






# ZERMATT INSIDE

April 2020, 18th Year, No. 2



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

<b>Municipality of Zermatt</b>  <b>Local plan revision</b> The revised spatial planning concept (ROK), which includes a map, is available and will soon be presented to the public. <b>Pages 1–2</b>	<b>MGBahn</b>  <b>Track reconstruction</b> At the MGBahn freight station and on the GGB line are again this year Work on the railway infrastructure structure required. <b>Page 12</b>	<b>Zermatt Tourism</b>  <b>Thank you Doris</b> For 30 years, Doris Aufden-blatten has worked for Zermatt Tourism worked. Patience and great empathy distinguished her. <b>Page 13</b>	<b>Zermatt Citizens' Community</b>  <b>Become a mountain guide?</b> The Young Mountain Foundation Guides Foundation wants children and actively promote young people and support prospective mountain guides in their training. <b>Pages 14/15</b>	<b>Zermatt Mountain Railways AG</b>  <b>Kumme gondola lift</b> This year the Construction work from Tufternkehr via Wyss Gufer to the Unterrothorn can be tackled. <b>Page 16</b>
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Municipality of Zermatt

## Zermatt town planning revision: Information about the room concept

The Zermatt municipality's town planning revision began in January 2019 and is progressing as planned: The density and open space study has been completed. Based on this, the Zermatt Spatial Planning Concept (SPC), revised and supplemented with a map, is now available. The municipality will present the results to interested members of the public at an information event. **Page 2**

[Density and open space study as a further basis for local planning revision](#)

The density and open space study commissioned by the municipal council in April 2019 analyzes the current development situation in the municipality of Zermatt. It identifies potential for differentiated development , where open spaces can be retained or created , and addresses development optimization in the existing settlement area. The study serves as an additional basis for the map of the Zermatt Urban Development Area (ROK) as well as for the revision of the zoning plan, the development program, and the building and zoning regulations.

The main conclusions can be found on the next page.



Municipality of Zermatt

# Zermatt town planning revision: Information about the room concept

«It is important to us to help the population  
the new spatial concept map  
and together  
to reflect. Finally,  
the concept the long-term goals  
of the community and is the basis  
for the local planning revision.»

**Conclusion 1: Direct settlement development primarily towards the main settlement centre**

Further development in Zermatt should primarily focus on the main settlement center. When developing the other settlement areas (Aroleit, Bodmen, Furi, Findeln, Howete, Windegga), which are currently designated as a planning zone, the respective development situation, sensitive landscapes, and the townscape must be taken into account.

**Conclusion 2: Keep individual plots free for reasons of townscape, landscape protection and settlement quality**

On the edge of Zermatt's main settlement area, the current intended use of individual parcels must be reviewed. This is done with the aim of contributing to the attractiveness of the townscape, protecting the landscape, and enhancing the quality of the settlement. Within Zermatt's main settlement area, individual parcels must be converted into open space to maintain the quality of the settlement.

**Conclusion 3: Maintain building densities**

The possible building densities envisaged in the current land use plan can generally be maintained. In certain areas or for individual parcels, rezoning to a village or core zone should be considered for qualitative reasons (townscape, distinctive buildings).

**Conclusion 4: Preserving the townscape of Zermatt**

Zermatt's townscape is strongly influenced by its historical components. The old buildings and village centers are important elements that create identity, but also attract tourists. They must be preserved. The immediate surroundings are to coordinate with these elements and with supporting to supplement uses.

**Conclusion 5: Create open spaces and enhance public spaces**

The existing residential area in Zermatt has great potential for qualitative development.

to pursue the following measures: creation of additional open spaces, uniform and attractive design of the most important street spaces and publicly accessible areas, targeted square improvements.

**Conclusion 6: Access by bus, footpath and Optimize bicycle traffic**

As a car-free community, Zermatt focuses on electric buses, as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic. For the latter, the road network needs to be refined and the other infrastructure (including Bicycle parking spaces) should be optimized. The bus network in the main settlement center should be further expanded, and additional areas should be developed.

**ROK Zermatt supplemented with map**

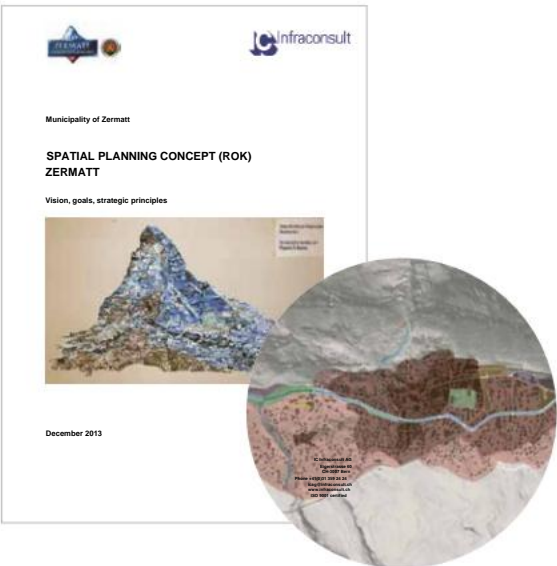
Based on the study, the municipality and its employees In recent months, the Spatial Planning Group has updated the guidelines from the ROK Zermatt from 2013 and Among other things, they were aligned with the objectives of the destination strategy. As a reminder, the Zermatt Regional Planning Plan contains the municipality's long-term spatial planning objectives . In addition to the update, the guiding principles were spatially located, and the concept was supplemented with a map. On this basis, the land use plan, which is binding on landowners, will be revised, and the building and zoning regulations will be adjusted where necessary.

