastral registry of that country is required. Otherwise, the purchase price of the property (confirmation of purchase agreement) will be used.



VSTax 2019

We recommend using the free VSTax 2019 software at www.vs.ch/vstax to complete your 2019 tax return . This software has been updated and improved for the 2019 tax period.

The download will be available from the beginning of February 2020. If you have any questions about using the program, please visit www.vs.ch/vstax-kontakte provides the appropriate contact persons.

Important: Use the free VSTax software and the Tell Tax smartphone app to manage your receipts. Further information is available at www.vs.ch/telltax.

VSTax updates for the 2019 tax period

For the first time, taxpayers living outside of the canton and abroad can submit their tax returns electronically for the 2019 tax period.

The tax return prepared with VSTax can be submitted in three different ways:

1. Submitting your tax return online with digitalized documents:

Follow the program's instructions. Once the data has been submitted, you have 10 days to make any corrections. This method does not

It is no longer necessary to print the receipt; it is sent without a signature. Once the receipt has been sent, the system will confirm it with a receipt . This receipt remains with the taxpayer and does not need to be submitted.

2. Submitting the tax return online with supporting documents partly in paper and partly in digital form:

Follow the instructions in the program, which will generate a transmission document pre-addressed to the cantonal tax administration. Use this to send the documents to the cantonal tax administration.

With this option, there is no need to submit documents to the municipality !

3. Submitting the tax return in paper form:

In this case, as in previous years, you must print out the complete dossier with the list of securities via VSTax and Sign. Then send the dossier (in the order of printout) including all supporting documents to the municipality of Zermatt.

The deadline for filing the 2019 tax return is March 31, 2020.

Tax advances 2020

The 2020 tax advance payments will be sent in February 2020 and are intended for the instalment payment

Advance tax withholding and is in accordance with Art. 193 StG. These advance payments are to be made within 30 days of the due dates listed below :

- 1st installment February 10, 2020
- 2nd installment April 10, 2020
- 3rd installment June 10, 2020
- 4th installment August 10, 2020
- 5th installment October 10, 2020

In the final tax settlement for 2020, the amounts paid will be credited to the corresponding tax year. Interest will be calculated as follows:

- Any amounts requested and paid in excess will be subject to interest at a rate of 3.5% in the final settlement.
- The default interest for unpaid or late payments is also 3.5%.
- The negative compensatory interest for outstanding amounts will be calculated in accordance with Art. 164 para. a StG with the final settlement from

general tax due date, March 31, 2021, and charged at 3.5% if the interest amount exceeds CHF 500.

· No interest credit will be granted in 2020 for prepayments made independently of the advance payments .

Important: Taxpayers who have paid too little are advised to make a supplementary payment to avoid the compensatory interest. Those who have not received any 2020 advance payment invoices are asked to contact the Tax Office.

Status of the partial revision of the tax law (planned to come into force on January 1, 2020)

Consultations are currently underway on the draft partial revision of the tax law. Adjustments are being made based on the federal legislation on tax reform and AHV financing (TRAF), as well as adjustments based on the federal legislation on the harmonization of direct taxes of the cantons and municipalities.

The cantonal tax reform (STAF-VS) is primarily a corporate tax reform.

The main objective of the project is to integrate the provisions of the Tax Reform Act (TRAF) into cantonal tax law. The implementation of the TRAF is in line with the State Council's desire to strengthen the attractiveness of Valais as a business location through targeted policies.

The canton wants to lower profit tax rates to make itself more attractive.

In order for the Canton of Valais to maintain its leading position in the tax burden for small and medium-sized enterprises, the State Council proposes to slightly reduce the tax rate for the first stage from 12.66% to 11.89% and to increase the limit of taxable profit in the first level in three annual stages from CHF 150,000 to CHF 250,000. With these

The canton of Valais offers the lowest tax rates for SMEs in Switzerland.

In order to increase the economic attractiveness of Valais for large companies, the second-tier tax rate is to be reduced from 21.56% to 16.98%.

Measures to limit tax losses for municipalities

The reduction in the tax burden on companies has an impact on the financial budgets of municipalities.

The introduction of differentiated profit tax rates for cantonal and municipal taxes, the maintenance of the municipal property tax on production facilities, and the gradual implementation of tax cuts are intended to partially offset municipal tax losses. The favorable tax framework is also expected to have a positive impact on the entire local economy.

The Grand Council must accept the proposal of the State Council in March 2020 in a second le- The resolution is still to be approved. If approved by the Grand Council, it is planned to enter into force retroactively on January 1, 2020 (assuming no referendum is held).



Municipality of Zermatt

Bicycles – Road safety

**In Zermatt, the driving
Bicycles are a very
popular means of transport for
getting from A to B.
Unfortunately, it is repeatedly
observed that certain rules of
conduct for cycling are not
known or even followed. This
significantly increases the
risk of accidents on the roads.**

Only with light will you be seen

Early in the morning or late at night, the police often encounter a dangerous sight. Cyclists with their front and rear lights off are barely visible to other road users in the dark.

