






ZERMATT INSIDE

February 2025, 23rd Year, No. 1

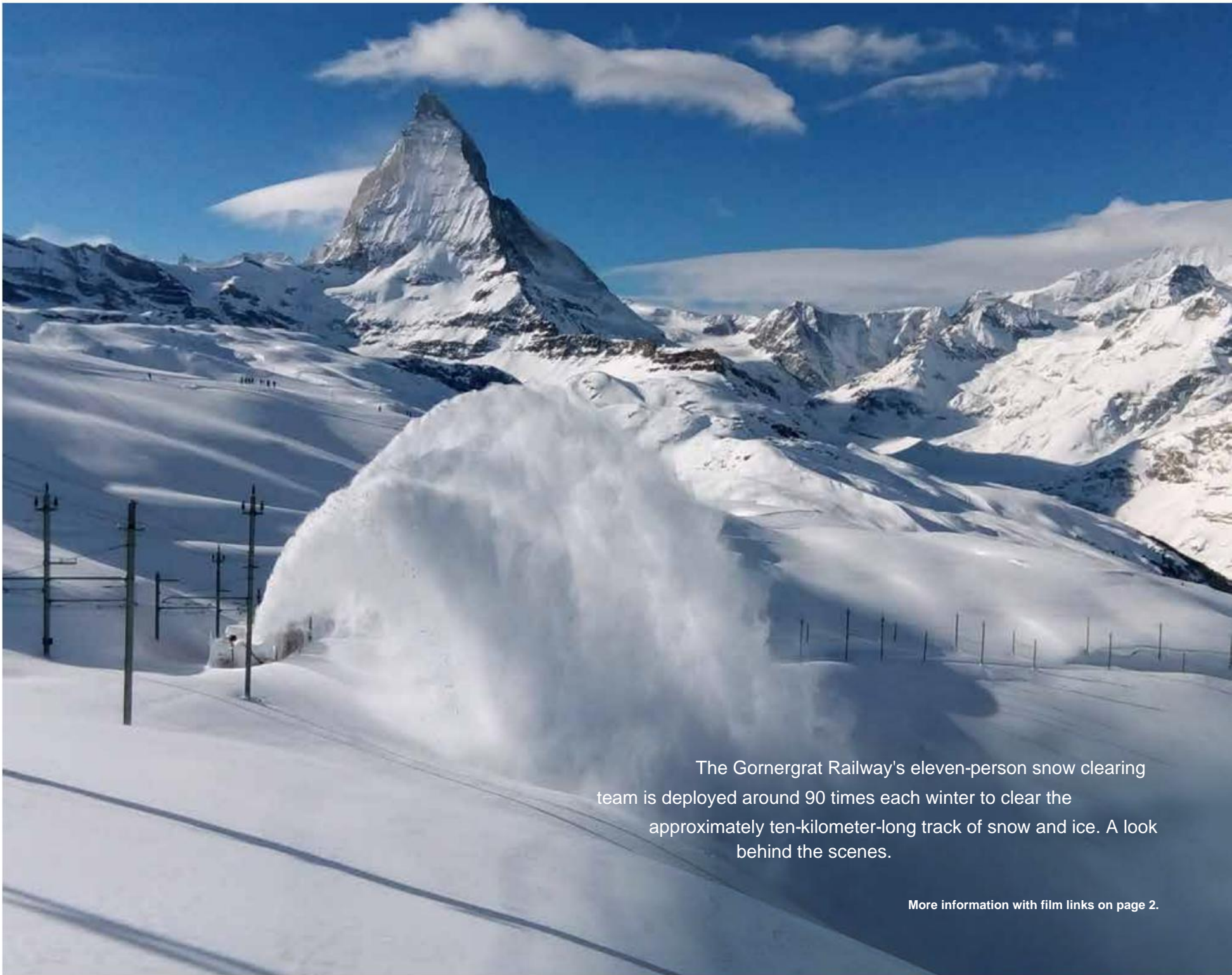


Municipality of Zermatt, Citizens' Community of Zermatt, Zermatt Tourism, Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, Gornergrat Railway/Matterhorn Gotthard Railway

Gornergrat Railway  Snow removal Clear travel thanks to teamwork of man and machine on the highest outdoor cog railway in Europe (3089 m). Page 2	Municipality of Zermatt  Reversion After 80 years, the Water rights of the Findelnbach back to the residents community. Page 3	Zermatt Tourism  Event summer In Zermatt an event will follow in 2025. Highlight to the next, and this requires the support of service partners and the population. Page 17	Zermatt cable cars  New building Gifhittli The Gifhittli chairlift will After 22 years of operation, from April onwards, it will be replaced by a modern eight-Chairlift replaced. Page 22	Zermatt Citizens' Community  Burger President Leo Schuler is the name of the new Burger President. Who is he and what are his expectations and wishes for his term in office? Page 24
---	--	--	--	---

Gornergrat Railway

With 40 tons against the snow masses



The Gornergrat Railway's eleven-person snow clearing team is deployed around 90 times each winter to clear the approximately ten-kilometer-long track of snow and ice. A look behind the scenes.

More information with film links on page 2.

Gornergrat Railway

The Gornergrat Railway, the highest outdoor cog railway in Europe with a length of 9.3 kilometers, has been climbing the 3,089 meter high Gornergrat since 1898.

On average, snow covers the Gornergrat for eight months. The snow clearing crew is called out around 90 times per winter season. In this record-breaking winter,

In 2017/18, a total of 12.9 meters of fresh snow accumulated on the Gornergrat!

Wake-up call at 5:00 a.m.

If it has snowed during the night, work begins at 5:00 a.m. The total distance from

Zermatt to the Gornergrat measures 9,339 meters. The track is double-tracked for almost four kilometers. Under normal conditions, the railway line is cleared to a maximum width of 3.5 meters by 7:00 a.m.

In bad weather, the operation can easily take several hours longer. Once one lane is cleared of snow, the second lane can be tackled.

In heavy snowfall, once clearing is complete, the first lane is often already covered in snow again, and the work begins all over again...

Teamwork is required

The slingshot cannot drive itself and is therefore

Halfway, they are always pushed by a locomotive. Together , the two vehicles weigh a total of 40 tons . Snow clearing is only carried out uphill, as it is impossible to turn around at the top. Once they reach Gornergrat station, the train reverses back down and starts on the next track.

There are eight other workers on board the train, who then work in pairs at the Riffelalp, Riffelberg, Rotenboden and Gornergrat stations, clearing the switches and racks of snow and ice by hand and preparing the platforms.

