# ZERMATT INSIDE

December 2020, 18th Year, No. 6



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

**Municipality of Zermatt** 



## New municipal council

Zermatt has voted. We present the municipal council. Every Everyone answers our eight questions and explains their vision.

**Zermatt Citizens' Community** 



## Riffelhaus team

Guests crave relaxation and enjoyment. Host Jürgen Marx and chef Alain Kuster now ensure this.

**Zermatt Tourism** 



## **Information Day Winter 2020**

What makes Zermatt special and what What's new? What offers are available for guests? The information day will provide information about this

**Matterhorn Gotthard Railway** 

## **Uniforms**

The first impression counts: The Matterhorn employees Gotthard Bahn and Gornergrat Bahn in customer contact are getting

Zermatt cable cars



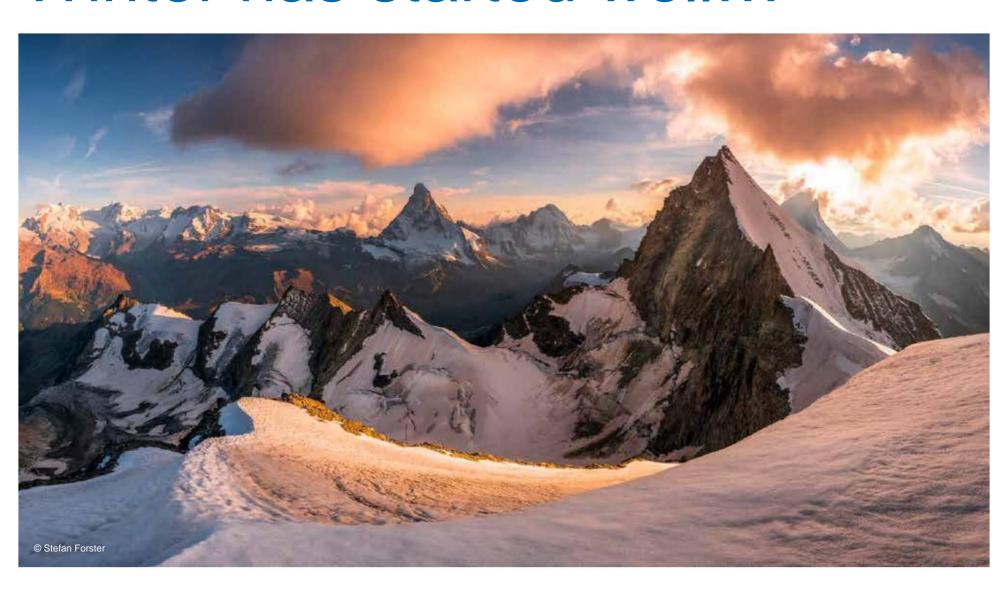
## Wildlife protection

Snow sports with respect for flora and fauna are encouraged. Forest and wildlife conservation zones and awareness-raising among athletes ensure this.

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Municipality of Zermatt

## Winter has started well...



The past year has likely been a busy one for all of us. The coronavirus pandemic dictated the rhythm of our social and professional lives. And yet, there has been much positivity.

Review and outlook with

mayor Romy Biner-Hauser.

Already in mid-November 2019 we were delighted by the abundance of snow and This is how Zermatt started a promising winter season. The news from China still seemed far away, yet we listened . We didn't yet know how much the coronavirus would dominate our lives in 2020.

Back in January, we activated the leadership team as a "single man in command" and prepared for what we couldn't have imagined. We were delighted with the "community aperitif," where we were able to present and serve Zermatt's first municipal wine, "La Bête Noire ." A blend made by the municipal council and served to the residents

The first cancellations reached Zermatt in February

The big "C..." was getting ever closer, and uncertainty was growing. On Friday, March 13, 2020, everything changed, and we listened spellbound to the words of the Federal Council and then those of the State Council. A nationwide lockdown was gradually imposed. The winter season ended abruptly, and guests began their journey home. With the best snow and glorious sunshine, Zermatt had emptied.

A calm descended that we will likely remember for a long time. A piece of history was written and continues its course, without us knowing its outcome.

Despite the lockdown, we're not running out of work, and the public is showing exemplary discipline and great solidarity. A heartfelt thank you for that.

We in the mountains are privileged to experience and enjoy the beauty of nature, and to use it as a place of strength. The idea behind the "Hope" campaign is that this strength and hope should also be spread out into the world.

There's probably no better landmark than our "Horu," which perfectly symbolizes strength and hope. What began as a crazy idea by light artist Gery Hofstetter evolved into a unique visual language that moved people and traveled around the world.

I was able to experience this again in September when I picked up three young hitchhikers in Zermatt: two Argentinians and a Frenchman. On the drive to Visp, it turned out that the pictures of the Matterhorn with the respective national flags had also been familiar to these world travelers from home.

had reached Zermatt and that's why they came to Zermatt . The Frenchman then said that we had divided the world in two with the lighting. I didn't understand it right away, so he clarified: "The national flags that were illuminated on the Matterhorn and those that weren't..."

We can look back on an incredibly beautiful summer.

And not just because of the weather. Mr. and Mrs.

Swiss followed Federal Councilor Ueli Maurer's call to

"take a vacation in Switzerland and come to the mountains.

Over the past few months, the big "C..." has been our constant
companion, and words like protection plan, social distancing rules,
Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), mandatory mask wearing,
posters, virus, allowed or not, etc. have challenged us. This
continued right up to the next lockdown, which hit us at the end of
October, just as the season ended. It's a lockdown that gives us
more freedom yet restricts us.

Now is the time to look ahead. We don't know what awaits us in the coming months, and we don't know how we will approach the coming winter season. But we do know that we have to live with COVID-19! And living with it doesn't just mean doing without, limiting, and closing things down; it means finding solutions, implementing opportunities, and making the best of the situation.

The end of the year is just around the corner. An incredible year is coming to an end. Everything was a little upside down and a little different than usual. Let's seize this opportunity and look forward with positivity and commitment. What lies behind us is the past. What's important is working on our present and future. Together we can do this.

In this spirit, I would like to thank you for your valuable cooperation, also on behalf of the entire municipal council and administration.

We wish you all good courage and BX (which means "stay healthy").

Heartfelt

Romy Biner-Hauser , Mayo







PS: Since there were virtually no events and no travel, I thought there would be very few photos to show. I realized that nature was probably our best, most beautiful, and greatest showcase this year.





Lockdown – empty Bahnhofstrasse













Municipality of Zermatt

## Snow removal from streets and paths

Nature paints the Matterhorn village a beautiful winter dress. Depending on the amount of fresh snow, the Zermatt municipality's technical services department is very busy during this time, as snow and ice removal from the streets and paths is unpredictable.

Every year mother brings

The employees of the Technical Services Department always do everything to provide the public and visitors with winter-safe roads and paths. To stay one step ahead of nature

To be "to be", the various weather forecasts are repeatedly compared, checks are made during the night hours, and the evacuation teams are called out as needed.

### Snow clearing in the morning hours

Depending on the amount of new snow during the night, snow removal operations will begin between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Priority will be given to clearing municipal main and secondary roads so that vehicle traffic can travel on the cleared roads around 8:00 a.m.

Afterwards, the snow partially pushed aside by the snow clearing machines must be loaded onto vehicles and transported away. Due to local conditions, around 90% of this new snowfall throughout the entire village area must be transported away in a complex manner.

## Private snow removal – available

### until 9:00 a.m.

Many private individuals are also faced with the same situation. They have the option of removing the fresh snow from their private property to the side of public roads by 9:00 a.m.

to be transported so that it can then be cleared by the technical

### Danger – safety risk

It's been observed time and again that people from private property dump masses of snow on cleared streets and paths. This cannot be allowed!