Time and again, dangerous encounters occur between electric vehicles and cyclists wearing blacked-out lights. All too often, it's forgotten that cyclists are not alone on the roads during these times. A collision between two road users often results in more than one injured party.

Hands belong on the handlebars

Who doesn't ride a bike hands-free? But reality has caught up with us. All too often, we operate the handlebar device with one hand or let go of it completely to make a phone call or even send a text message.

Since January 1, 2020, using a telephone without a hands-free device (headset) while riding a bicycle is a violation of the Swiss Traffic Act (SVG) and its ancillary regulations. This violation is subject to a fine of CHF 40.

Do traffic rules also apply to cyclists?

Of course, almost all traffic rules for moving traffic also apply to cyclists. A stop sign or a no-ride sign applies to all

Vehicles are treated the same – whether with or without a motor. Regarding the driving ban, exceptions are permitted only in the form of so-called "additional signs," e.g., "Bicycles permitted." Even changes of direction must be signaled to other road users with a hand signal. Violations of traffic regulations are punishable by fines of between CHF 20 and CHF 40.

Children belong in special seats and wear a helmet

For their own protection, small children should be placed in special child seats approved for bicycles. Unprotected children often seriously injure themselves by getting their feet caught in bicycle spokes or falling off the luggage rack.

Particularly serious accidents occur when children are carried on the handlebars or on the bicycle frame.

In general, a bicycle is permitted to transport one person, unless appropriate devices for the transport of several people are available (child seats, tandem).

Controls

The Zermatt Regional Police will be conducting increased checks on vehicle traffic in the village, especially on cyclists, and will issue fines for violations. Please help make the roads safer for all road users by correctly obeying the cycling rules. We wish you safe travels.

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Municipality of Zermatt

Zermatt and its traffic

In recent weeks, the topic of Zermatt's traffic situation has been widely discussed. Traffic affects all of us in the village, and we are challenged.

In Zermatt, pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle owners all use the same traffic areas. The square is limited, and everyone is encouraged to be considerate of others . In principle, pedestrians have priority. The village grows from year to year. Needs increase, guests change, but the size of the streets remains the same.

The car-free spa town is looking for traffic solutions

The traffic situation in Zermatt was already discussed in the «Walliser Boten» (WB) on 5 January 1983. **This with the**

Title: "The solution hangs in the air." Read the full story in the WB of January 14, 2020. Even then, there was talk of a floating

bahn and sought improvements in local public transport. Today, almost 40 years later, we're still searching for solutions.

In recent years, various variants examined and clarified. This also applies to those above or below the Vispa River, in the air, or under the mountain. The electric bus remains the best solution in the medium term. Surveys of guests and locals show that the current public transport system is rated very highly. There are many ideas for new means of transport, but a project only has a chance if it is feasible and financially viable.

In addition to the local council and an external transport

A broadly based inner-city traffic commission is also dealing with this issue.



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Zermatt is car-free, but not traffic-free

Zermatt is home to over 500 electric vehicles and an estimated twice as many e-bikes as conventional bicycles. Added to that is the latest craze: the motorized scooter (e-scooter). The latter is permitted without restriction for riders over 16 years of age, provided the vehicle complies with road traffic law. But is it really necessary? Generally speaking, anything with pedal assistance up to 25 km/h or self-propelled no faster than 20 km/h is permitted in Zermatt . Segways or other vehicle-like devices are prohibited.

But back to electric vehicles: Why are there so many of them on the road?

To obtain a permit for registration, all requirements must be met, the vehicle's dimensions must comply with the regulatory requirements, and a parking space must be provided . As a measure to reduce traffic, the municipal council has revoked several permits in recent years and denied new applications.

If we take a look at the number of elec- If you look at taxis, there are eight that only have a permit to operate during the winter . This is to accommodate the frequency during peak season. Thirty-six taxis operate throughout the year, seven days a week, and are available to guests and locals 24 hours a day.

Taxi licenses are issued according to strict specifications of the municipal council and the guidelines of the taxi regulations.

If we're honest with ourselves, Zermatt should be completely traffic-free. That means we all walk. But how is that supposed to work?

Zermatt is both a village and a city. In peak season, over 35,000 people need to be served. Added to this is the fact that people have become lazy and don't like walking. Even three minutes in full ski gear is considered too long. Even in Zermatt, not everything can be reached on foot in three minutes.

How should the transport of goods work? If it affects you personally, there should be an exception

permit, preferably motorized, to the front of the home if possible. If there is no need, no vehicles should circulate in the village; but unfortunately, that's not how the system works.

Our system only functions with coexistence. We treat each other with respect and consideration. And yes, there are exceptions, but where aren't there exceptions?