3000 tons of snow

At the end of 2018, the GGB type snow removal vehicle, designated Xrote 3933, was put into operation. The vehicle is equipped with two ZAUGG snow blowers at the front, each with a hydraulically rotating and tilting discharge chute. The two dual-flap discharge chutes ensure compact and targeted snow discharge up to 30 meters. The snow blower removes approximately 3,000 tons of snow from the track per hour.

Winter operation since 1928/29

In the winter of 1928/29, trains ran to Riffelalp for the first time, and from the winter of 1938/39 onward, they ran to Riffelboden. Thanks to the construction of the 870-meter- long Riffelbord Gallery, year-round travel to Gornergrat Kulm began in 1942.

The trio in the driver's cab (left the locomotive driver, middle the coordinator, right the snow blower operator.



Snow clearing with a plow around 1940.



LINK TO THE FILMS

More background information about the GGB?

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Gornergrat Railway in 2023, a 135-page book was published under the title:

«Gornergrat Railway – Fascination for 125 years / told in 125 stories»

The book can be purchased for CHF 18.98 at The book can be purchased at the kiosk at the GGB valley station, at the Zermatlantis Museum, and at the ZAP* bookstores in Zermatt, Visp, and Brig. It can also be ordered by mail at

www.valmedia.ch/publications



EXCERPT

IDEAL GIFT for yourself, friends, acquaintances and

International media are always interested in the spectacular images of snow clearing on the Gornergrat.



Municipality of Zermatt

The return of the Findelnbach power plant (Wiesti) is being tackled

In 1949, the municipality Zermatt (EWG) the water rights of the Findelnbach to the electrification tätswerk Zermatt AG (EWZ). After the then-established useful life of 80 years, reversion is now due in 2029.



Reversion means that the concession (use of water rights for energy production) expires and reverts to EWG. Aware that reversions are lengthy procedures, EWZ sought early discussions with its shareholders, Grande Dixence SA (GD), and EWG , to regulate the water use of the Findelnbach after 2029.

Both major shareholders quickly agreed that EWZ should continue to operate the plant in the future, with the aim of providing Zermatt with its own electricity supply. After all , the Findelnbach power plant produces around 15% of Zermatt's energy needs.

To clarify the reversion, a working group was formed , consisting of representatives of EWZ as the concession grantor and EWG as the concession holder.

The working group was led by two external experts who conducted a comprehensive assessment of the power plant's facilities in 2024. An inspection conducted in 2020 by the Canton's Joint Expert Commission (PEK) also demonstrated the excellent condition of the power plant facilities and confirmed that the maintenance and repair work carried out complied with legal requirements.

In the summer of 2024, the working group, the EWZ Board of Directors, and the EWG Municipal Council approved the expert report and thus the value of the facility. As stipulated in Article 22, paragraph 2 of the Hydropower Utilization Act (KWRG), the concession municipality decides on the exercise of the right of reversion after prior consultation with the canton.

New concession for EWZ: EWG faces important decision

EWG is preparing to renew its concession for EWZ. After a comprehensive review, the project meets all necessary conditions. The Findelnbach hydropower will continue to be used efficiently, and energy generation at the Wiesti power plant will remain a central component of Zermatt's electricity supply. EWG's needs regarding its own use of the water will also be incorporated into the concession.

The valuation of the facilities and the compensation arrangements in the event of a waiver of reversion were also agreed upon and approved by experts, EWG, and EWZ.



Key financial data and payment terms

The EEC and the EWZ have agreed to a one-off compensation in the Amount of CHF 6.8 million in the event of reversion. 50 % of the compensation will be due at the start of the concession in 2029. The remaining amount will be paid over the following five years .

Despite the increasing demands on water flow in the streambed, the long-term viability of the systems remains assured. This clears the way for a final decision by the EEC.

The path to the new concession

The concession renewal is being conducted with EWZ, in which EWG continues to hold a 55% majority stake. The process involves several steps: First, the preliminary procedure is conducted; after the legally required prior consultation with the canton, a decision is made by the Zermatt assembly. The concession is then approved by the State Council.

The EWG plans to provide comprehensive information to the public and actively involve them in the decision-making process. The upcoming new concession represents a further step toward securing a sustainable energy supply in Zermatt.

Even after 80 years

The EEC holds a

Majority on

Findelnbach power plant.



Municipality of Zermatt

Grand Council and State Council elections from 2 March 2025

The cantonal elections will take place on March 2, 2025.

Voters elect their representatives to the Grand Council and the State Council for a four-year term. What electoral systems are used? How can I vote, and what do I need to consider?

Checklist for a valid vote

- Use only **official election materials**
 - **Sign** your return form
 - submit only **one** ballot paper for each election
- Only candidacies on **pre-printed** ballot papers are valid
- Make changes to the ballot papers **in handwritten** and **legible** form
 - Always **write out** the candidate's number, name and first name
 - list **a maximum** of as many names as there are **seats** available
- Quotation marks „**ditto**“ or similar are not allowed
- Do not write **anything additional** (signature or similar) on the ballot paper
 - the transmission envelope may only contain the voting material **of one person**
 - Do not put your transmission envelope **in the parish mailbox**
 - If you vote by mail, please ensure that you **submit your ballot on time**
 - When sending by post, please ensure that you **have sufficient postage**



Election material

You will receive the ballot papers, one ballot envelope each (labelled with the respective choice), a return form, a transmission envelope and the information ons brochure of the canton.

Proportional electoral system Grand Council and substitutes

The Grand Council has 130 members and the same number of substitutes. These seats will be allocated among the districts in proportion to their Swiss population (as of December 31, 2023).

The election is conducted according to the double proportional system . The canton is thus divided into six constituencies (Brig, Visp, Sierre, Sion, Martigny, Monthey), with each constituency itself subdivided into sub-constituencies (districts and half-districts). In the first allocation, seats are allocated to political parties according to their strength in the constituency. In the second allocation, the seats received by the parties in the constituency are then distributed among the sub-constituencies (districts).

Important innovation

From now on, the election of the Grand Council and its substitutes will take place on a single ballot paper.

Candidate votes:

Votes cast for a candidate.
Each candidate also carries a party vote.

Additional votes:

If the list contains a party name, the party receives one party vote for each empty line.

Empty voices:

If the list is submitted without a party name, the empty lines cannot be assigned anywhere.