This results in individual sections of the road problematic and safety-threatening areas (e.g., icy patches, potholes). Both pedestrians and electric vehicles are confronted with this dangerous situation.

### Fines for misconduct

The removal of snow and ice onto public roads and paths is prohibited after 9:00 a.m. The municipality of Zermatt reminds the public that offenders will be fined.

### Mission

The Technical Service team will
Use human and mechanical resources to create
the best possible conditions for safe use of
roads and paths in winter.







die Interessen der Zermatter Zweitwohnungsbesitzer in sämtlichen Belangen gegenüber den Tourismus-Verantwortlichen und den Zermatter Behörden zu verhreben.

Mit her Mitgliedschaft fürdem Sie den Dialog zwischen der Gemeinde und dem Verein der Zermatter Zweitwohnungsbesitzer und helfen somit aktiv mit, den berechtigten Anliegen Gehür zu verschaffen.

> Werden Sie noch heute Mitglied beim grüssten Verein von Zweitwahnungsbesitzem in der Schweiz.

Foot-kommizernunts ist Mitglied der Allianz Zweitechnungen Schweiz und des Walliser Verbands der Zweitechnungen.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter: www.feelhorman.mutt.ch

## Municipality of Zermatt

## Introduction of the new municipal council 2021-2024

The new municipal council was elected on

October 18, 2020. Four women and three men will now lead the municipality for four years. Romy Biner-Hauser

was confirmed as mayor in a secret ballot.

We asked the city council the following questions:

1. What motivates you to work on the city council?

- 2. What issues will you personally advocate for during your term in office?
- 3. What will be the biggest challenge for you in the next four years?
- 4. What do you expect from your council members?
- 5. What characterizes a good local council?
- 6. What is your favorite place in Zermatt and why?
- 7. What will Zermatt look like in 20 years?
- Why is Zermatt the most beautiful municipality for me...

### Romy Biner-Hauser, Mayor, CVP

- 1. To help shape things, have a say, and collaborate. To be able to make a contribution to Zermatt.
- 2. Listing all the projects would go beyond the scope of this article. For me, it is important that we work together

  To approach and advance projects in the best interests of Zermatt. Maintain a positive dialogue with the community and service partners. Seize opportunities that arise and address even sensitive issues.
- 3. Every day brings new challenges. The current situation is a challenge And the consequences will stay with us for some time to come. Furthermore, there are the municipal finances and the upcoming major projects that we need to get on track for the future.
- **4.** Collaboration is important to me. Open communication and moving forward together. Collegiality, but it can also be critical.
- 5. He/She is interested in the dossiers and is motivated to tackle the work, even if it is not
- 6. Being outside. There are so many beautiful places, each in its own unique way. It's always a question the atmosphere and the season. Added to this are the many wonderful interiors of the restaurants and hotels that Zermatt has to offer.
- I often ask myself this question and I would like Zermatt to recognize its quality even better and puts this before quantity.
- 8. ... because I am at home here and because it is the way it is.

## Mark Aufdenblatten, municipal councilor, CVP

- 1. The opportunity to participate in the design and development of our village community.
- $\hbox{\bf 2. I will equally support all issues that are important for Zermatt and its people in the coming years. } \\$
- 3. From today's perspective, probably the construction of the new school building. But the future will surely hold other challenges.
- **4.** It's not my place to expect anything from the council members. But I can assure them that I will contribute my energy, time, knowledge, and convictions to our village.
- 5. The will to give one's best and to live up to this claim.
- **6.** Zermatt. In the village and in nature, inside and outside, because I feel at home everywhere in Zermatt and can feel good.
- 7. The way we will all shape it together
- 8. ... because Zermatt is my home.

## Bianca Ballmann, municipal councilor, CVP

- 1. I want to do my part to help shape our village.
- **2.** Safety in the village and the promotion of child- and youth-specific topics. Opinions and ideas to incorporate the views of the population and to represent them.
- 3. That I can't please everyone.
- $\textbf{4.} \ Constructive \ cooperation, \ solution-oriented \ discussions, \ willingness \ to \ compromise.$
- 5. Open ears and decisiveness.
- **6.** Findeln, here as well as in other places in nature I can relax and unwind and gain new energy.
- 7. Still an attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Zermatt has a good balance between Mountain village and tourist resort.
- 8. ... because we have nature right on our doorstep and can live where others go on holiday.















- 1. The joy of public work and participation, taking on responsibility.
- 2. Complete local planning, extend the Energy City label, and implement the Second Home Act.
- Municipal planning.
- 4. Collegiality, loyalty, good cooperation.
- 5. Always be there for the people, straightforward, open, consistent.
- Every place in Zermatt has its charm and is unique. In the great outdoors, because I can gather my strength.
- 7. The tourist development of our village is far from complete.
- There's still a lot of potential here that can be tapped. However, it's very difficult to make a prediction. What's important to me is that the entire population works together toward the same goal.
- 8. ... because I am at home here and feel comfortable.

## Markus Julen, Municipal Councillor, CSP

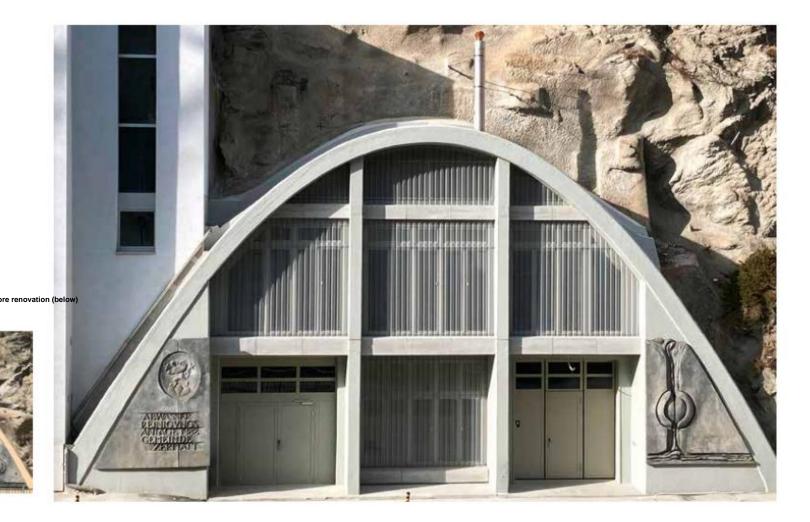
- On the one hand, to contribute experience and knowledge, and on the other hand, to learn and gain further experience.
- 2. As a municipal councilor, you should be interested in and committed to all issues that affect the community. Areas that interest me personally include communications, technology, and IT, as well as agriculture and protecting the village and its population from natural hazards.
- **3.** I will only be able to answer this question in retrospect in four years.
- **4.** A good mix of persistence and willingness to compromise, but also openness, a sense of responsibility, perseverance, interest and empathy.
- 5. Open, honest, factual discussions and constructive cooperation.
- 6. A place where I go to relax and clear my head.
- 7. Nobody knows but we have to consider with every decision whether it where we want to be in 20 years.
- 8. ...because Zermatt is home. That's why there are quite a few beautiful communities.