And if we look at Zermatt with different eyes , we receive many inquiries from destinations all over the world who would like to emulate Zermatt. They envy us for our car-free environment!

Fines and police action

More controls and fines are being called for. First of all, it should be noted that the regional police record and impose fines for a great many offenses. It's in the nature of things that the police can't be present everywhere and at all times, just as they can't see everything.

Incentives and awareness-raising help prevent this. A good example is Zermatt Tourism's Unique Driver Program . Errors in behavior and They happen everywhere and over and over again, especially when the village reaches its capacity limits.

The general speed limit in Zermatt is 20 km/h. It can reach 25 km/h when driving on straight stretches or downhill. The fact is that not everyone adheres to the regulations and is fined. Consistent police checks are aimed at increasing discipline.

As a further calming measure, speed bumps were installed at critical points – more will follow in 2020.

As a pedestrian, you quickly realize that any speed faster than your own is perceived as (too) fast. Whether it's a jogger, cyclist, or vehicle. But how fast is truly "too fast" can only be determined by police radar.

Zermatt has its own traffic regulations. This can be found on the website of the municipality (www.gemeinde.zermatt.ch/reglement)

It has been under revision for several years, and new ideas, possibilities, limitations, and needs are constantly being added. A special and important challenge for everyone !

Meeting zone

The primary goal of the meeting zone is the safety of road users. It helps Clearing out the traffic signs creates clear legal certainty and the potential for a boost to the city's image. Traffic will be more clearly regulated, and safety deficiencies will be addressed in the inspection report. evaluated even better, further deceleration is considered and the existing and desired quality is improved.

The 20 km/h speed limit is maintained for the shared-use zone; otherwise, there wouldn't be such a comprehensive speed zone. The primacy of pedestrians is reinforced.

Critical voices are being raised before the project has even been developed in detail and presented. Every road user already fears that this change could be detrimental to them.

The local council clearly believes that this project deserves a chance because it has potential. We are happy to keep the public informed about this project.

And what next?

We will not be able to find the answer to the But we are challenged, and the municipal council takes its task very seriously; even if it is not always immediately apparent from the outside. We can't build a highway, and we can hardly widen, relocate, or even close streets. And yet, an entire village with urban needs must be served.

We all have a responsibility! Pedestrians, cyclists , and vehicle owners. With mutual consideration and personal responsibility, each of us can make our contribution.

Good ideas often come from other sources, and perhaps you too have concrete and realistic Any suggestions for improvement? I'd be happy to hear them.

Romy Biner-Hauser, Mayor

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Municipality of Zermatt

Construction periods spring and autumn 2020

The municipal council sets the construction schedule for the current year. 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).

In accordance with municipal regulations, the use of motor vehicles (trucks, two-axle tractors, and motorized carts), construction machinery, and drilling, blasting, and trenching operations are 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 (EWG) and Air Zermatt.

Permitted construction periods spring

Approved period:
Monday, May 4th to Friday, May 29th in the evening (early construction site installation on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th – special transports in this context require approval)

Permitted construction periods autumn

Approved period:
Thursday, October 1 to Wednesday, October 28 evening (early construction site installation on Wednesday, September 30 – special transports in this context require approval)

Uniform operating times

The following standard operating hours apply for motor vehicles, construction machinery, and drilling, blasting, and excavation work: **7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** (Monday to Saturday)

Blocked days

Bridge Ascension Day: Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23
Whit Monday: Monday, June 1

Premature and/or extended geothermal drilling

For early and/or extended geothermal drilling, an application must be submitted in advance to the Safety Department.

Data for approved early and/or extended geothermal drilling

Approved period spring
Monday, 20 to Thursday, 30 April evening
Tuesday, 2 to Wednesday, 10 June in the evening
Approved period autumn
Thursday, 17 to Wednesday, 30 September in the evening
Monday, 2 to Friday, 13 November in the evening

Time window for special transports

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 20 to Wednesday, June 11 (12:00 PM)
Thursday, 17 September to Monday, 30 November

6:00 – 7:15 a.m. / 8:45 – 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Monday, 15 June to Tuesday, 30 June
Tuesday, 1 September to Wednesday, 16 September
Tuesday, 1 December to Friday, 11 December

Restricted periods for journeys with combustion engines

From **January 1 to April 20**, and from **December 12** onward, **no special permits will** be issued for special transports using vehicles with combustion engines. Exceptions to this are journeys in the public interest or for destinations.

From **1 July to 31 August**, only journeys through Zermatt are permitted for mountain construction sites for public or tourist infrastructure (**6:00 – 7:15 a.m. and 8:45 – 9:15 a.m.**).

restrictions

1. Motor vehicle traffic / construction machinery
On Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, no transport is permitted using vehicles with combustion engines. Excavated material may not be removed on Saturdays— not even by electric vehicles.