Party votes:

Candidate votes + additional votes = party votes

Voting instructions

A **pre-printed** ballot paper can:

- be used **unchanged** , ie the party receives as many votes (party votes) as there are names (candidate votes) and empty lines (additional votes).

- be **changed** by **deleting pre-printed names of candidates**.

As a result, these people receive no candidate votes. The now empty line is counted as an additional vote for the party. Alternatively, you can use **panachage**, meaning you can write candidates from other lists on the ballot. These people then receive one candidate vote each, and their party receives one party vote each.

Majority electoral system State Council

Majority elections are majority elections – this means that a person must achieve an absolute majority in the first round of voting to be elected.

Absolute majority = half of the valid ballot papers + 1

In the second round of voting, the person with the most votes is elected, even if he or she does not receive half of all votes (relative majority).

Voting instructions

A **pre-printed** ballot paper can:

- be used **unchanged**
- be **changed** by crossing out preprinted candidates ' names . Or by **panachage**, i.e., by including candidates from other lists on the ballot paper.

A **blank** official ballot paper can:

- be **supplemented** with official candidates .

Important

- Each ballot paper must contain at least one name of a official candidates.
- There must not be more names on the ballot paper, as seats are to be allocated (**max.** 5).
- Cumulating a candidate (listing an existing **candidate twice**) is **not valid**.
The subsequently added candidate will be deleted.

Information on the second round of voting

If not all candidates to be elected have achieved an absolute majority in the first round of voting, a second round of voting (runoff election) will take place.

If the number of candidates for the run-off election is equal to or lower than the number of seats to be distributed, all candidates are declared elected by the State Council without a ballot = **silent election**.

If there are still mandates to be distributed, the run-off election will be maintained only for these latter and the voting

Citizens can vote for any eligible candidate. The ballot paper may not contain more names than the number of seats available.

Postal voting

For the vote to be valid, the **return form** must be signed!

Delivery by post

Please observe the current postal rates—otherwise, your vote will be invalid. Mail-in ballots must reach the local authority in a timely manner, **no later than the Friday before the election** .

Deposit with the municipality

You can place the transmission envelope in the sealed ballot box provided for this purpose at the municipality during the opening hours of the ballot box from the moment you receive the voting materials **until the Friday before the election** at the latest .

Voting by dropping the ballot into the municipality's mailbox is invalid!

Opening hours

Monday and Wednesday:

8:30 – 11:00 and 14:00 – 16:00

Tuesday and Friday:

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday:

8:30 – 11:00 and 14:00 – 17:30

Voting at the ballot box

Please use the voting materials provided to you.

If you don't have one, you will be provided with voting materials upon presentation of an ID document. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Voting at the ballot box must be done in person!

Any conversation between voters, any consultations other than those held in the office, any distribution of ballot papers, any actions aimed at soliciting votes or obstructing the free exercise of the right to vote are prohibited in the polling station.

Polling station and opening hours

Municipal Hall: Resident Services Office/Chancery

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Election of Grand Council/Substitutes and State

Council Sunday, 23 March 2025, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

possibly 2nd round of voting for State Council

Legal basis

Cantonal Law on Political Rights (KGPR)
160.1

Cantonal Ordinance on Postal Voting (kVbStA) 160.102

- State Council Resolution (StrB) of 18 September 2024, which sets the number of representatives to be elected by each district for the 2025-2029 legislative period
- State Council Resolution of 30 October 2024 concerning the election of the members of the Grand Council for the legislative period 2025 – 2029
- State Council Resolution of 30 October 2024 concerning the election of the State Council for the legislative period 2025 – 2029

Show



Municipality of Zermatt

Gold for Zermatt: Exemplary energy work

The municipality of Zermatt has been granted the title of "Energy City Gold." This award recognizes its outstanding commitment to sustainable energy and climate policy.

The municipality has been involved in the energy sector for many years and is one of the most active Swiss communities. A total of 1,874 municipalities in Europe and Switzerland bear the Energy City label. Of these, 249 have been awarded Gold . Zermatt is currently in the top 30 of 111 Gold Cities in Switzerland. Of the 63 Upper Valais municipalities, four are "Energy

gy City of Gold». These include Naters, Brig-Glis, Saas-Fee, and now Zermatt. The Aner- The recognition of previous achievements in the Gold Label is an incentive to continue the energy and climate policy for the next legislative period .

Strengths and potential for action analyzed

To renew its Energy City label, Zermatt has undergone a comprehensive evaluation for the third time after four years . It's important to note that the label is far more than just energy and also encompasses measures in the areas of spatial planning, waste, water and wastewater, and mobility. The spider diagram (see right-hand side) shows what percentage (in %) of its energy policy potential the municipality of Zermatt has achieved in the various areas.

exhausts.

Measurable added value

The label brings continuity to energy policy action and serves as a long-term planning instrument, as it is a management tool for municipalities. Through the targeted use of resources, energy costs are reduced in the medium and long term.

Important measures implemented in the last four years

Area 1

With the municipal energy spatial planning, the municipality has developed an important planning basis for the future renewable and efficient energy supply in the municipality . The current and future energy demand of the municipality as well as the potential of the

locally available renewable energies. This enabled recommendations for action to be developed for the municipality and private property owners. An important step was the reorientation of waste disposal ("the right bin"), accompanied by optimized communication in "Zermatt Inside" to proactively involve the population. In addition, PET collection points are now available at all public collection points.

Recycling containers and waste glass are upcycled into foam glass gravel.

Area 2

The focus is on the municipality's own buildings and facilities . Energy consumption is analyzed annually, and measures such as renovations and operational optimization are implemented. The Minergie-P "Niww Walka" school building and the moonwood sports pavilion set new standards for sustainable construction. By 2023, around 60% of the street lights, as well as the lighting for the soccer field and sports arena, had been converted to LED technology. The oil heating system in the Terminal building was also converted to a pellet heating system.

Area 4

The number of bicycle parking spaces has been expanded, and coexistence between pedestrians and cyclists remains an important goal. The design of a meeting zone is being pursued and is planned for implementation . Discussions are currently underway regarding the expansion of the parking infrastructure in the village.

Area 5

The Energy Commission meets regularly to identify and implement measures. Municipal employees

were raised through an energy and climate week with exciting challenges. Financial resources are available for energy and climate policy.

Area 6

The municipality actively provides information on energy topics, particularly in "Zermatt Inside" and on its website. Information events are held annually, for example, on building envelope renovations and heating replacement. In the 2022/23 school year, kindergarten through 9th grade, as well as primary and secondary schools, received the Energy School label to raise awareness of energy issues among the youngest children. The "Smart Shower" campaign allowed citizens and businesses to purchase energy-saving shower heads at low prices to save hot water and energy .