## Iris Kündig Stoessel, Vice President, Alliance for Zermatt

- **1.** I want to keep Zermatt attractive, both for tourism and also for the population.
- 2. There are some projects in the pipeline that I would like to continue working on and bring them to completion. For example, the implementation of the new traffic regulations or the final planning and restoration of the cemetery.
- 3. That the projects are actually implemented.
- Collegiality and respect.
- **5.** To perceive and feel the concerns of the population. In doing so, to seek out factual, seek constructive solutions
- **.6.** Since the lockdown in spring 2020, my garden has become a favorite place. A real new discovery.
- Even in 20 years, Zermatt will retain the charm of a Valais village while remaining an internationally renowned holiday destination.
- ... because it has become my home and with our Matterhorn we are the world's have the most beautiful stone in the garden.

## Sonja Sarbach-Schalbetter, Municipal Councillor, Alliance for Zermat

- 1. As the mother of two wonderful girls, I want to actively and farsightedly shape the future of Zermatt in the interest of future generations.
- 2. I already communicated what's important to me during the elections. But in January, I'll find out which department I'll be assigned, and then I'll take the time to read up on it and define the issues that will move Zermatt forward.
- 3. The balancing act between family, bank and politics.
- 4. Professionalism, communication, honesty and commitment.
- 5. Above all, he must be credible, but also performance-oriented.
- **6.** The most difficult question so far. I can't possibly answer. Especially in summer/autumn, a new favorite place appears every two weeks.
- In 20 years, Zermatt will still be the first choice for locals, Guest workers and guests.
- $\pmb{8.} \dots$  because it is my home and my family and friends live here.



Municipality of Zermatt

## Repair of the access portal – ARA Zermatt

From summer to autumn 2020, the access portal and

the main control room of the Zermatt wastewater treatment plant were renovated.

The access portal of the Zermatt

and the new look.

This means that the

headquarters and its process control system are now also up to date.

The Zermatt underground wastewater treatment plant (ARA) was built in the early 1980s as a cavern facility at the village entrance. Between 2010 and 2017, the wastewater treatment facilities were modernized with a new sludge treatment building, biological upgrades to the treatment stages, the wastewater heat recovery system was redesigned, and a new inlet pumping station was replaced.

The entrance portal, built as an arched structure in reinforced concrete with the main control room, the command center of the ARA, has remained untouched so far. The condition of the concrete structure, both in the base area and above the portal roof, has been affected by external influences.

in dire need of renovation

It was now time to renovate and renew the access portal and its operating spaces as necessary and appropriate . The new mud building was constructed adjacent to the arched portal in 2012. Individual adjacent components will also be affected and cosmetically renovated.

In detail, appropriate remedial measures were taken due to the causes listed

· Water entered the building through the leaky concrete portal construction and the facade components when exposed to weathering;

· Since the shell was poorly insulated and had various cold bridges due to the

Condensation, which caused structural damage;

Instead of glass blocks, floor-to-ceiling window fronts were

the internal lighting conditions and the insulation values of today's adapted to requirements:

· Chipping and cracking as a result of frost damage and

De-icing salt influence on various concrete parts had to be repaired

The portal roof was resealed;

· All interior surfaces, such as floor, wall, and ceiling coverings, required maintenance. These were replaced

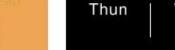
· Adjustments were made to the stairwell and the heights of the banisters were adjusted to the current SUVA regulations;

· The basic installations of the controls, the high-voltage and lighting installations as well as the heating and sanitary distribution in the common rooms were

The architecture of the entrance portal now shines in new splendor. This marks the completion of another step in the renovation of the wastewater treatment plant.



Caffè Cervino setzt auf die direkte Zusammenarbeit mit lokalen Kaffeebauern. Damit unterstützen wir einen sozial gerechten Kaffeeanbau. seit 2017 hat Caffè Cervino an der rimarschule von Capucalito Lampo coy in uatemala den Bau eines Schulgebäudes und ein Computerzentrum





Municipality of Zermatt

## School routes

Where do our students and young people live? Do they walk, cycle, take the bus, or travel to school with friends and parents?

> The school administration surveyed the students and found insightful answers. In connection with the construction of the new school building, the routes to the temporary school buildings in Obere Matten and to the Walka 3, Im Hof, and Trift school buildings need to be reconsidered.

## Where do our children and young

Four times a day, 556 students travel the streets of Zermatt on their way to or from school. They live in the districts of Untere Matten (6%), Spiss (11%), Winkelmatten (16%), Wiesti (14%), Oberhäusern (2%), and Furi (0.7%), taking an average of 15–20 minutes to get to school. This does not include the 48 students from Täsch and Randa who attend the orientation school in Zermatt.

## How do the children travel on

In summer, on average, 51% of children and Young people travel on foot and 49% on bicycles. The bicycle is the most popular means of transport (26%), followed by scooters/kickboards/rollerboards (16%) and

buses (7%). It is positive that many children of the

Lower grade students who travel by bicycle or scooter must

In winter, only 7% of children use their bicycles 82% walk to school. The proportion of those who take the bus in winter is higher, at 11%.

It is striking that in Cycle 1 (1st KG to 2nd grade), around 70 of the 200 children are accompanied to school by adults almost daily; in kindergarten alone, this figure is 82%. It is encouraging that 46% of the children go to school with their

Even though they are on their way to school, the journey to school is an important social factor. Walking to school allows children to acquire many social skills and is an important step on the path to independence.

From autumn to November, the 70 parking spaces provided for scooters and kickboards in the school buildings are used without exception. 90 parking spaces are available for the 140 bicycles at the community library; the remaining bicycles are parked "wildly," clogging alleys, passageways, and the parking spaces at the church square.

As soon as Cycle 1 (approximately 200 children) moves into the temporary school building in Obere Matten, 40 fewer bicycle parking spaces will be needed around the school building. Despite all the rules, it's important that children be careful on Due to the new school building and safety reasons, the route to school for primary and orientation students (from 3rd grade) will be via the church square to the Oberdorf and then up the Schälpmattgasse to the Brunner-Lauber-

house. To the west, a new entrance

corridor, on which one can switch between the Schoolhouse Trift and the Hotel Sonne on the school

On the other hand, bicycle parking spaces for students in grades 3 through 3 are becoming scarce, especially since the parking spaces at the municipal library will be closed until the Niww Walka building is completed . It is therefore recommended that during the construction period, only children and young people in cycles 2 and 3, who live very far from the school building, cycle to school.

All children and young people at Zermatt schools receive one to two traffic education lessons per year. While the first cycle focuses on practicing proper behavior and crossing on the road, the focus in grades 3 and 4 is on cycling and traffic signs. Cycling skills and obeying traffic rules are tested on a special course in grades 5 and 6.

Class. In the OS, topics such as blind spots, braking behavior and obtaining a driver's license

the streets of Zermatt, whether on bikes or on foot . The streets in Matterhorn Village are not a playground, and respectful and attentive interaction is required from all road









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Municipality of Zermatt

## Advent calendar

Christmas is coming soon. A virtual Advent calendar is intended to shorten the wait for this wonderful time.

Advent is approaching. At school, The candles on the Advent wreaths were lit, Christmas carols were sung and played on the flute, poems and texts were read, "guardian angels" were played, and doors on the Advent calendar were opened. Due to the COVID-19 situation and safety measures, no public student performances can take place this school year . The school has decided to live with the coronavirus and has looked for ways to bring Advent spirit to the village. As part of a project by the teachers in training, we will be presenting our performances on the website www.schulenzermatt.ch

a virtual Advent calendar. It is intended to shorten the wait for Christmas and provide a

Bring a little light into these dark days. Using a QR code, anyone interested can open a door of the Advent calendar once a day . Let's be surprised!





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## Municipality of Zermatt

## Save money and energy thanks to subsidies

The interest in saving money and energy on hot water consumption is met with widespread interest among households in Zermatt.