In Zermatt, special regulations apply during construction periods

Information sheet for construction sites

At the EEC, a construction site inspection must be carried out at least 10 working days before the start of construction.
Installation plan, which usually contains the following components (if necessary for each implementation stage):

Construction requirement:

- Site plan showing the locations of material and personnel barracks and material depots;
- Location of any crane systems, including details of the swivel ranges;
- Location of construction site toilets.

Drainage and ditch requests:

- Construction site drainage according to SIA 431;
- Connection and location, time, to the public sewerage system or Drinking water supply;
 - Application for excavation in public areas (supply and disposal lines of any kind according to the form "Application for permission to excavate 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 adequate lighting in the public area.

Construction site traffic requirement:

- Traffic management on public roads, paths and construction sites itself (construction road);
- Location for goods handling and parking of construction vehicles.

Requirement for use of public land:

Submit the application form, including a scaled site plan, to the Security Department.
This also applies to the attachment of installations to public lampposts, traffic signs, or the removal of fences.

For further information, please call 027 966 22 15 or email bauabteilung@zermatt.ch.

2. Crane removal in November

The removal of cranes by helicopter in November is permitted on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the 3rd and 4th week of November upon written request.
equipped.

General provisions

1. Application

Applications for special driving permits (for vehicles with combustion engines or journeys with a trailer) must be submitted at least one working day (Mon-Fri) and at least 24 hours before the journey via the online application form (www.gemeinde.zermatt.ch/gesuch/sonderfahrbewilligung) to the Security Department. Applications submitted later will not be processed until the following day.

2. Weight limit

All trucks used require a permit.

Excavation material transport and special transport must not exceed the maximum permissible total weight of 26 tons. Three-axle vehicles are permitted up to this weight limit (total weight).

For the streets Eischtje – Sunnegga (Riedweg) and Furi – Stafel, Chalchofu (Stafelstrasse) from 1 November to 30 June a weight limit of 4 tons.

3. Premature site installation

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

4. Site installation plan

A site installation plan must be submitted to the EEC Construction Department.

5. Blocked days

On these days and on public Sundays and holidays, motor vehicle traffic for construction purposes, 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 construction materials , building elements, and components to the construction site from which the excavated material is being transported during the excavation period . A written request must be submitted in advance to the Safety Department for transporting other materials, even during the construction period .

8. Transport tracked vehicles

Crawler vehicles, except those with rubber tracks, may only be transported on low-loading wagons . A written request must be submitted in advance to the EEC Safety Department. Crawler vehicles must always be thoroughly cleaned upon leaving the construction site.

9. Road cleanliness: To

prevent contamination of municipal roads and paths, the construction site access road must be paved with asphalt or concrete. This measure must be carried out to 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 to the client for the resulting special expenses based on external rates . The violation of regulations will also be subject to a fine.

In order not to disturb public roads and squares, vehicles may only be driven if they are well maintained and clean.

The municipal council may require additional measures in special cases .

10. Penal provisions

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

Municipality of Zermatt

Fire hydrants in and around Zermatt

The hydrant is an important component of the water supply and fire service. Accessibility must always be ensured so that it can be used in an emergency.

It's a common occurrence that fire hydrants are covered in snow and even ice in winter. This makes it impossible to use firefighting water immediately in an emergency, and valuable time is lost.

Support required

We ask the public for your assistance. If a fire hydrant is located in your immediate vicinity or on your property, please keep it clear of snow and ice at all times. We thank you for Your help.

Your water supply and fire department Zermatt



The municipal council and fire department are committed to ensuring that the firefighting water supply functions properly even in winter. In this context, it is important that all hydrants are accessible and clear of snow and ice.

Municipality of Zermatt

Wayside crosses



An unknown number of crosses line the hiking trails around Zermatt, which were erected in earlier times for religious or other reasons.

Each of these crosses has its own story and could tell a lot.

Some of them are getting old or are no longer in good condition and the question of maintenance is raised.

Since the wayside crosses are usually located on private property or were erected by private individuals, their maintenance is the responsibility of the owner of the cross.

Hence our appeal to the public: if anyone has a connection to one of the crosses or would like to contribute to its preservation, we would be very grateful.

With your help, part of the legacy of our ancestors will be preserved.

The Zermatt Cultural Commission

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Municipality of Zermatt

Social action in primary school

The two classes of 5H spent a week during Advent focusing intensively on poverty and hunger.

"Mary's Meals Switzerland" is part of an international organization founded in Scotland in 2002. Its goal is to provide schooling to starving children in poor regions through food distributions. The children are provided with a meal every day, eliminating the need to beg or work hard to survive. The meal also gives them the strength they need to learn and develop. Only in this way can a better future be opened up for the children, because education is the key to escaping the spiral of poverty and misery .

The donations are invested directly on site, which means that the food is purchased locally and prepared in the schools by the children's parents.