What does the future hold?

As part of the recertification process, a comprehensive program of measures was developed for the next four years. The Energy Commission meets four times a year to discuss, plan, and advance the implementation of new measures . This not only actively shapes energy and climate policy at the local level, but also consistently implements the objectives of the Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 and the cantonal energy strategy.

The new sports pavilion made of moon wood

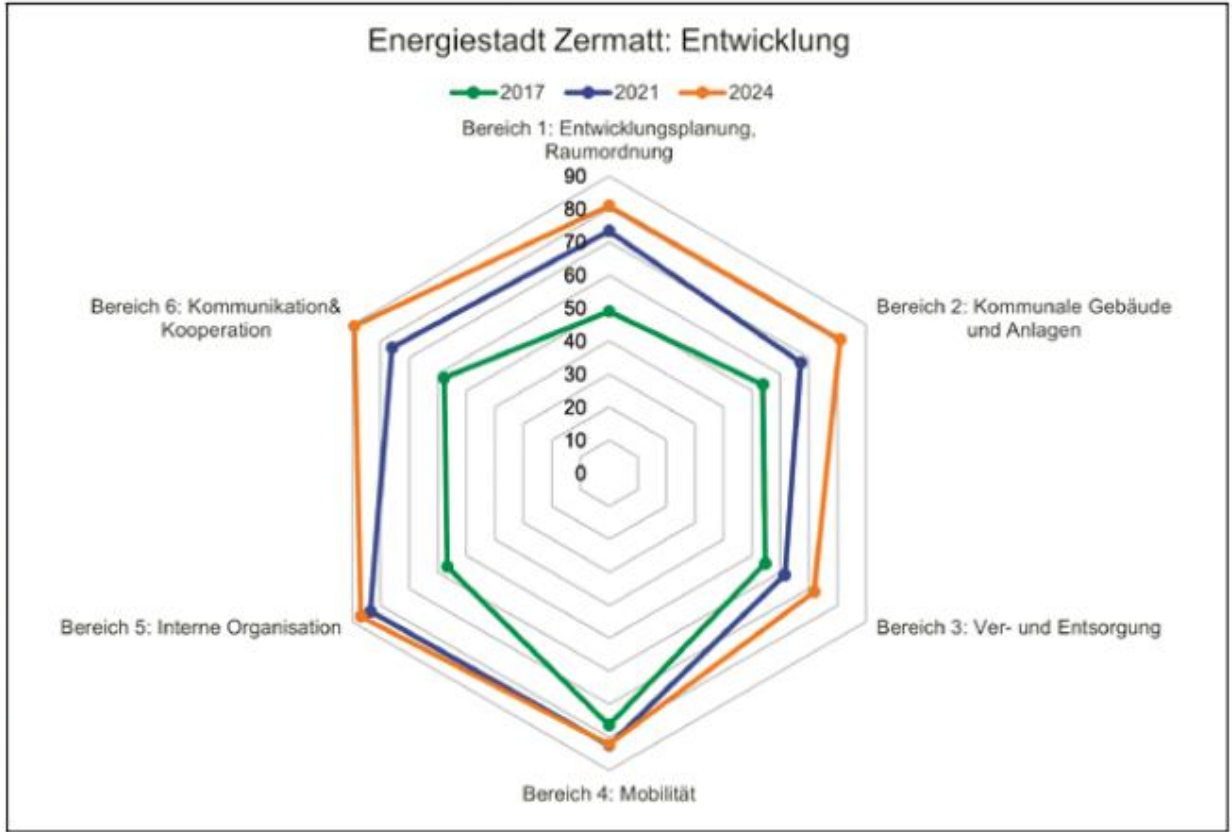


Implementation of the Energy and Climate Week

Info

An energy city is a municipality or city that continuously strives for efficient use of energy, climate protection and renewable energies as well as environmentally friendly mobility. For this, it receives the label from the Energy City association every four years. tion offers a comprehensive management tool for communities.

Energy consulting for private individuals and companies
Zermatt is a member of the Upper Valais Energy Advisory Service. This advisory center supports private individuals, businesses, and the municipality in planning and implementing measures to increase energy efficiency and utilize renewable energies. Questions regarding building renovation, heating replacement, solar energy, subsidies, etc. can be discussed with a specialist by phone, email, or in person.



from left: Mark Aufdenblatten, René Frauchiger, Stefanie Lauber, Patrizia Imhof, Anton Lauber and Gudrun Heute-Bluhm



Zermatt
european energy award

Members of the Energy Commission

- Stefan Aufdenblatten, Zermatt Power Station
- René Frauchiger, Municipal Properties
- Stefanie Lauber, Project Manager, Head of Construction
- Raphael Imboden, External/Stimbo
- Emanuel Julien, municipal councillor

«My predecessor Toni Lauber started with the Energy City label. We are proud that we have continued our work and achieved the Gold label in a relatively short time. The Energy City Gold label demonstrates the municipality's strong commitment and serves as a role model to the outside world. A sustainable future inspires us to continue the work.»

Emanuel Julien, Municipal Council Energy Commission

Municipality of Zermatt

Article series «Natural events»: avalanches

Natural events occurring around the world show us how important it is to prepare for them.

In the event of an incident, the responsible authorities do everything in their power to minimize the impact on human life and property . The correct behavior of the population in the face of the natural event and its effects plays a crucial role in this. In natural hazard events, as in other disasters and emergencies, the ability of each and every individual to provide self-help and spontaneous assistance is of paramount importance.

Instructions for the population

The municipal management team has compiled a series of articles to prepare the population for natural disasters. This first article presents the guidelines on avalanches. These guidelines are issued by the Cantonal Office for Civil Security and Military.

and can be found at www.vs.ch/de/web/sscm/documentation can be downloaded.

Avalanches: a constant companion in Zermatt

The danger of avalanches is a constant companion during snowfall and warming temperatures, especially on the approach to Zermatt and in some areas. The responsible authorities are taking measures to protect people and animals in such a situation. These measures include:

- Closures of paths, roads and train connections
- Home stay
- Evacuation

The municipal management team orders the appropriate measures for an incident based on the relevant legal provisions . It is important that the population complies with these measures.

Recommendations for behavior in case of avalanche danger

Through targeted preparation, you can be prepared for situations with increased avalanche danger. This can reduce the risk of harm to people or animals. It is important that you rely on and follow the instructions and recommendations of the responsible authorities.