### Promotional campaign for economy showers continues

Word seems to have gotten around that a small measure can have a big impact and save money, without sacrificing comfort. The August 2020 issue of "Zermatt Inside" featured the "Your Handshake Saves..." promotional program, featuring a shower head promotion, and reported on initial successes and questions from the

## As long as there are still subsidies available from the Swiss-wide program for savings showers, you can order at: www.sinum.com/bestellung

You can still order energy-saving shower heads. You receive a full discount for shower heads with fossil-fueled hot water preparation (oil and gas), and a reduced discount for all others

### 4% of all households participated

Demand for subsidized energy-saving shower heads continues among households in the municipality of Zermatt. By the end of September, 100 households had already switched to energy-saving shower heads. The subsidized shower heads reduce CO2 emissions in the country, save energy, hot water, and thus money. The fact that this can be achieved without any loss of comfort

is possible, surprises many in a very positive way.

## Reduction of energy, CO2 and costs

The analysis of the certificates submitted by the purchasers shows encouraging savings. All participating households together reduce energy consumption by around 74,000 kWh and CO2 emissions by 13 tons annually.

\* Another result of the campaign is that in around 90% of households in Zermatt, hot water is generated entirely or partially using fossil fuels.

### 8% of hotels participated

The 111 hotels in Zermatt offer approximately 7,200 beds. The number of bathrooms with showers is similar. 10 hotels with approximately 300 beds have benefited from the subsidy program and converted their showers to energysaving showers . Thus, approximately 8% of hotels and approximately 4% of beds have participated. Depending on room occupancy, the cost savings and CO2 reduction will vary . Together, the participating hotels will reduce

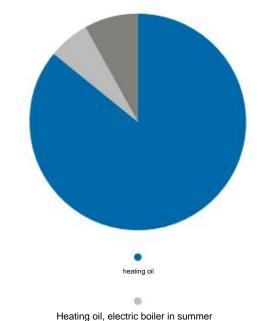
around 30 tons of CO2. Thus, there is further potential. Hotels that still want to convert can still do so as long as funding is available

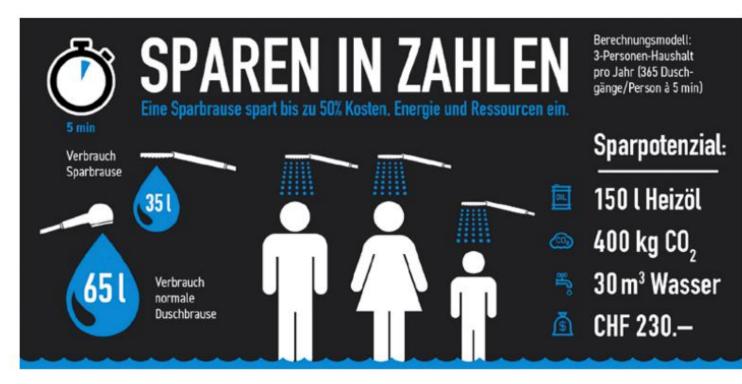
### Motivation for further environmental commitment

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for participating in the energy-saving project. The positive results and high level of acceptance encourage us to continue increasing eco-efficiency in various areas, both within the administration and together with our residents.

> \* Equivalent to almost two and a half orbits of the earth (approx. 95,000 km) with an average new car in 2018 (new cars in 2018 average 137.8 g CO2 per

Source: Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), press release dated 4 July 2019









Verkauf, Vermietung 8, Verwaltung

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Municipality of Zermatt

## New APP – For messages from the road master about road closures of the cantonal road and the Hazard reports from the local community

The existing information channels for notifications regarding the closure of the Täsch-Zermatt road, as well as for warning residents of danger, will be expanded to include a new, modern offering.



On behalf of the cantonal road master and the regional security service, the municipality of Zermatt, in cooperation with Zermatt Tourism, operates an SMS service that, among other information, also provides information about road closures/

The service informs about the reopening of the Täsch-Zermatt cantonal road and urgent hazard warnings. This fee-based SMS service (short code 963) is widely used by residents, commuters, guests, and businesses.

Since a Federal Court ruling in summer 2020, the SMS service has been available only to a limited extent. It is no longer available to users of business lines.

The SMS service is also only available to customers of of a Swiss mobile phone provider. Mobile phone users with foreign mobile phone providers can cannot use the service.

To counteract the limited usability and make the service available to all interested parties, the municipality of Zermatt has developed an app that provides information about road closures and hazardous situations. This new app complements the existing SMS service, but does not replace it due to the same nature of the service. The app will be available free of charge in the App or Play Store . Receiving messages is also free of charge. The app is called "Gefahrinfos Zermatt" (Zermatt Hazard Information). It is expected to be available in mid-December

Available. To check availability, scan the QR code below. As soon as the start date is confirmed, it will be announced via Zermatt Tourism





Private customers with Swiss mobile phone providers can continue to receive information about the cantonal road via SMS service and request it by telephone.

Information about the SMS service and how to use it is available from Zermatt Tourism at the following link:

www.gemeinde.zermatt.ch/link/zermatt.ch/sms\_dienst

For tourists, this information is also available with the Zermatt app.

The canton's voice announcement concerning the Täsch-Zermatt road can be heard at the following telephone number:

In addition, there is a traffic sign in Spiss at the level of the "brings!" ramp, which also provides information about road closures. The canton is responsible for updating this sign.

The Täsch-Zermatt cantonal road is owned and operated by the canton. The roadmaster of Sector 12 is responsible for the closures and openings of the Täsch-Zermatt road .

Detailed information about the road can be obtained from the road master of sector 12 and from the Cantonal Police of Valais can be requested.

Closures and disruptions within the city can be found at the following link:

Information about natural hazards within the city can be obtained from the Safety Department.



## Wir führen für Sie:

- Weine der Weinkellerei des Jahres (Cave St-Pierre, Chamoson)
- Den Sekt mit der besten Bewertung (Walliser «Champagner» Brut du Valais)
- Die Erzeugnisse des erfolgreichsten Schweizer Biowinzers Yann Comby
  - Über 500 Walliser Weine
  - Hervorragende Erzeugnisse aus ganz Europa

Weinhandel Welschen - Tel. 027 967 22 22

## Municipality of Zermatt

## Reading, listening, watching: always a great pastime

Since the Valais libraries

remain closed until further notice due to official measures,

the library offers the alternative of borrowing media on request.

## How does it actually work in the library?

Once you register with us, you will receive a library pass, which you can then use throughout Valais . Since the Zermatt Municipal Library is a public library, it is open to everyone

This means it's available to locals and tourists alike. And it's free for everyone.

Books can be borrowed for four weeks and DVDs for two weeks. Shortly before the return date, you will receive an email reminder, if you wish, that your loan period is about to expire. You can renew your loan online or in person at the library. A late return fee will be charged.

All information regarding user regulations, news, offerings, and much more can be found on our website at www.gemeindebibliothekzermatt.ch. If you prefer to receive information in person , we look forward to welcoming you to our library.

## The school library is moving..

The time has come in February 2021, after the sports break. During the construction phase of the Walka school buildings, we will be located on the second floor of the Walka III school building. Just follow the signs. Although the space is much smaller, we will make our offerings as attractive as possible. The school library will also be available during this time for doing homework, meeting friends, preparing presentations, and, of course, reading.

Of course, you can invite your children to the school library. Perhaps you'll find something for yourself. We look forward to every visit.