From the idea to the project day
The schoolchildren of 5H dealt with During Advent, their teachers, Cornelia Pollinger and Dijana Antik, addressed the topics of hunger and poverty as part of their curriculum. Thanks to the teachers' contacts with the organization, the children became aware of the "Mary's Meals" initiative.

The students decided to raise money with a cake sale on the church square. The children presented their project to interested school classes in class. They asked their classmates to bake cakes for sale.

Expectations were exceeded, as they received 45 cakes. On Thursday, December 19, 2019, stalls and information boards were set up in the church square, cakes and tea were provided , and collection boxes were taken into use . Throughout the day, the children sold cakes and tea, informed visitors about their project, and diligently collected donations. They were able to have many interesting encounters and engaging conversations.

The students' efforts
The effort was worthwhile, as they were able to donate CHF 3,180.80 to the "Mary's Meals Switzerland" campaign. They learned that their actions, learning, and commitment are sustainable and effective. The children will continue to strive to support such projects in the future .

«Education is the key, to break the spiral of pover and escape misery."



Municipality of Zermatt

News from the library

The community library's offerings are constantly being expanded. We're happy to provide you with the latest updates in this issue.

The book tree has been in place in Zermatt's parish garden since the beginning of October 2019. We've noticed that it's been well-used, which is very encouraging. This service allows readers to obtain their reading material even outside of the municipal library's opening hours. We are very pleased that the terms of use are being observed and that the book tree is not being used as a disposal site for old books. This rule also applies to the municipal library's return box.

If you'd like to know what selection of media we have available before visiting the library, you can always find out more on our website. You can access an overview by clicking on the "Union Catalog" link. Here you can also log into your account, reserve books, and extend the loan period for your media yourself. If you have any questions about using these features, just stop by the library. We'll be happy to show you how it all works.

The parish newsletter recommends a book of the month. These books are now also available to borrow from the library.

If you'd like to spend a few quiet minutes reading the newspaper or browsing through a magazine, then you've come to the right place. You can also enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Here's our selection of magazines:

- Fit for Life

Fritz + Fränzi: Parents Magazine

Country love

Switzerland : the hiking magazine

Wirelparents

Swiss Illustrated
- Walliser Messenger

GEOlino: The Adventure Booklet

Bravo Girl

Bravo Sport

Girl

Of course, libraries (school and community libraries) are also ideal for doing homework or meeting for group work. Plenty of workspace is available.

Please don't forget that we're open to book suggestions. We welcome your ideas.

As always, you can find offers, news and the current opening hours of the community and school libraries on our homepage.
page: www.gemeindebibliothek-zermatt.ch.




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Zermatt Tourism

The wolf, the wolf is here



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Dear insiders

Until now, he has spurned the inner Matter Valley—too many lifts and people in too small a space, it was suspected. And now, tracks have been found in the snow, and numerous eyewitnesses have reported seeing Master Isegrim. There are even photos and films of him roaming our surroundings.

The consequences of the wolf's presence have already been observed all around our valley. Farmers already know: things cannot continue as they are. The centuries-old traditions of grazing Blacknose sheep, goats, and cows in the Alps must be reconsidered. The risk of losing livestock to predators is latent. Some Alpine pastures are threatened with obsolescence because they can no longer be grazed.

The presence of wolves also has an impact on tourism, as the sheep and goats are welcome attractions and photo subjects on the hiking trails. Now they will likely be fenced in, guarded by dogs, or perhaps even disappear altogether. We can only speculate about how visitors and locals will perceive direct contact with wolves.

However, demanding the wolf's head would send the wrong message. Instead, we must adapt to the new situation. Smart and effective solutions are needed. Solutions that maintain respect for nature, but also respect the importance of mountain agriculture and tourism. I trust our authorities, our farmers, the tourism industry, and all other stakeholders to deal with these difficult changes and find a holistic solution. After all, every change also offers opportunities.

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Daniel Luggen, Spa Director

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Zermatt Tourism

Reviving old traditions at the Folklore Festival 2020

This year's Folklore Festival from 8 to 9.

The theme for August 2020 is "reviving old traditions."

During the parade, old crafts and former professional clothing will be on display, making the parade even more diverse and drawing attention to the past.

Colorful costumes, traditional music, and happy people as far as the eye can see – this is what the folklore parade in August offers. The folklore festival has long been considered the largest cultural summer event in Zermatt. This year, the organizing committee has decided to once again showcase more old traditions. What did Zermatt priests, ski instructors, mountain guides, hoteliers, and craftsmen dress like in the old days? What professions and occupations were there? Various groups will give guests at this year's parade an exciting insight into Zermatt's past.

The organizers want to keep the event attractive.