Wise advice: emergency supplies

An emergency supply can help you face a difficult situation more calmly and avoid becoming nervous or even panicking . It is therefore in everyone's best interest to be able to bridge a personal, short-term emergency and maintain a certain degree of independence for a few days. Having a personal supply at home is not only helpful in uncomfortable situations, but also practical in everyday life.

The emergency luggage

Even if there's enough time to pack a few things in case of an evacuation, for example, it's difficult to think of everything in a stressful situation. It's better to plan ahead. Also consider the possibility that it might take some time before you're allowed to enter your home again. You may have to stay in an emergency shelter or with friends first. This emergency kit is designed to help you get through the first few days away from home. The most important rule: Don't take more than a backpack can fit for each family member.

Construction and excavation times – spring and autumn 2025

In the December 2024 issue of "Zermatt Inside," we pointed out that details of the excavation times would be published in the February 2025 issue .

We will provide detailed information on this at the end of February 2025 directly on our website (www.gemeinde.zermatt.ch/bauabteilung/bauausfuehrung) publish .

Thank you for your attention.

Municipality of Zermatt Invitation to the ordinary Primary Assembly



Date: February 11, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Canteen school building Niww Walka

Agenda items

The following matters are to be submitted to the sovereign at the ordinary general meeting :

1. Greetings and formalities
2. Minutes of the general meeting of 4 June 2024
3. Budget 2025 – Explanations and global approval
4. Financial plan 2026–2029 – Acknowledgement
5. Gornerli Project – Information
6. Miscellaneous

The documents for agenda items 2, 3, and 4 are available online at <https://gemeinde.zermatt.ch/urversammlung> and are available at the municipal administration, Finance Department, 1st floor, during opening hours, where they can also be obtained.

Agenda item for the Gornerli project – information

The Gornerli multi-purpose storage project is not only a central contribution to the country's energy supply, but also plays a crucial role in flood protection in Zermatt and the

Mattertal. The last issue of "Zermatt Inside" in December 2024 already reported on this in detail. Now we would like to

Give you the opportunity to find out directly and first-hand about the current status of the project.

Beat Imboden, Director of the Grande Dixence, will be on site and provide exciting insights into the ongoing and upcoming work . Take this opportunity to get a concrete picture of this pioneering project, which is paving the way for sustainable energy and flood protection.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to your participation in this important event.

AVALANCHES

To do

- Find out whether your place of residence is in a danger zone • Listen to the radio and follow the instructions of the authorities
- If possible, turn off electricity and gas and turn off the water
- Close doors, windows and shutters
- Leave the house only in case of evacuation
- Protect vulnerable people
- Inform the neighborhood

If an evacuation is ordered

- Bring personal material
- (Illustration: Material in case of evacuation)
- Do not return home without permission
- Do not reconnect the electricity, gas and water without permission

Obtain information

- Swiss portal for natural hazards www.catastrophes.ch

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Make sure you have enough supplies to last a few days without outside help.

Drinks

- 8 liters of water per person • UHT milk or other drinks

Groceries

- Rice, noodles
- Oil or other fats
- Canned vegetables or fruits
- Flour and dry yeast

- Salt, sugar, coffee, tea
- Biscuits, chocolate
- Baby food • Pet food

hygiene

- Soap • Toilet paper • Disinfectant

Emergency pharmacy

- Disinfectant
- Anti-dermat and painkillers
- Thermometer and personal medication
- Bandages, bandages, ointments

Miscellaneous

- Candles with lighter or matches
- Glove (gas, petrol or safety paste) with sufficient fuel
- Portable radio and flashlight with sufficient Replacement batteries
- Cables in small coils

EMERGENCY LUGGAGE

Identification documents

Medicines and First aid supplies

Hygiene products: soap, underwear, toothbrush...

Portable radio

Phone charger

Toys for children

cash

Board for 1 day, Water, food

Spare clothing

flashlight

Backpack

hiking boots

Advertisement

Regionaler geht nicht!
Dein Oberwalliser Partner für Telekommunikation.

valaiscom

Hüener güet!

Municipality of Zermatt

«Upper Mats»: Design together – develop sustainably



The analysis has shown that action
there is a need for infrastructure.



The municipality of Zermatt (EWG) has reached an important milestone: the results of the comprehensive needs analysis for the "Oberen Matten" are available.

The needs of the population, schools, clubs and tourism were recorded through online surveys, workshops and expert interviews.

The analysis shows that the "Oberen Matten" is a central location for our community. It does not serve not only as a recreational space for the local population, but also plays an important role for tourism. However, it is clear that the existing infrastructure urgently needs to be renewed.

Fields of action

Based on these findings, seven key areas of action were defined:

Free space for Zermatt:

The "Oberen Matten" are an essential open space for Zermatt.

Infrastructure in need of renovation :

The infrastructure is in need of renovation.

Complete renovation:

A comprehensive renovation is necessary.

Multifunctional use: The use

should be designed to be multifunctional.

Sustainability :

Sustainability is a central goal of the new infrastructure.

Community development :

The "Oberen Matten" are intended to make an important contribution to community development.

Cooperation:

Close cooperation between all actors is essential.

Vision of the future:

redesigning "Obere Matten"

The next step is the planning and implementation of the renovation. The goal: to create an attractive, sustainable, and multifunctional open space that offers added value to all generations, clubs, and guests.

Thanks and outlook

The EWG officials would like to sincerely thank all citizens who participated in the analysis and look forward to your support in its implementation. We are excited about the future of the "Obere Matten" and look forward to creating an attractive and sustainable open space together.

Municipality of Zermatt

School social work: an important Contact point for students



School social work is an important contact point for students, parents and teachers.

It offers a listening ear for concerns, conflicts, and challenges that affect life at school or in the home environment. School social work always serves the well-being of children and young people.



Melanie Zurschmitt and Jasmin Perren

Various tasks of school social work

· **Counseling:** School social work offers counseling for individuals or groups. Whether conflicts with friends , insecurities in dealing with others , conflicts within the class, or personal problems – school social work takes the time

for individual concerns and helps to find solutions.

· **Support for parents and teachers:** School social work also supports parents and teachers when it comes to overcoming difficult situations or finding suitable support services.

· **Prevention:** School social work is committed to preventive measures by addressing important topics such as bullying, social skills, and the use of digital media . The goal is to strengthen cooperation, increase students' self-confidence, and

and give them the tools they need for positive coexistence.