### **Zermatt Municipal Library**

027 966 22 38 Bahnhofstrasse 92, 9320 Zermatt www.gemeindebibliothek-zermatt.ch

gemeindebibliothek@zermatt.ch **Zermatt School Library** 

Schoolhouse Walka 3, 3920 Zermatt

schulbibliothek@zermatt.ch

www.facebook.com/gemeindebibliothekzermatt

«Despite the coronavirus

and the new school building

we are there for you»





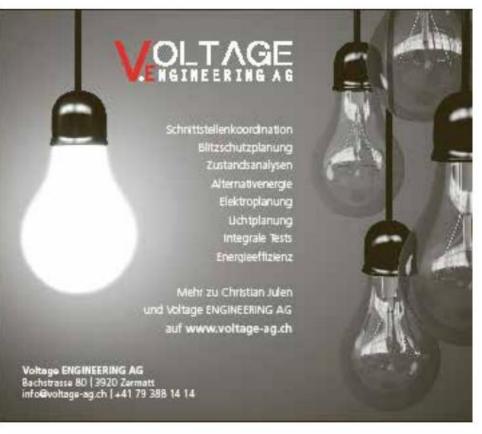




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December 2020 12 Zermatt Inside December 2020

Municipality of Zermatt

## Repair Café Zermatt, what exactly is that?

At Repair Cafés, you can repair your broken items together with professionals. These free repair events offer the opportunity to do something about resource depletion, planned obsolescence, and the growing mountains of waste. At the same time, you'll save money, meet new people, and have a good time chatting over coffee and cake.







## What we offer in Zermatt:

Our Repair Café is not just about repairs; it's a meeting place for young and old , offering time for conversation, sharing tips and tricks, and "hanging out for friends" with coffee and cake.

Everyone is welcome, no prior registration required.

## How does a Repair Café work?

At least two days before the event, poster stands will be set up at the parish center (in the English Quarter and at the Triftbachhalle), listing the repairs available. This information will also be uploaded to the Repair Café website. Repairs are free of charge, unless the professional needs replacement parts, which must be paid for in cash on site.

For further information, please see on our homepage www.repaircafe-zermatt.ch Or contact us: Mattertal Youth Work Center Bianca Ballmann

info@repaircafe-zermatt.ch

079 303 45 04

· My cell phone display is broken. I contact the Repair Café in advance, explain my repair request, and state what type of cell phone I have.

The repairer will order the new screen , and I can bring my phone to the next Repair Café and he will repair it on the spot.

 $\cdot$  I have a hole in my jeans. I'll stop by the Repair Café when the seamstress is there. She'll explain how I can repair the hole myself and will support me or even do the work for me.

Repairs are free unless replacement parts are needed, such as a zipper, phone display, etc.

Coffee and cake are available free of charge and

A small collection is always welcome to cover our

## When does the Repair Café take place?

invite you to have a little chat.

From January 2021, the Repair Café will take place regularly again, every second Saturday of the month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on the last Tuesday of the month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday is more likely to be used for a chat and to meet up, rounded off with a coffee or tea and a piece

You would like to support us and can

Need to repair something? Then get in touch . We welcome everyone to help at our Repair Café We're still looking for repairers in the areas of electrical appliances, textiles, clothing, etc.

Zermatt Municipality – Club Presentation

Association «Hand in Hand – Your Neighbor» – 10th anniversary

The association "Hand in Hand - Your Neighbor," based in

Zermatt, was founded on October 5, 2010. The

purpose of the association is to provide financial and material support to the

suffering or needy populations of Eastern Europe, especially children, the elderly, the

frail, and those living

alone

If necessary, the same groups of people

are supported in Valais or Switzerland.

## Eastern Europe-

aid organization The club developed in in recent years a close Cooperation with the Eastern

The European aid organization "Triumph of the Heart" is run by Father R. Schönenberger of Einsiedeln. This aid organization has built a large aid network in Eastern

Europe. Retirement and nursing homes, widows' and orphanages, and social institutions have been established in many countries . Approximately 1,000 people at as a banneral Many families live in extreme poverty. 130 semi-trailers with relief supplies to Eastern Europe. Information can be found at

## Club activities

www.osteuropahilfe.ch.

The association "Hand in Hand - Your Neighbor" conducts a used clothing collection twice a year in Zermatt, Täsch and Saas-Grund Initially, furniture was also collected. Should new storage capacity become available

the furniture collections will be considered again For its 10th anniversary, the association is holding

A package campaign is underway. Gifts are being collected for children aged 2 to 14. Many children in Eastern Europe never see a Christmas present.

and other institutions.

cover transport costs to Eastern Europe, to support people in need, soup kitchens, children's homes,

Zermatt Inside 13

Financial

Donations are used to

Donations to the association "Hand in Hand - Your Neighbor" are tax-exempt. This means that donations can be deducted from taxes

Donations to the account at Raiffeisenbank Mischabel-Matterhorn, St. Niklaus, IBAN No. CH76 8049 6000 0099

5014 3.

The association is looking for new members to help with clothing collections and wrapping gifts for Many people live in modest conditions, in apartments

> We are also looking for passive members who support the association financially through their membership fees.

We thank you for your support.

Celsius in winter

Need in Eastern Europe

about CHF 250.

The living conditions of the population are often

The coronavirus pandemic has made the situation

Up to CHF 300 per month. That leaves barely any

with primitive plumbing. The apartments are often

temperatures in many places are 16-18 degrees

poorly insulated (windows are single- glazed). Indoor

money left over for clothes, let alone Christmas

even worse. In some countries, a teacher earns

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Julen: Brantschenhaus 15, 3920 Zermatt, 079 797 69 83, 027 967 75 75, th.julen@bluewin.ch





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Citizens' community

## The Zermatt Burger Council for the next four years is

The Zermatt Burgergemeinde unites the longestablished families of Zermatt and has around 1.500 citizens.

The remaining villagers of Zermatt, together with the citizens, form the municipality

of Zermatt, which has existed alongside the municipality of Zermatt with separate administration since the separation of the two communities in 1969.

The community is administered by a Citizens' Council with seven members, headed by a president. The Citizens' Council and the President are elected by the citizens every four years. The Citizens' Community manages its assets by maintaining and managing the citizens' property. It promotes and supports, within its means, works of general interest. Within the framework of legislation, it grants citizenship and honorary citizenship. Citizenship is granted by the Citizens' Assembly upon the applicant's request and upon the motion of the Citizens' Council

On October 18, 2020, the 2020–2024 Citizens' Council elections were held in Zermatt for the first time using the majority system. With a voter turnout of almost 68%, the seven new Citizens' Council members were elected in the first round. The President and Vice President were subsequently appointed by secret ballot

Information about the Zermatt Civic Community www.burgergemeindezermatt.ch



Silvo Perren

married to Doris Zimmermann

Burger Council

2 children

born July 21, 1963

**Andreas Biner** 

Party, born October 27, 1966 Lawyer & Notary married to Aurelia Wyder



Sämi Perren

Burger Council

3 children

born September 23, 1980

married to Melanie Kronig

Association, born March 2, 1958 Headmaster OS married to Roswitha Schmid 3 children



Leo Schuler

Vice President of the Burger







Valérie Biner

Dipl. Tourism Specialist HF



**Dominik Franzen** 

born June 19, 1984







The new team at the Riffelhaus 1853 in Zermatt knows what's good for you in winter 2020/2021: slowing down and enjoying yourself.

> Jürgen Marx is the new host at the Riffelhaus, with the new head chef Alain Kuster at his side.

Both Zermatt residents will start their first season at 2500 m above sea level on December 11, 2020. Both men are

She is dedicated to her duties and passionate about her work. The prime location makes the Riffelhaus 1853 a haven of tranquility. You are immersed in nature and in the ski area. The Matterhorn is omnipresent.