**Information event on the spatial concept**

The municipality will hold an information event to inform the public about the draft spatial concept map, reflect the expectations of the public, and receive feedback. Any comments received regarding the spatial concept map will be discussed again in the municipality's working group.

The information event on the spatial concept will be held prior to the official process. Overarching principles for the further development of Zermatt will be discussed. The public approval process for the town planning revision is scheduled to begin in early 2021. This schedule will allow the municipality to meet the legally stipulated deadlines for the revision.

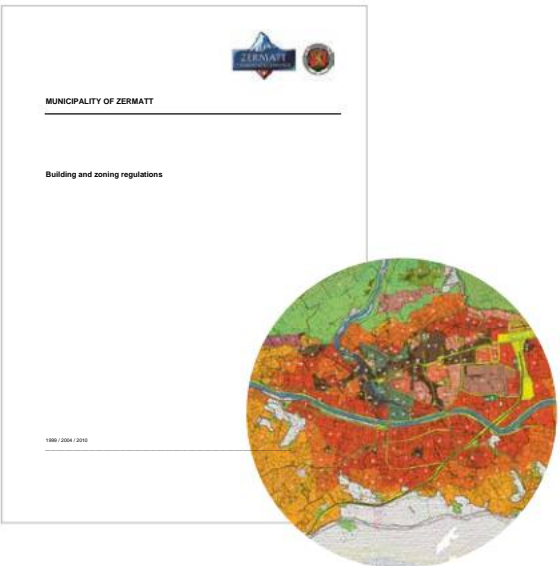
## Spatial Planning Concept (ROK)



**binding on authorities**  
Target horizon 15 – 20 years

Revision / draft by the end of 2019

## Usage plan and Building and zoning regulations



**binding on landowners**  
Planning horizon 10 – 15 years

Draft by the end of 2020

**Zermatt town planning revision:**  
**Information event on the spatial concept**

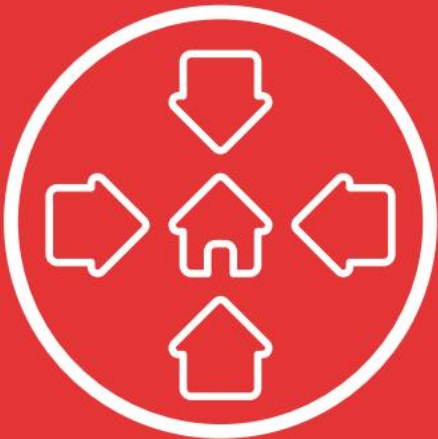
The municipality will report on the new spatial concept map and receive feedback from the public. The municipality's spatial planning working group and the project managers of the commissioned planning offices will be present.

The information event planned for April cannot be held due to the current coronavirus situation. The new date will be announced at a later date.

**Contact person at the municipality**  
Stefanie Lauber

Head of Construction Department  
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stefanie.lauber@zermatt.net

# CORONAVIRUS



Show your solidarity:  
**STAY HOME!**  
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The spread of the virus must be **stopped NOW**  
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to be strictly followed. The Health Directors strongly recommend everyone to  
everyone of the following instructions:

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(People over 65 years of age and those  
who already suffer from another illness):

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- 2. Limit contact as much as possible and  
Keep a strict distance of two meters from your  
conversation partners.
- 3. Avoid contact with sick people.
- 4. Wash your hands frequently and follow hygiene  
rules.

**For other people**

Strictly follow hygiene and handwashing instructions.

- 1. Strictly respect the distance between you and your  
conversation partners.
- 2. Avoid gatherings if possible and always maintain the recommended  
distance.
- 3. If you have a cough or fever, stay home.

The better these instructions are followed, the more those at risk of contracting and  
potentially dying from the virus will be protected. Following these instructions means  
protecting all those who will rely on the healthcare system in the coming weeks,  
regardless of whether they are suffering from COVID-19 or another illness. Let's  
make an effort now. Let's show solidarity.

Municipality of Zermatt

# Information from the Zermatt Municipal Council to the petition of the IG-Zufahrt Zermatt

The Zermatt Access Group has launched a petition, "Financing Agreement for the Unterkirchner Rail Tunnel between Täsch Station and Zermatt Station." To ensure the facts are correct, we, the Zermatt Municipal Council, would like to clarify a few points and, with this communication, provide an overview and insight into this highly complex issue.

It is not possible for us to summarize the comprehensive situation in this report. Interested parties we refer to the website of the municipality of Zermatt, where a large number of documents can be found ([gemeinde.zermatt.ch/news/strasse-taesch-zermatt](http://gemeinde.zermatt.ch/news/strasse-taesch-zermatt)).