School social work as a

reliable companion

School social work is not only a consultant and

Not only a mediator, but also a reliable companion. They create a space where children and young people feel accepted – regardless of what they are currently dealing with. School social work makes everyday school life a little easier and less stressful.

A new face in school social work

The school social work Inneres Mattertal starts the new Year with personnel changes. After many years in school social work, Nina In-Albon has

Mattertal decided to take on new challenges at other schools. Fortunately, they receive it from the Oberwallis school social work team and simply change the school location.

Melanie Zurschmitt: the new school social worker

Melanie Zurschmitt takes over the school locations

Randa and Täsch. The qualified social worker lives in Brig with her husband and young son. With over 20 years of professional experience in child and youth work, she is a competent contact for children, young people, and parents. Her work is characterized by a life-world-oriented pedagogy in which the well-being of the children is always the focus.

The school social work team

Together with Jasmin Perren, Melanie Zurschmitt

We will be shaping school social work in the Inner Mattertal Valley, supporting children and young people as well as their parents, and supporting teachers in their daily school life. We look forward to the coming period and all the new encounters, discussions, projects, and themed events.

Always in the service of

Welfare of children and

of young people

IMPRINT

editor
Municipality of Zermatt (EWG), Citizens' Community of Zermatt (BG), Zermatt Tourism (ZT), Zermatt Bergbahnen AG (ZBAG), Gornergrat Railway / Matterhorn Gotthard Railway (GGB/MGB)

Editorial Committee
Oliver Summermatter (EWG, coordinator), Claudia Beaufort (BG), David Taugwalder (ZT), Jenny Imboden (ZBAG), Christoph Anderegg (GGB/MGB)

Editorial editing rottenedition gmbh

Advertisements and subscriptions
rottenedition gmbh, Rico Erpen
info@rottenedition.ch, +41 79 344 16 44

layout
Attitude AG | Visp + Sierre / rottenedition.ch

Pressure
Valmedia, Visp / on 100% recycled paper

Edition
4,700 copies, published 6 times a year

distribution
free of charge to all households in Randa, Täsch and Zermatt

Your opinion is important to us
inside@zermatt.ch / inside.zermatt.ch

Advertisement

SIMPLON PRINTING AG
Design | Advertising | Media

www.rp.boden.ch

Your flooring specialist in Visp

a down-to-earth thing

Show

Nicola Erpen

Matterstrasse 49
3920 Zermatt

079 - 704 87 86
rpiboden@bluewin.ch

Your flooring specialist in Visp

a down-to-earth thing

Erholsamer Schlaf beginnt mit Sauberkeit

SLEEP Clean
PROFESSIONELLE MATRATZENREINIGUNG

+41 79 611 17 47 | info@sleepclean.ch | www.sleepclean.ch

Municipality of Zermatt

Tax information

Adjustments for the 2024 tax period / Installment plan

Tax collection 2025 / Outlook for the 2025 tax period

The 2024 tax period brings several changes compared to the previous year. Various deductions have been increased.

The most important adjustments at a glance:

- Health insurance premium deduction
- Child deduction
- Childcare costs and self-care costs
- Costs for boarding school or host family and deduction for tertiary level
- Second earner deduction and spouse discount
- Voluntary care of elderly people
- Training costs
- Apprentice deduction
- Donate
- Deduction for modest income
- Deduction for other supported persons

In addition, the federal government will make an adjustment to the tax-free allowance for firefighters' salaries for this tax period .

Details and all adjustments can be found in the guidelines on the Cantonal Tax Administration's website: www.vs.ch/de/web/scc/formulare-2024

Changes to communities of heirs

Starting with the 2024 tax period, the estate administrator will complete an inheritance tax return for all undistributed inheritances. This can only be submitted electronically (e.g., using the VSTax software) . The estate administrator will forward page 3 of the newly completed inheritance tax return to each heir. The heir will declare their share of the community's income and assets in their own tax return (Article 7 of the Tax Act).

The application for reimbursement of the withholding tax deducted from the gross income of the movable assets of the undistributed estate must therefore be submitted by each heir accordingly.

his share using his personal securities list. Taxation of the community of heirs as a taxable entity will no longer be possible in the future.

Income from the rental of holiday apartments and from permanent tenants

Rental and lease income also includes income from the rental of ancillary rooms, garages, etc. Declare the gross income. Gross income is the total rental income. Additional costs billed to the tenant or lessee are not included in the gross income.

Records of income and expenditure must be attached to the tax return and declared under heading 1110, even if the tenant is a permanent tenant.

Income from secondary employment

Income from self-employment and employment (cash and in-kind compensation) must be declared in the tax return.

The amount of the secondary income is irrelevant. Undeclared secondary income constitutes tax evasion and can be punished with a fine.

Expenses can generally be deducted without special proof up to 20% of net income, with a minimum of CHF 800 and a maximum of CHF 2,400 per year. Higher deductions must be justified and documented. If gross income is less than CHF 800 per year, only the lower amount can be deducted.

VSTax 2024

We recommend that everyone use the free VSTax 2024 software at www.vs.ch/vstax to complete their 2024 tax return . This software has been adapted and improved for the 2024 tax period. It will be available for download from the beginning of February. 2025. If you have any questions about the application of the program, please contact us at www.vs.ch/vstax-kontakte .



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

The website www.vs.ch/steuern contains the "Online Assessment Guide" with all instructions and information on assessment practices, the tax calculator for calculating all types of taxes, and much other information on taxation.

The Cantonal Tax Administration will begin sending the 2024 tax returns at the beginning of February 2025.

The deadline for filing the 2024 tax return is March 31, 2025.

The "Application for Subsequent Regular Assessment" (NOV) form for Permis B must also be submitted by March 31, 2025! It is important to note that individuals with Permis B must subsequently file a tax return every year . Once an NOV application has been submitted, it cannot be withdrawn.

Tax payment in installments 2025

The 2025 installment payments will be sent at the beginning of February 2025 and serve as advance tax payments. The advance payments must be made within 30 days of the due dates:

- 1st installment: February 10, 2025
- 2nd installment: April 10, 2025
- 3rd installment: June 10, 2025
- 4th installment: August 10, 2025
- 5th installment: October 10, 2025

In the final tax settlement for 2025, the amounts paid will be credited to the corresponding tax year. At its meeting on August 21, 2024, the State Council set new interest rates for 2025. Interest will be calculated as follows:



Any amounts overcharged and paid will be subject to interest at a rate of 3.75% on the final invoice. · The default interest for unpaid or late payments is also 3.75%.