The hustle and bustle stays down in the village

Jürgen Marx is convinced that the Riffelhaus offers exactly what hotel guests are looking for in the special year 2020: peace and seclusion. He is very much looking forward to his first winter season as host in this traditional house: «If you look forward to

When you immerse yourself in nature and the mountains, vou experience serenity and a sense of relaxation. The Riffelhaus is a wonderful place where we want to welcome

our guests with warmth. Everyone on the team is highly motivated everyday life stays in the valley,

Very important on the mountain, besides

comfortable rooms, the good cuisine

Alain Kuster, the new head chef at the Riffelhaus, knows how to make hotel guests completely happy with culinary delights. He has been keeping Zermatt a top destination for almost three decades. He remained loyal to the hotel and was awarded 16 Gault Millau points here in the early 1990s as the youngest chef in Switzerland . Now he is taking on a new challenge: mountain gastronomy at 2,500 m above sea level. Top chef Alain Kuster is committed to quality. He will treat hotel guests to half-board menus. Day guests can look forward to classic Swiss cuisine. The stunning sun terrace in front of the Riffelhaus is definitely worth a visit – with a view of the Matterhorn, of course . The product selection for the aperitif

The new chef wants to delight guests with regional specialties.

happiness awaits on the mountain

Those who choose the Riffelhaus have chosen a special place. The mountain hotel at 2500 m above sea level was opened in 1853 as the second hotel in Zermatt.

It is a building steeped in history and has witnessed the golden era of mountaineering. The imposing mountain world is as fascinating today as it was then.

Nature begins right outside the hotel. The Matterhorn opposite is within reach. Inside, hotel guests can expect contemporary 4-star comfort in cozy rooms with plenty of Alpine chic. In the morning, head straight from breakfast to the slopes, and in the evening from the slopes to the wellness area with its sauna, steam bath, and relaxation area. Those who gaze at the Matterhorn in deep relaxation from the outdoor whirlpool are close to heaven.

Further details on facilities, services and opening hours: www.riffelhaus.ch

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**Zermatt Tourism** 

## New faces in key positions

Zermatt Tourism has filled the two positions of Social Media Manager and Head of Online Marketing with Christian Bürgi and Suzi Steiger-Preradovic, respectively.

Both positions, which involve close collaboration with service partners, operate primarily in the digital environment, and have been newly filled. These are the Social Media Manager and Head of Online Marketing positions, which are now held by Christian Bürgi and Suzi Steiger-Preradovic at Zermatt Tourism.

«It is important to me

that we Zermatt as a whole

market"



## Christian Bürgi ...

 $\dots$  is a trained media technician and is looking forward to applying his creativity, passion, and expertise in the field of new technologies. "It's important to me that we market Zermatt as a whole. I want to incorporate all the touchpoints a guest experiences here, meaning all the services offered by our service partners, into our communications," says the 21-year-old from the canton of



## Suzi Steiger-Preradovic ...

 $\dots$ , who grew up in Zermatt, has been working at Zermatt since the end of 2017 Tourism, previously as a ski product manager. She is now excited to support the destination on its journey toward digitalization. "Online marketing is my passion and my hobbyhorse. Thanks to today's capabilities, marketing activities can be measured, analyzed, and continuously optimized – that fascinates and motivates me," says the business administration graduate.





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## **Zermatt Tourism**

## Head up

Times are difficult and trigger fears in many of us: fears for our own health and that of our loved ones as well as economic fears.

This makes it all the more important that we take responsibility Starting with ourselves. To do this, we must accept the situation as it is: There's no point in loudly questioning every decision made by authorities and politicians . We must use our energy to make the best of every situation. We also need to take responsibility for our fellow human beings.

And that begins with protecting ourselves and adapting our behavior to the new rules. Providing support to our fellow human beings and employees is just as important as being more willing to help. In times like these, it's important to take a little more time for personal conversation, to listen, show empathy, and, if necessary, offer encouragement. Even if things remain difficult, we must not give up our belief in ourselves and our abilities.

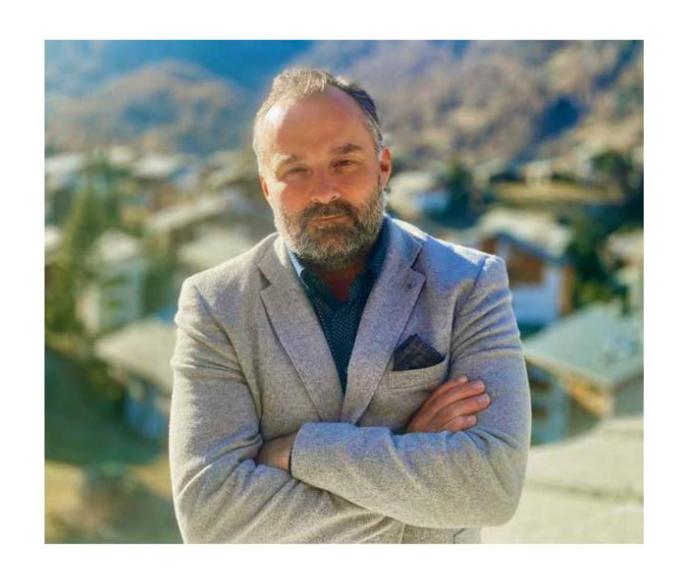
We want to focus on the positive signs. For example, the "Best Ski Resort" award given by our guests – it recognizes the performance we have achieved in recent years and provides us with a benchmark. Or the study published just a few days ago by the review portal "Tripadvisor," which already shows a slight recovery.

The good news is that Zermatt – Matterhorn leads the list of the fastest-recovering destinations. These are signals that indicate that we will find our way back to success.

We are also proud of another award : The Matterhorn lighting project #hope, with which we achieved worldwide media coverage during the lockdown in spring and were able to give many people hope and support, was also honored by the Milestones jury: We are the first destination ever to receive this coveted award twice in

Sincerely

Daniel Luggen, Spa Director



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Zermatt Tourism

## Information Day Winter 2020

The destination
will inform its
service
partners via video
call about new
developments
for the 2020/2021
winter season.



What makes our destination special and what What's new? What offers are available for guests? Zermatt Tourism provides information about this. on the Winter Information Day on Thursday, December 10, 2020, as part of an online video conference. The information session will take place twice - once from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and once from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Following general information from Christian Ziörjen, Head of Destination Services at Zermatt Tourism, Markus Hasler, CEO of Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, will present an excursus on artificial snowmaking, slope preparation, and slope opening The event is aimed at all Zermatt - Matterhorn service partners. It should be of particular interest to those who have direct contact with quests, as well as to new employees . The participation link will be available after registering at www.ztnet.ch/infotag .