- For those **who read quickly**, the conclusion from the following text:
- Since 2016, the municipal council has been working to ensure that Zermatt has a winter-safe road access. This approach will be consistently pursued and corresponds to the previous demands of the IG-Zufahrt Zermatt and must be secured with two or more galleries;
  - Future generations should decide on the possible opening of the access road to Zermatt. Today we must lay the foundations so that interruptions like those in January 2018 and every spring are a thing of the past and our future is not blocked.
  - The signing of an agreement is the responsibility of the municipal council. According to Article 17 of the Municipal Law, the general assembly is not authorized to do so. It is responsible, among other things, for the adoption and amendment of municipal regulations and the adoption of the budget and financial statements.
  - The "Unnerchriz" agreement between the federal government, the canton of Valais and the municipality of Zermatt is in an ongoing process and it is currently still possible not communicate about their content.
  - The municipal council has clearly stated that the agreement will be made public as soon as it is drawn up.
  - The Täsch–Zermatt road section also falls outside the jurisdiction of the cantonal assembly, but is the responsibility of the Canton of Valais. The population cannot decide on its development or use, as it is a cantonal road.
  - The municipal council regularly exchanges views with all local service partners and incorporates their opinions into the decision-making process for the agreement, as also set out in the destination strategy.

The discussion about the accessibility of Zermatt has been a hotly debated topic for many years. For a better understanding, here's a look back:

**5 March 2005 – Consultative vote**  
Definition of consultative vote: The consultative vote is a form of voting in Switzerland which is not legally binding.

The text of the ballot at the time: "Do you want a safely developed public road from Täsch to the Spiss, while the village of Zermatt remains car-free as before? The current car-free zone in the Spiss remains in place, both above and below ground."  
Voter turnout: 50.99% / Yes: 52.91% No: 47.09%

- June 5, 2016 – Ballot vote**  
With 61.76% of the votes in favor, the voters of Zermatt have committed the municipal council and instructed it to request the following five measures from the State Council.
- Request to ensure a winter-safe road to Zermatt ;
  - The section from Lüegelti to Bielbrücke is absolutely urgent and must be secured with two or more galleries;
  - Preparation of two projects including cost estimates for the two street galleries Schusslowina and Lüegelti;
  - A delay in the expansion due to the 2004 agreement between the federal government, the canton and MGI on the financing of the Top Terminal Täsch is not accepted;
  - Request to develop and submit a general road plan with costs and deadlines for the expansion of the entire road.

Since then, the municipal council has been in close contact with the canton and the relevant department to advance the expansion projects. Every road user sees and experiences the progress for themselves.

**October 2018 – Decision on railway expansion steps 2035**  
In October 2018, the Federal Council adopted the railway expansion steps for 2035, including the "Unterchriz" tunnel, as a replacement for the renovation of the railway galleries and the Herd Tunnel. The Federal Council's dispatch noted that an agreement was needed to secure the investment. Specifically: To secure the investment, it was agreed that the current road use restrictions would continue and that road conditions would not be improved.

Several discussions and political initiatives followed. Federal Councillors Doris Leuthard and Simonetta Sommaruga then commented as follows: "...A general opening of the road would

undermine the basis for the railway expansion desired by the municipality and canton of Valais, as well as the Federal Council's proposal. However, I stand by this: Protecting the existing road access from natural hazards (for example, with an avalanche gallery) is unproblematic in this regard, provided neither an expansion nor a change in the usage restrictions takes place..."

Since then, there has been an active exchange between the municipality of Zermatt, the canton of Valais and the federal government.

Anyone who believes that preventing the construction of a railway tunnel «Unterchriz» would jeopardise the development of a winter-safe road access to Zermatt. Anyone who thinks that progress will be made faster may be mistaken. The canton owns this section of road and alone decides on its expansion and safety.

With the signing of the necessary agreement, the "Unterchriz" railway tunnel can be built and, at the same time, the expansion of the more winter- safe road access can be implemented. If the agreement is not reached, we risk losing both winter-safe access routes to Zermatt!

**January 2019 – Destination strategy**  
Together with all of Zermatt's service partners, including the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn, the following formulation was approved in the destination strategy. "Zermatt needs continuous, safe access by rail and road. All service partners are working with one voice at the federal and cantonal levels, the relevant parliaments, and other important bodies to promote these two transport solutions. The planned 'Unterchriz' tunnel project represents a milestone for safe rail access and tourist development."

However, the projects must not hinder or prevent each other. In particular, it is important to ensure that the construction of the 'Underground' tunnel is decoupled from investment restrictions for a safe road – with temporary restrictions on its use. Air transport must be promoted and supported."

Even the IG access road to Zermatt was and has agreed to this wording.

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In every communication and demand from the municipality of Zermatt, this wording is quoted and the goal is clearly pursued.

16 September 2019 – Confirmation Canton

The Canton of Valais has confirmed the following in writing: " Rail-road complementarity must be maintained as an access strategy for passenger and freight transport. The canton therefore welcomes the investments planned for the construction of the 'Unterchriz' rail tunnel as part of the 2035 expansion phase.

Nevertheless, the road's structural integrity must continue to be maintained. The Department of Mobility plans to invest approximately CHF 9 million in structural maintenance by 2029. In addition, the Department of Forestry, River Engineering and Landscape plans to invest approximately CHF 8 to 10 million in flood and rockfall protection in the coming years . In order to ensure the winter-safe connection in the long term, the Department of Mobility has integrated the planning and implementation of the following projects into the multi-year planning :

- Schusslauri Galleries
- Lüegelti Gallery
- Täsch-Mettelsand road shift

However, these projects can only be realized if the Grand Council releases the necessary financial resources. Implementing these measures will ensure continuous accessibility to Zermatt for emergency services . However, the Canton of Valais will not be able to approve the construction of a road access that is open to everyone . Such a step would jeopardize the envisaged

By implementing all these measures, we, together with the municipality and the Federal Office of Transport, will be able to generate significant added value for Zermatt, its residents, guests, and visitors."