· For advance payments of tax deductions, the municipality of Zermatt will grant an interest credit of 0.25% in 2025.

· The negative compensatory interest for outstanding amounts will be demanded in accordance with Article 164 paragraph a of the Tax Act with the final settlement from the general due date of taxes, 31 March 2026, and charged at 3.75% if the interest amount exceeds CHF 500.

Taxpayers who have made insufficient advance payments are advised to make a supplementary payment in order to avoid the compensatory interest.

Taxpayers who have not received any advance payment invoices for 2025 but have an annual income of more than CHF 35,000 are requested to contact the EWG Tax Office.

Filing tax return 2024

We now thank you very much for submitting around 80% of tax returns online. Tax returns for residents and second home owners that are not submitted electronically must be sent to the following address:

**Cantonal Tax Administration
Scanning center
Bahnhofstrasse 35
1951 Sion**

The municipality of Zermatt **is no longer accepting tax returns!**

*If you have any questions, please contact the tax department of the municipality of Zermatt.
Mail: steuern@zermatt.ch or Phone: 027 966 22 40*

Outlook for the 2025 tax period

At its meeting on 16 January 2025, the Municipal Council decided to reduce the coefficient from 1.1 to 1.0. This results in a tax relief for individuals of approximately 9%. This results in a reduction in revenue of approximately CHF 2 million.

As part of the tax law revision of September 12 , 2024, it was decided to increase the indexation of cantonal taxes from 167% to 170%, plus the 3% inflation adjustment. This means a revenue shortfall of approximately CHF 2 million for the EWG. The municipality of Zermatt is also indexing municipal taxes from 173% to 176%.

The special deduction for assets will be increased. Single individuals without children will now be able to claim a deduction of CHF 45,000, and all others a deduction of CHF 90,000.

· Taxes will no longer be levied on inheritance shares whose net amounts do not exceed CHF 20,000 and on gifts whose total annual value does not exceed CHF 10,000.

Show

PERREN

HAUSTECHNIK AG

Phone: 027 967 20 24

We guarantee cozy warmth
at the ZERMATT UNPLUGGED Festival

For over 90 years your partner in Zermatt for
Heating, plumbing & combustion technology

Perren Haustechnik AG | Sunneggastrasse 5 | 3920 Zermatt | www.perren-haustechnik.ch

Profitieren Sie von unserem Netzwerk
und unserer Erfahrung für den Verkauf
Ihrer Immobilie in Zermatt.

Individuelle Kundenbetreuung und langjährige
Erfahrung im regionalen Immobilienmarkt
garantieren einen reibungslosen Ablauf.

Rufen Sie mich an!

Mario Fuchs | +41 79 336 94 79 | mario.fuchs@remax.ch

Immobilienangebote unter:
www.remax.ch/zermatt

Show

CHARLY SHOP

HOTEL AND GASTRONOMY SUPPLIES

Spisstrasse 23
3920 Zermatt
Phone: 027 967 52 00
info@charly-shop.ch
www.charly-shop.ch

Everything for the bathroom
terry cloth
Bathrobes
and much more -
come by

Summermatter Renato

Painter/Plasterer AG

3928 Randa/Zermatt

+41 27 967 56 73
+41 27 967 24 33
+41 79 221 10 71
renato.summERMATTER@gmail.com

Painting & plastering | Drywall construction | External thermal insulation
Wallpapers & Wall Coverings | Decorative Wall Designs
Seamless wall coatings for wet rooms

Municipality of Zermatt

“Working where others go on holiday” Teachers wanted!

The teacher shortage is currently a concern for many school principals, yet the 2025/2026 school year must still be organized. Across Switzerland, qualified teachers are being sought for primary and secondary schools so that every class can be taught by a qualified teacher in August.

The shortage of skilled workers affects Upper and Lower Valais, the individual school regions, and the municipalities in the inner Matter Valley. The school management team of the Zermatt, Täsch, and Randa school regions makes significant efforts every year from January to August to fill all positions.

A recurring phenomenon
In 1982, there was a "teacher surplus." The teachers trained at the teacher training colleges in Sion and Brig could hardly find jobs. The profession was in high demand. Demographic trends in the following years meant that more classes were opened and more skilled workers were needed.

During the 2003 school year, the school authorities were desperately searching for teachers (see the August 2003 issue of "Zermatt Inside"). In fact, all full-time positions were filled that fall with ten new teachers.

As a result, the shortage eased somewhat, and since 2018, the job postings have received a total of one to two applications, especially since, for example, in 2014, more than 10 people responded to an advertised kindergarten position . Time has passed!

What is the school management team doing?
The school administration is active at several levels. On the one hand, the Professional Association of Upper Valais School Directors (OSD) is working together with the Department of Education to improve the framework conditions for teachers.



Proposals regarding wage issues, employment conditions , cantonal differences, new forms of training, the use of retired teachers or students in training at the Valais University of Teacher Education, as well as the use and support of people without a diploma will be discussed and concrete measures will be implemented.

The regular presence of Zermatt schools in the Media, on the website, word-of-mouth advertising , the offer of internships for students of the PH Valais and the personal recruitment of students

Students requires a lot of effort.
In addition, the required positions are advertised and advertised in newspapers, on the website www.schulregionzermatt.ch, on various national education platforms, and at teacher training colleges in Switzerland, Germany , Austria, and Luxembourg .

Work – where others go on holiday!
The schools in the municipalities of Zermatt, Täsch, and Randa are very well-developed and feature modern infrastructure. In the individual schools



A valuable team spirit and a supportive attitude prevail. Due to the region's tourism background, the student population is multicultural, with 23 nationalities and 16 different languages represented . This phenomenon is not new, and the region's well-trained teachers have strong tools for differentiation – diversity is the norm in the region.

The new teachers will find modern pedagogical and organizational support from the school administration and attractive working conditions in the municipalities of Zermatt, Täsch, and Randa. A dedicated and dynamic team of teachers looks forward to welcoming new colleagues .

information
For additional information
The school management is happy to help:

[Zermatt Primary School](#)
Pino Mazzone, Tel. 027 966 46 29, pino.mazzone@edu.vs.ch

[Täsch/Randa Primary School and Orientation School](#)
Alexandra Henzen, Tel. 027 966 46 27, alexandra.henzen@edu.vs.ch

Nevertheless, circumstances have changed in the last five years: The relatively high
High living costs and the lack of housing are one thing. This can be solved with a lot of creativity activity. On the other hand, mobility does not play a role in the school administrations'

Hands. The newly qualified teachers are authorized to teach throughout Switzerland with their diplomas.