Help wanted

To implement this project during the parade on August 9, 2020, we need the help of all those who have clothes or utensils from bygone days at home. Enthusiasts are encouraged to form groups and contact the Zermatt Tourism Events Department at event@zermatt.ch. Groups will receive financial compensation and on-site catering. Individual registrations are also possible, and clothing or tools for loan are also welcome.

Versatile program

The Zermatt Folklore Festival offers once again this year a

A yodeling mass in the parish church of St. Mauritius, performances by local clubs, a folklore parade through Zermatt, and various festival restaurants are also included. The detailed program can be found at www.zermatt.ch/veranstaltungen. Organizing committee president Bianca Balmherer (079 336 09 48) is always available to listen to any suggestions or ideas.

Copyright photos Pascal Gertschen



Matterhorn Gotthard Railway

Track renewal on the Gornergrat Railway

Extensive construction work was already underway between the St. Georges level crossing and the Findelbach Bridge in autumn 2019 as part of the extensive road renewal project for the Gornergrat Railway (GGB). In spring and autumn, the track will be renovation now continued.


Spring 2020
Since construction work had to be halted early last fall due to weather conditions, the remaining reconstruction work for the first construction phase on the Zermatt and Findelbach section – km 1.105 (Legendary) to km 1.559 (Findelbach Bridge) – is scheduled to take place from mid-April to mid-June. The track construction work will be carried out in night shifts. The construction site is primarily served via Findelbach station. Individual construction trains will also run from Zermatt freight station.

Outlook Autumn 2020
In autumn 2020, the second construction phase between KM 0.373 (Getwing Bridge) and KM 0.684 (St. Georges crossing) will begin. The main work will begin on October 12, 2020, and continue until the end of November 2020. Among other things, the La Maya underpass will be replaced. During this construction phase, no work will be carried out between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

The GGB and the construction companies carrying out the work will endeavor to contain construction noise as best as possible. However, increased noise emissions during the track reconstruction work cannot be avoided.



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Matterhorn Gotthard Railway

Caution: Tracks!

There is an increasing incidence of unauthorized entry onto the Gornergrat Railway track.

It is becoming increasingly common for pedestrians, sledders, and skiers to be in the Gornergrat Railway's track area or in its immediate vicinity . In some cases, people even walk on the track or ski down it. This illegal and negligent behavior, whether due to ignorance or carelessness, is extremely dangerous for the people themselves and others and can have serious consequences.

It is not without reason that entering the track area is strictly prohibited. According to the Railway Act, entering the tracks is a violation, which is punishable by a fine. Signs along the line indicate the danger zone. The cantonal police conduct regular checks, take the personal details of violators , and issue fines. The cantonal police will continue to conduct further checks in the future. Persons who violate the applicable regulations will be reported.

In the interest of safety, the Gornergrat Bahn requests all service providers, especially staff and guests, to remind them of the need to strictly adhere to the regulations and the dangers involved.

«Staying in the track area
is highly dangerous and can
have dire consequences"



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Zermatt Mountain Railways AG

Snow sports with respect for flora and fauna

Winter means cozy evenings in a mountain hut, skiing and snowboarding, or hikes through the snowy landscape. For the animal world, however, winter means

Effort and food shortages.

The animals' food supply shrinks massively in winter. Therefore, the animals retreat. They retreat to the forest and its edge, as well as to snow-free areas, where they find food despite the snow cover. Chamois, deer, roe deer, and ptarmigan are forced to conserve their energy due to the cold and the scarce food supply.

Therefore, in addition to food, rest is also essential for the survival of wild animals.

When humans enter the animals' habitat, they flee. This flight is very draining in winter. Chamois, ibex, roe deer, and other animals can only survive in deep snow.

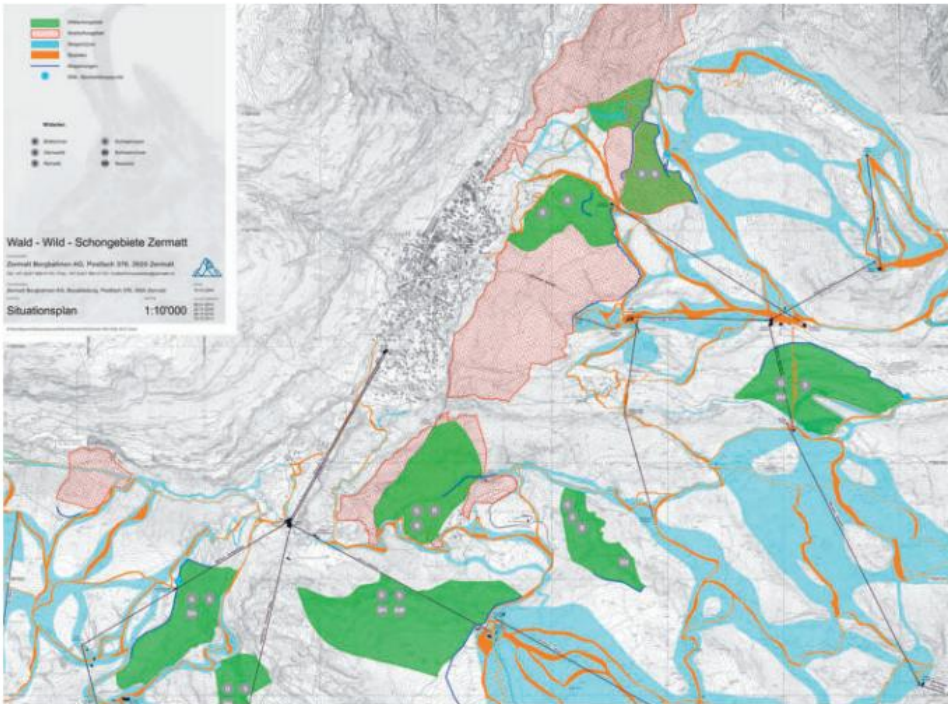
with great effort. Repeated disturbances significantly increase the risk of not surviving the winter. At the same time, reproductive success decreases the following year.