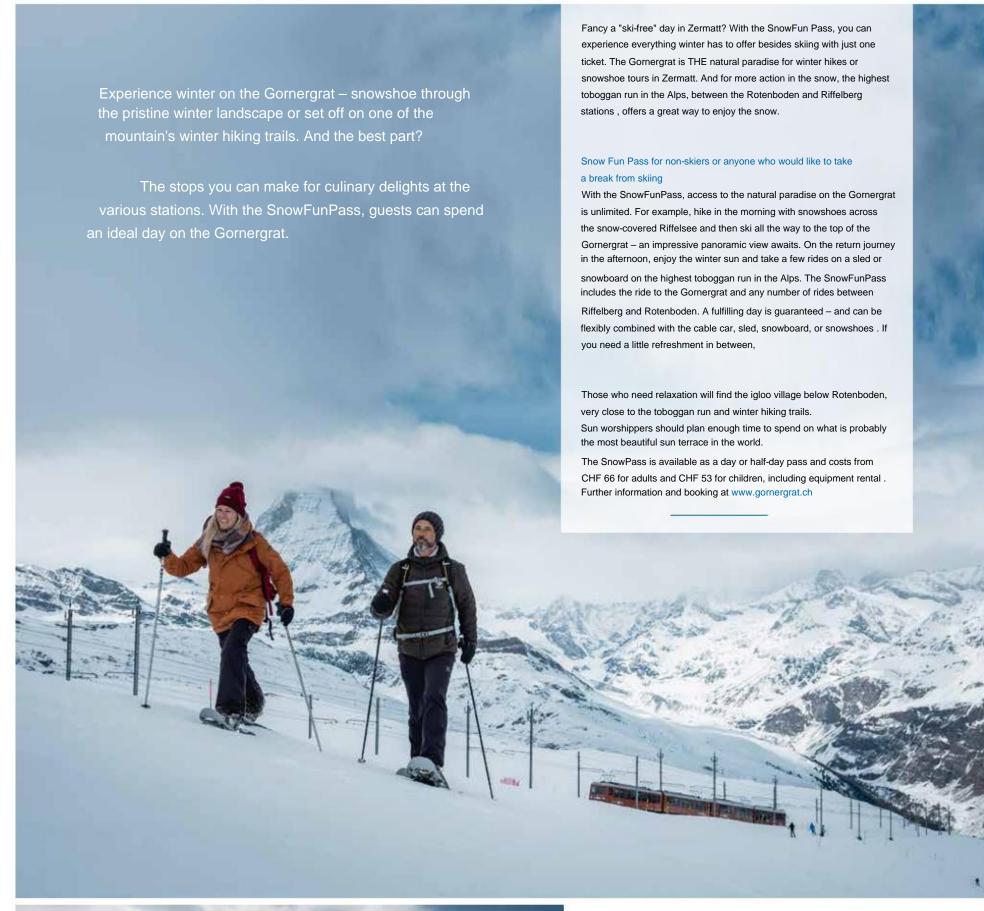






Matterhorn Gotthard Railway / Gornergrat Railway

## Winter on the Gornergrat





## Further offers

The Gourmet Ticket and the Iglu Lunch
Fondue will be offered as in previous years.

The Moonlight Fascination rides are
planned with an adapted program.

Due to the current situation, it is not yet
certain whether the evening cruises with
culinary accompaniment can be carried out.

Dining with the Stars trips unfortunately had to
be cancelled for winter 2020/2021.

Matterhorn Gotthard Railway / Gornergrat Railway

## New uniforms for the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn and the Gornergrat

## Bahn

Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGBahn) and Gornergrat Bahn (GGB) customerfacing employees will receive new uniforms at the beginning of next year.

Despite some delays due to the coronavirus pandemic, the original schedule can largely be adhered to.

In the future, all employees of both railways will wear the same uniforms when in contact with customers. The central distinguishing feature of the new uniform is a subtle pattern on the upper surface, uniting the cantons of Valais, Uri, and Graubünden.

clothing. The Valais Star, the Uri Bull and the representing the regions along the route network.

### View into the workshop

As early as the beginning of 2019, employees from various areas of the railway

The working group "Service Uniforms 2020" met for the first time to discuss the approach and set the timeline . It quickly became apparent that the new service uniforms must meet high and comprehensive requirements. These begin with the functionality of the garments, which must take into account the special climatic conditions in the Alpine region, which vary greatly depending on the season . To ensure this, high-quality, breathable fabrics and multiple layers of clothing are used.

At the same time, the uniform must be comfortable to wear and easy to care for. And, of course, the garments should look modern and unique.

represent the brand values of MGBahn and GGB.

First, the working group, with the support of the design agency Nose Design Experience, set about developing a design concept for the new uniforms.

The biggest challenge: The uniforms for the employees of MGBahn

and GGB should look the same in the future to simplify equipment and use for employees. They should also present a uniform external image .

The company's overall image is represented by the brand's logo. Once the design, including the pattern visually unifying the three cantons, was defined, a tender was issued to find a suitable supplier. Fashion-Promo AG prevailed in the selection process. The company boasts many years of experience in the clothing industry, has already clothed numerous companies, and, with its production partners in Europe and Asia, guarantees the highest sustainable

The next step was to work with the supplier to determine the collection, the cut and the materials to

The first prototypes were commissioned based on this. Selected employees then thoroughly tested their suitability in wear tests .

garments could be further developed and adapted to the needs of the employees. In parallel with the wear tests, an online shop was set up where employees can order their uniforms starting next year . Despite some corona-related delays – some

Thanks to the testers' feedback, the individual

suppliers had to temporarily halt production completely – the schedule was largely met. All employees requiring new clothing have now been measured, and production of the new uniforms has

## Sporty-elegant, functional

At the beginning of next year, the employees of

in a new look. The result is impressive - a

sporty-elegant collection that combines quality and functionality

and reflects a modern alpine mountain landscape At the same time, the new uniforms meet the requirements for sustainable production. The manufacturer is certified according to Fairtrade Cotton, Global Recycled Standards, and Oeko-Tex Standard 100, among others.



### Zermatt cable cars

## Snow sports with respect for flora and fauna

For winter sports enthusiasts, winter means fun, action, and relaxation. For wildlife, however, the snowy landscape is associated with great exertion and food shortages. Forest and wildlife conservation zones have been established to ensure these animals survive the winter unscathed

The food supply for animals shrinks massively in winter, so the animals retreat into the forest and to the edge of the forest, as well as to

They return to snow-free areas where they can find food despite the snow cover. The cold and the scarce food supply force the animals to conserve their energy. Therefore, in addition to food, rest is also essential for wild animals' survival.

When humans enter the animals' habitat, they flee This flight is very draining in winter. Chamois, ibex, roe deer, and stags often escape in deep snow.

only progress with great effort. Repeated disturbances significantly increase the risk of not

surviving the winter. At the same time, reproductive success decreases the following year .

In the eight wildlife sanctuaries around Zermatt, the animals find a quiet and safe haven. These areas were chosen to give the animals the opportunity to find food and peace far away from civilization. The areas are clearly marked and also shown on the panoramic map for

all winter sports enthusiasts are marked.

## Chamois blindness and a

During the summer months, chamois blindness was increasingly observed in the chamois populations

This disease is characterized by

Eye changes due to conjunctivitis or corneal inflammation, which can lead to blindness. These animals can be recognized by cloudy eyes or apathetic behavior. If you are looking for animals,

If you encounter animals that don't flee even at close range or run in circles, it could be an affected animal. It's important to leave these animals alone, as they

At best, they are recovering from a temporary

Since these sick animals are even more endangered. it is even more important to respect the wildlife and forest protection zones and not to enter or ski on the slopes. Anyone who violates this rule will face criminal charges, fines, and the

confiscation of their ski pass.

may fall while attempting to escape.

blindness. Please report any observations to the

The Zermatt Bergbahnen is committed to protecting flora and fauna. Therefore, the decision was made to establish another wildlife sanctuary in the

Unterrothorn area . It was discovered that chamois are increasingly frequenting the sunny slopes, and that freeriders tend to leave the adjacent vellow slope. As a result, these animals were repeatedly disturbed. The project has already been submitted to the canton, and as soon as the decision is made, the chamois will find peace there as well.