June 2019 – Agreement

Since last summer, the municipality has been working with the canton and federal government to develop an agreement.

It was decided together not to communicate the content of the agreement until it has been approved by all parties. The agreement is currently being negotiated , and it is not possible to communicate individual elements that have not yet been agreed upon. The bigger picture is needed, and that is precisely what the municipal council has promised by informing the public about the agreement .

The aim is to finalise this agreement by the end of May so that it can be presented at the Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2020\* .

In the meantime, the IG-Zufahrt Zermatt has repeatedly submitted proposals to the municipality, calling for the opening or controlled opening of the road Täsch–Zermatt. This contradicts the decision of the destination strategy and the ballot vote of June 5, 2016.

Competencies of the primary assembly

One-fifth of the citizens eligible to vote in the municipality may request the convening of an extraordinary general meeting to examine an issue for which it is responsible. However, the sovereign can only grant an extraordinary nal general assembly, which according to municipal law also falls within their competence.

Right to petition

According to Articles 71–73 of the Municipal Law, the public is free to exercise the right of petition at any time. This right can be exercised by natural and legal persons under private and public law alone or with others . Petitioners may submit their wishes, suggestions, or objections to the authorities in writing.

The authority shall examine the petition without delay and give it the necessary action, unless it is obliged to declare it inadmissible.

\*Based on the current situation, there may be date changes.

The Täsch–Zermatt road section is under the jurisdiction of the Canton of Valais. The local population cannot have a say in its development. The drafting and signing of an agreement is the responsibility of the municipal council (Articles 17, 33, and 35 of the Municipal Law).

Zermatt train station

The project was launched in 2006 and then "buried" before it even reached the public. Today, we are once again faced with the decision of whether to initiate a milestone or forgo it for decades.

It's about setting the guidelines for a generational project. A project of this magnitude can only be implemented **with the involvement of the population** . However, in order to inform the population, basic information is needed , and this is precisely what a working group consisting of Zermatt's service partners and led by the municipality is currently developing , which has been in force since the beginning of 2020.

The route of the "Unterchriz" tunnel plays a role in this . However, the "Unterchriz" tunnel projects can only begin once the agreement is signed. We won't know the route until one or two years from now, and these considerations will then be incorporated into the station project.

information

As soon as there are facts to communicate, the public is immediately involved. A project of this magnitude takes years, and we're talking about a time horizon of more than ten years until its realization.

We are aware of our responsibility.  
The Municipal Council of Zermatt

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Municipality of Zermatt

## Markus Julen – new Municipal Council

After 38 years as a municipal councilor, Stefan Anthamatten has submitted his resignation effective February 29, 2020. He served on the executive branch from 1989 to 2000 and from 2005 to 2020. We thank Stefan Anthamatten for his valuable service and wish him all the best and good health for the future.

At its meeting on March 18, 2020, the municipal council elected Markus Julen as his successor. Markus Julen is a high school teacher in Zermatt and an IT specialist. He will take over the construction department with immediate effect.

We warmly welcome Markus Julen.

Municipality of Zermatt

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Municipality of Zermatt

# Energy City Zermatt



The program «Your Hands Save» finances savings showers through CO2 subsidies. Join now and save immediately!

Protect the climate simply and cleverly

As part of the "Your Hands Save" campaign, Zermatt, the city of energy, aims to reduce CO2 emissions and help households save energy, water, and thus money. While resource conservation is often equated with constraints and effort, the campaign aims to demonstrate a path that doesn't require sacrifice or behavioral change. Young and old alike are supported in protecting the environment simply and cleverly while saving money.

A good thing for the climate, energy efficiency and your wallet

In the majority of households, energy consumption for hot water preparation accounts for the second largest share. By using water- saving shower heads, water consumption can be reduced by up to 50% without sacrificing comfort. In the average household, this translates to annual energy savings of around 800 kWh. If hot water is generated with electricity, the reduction corresponds to approximately five times the electricity consumption of a modern refrigerator with efficiency class A+++. If hot water is generated with gas or heating oil, approximately 200 kg of CO2 emissions are avoided. Another pleasant side effect for all households: at the end of the year, the lower energy and water consumption means between 50 and 300 francs more remain in the household budget.

Benefit from funding

The KliK Foundation (Climate Protection and CO2 Compensation) financially supports the purchase of energy-efficient showerheads. This way, the residents of Zermatt benefit from an attractive price in addition to the savings. Each household with fossil- fuelled hot water can purchase a showerhead worth CHF 37.