To protect wildlife in winter, eight wildlife sanctuaries have been established around Zermatt. These areas were chosen to give the animals the opportunity to find food and rest far from civilization. These areas are clearly marked and also marked on the panoramic map for all winter sports enthusiasts. These zones also serve to protect the protective forest. Sharp ski edges can damage the young trees under the snow cover.

Damaged young trees mean that reforestation of this important protective forest is becoming increasingly difficult.

Entering or driving through wildlife and forest conservation areas is therefore strictly prohibited. Anyone who violates this rule can expect criminal charges, fines, and the confiscation of their ski pass.

The Zermatt Bergbahnen is committed to protecting flora and fauna.
Please help to raise awareness of wildlife and forest protection in your community.
and report those who are wrong.



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Destination Zermatt – Matterhorn

Infected with the online virus



Digital success: This is the goal of the E-Fitness program, which Zermatt Tourism launched in 2015 for four years and is now continuing – entirely in line with the destination strategy.

It has been about a year since the strategy group presented the revised destination strategy. Since then, it has been widely cited, discussed, and applied. The entire destination's actions are derived from it, as are developments in the field of digitalization.

Training in application

The "Digitalization" strategic project includes, among other things, the ongoing training of service partners in the application and handling of tools – already known under the term e-fitness. Zermatt Tourism provides close support and advice to service partners when they introduce digital tools or wish to further their training in the field of digitalization.

Continuation of E-Fitness

E-Fitness, launched in 2015, initially ran for four years. Zermatt Tourism has now decided to continue the program in a similar format. The new e-fitness program is divided into the areas of "Use," "Expert Knowledge," and "Inspiration." "Use" focuses on questions related to the application of digital tools. Part of this includes the onboarding of Bonfire tools, where Denise Wiedmaier provides individual introductions. Service partners also continue to benefit from free, individual coaching.

Courses and exchange of ideas

In the "Expert Knowledge" section, Zermatt Tourism offers courses on current topics (course titles and dates in the box), while the "Inspiration" section is designed for the exchange of ideas among service partners. A date has already been set for this: Under the motto "Experience digital together," a Digital Day will take place in Zermatt on November 3, 2020.

All information about the new E-Fitness and the Registration for the E-Fitness newsletter can be found at www.ztnet.ch/de/e-fitness. If you have any questions, please contact Denis Maccagno, the e-fitness manager at Zermatt Tourism.

Courses in specialist knowledge

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April 20, 2020 / May 7, 2020

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April 21, 2020 / April 28, 2020 / May 5, 2020

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The QR code leads to the E-Fitness page on Ztnet.

The E-Fitness training program is entering its next phase. Denis Maccagno is responsible for E-Fitness. Denise Wiedmaier will provide individual introductions into the instruments developed by Bonfire. Copyright photos Pascal Gertschen

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Destination Zermatt – Matterhorn

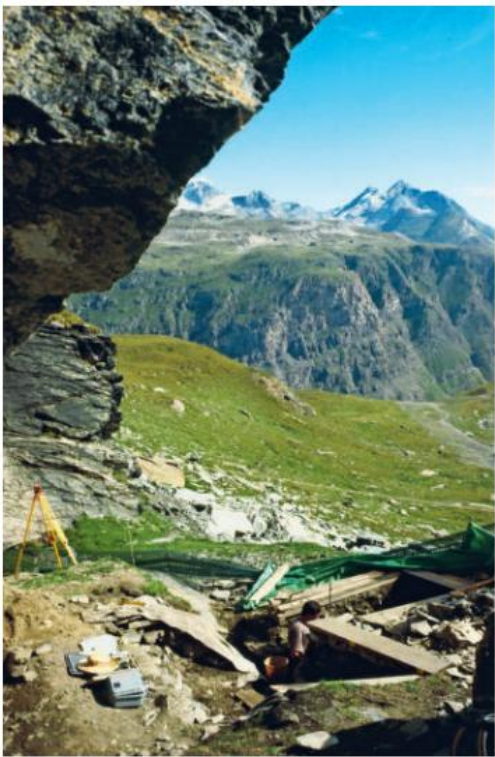
Abri – Black Tschugge Prehistoric site

In 1983, archaeology professor Alain Gallay of the University of Geneva developed a model of how humans might have used the Alpine region in prehistory. To test this theory, archaeologists specifically searched for prehistoric sites in 1985, including in the municipality of Zermatt. They also targeted a boulder below Lake Schwarzsee.