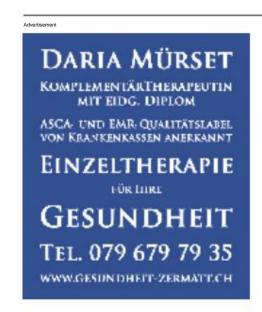


Please help to raise awareness of wildlife and forest protection in your community and report any

«Please help us too,

their environment on the forest and

to raise awareness about wildlife conservation







**Destination Zermatt** 

# The Beresina House – House and farm paid with life

High above the Triftbach stream on the rock opposite the Edelweiss restaurant, on the "Turuwang" "uf dem Fad", a sun-tanned stable has stood for about 200 years, surrounded by a lush meadow.

This stable commemorates the Napoleonic era and the Battle of the Berezina. The Russian campaign, the Battles of Borodino, Smolensk, and the Battle of the Berezina marked the beginning of the decline of Napoleon's rule.

## Extract from the Constitution of

the Republic of Valais of 30 August 1802:

Article 2: The Valais makes a free and

independent from the French, Helvetic and Italian Republics

isolated state, under the protection of these three

Republics that guarantee this.

Article 4: The French Republic

the free and perpetual use a trade and military route across the

Simplon, which is run by the Department of Montblanc up to the territory of the Italian

Republic that cuts through Valais.

### Valais during Napoleon's reign

The Valais, which since the donation by the last Burgundian King Rudolf III in 999 to the Bishop of Sion as a prince-bishopric

The canton, which was ruled by the Romans, gained independence from the bishop in the 16th century. The Republic of the Seven Cends was formed. After the Battle of Pfynwald in 1799, which the Valais troops lost, the French occupied Valais. It received

30 August 1802 the first constitution, but was de facto under French rule.

Napoleon I annexed by decree of 12.

Napoleon I annexed by decree of 12.

In November 1810, the so-called independent
Republic of Valais was founded. It became the
French "Département du Simplon."

## The Beresina House

When Napoleon Bonaparte prepared his Russian campaign, he also recruited soldiers from Switzerland and Valais.

At that time, Switzerland was involved in the mediation period (1803–1813) was effectively a French vassal state. Around 12,000 Swiss and

The Valaisans formed four regiments. Every village in Valais was obligated to provide at least one soldier for Napoleon's Russian campaign. Zermatt, too, was required to send at least one man as a soldier to Napoleon's army. To avoid forcing a citizen into this uncertain allegiance to Napoleon or choosing them by lot , the Zermatters decided to give the village volunteer who would join Napoleon's army a

to build a stable on the "Fad" in the "Turuwang" and to donate the surrounding lush meadow. This volunteer soldier never returned from the Russian campaign. Since it is known that around a thousand Swiss and Valaisans lost their land in the Battle of the Beresina.

This stable high above the Triftbach is still popularly known as

still «Beresina-Hüüs».

The Battle of the Beresina: On June 24

In 1812, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte ordered his "Grande Armée," consisting of around 600,000 men, to attack Russia. He was successful in many battles, allowing him to advance on Moscow. After capturing the city, he had to abandon it due to a lack of food and the Russian winter and the Siberian

Cold, deserted again. He and his army began a retreat westward. On the 24th.

In November 1812 he reached the Beresina, where his soldiers hastily built two bridges

across the river, with the
Pontooners up to their chests in ice-cold water

Beresina. Around 1,300 Swiss , including a number of Valaisans, covered

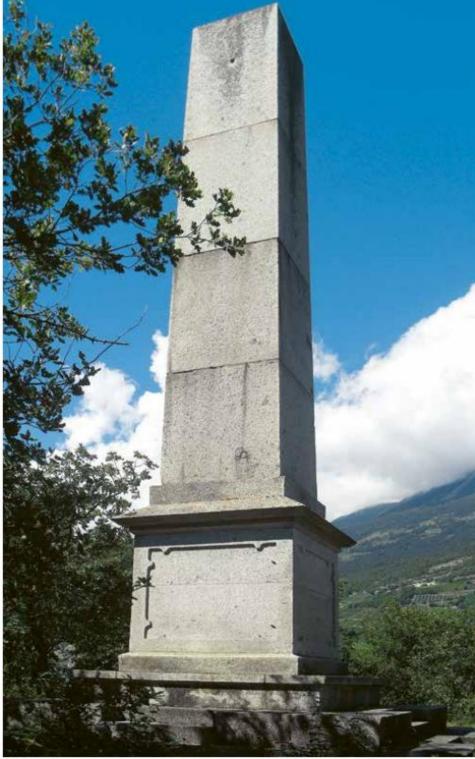
Napoleon's retreat. They secured the bridgeheads throughout the day, fighting against the Russian enemy, sometimes using only bayonets after they ran out of ammunition for their rifles.

This battle on the Beresina survived In total, around 300 Swiss, half of them wounded.

Text and pictures from the book «Focus Matterhorn – Zermatt History and stories», Rotten Verlag







Retreat of the Grande Armée from the Battle of the Beresina in 1812. The Beresina House in Turuwang was

the pay for military service.









24 Zermatt Inside December 2020

Matterhorn Gotthard Railway / Gornergrat Railway

# "Premium Class", "Meet the Sheep" and "Pop-up Bar"

The market always demands new offers and products.

During development, the focus is therefore centrally on the customer.

«Premium Class»

The "Premium Class"

awaits you in an alpine yet chic ambience.

A local guide, regional

delicacies, exclusive views, and much more promise a first-class

The new offer can be booked at GGB.

There are many ideas for new products and experiences, and they come from a wide variety of sources – be it from management, employees, partners, or the customers themselves.

But this still does not answer the question of whether these are actually marketable and meet customer needs. In order to quickly and flexibly evaluate this and to present the ideas to a

In order to be able to quickly develop a positive evaluation into a bookable product, agile and interdisciplinary teams are in operation at the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGBahn) and Gornergrat Bahn (GGB).

### Always in focus: the customer

The development process, from an initial idea to a potential new product, always takes place with and for the customer. From the initial idea through testing and further development to market launch, feedback from the market is constantly being actively sought. At the same time, the MGBahn and GGB teams work intensively on the respective idea at short intervals, putting themselves in the customer's shoes and drawing on insights from market trends.

and incorporate customer feedback. The best example of this is the original idea of a petting zoo, which evolved into "Meet the Sheep" during the ongoing process. At Gornergrat, guests will soon be able to meet the typical Valais Blacknose sheep, learn more about these animals, and take souvenir photos. The whole project is being realized with the passionate Blacknose sheep breeders Paul and Paul-Marc.

### In the «Premium Class» to the Gornergrat

The "Premium Class" at GGB was created in a very similar way.

Customer surveys and internal findings have shown that guests want an exclusive experience with comfortable seats, personalized service, surprising moments, and accompanying culinary delights during their visit to the Gornergrat. The first step was to determine whether the offer would also meet with broader interest among potential guests. This was done via a website that presented a possible offer and asked visitors whether they would consider booking one. Based on the positive feedback, a test under real-life conditions was conducted in late summer. For this purpose, the interior of a GGB carriage was specially designed based on customer feedback, and selected guests were invited for test rides to experience and evaluate the offer. Only after these rides could it be certain that such an offer actually met an existing customer need.

### Ongoing optimization

After each step, an idea is adjusted or even discarded based on the feedback . For example, if it doesn't meet the customer's needs, this applies even if the team is convinced of an idea. Because ultimately, the customer determines the

The name of a product is also reviewed and tested, which is why it's possible, for example, that the final product name might be different from the current working title, "Premium Class." Along with "Meet the Sheep" and "Premium Class," other ideas have already been tested along this path, such as a simple pop-up bar at Rotenboden. The agile approach to working with and for customers has now become an integral part of product development at MGBahn and GGB.