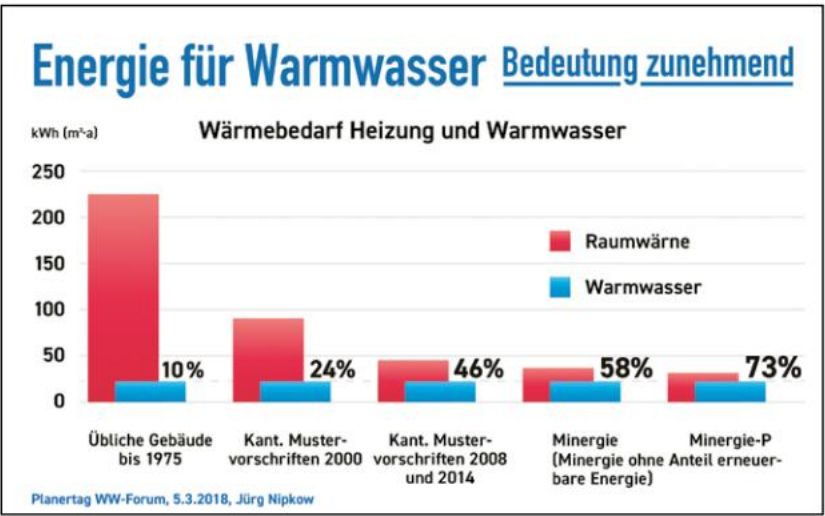
It can be purchased at a special price of just CHF 10 (or CHF 24 for non-fossil-fuel hot water preparation). All households in the Energy City of Zermatt will receive an information flyer with an order form in April 2020.

Online orders are already possible

Answer the question "How is your water heated?" at: [www.sinum.ch/shower-head/zermatt](http://www.sinum.ch/shower-head/zermatt). The promotion is limited until the end of September 2020 and applies only to households in Switzerland.

Further information at:

[www.sinum.ch/warmwasser](http://www.sinum.ch/warmwasser)



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Municipality of Zermatt

# Deposit and reusable tableware at events

According to the provisions of the municipal waste regulations (AR), only deposit and reusable tableware may be used for approved events on public land since 2019.

**Reduce waste**  
This regulation aims to minimize waste generation at events and gatherings. The municipality of Zermatt (EWG) will continue to implement this requirement. To this end, all catering permits for events and gatherings will stipulate that only deposit-based and reusable tableware may be used.

**Purchase of reusable tableware**  
Thanks to funds from the EEC Infrastructure Fund and in cooperation In collaboration with Aufco AG, Zermatt, the rental of reusable tableware can now also be offered directly on site for a fee .

On the EWG **community website**. [zermatt.ch/abfallentsorgung](http://zermatt.ch/abfallentsorgung) contains all information for events (information on purchasing reusable tableware, rules of conduct, order form for company containers) activated.

Of course, it is up to each organizer to decide where they want to obtain the required deposit and reusable tableware and whether they want to charge a deposit when issuing it.

**Ecological contribution**  
In addition to keeping the festival grounds clean, the use of deposit and reusable tableware also reduces disposal costs and waste volumes. The EWG thanks you for your contribution.



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JULEN



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The **FeelHomeZermatt** association has set itself the task of representing the interests of Zermatt's second home owners in all matters vis-à-vis tourism officials and the Zermatt authorities.

**The **FeelHomeZermatt** association has set itself the task of representing the interests of Zermatt residents**

By becoming a member of the **FeelHomeZermatt** association, you actively help to ensure that legitimate concerns of second home owners in all matters towards tourism officials and the Zermatt authorities are taken into account.

Become a member of the largest association of second home owners in Switzerland today.

**FeelHomeZermatt** is a member of the Allianz Second Homes Switzerland and thus actively promotes the dialogue between the municipality and the association of Zermatt second home owners and thus actively help to give voice to legitimate concerns.

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Become a member of the largest



Municipality of Zermatt

# Zermatt Youth Fund – financial support

The Zermatt Youth Fund aims to support clubs, groups, or events that significantly promote the interests of young people.

The target group includes small children of preschool age up to young adults of maximum 20 years.



In 2019, the Jugi Zermatt received support from the Youth Fund for the renovation of the premises.

### Income from the Youth Fund

The Youth Fund was established in 2011 by the Zermatt Business Association, which annually credits the proceeds from the Zermatt Festival to the Youth Fund. Other sources of income include residual amounts from association dissolutions or other donations. The Youth Fund Commission would like to sincerely thank all donors. Only through this income is it possible to support the many great offers in Zermatt.

Special thanks go to the Rotary Club Zermatt, which supported the youth fund with a donation of CHF 2,000 in February.

### Active assistance

The youth fund's funds are generated through revenue from the folklore festival. To ensure everything runs smoothly, the Folklore Festival's organizing committee needs many hard-working volunteers every year. In recent years, JuBla Zermatt has always been the sole youth organization involved, but we've changed this somewhat. Now, other clubs and groups that have received a contribution from the Youth Fund are also being asked to actively help with the Folklore Festival.

### Application review

The Youth Fund Commission, consisting of five members, is responsible for reviewing all submitted applications and subsequently allocating funding. The applications already submitted are currently being reviewed by the commission for completeness and accuracy. Decisions regarding financial support are made in April and November of each year. Applications for the current year can be submitted until April 28, 2020.

### Available online

The application form, the guidelines and the regulations of the Zermatt Youth Fund are available on the website of the municipality of Zermatt <http://gemeinde.zermatt.ch/> PDF documents are available. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Youth Services Office.