“Stepped out” and found what you were looking for!

The survey didn't yield any finds. However, when one of the researchers needed to take a short break during the search, he headed uphill toward the "Schwarze Tschugge." Standing directly beneath the mighty rock face, he noticed that it overhangs and is protected from precipitation by a flat terrace. His human urge thus accidentally led to one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Upper Valais.

A test excavation was immediately initiated. After just a few spades, the archaeological team discovered prehistoric fireplaces and stone tools . The Swiss National Museum subsequently conducted excavations in the "Schwarze Tschugge" shelter in 1993, 1996, and 1997. A total area of 22 square meters was uncovered and documented . All excavated material was sieved through the finest sieves to capture even the smallest finds.



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The team discovered several fireplaces. The charcoal samples were analyzed using radiocarbon dating (14C dating). This dates the fireplaces to the Mesolithic, Neolithic , and Early Bronze Age; the site was therefore visited between 8000 and 1600 BC!

The finds consist, on the one hand, of tiny rock crystal fragments that fell to the ground as waste during the manufacture of Mesolithic arrowheads . The archaeologists also discovered Neolithic finds such as two flint daggers, a greenstone arrowhead , and a fire-striking stone. The latter was necessary for starting a fire in the high mountains. In addition to the fire-striking stone, fool's gold and tinder fungus (a tree fungus) were also required. With a little practice, a fire can be lit quickly. A ceramic vessel from the Bronze Age dates back to the 18th century; it likely fell to the ground more than 2,600 years ago and shattered into 31 pieces.

Three scenarios conceivable

What were people looking for at almost 2,600 meters at the foot of the Matterhorn? The site lies on an ancient route leading from central Valais through the Ering Valley and the Col d'Hérens to the "Schwarze Tschugge" site. From there, the route continues to the Theodul Pass towards Valtournanche and the Aosta Valley. Three scenarios are conceivable. Mesolithic hunters and gatherers used the protective rock face as a hunting camp. In the summer, they hunted alpine game such as ibex, chamois, and marmots. In the Neolithic period, the site served as a "prehistoric SAC hut" for "Ötzi the Iceman," who exchanged flint, shell jewelry, and salt between north and south on this transalpine route. Since the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, shepherds are likely to have used the alpine grasslands for summer pastures with their sheep and goats.

All prehistoric mountaineers would have gazed in awe at the unique mountain above the "Schwarze Tschugge." The Matterhorn likely also served as a guide to the resting place .

Impressions of the first archaeological site in the "Schwarze Tschugge" area
Illustrations from the book «Focus Matterhorn – Zermatter History and Stories», 2015 Rotten Verlags AG

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Zermatt Tourism

Destination voucher launched

Another digitalization project that offers added value and promotes the cohesion of the destination has been launched: a voucher that can be redeemed throughout the destination. Service partners who accept the voucher and have not yet registered are asked to contact Zermatt Tourism.

Whether for mountain railway tickets, culinary specialties, clothing, accommodation, activities, or other offers: a voucher that can be exchanged for services throughout the destination was recently launched by Bonfire AG.

Become an acceptance partner

Service partners who become acceptance partners benefit from the fact that guests can also redeem the destination voucher with them. The connection is free of charge. Service partners may also continue to offer their own vouchers alongside the destination voucher. Anyone who accepts the voucher and has not yet registered is asked to contact dominique.williner@zermatt.ch.

The conditions

Zermatt Tourism will cover all costs associated with implementing the new voucher system. Acceptance partners only pay a two percent contribution (excluding VAT) on redeemed vouchers – money that covers the ongoing system costs of the new software. Bonfire AG has chosen the provider Incert to implement the destination voucher.

Information on all of the destination's digitalization projects can be found at www.ztnet.ch/Bonfire.



Zermatt Tourism

Better live view of the mountains

New webcams have now been installed throughout the destination, offering significantly better image quality than their predecessors. These 360-degree cameras provide a holistic view of the surrounding area.

Some of the webcams are also capable of taking great night shots.

The live recordings can be viewed at any time on the Websites of Zermatt Tourism and The Zermatt Bergbahnen cable cars can be viewed here. Integration into the Matterhorn app will follow.