### Submission of applications and any questions

All applications must be submitted to the following address:

**Bianca Ballmann**  
Mattertal Youth Work Center  
Zermatt, Täsch, Randa  
English Quarter 8  
3920 Zermatt  
[mattertal@jastow.ch](mailto:mattertal@jastow.ch)  
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Zermatt Municipality – Club Presentation

# LEBENSRAUM ZERMATT – the new association in the Matterhorn village



## HABITAT

community|sustainability|education

Zermatt is a special gem in terms of landscape and nature. However, we are also directly affected by climate change, unfortunately more than we would like. Glacial collapse, unusual temperatures, irregular precipitation, landslides, and raging storms are all familiar to us. We all owe our existence to this raw beauty. We live directly or indirectly, by the natural beauty that brings us guests from all over the world. We feel a special sense of pride in our village, so small and remote in the Matter Valley, yet so resonating around the world.

vision

The idea for the "Lebensraum Zermatt" association came from a few young parents who wanted to preserve nature and improve the quality of life. In short: "Space to Live." We began to design projects that would strengthen the community in Zermatt and better meet the need for sustainability. Our specific goal is to bring the locals together and to network the many alternatives that are already available. There are

There are some very interesting projects in Zermatt and the region that are, however, barely known. Many people have already begun to rethink their businesses, seek solutions for waste reduction, use food responsibly, etc. These models also demonstrate that tourism and sustainability can indeed go hand in hand .

Mission: Launch projects – bring people together

Last year, we organized our first markets. Local and regional producers sold their goods, and individuals were able to donate or sell their surplus vegetables from their gardens. This year they will take place monthly from June to October. We are planning the first permaculture community garden with gardening workshops in Zermatt. Other projects include the weekly basket from the zero-waste organic store Chez Mami. Winkelmatten has the first public refrigerator where you can drop off or pick up items for free. We organized Sustainable Day and invited various stakeholders to present their projects, such as the water project "water is right" and ETH Zurich's myclimate. Thanks to the generosity of many hoteliers, we have been offering free swimming for the people of Zermatt since February until October 2020. Soup Monday at Cervo is also one of our projects, where you can get soup for a donation and meet people . Other projects with Jubla, for example, are in the starting blocks.

So far, we've had many great experiences and have been able to establish a wonderful collaboration with the community and the school . Further information about our projects and membership in the association can be found at

Facebook: Lebensraum-Zermatt

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Destination Zermatt

# The cup stones in the Hubelweng – calendar or sacrificial table?



Small cavities in the stone – used for ritual acts?

Above Zermatt, towards the Zmutt Valley, the elongated, gently sloping "Hubelweng" valley rises above a rocky ledge. The high-altitude trail from the village toward the Col d'Hérens has likely always led over this grassy slope at 2,000 meters above sea level. Unlike today, the trail network was once primarily built above the narrow valley floor, which was prone to scree and flooding. Above the natural tree line, one also had a clear view and could easily orientate oneself using characteristic rock formations. In the case of the "Hubelweng" valley, this was, of course, and has been the Matterhorn since time immemorial.

Hiking along the idyllic path from Zermatt towards Zmutt, the flat stone blocks in the Hubelweng area immediately catch your eye. A closer look reveals small, man-made bowls of varying sizes and depths carved into some of these rocks, made of tabular quartzite and Bündner slate. A total of eleven such cup stones are known to date.

Many questions remain unanswered

Cup stones pose two almost insoluble problems for archaeologists. On the one hand, they want to know why people carved these small bowls and symbols into the hard rock, and on the other, how old these markings actually are. While there are countless theories on both questions, some of them seem quite esoteric...

One possible interpretation is that the bowls have an astronomical connection. Perhaps the indentations represent constellations, or they could be used to calculate important calendar constellations such as the equinoxes, the shortest and longest days. We know from prehistoric stone and wooden circles, as well as from the famous Nebra Sky Disk, that prehistoric people already possessed considerable astronomical knowledge. Discovered in Saxony-Anhalt in 1999, the 3,600-year-old bronze disk depicts, among other things, the Pleiades constellation and the full and crescent moons in gold foil.

Bowl code not yet cracked

Unlike the Nebra Disc, however, the code of the Hubelweng boulders has not yet been cracked. It is also conceivable that they were used as small oil lamps. Such illumination may have accompanied a ritual act.

A secular interpretation cannot be completely ruled out either. These bowls could have been trail markers, number tokens, or messages to subsequent hikers. What all theories have in common is that they are unprovable...

Cautious dating

Finally, the dating issue should be addressed. Scientifically, the age of the bowls cannot be determined directly from the stone. Rock hardness and traces of weathering can provide vague clues to the age. However, better find circumstances are those where the bowls are covered by layers that can themselves be dated via younger charcoal fireplaces or characteristic finds. Certain bowl stones also bear depictions of animals, weapons, or tools, which can then be chronologically classified based on their typology . A prime example of this are the famous Neolithic steles of Sion.

With due caution, the cup stones from Hubelweng can be dated to the Iron Age, i.e. about 2500 years ago.

Source: Book «Focus Matterhorn – Zermatt History and Stories», 2015 Rotten Verlags AG

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Matterhorn Gotthard Railway

# Construction work on the MGBahn and Gornergrat Rail – Spring and Autumn 2020

In spring and autumn 2020, further work on the railway infrastructure of the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGBahn) and Gornergrat Bahn (GGB) will be required. However, due to the current situation resulting from the coronavirus, the plans and dates for implementation are subject to change.

[Switch and track reconstruction work  
Zermatt freight station \(MGBahn\)](#)

From mid-April to the beginning of June 2020, switch and track reconstruction work will be carried out at the Zermatt freight station. Between May 11 and June 5, 2020, some of the work will be carried out in night shifts. The remaining track reconstruction work will be carried out in day shifts. The construction site extends from the MGBahn Zermatt station to the Spiss.

Given the current situation caused by the coronavirus, the plans and timelines are subject to change. Depending on the availability of the necessary personnel resources, construction materials, and equipment, it may be possible to bring forward at least some of the work and shift it to day shifts.

[Gornergrat Railway Track Reconstruction:](#)  
Extensive track construction work is required on the Gornergrat Railway line between Getwing Bridge and Findelbach Bridge in spring and autumn 2020. Implementation began in autumn 2019. Due to weather conditions in November 2019, work had to be stopped early and postponed until this year.

From mid-April 2020 to mid-June, the remaining track construction and civil engineering work will be carried out between the Legendär stop (km 1.105) and the Findelbach Bridge (km 1.559). To maintain operations, work must be carried out in night shifts. The construction site will be served at night from Findelbach. Therefore, from Zermatt to Bau-

Only a few construction trains run there.

For the same reasons, the current plans at the GGB are also subject to change and may be brought forward or postponed if necessary. Due to the official orders to suspend tourist traffic, operations at the GGB are initially suspended until April 26, 2020.

As in the past, MGBahn and GGB, as well as the construction companies carrying out the work, will endeavor to minimize the disruption and impacts resulting from the construction activities. Based on the experience gained during the first construction phase in autumn 2019, measures to reduce construction noise will be implemented again, such as the use of noise barriers in particularly sensitive areas. Despite the measures,

Unfortunately, increased noise emissions will not be avoidable during the time windows mentioned. Construction work at the GGB is scheduled to resume in September. This includes replacing the La Maya culvert (Riedstrasse overpass) and reconstructing the track between the Getwing Bridge and the St. Georges crossing. Current planning calls for completion of construction work in November 2020.



Zermatt Tourism

# Zermatt Tourism thanks Doris Aufdenblatten

Dear Doris

You worked for Zermatt Tourism (or rather the Zermatt Spa Association) for 30 years. Longer than anyone else before you. During this time, you have served all the spa directors, with the exception of Constantin Cachin.

You have experienced the challenges of our destination and worked with countless colleagues. You worked in all departments, from guest services to e-marketing. You were the first point of contact for our service partners, especially the vacation rental owners: With patience and great competence, and often with the necessary empathy, you handled every inquiry.

Dear Doris, we thank you for your many years of loyalty, for your work, your dedication, your cooperation, your expertise, and your friendship. We wish you all the best for your time after Zermatt Tourism all the best and we look forward to one or two visits.

The employees of Zermatt Tourism



© Photo Pascal Gertschen

Doris Aufdenblatten also says thank you

I will always remember my time at Zermatt Tourism, which was marked by many wonderful moments. I got to know and appreciate many hoteliers, holiday apartment owners, managers, and employees. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who have supported me over the past 30 years in my professional career.

I'm now enjoying some time off and am looking forward to a new professional challenge next winter. I wish you all the best for the future, much success, and above all, the best of health.

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Zermatt Citizens' Community

# Young Mountain Guides Foundation «YMGF»

Mountain guide – a dream job!? Unfortunately, it's becoming increasingly difficult to attract young people to this profession. The Young Mountain Guides Foundation aims to counteract this situation. It actively supports children and young people in mountain and snow sports and supports aspiring mountain guides in their training.



The impressive mountain world of Zermatt offers not only guests but also locals the opportunity to practice mountain sports in both summer and winter . This allows them to not only maintain a healthy lifestyle and keep their bodies fit, but also strengthen their minds and spirits in this natural environment. Unfortunately, fewer and fewer locals are taking advantage of this opportunity. The YMGF Foundation aims to counteract this . It aims to introduce young people between the ages of 10 and 20 to mountain sports and provide them with a solid education. Already early on, in the age of golden alpinism (1854 – 1865), the profession of mountain guide played a central role in our village, as the alpinists of that time were dependent on a guide who knew the area. To this day, the mountain guide remains an important link in the tourism service chain. Two partners were found: the Cultural and Social Foundation of the Zermatt Civic Community and Alain Boucheron, a long-time Zermatt resident, who laid the foundation for the "Young Mountain Guides Foundation." The municipality of Zermatt has since joined the initiative through its funding.

Since the foundation operates throughout the Matter Valley, it hopes for solidarity contributions from the other valley communities.

The President of the Foundation is Dr. Hermann Biner

**The foundation's concept consists of three stages:**

**Level 1: JUNIORS ACADEMY (young people > 10 years)**  
**Fun, camaraderie and exercise in nature are the focus.**

Children and young people aged ten and up are looked after. The program works closely with the Zermatt Ski Club and the SAC (Swiss Alpine Club) Zermatt and Nikolai sections. Children are supervised and trained in snow sports in winter. Various climbing and small mountaineering tours are organized in summer.

The aim of Level 1 is to inspire as many young people as possible to take up mountain and snow sports.

**Level 2: CLIMBERS ACADEMY (young people 15–20 years)**  
**In-depth knowledge of mountain and snow sports for young people aged 15 and over**  
Accompanied by mountain guides, the young people gain the necessary knowledge and experience to organize and conduct tours independently. The goal of Level 2 is a solid foundation in mountain and snow sports, which is a prerequisite for later training as a mountain guide and ski instructor.



The foundation wants  
especially youth  
between 10  
and 20 years to  
Mountain sports  
and give them a solid  
provide training.



Level 3: GUIDES ACADEMY (Support of candidates in their training as mountain guides)

Candidates seeking mountain guide training are specifically prepared and supervised for the courses by mountain guides/class teachers at Level 3. Each course module is developed in practice beforehand with a class teacher/expert.

A group will be formed, accompanied by our coach, which will organize itself and begin the mountain guide training as a team .

Level 3 is organized by a mountain guide from the Zermatt Mountain Guide Association, who, if possible, is also required to act as a class teacher for the Swiss mountain guide courses.

The goal of level 3 is to become a qualified mountain guide.

The foundation was able to start its activities in July 2019

In the second half of 2019, various activities were already carried out, attended by around 50 young people . The program ranged from easy introductory tours for beginners to challenging climbs for advanced climbers. The projects are continuously updated on the website [www.ymgf.ch](http://www.ymgf.ch), [Instagram \(young.guides\)](#) , and [Facebook \(@ymgfzermatt\)](#) .


For 2020, the Young Mountain Guides Foundation is offering around 50 activities and training courses, mostly one-day and some lasting several days. The Young Mountain Guides Foundation is convinced that the people of the Matter Valley can be won over to its cause . The foundation is also counting on the solidarity of the authorities. The foundation hopes that some companies operating in the valley will participate and, together with other private sponsors, can secure the long-term funding of the YMGF.

Naturally, the foundation hopes that young people will take advantage of this offer. This could open a window to the mountain world that could last a lifetime. If this activity could attract young mountain guides, the Young Mountain Guides Foundation would make an important contribution to Zermatt tourism.

If you have any further questions or are interested in the Young Mountain Guides Foundation, please contact us at the address below or visit our website.


**Information / Contact**  
Andreas Perren, Secretary  
Email: [info@ymgf.ch](mailto:info@ymgf.ch)  
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Destination Strategy Subproject

# Start of the GB Kumme construction project

If the construction decision is upheld, Zermatt Bergbahnen AG will tackle another milestone as soon as warm spring temperatures begin to melt the snow and no further official decisions regarding the coronavirus stand in the way of the construction project.

Construction work on the Kumme gondola lift is expected to begin at the beginning of May, from Tufternkehr via Wyss Gufer to Unterrothorn.



The approval process is nearing completion; all additional requirements and tasks have already been met, and planning approval from the Federal Office of Transport (BAV) is expected by the end of April. Construction of the Kumme cable car will therefore begin in about a month . Throughout the summer season, every effort will be made to construct the valley station in Tufternkehr, the intermediate station in Wyss Gufer, and the mountain station on the Rothorn, as well as to erect the 17 pylons and install the entire electrical system , including the cable. The goal is to have the Kumme cable car in operation with a total of 56 cabins by the start of the 2020/21 winter season.

For the time being, only the mountain and valley stations will be without staff. At the middle station, Initially, only one person was deployed, but the medium-term goal is to remotely monitor the entire system thanks to additional technical equipment . The Federal Office of Transport (FOT) has long been skeptical of unmanned cable car systems. In Val Thorens, France, near Mont Blanc, the system has already been successfully tested and put into operation without human supervision . Federal representatives inspected the system in France for safety, and the results were positive. Therefore, the FOT has also given the green light for the construction of the Kumme cable car .

The first fully automatic gondola lift in Switzerland

Together with cable car manufacturer Garaventa-Doppelmayr, Zermatt Bergbahnen AG is developing a groundbreaking project. The Kumme cable car will be the first "unmanned" gondola lift, not only in Zermatt but also in Switzerland. The system will operate entirely without supervisory personnel. Currently, all cable car stations must be staffed by a person who monitors safe operation and can intervene and bring the system to a halt in the event of any malfunctions or incidents.

An upgrade for the entire area

Each cabin in the new facility will accommodate 10 people . With a total capacity of 1,500 people per hour, waiting times will be a thing of the past in the area between Tuftern and Unterrothorn . Parallel to the construction of the gondola, the expansion of the snowmaking system in the Kumme area is planned. Thanks to the new gondola and the installation of the snowmaking system, Zermatt Bergbahnen expects a massive improvement in the entire winter sports area in terms of transport and slope quality.

information

The construction work in the Unterrothorn area is expected to last from End of April to December 2020. During this construction work, increased traffic volumes and disruptions are to be expected between Zermatt and Rothorn. Increased noise and dust emissions are to be expected. The funicular Sunnegga, the Blauherd gondola and the Rothorn cable car remain operating normally.

To ensure the transport of materials for the construction sites and the safety of guests, the road between Zermatt and Sunnegga will be closed to kickbikes daily until 2:00 PM. After 2:00 PM, the descent can be made by

Kickbike riding can be undertaken without restrictions. Caution is advised throughout the entire construction site area!

**Zermatt Bergbahnen AG asks for your understanding.**