The young people of Zermatt are no longer as tied to a particular place as they once were. On the other hand,

the schools of the region with teachers from German-speaking Switzerland or in neighboring countries who love the mountains, skiing, biking, sports in general and the vibrant life in a tourist destination – working where others go on holiday!

Teachers wanted!
The school administration is looking for enthusiastic, independent, flexible and team-oriented teachers for the 2025/2026 school year :

Zermatt Primary School
· Teachers for classes 1H/2H and 7H (full-time)
· Teachers of technical and/or textile design
· Teachers for various Part-time positions (3H – 8H)

Täsch and Randa primary schools
· Teachers for classes 3H and 7H (full-time)

· Teachers of technical and/or textile design
· Teachers for various Part-time positions (3H – 8H)

Zermatt Orientation School
Teachers for all subjects (full-time and part-time positions)
· Special education teacher (PS and OS regional)

Wanted:
enthusiastic, independent
dige, flexible and team-
capable teachers

Show

Wermi fer d'Chelti

Your heating oil supplier in Zermatt and the surrounding hamlets supplies you with eco-fuel of the highest quality

JULEN HEATING OIL | ZERMATT | 027 967 47 47

Car rental from CHF 59.-

www.zubi-rent.ch 027 967 10 37

Show

Erfolgreicher Start ins Berufsleben.

Deine Ausbildung bei Lauber IWISA.

Jetzt bewerben
lauber-iwisa.ch/next

Damit Sie nicht verrückt spielen.

Das perfekte Raumklima mit Gattlen!

Ewald Gattlen AG
Wehreyer 45, 3930 Visp, 027 946 41 00, info@gattlen.ch, www.gattlen.ch

Municipality of Zermatt

Club aperitif – A platform for Clubs and organizing committees

Clubs and organizing committees play an important role in our society, especially in the Matter Valley. They offer a variety of activities and services that enrich life in our region.

Meaning and purpose

The Mattertal Youth Office's goal for the second club aperitif is to facilitate the work of the board or organizing committee, connect the clubs, and utilize shared resources. We want to create a platform where the boards and organizing committees can exchange ideas and network to facilitate their work and achieve their goals.

The club aperitif

The club aperitif takes place annually and offers club boards and organizing committees of various events in the region a platform to gather information and exchange ideas. We offer a variety of topics that concern most club boards and organizing committees, such as club work, event permits, finances, and sponsorship.



program

Our program for the club aperitif on February 28, 2025 includes:

- 6.30 pm Doors open
- 7:00 PM Welcome and start
- 7.10 pm Information about the homepage www.friizit-mattertal.ch, event permits and room reservations
- 7.40 pm Table Mass on various topics such as
 - Club work
 - Speed dating of the clubs
 - Wanted (we are looking for – I am offering)
 - Event permits
 - Finance & Sponsorship
- 8.20 pm Short summary of the workshops by the table moderator
- 8.30 pm Time for aperitif and exchange
- 10:00 PM The last ones go home



SCAN ME



Table fair

At the table fair, various topics will be discussed that were frequently requested at last year's event. We will answer questions and offer opportunities for discussion on club work, event permits, finances, and sponsorship. The "Speed Dating for Clubs" table is designed to give individual clubs the opportunity to introduce themselves to one another, similar to a speed dating event, and thus connect with one another.

Registration

Please register or cancel your registration and your club board or organizing committee by Friday, February 14, 2025, using the following link or via QR code. www.jastow.ch/vereins-aper0

Contact and questions

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact us at:

Phone: 079 303 45 04
Email: mattertal@jastow.ch
Website: www.jastow.ch/vereins-aper0
Website: www.friizit-mattertal.ch

Zermatt Tourism

Zermatt is preparing for an intensive event year in 2025

In 2025, Zermatt will be home to one event highlight after another: In addition to Zermatt Unplugged and Europe's highest open-air theater, the destination will also host the Mountain Bike World Championships for the first time. Zermatt will also once again host Switzerland's most important incoming trade fair, the Switzerland Travel Mart (STM). The smooth running of these and many other events in Zermatt's diverse event calendar requires the support of its partners and the local community.

Events enrich Zermatt's tourist offer, enliven certain seasons and have a high communicative Zermatt strives to offer a diverse mix of events, including culture, sports, folklore, and culinary delights. The goal is to be broadly positioned in event planning and not limited to one area. This way, different segments and guest groups can be captivated.

In addition to the regular summer events such as the Gornergrat Zermatt Marathon, the Folklore Festival, the Chasing Cancellara, the Matterhorn Ultraks, and the Swiss National Day, Zermatt will host the top events described above, for which Zermatt Tourism would like to raise awareness at this time.

At the same time, Zermatt Tourism calls for active participation and support .

For all events to run smoothly, it is crucial that service partners cooperate and provide hotel rooms at fair rates. Furthermore, Zermatt Tourism would like to appeal to you to support the diverse events and recommend them to guests through various channels.

Volunteers are also an essential part of the various events . Experience shows that lasting experiences and friendships are formed during these events . Especially at larger events, participants can also receive exciting and interesting volunteer packages in return. Contact information for interested parties is listed at the end of this article.

It should also be noted that some events may occasionally result in construction noise and emissions. These occasional and unpleasant incidents require understanding and patience from the public and must be considered in relation to the benefits of the individual events for the destination .

Three events will be held in addition to the regular events in the calendar year 2025. The key details of these events are briefly outlined below.

On behalf of all partners and event organizers, Zermatt Tourism would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and flexibility. Together, we will ignite the 2025 event fire in Zermatt!

Contacts Accommodation

Zermatt Open Air Theater: hanny.gerber@zermatt.swiss
Switzerland Travel Mart: stm@zermatt.swiss
All other events: event@zermatt.swiss

Contacts volunteers
Zermatt Open-Air Theatre: peter.kaufmann@freilichtspiele.ch
All other events: event@zermatt.swiss

If you are interested in volunteering, please provide your first name, last name, email address, and cell phone number. The relevant staff will then contact you. Thank you for your commitment.



(c) Hannes Zaugg-Graf

Zermatt Open-Air Theater

June 27 – August 23, 2025

Exactly ten years after the huge success of "THE MATTERHORN STORY," the Zermatt Open-Air Theater will celebrate a comeback of this true work, written especially for Zermatt, in the summer of 2025. «THE MATTERHORN STORY» tells the important story of the first rise of the Matterhorn on one of the

The new production of "The Matterhorn Story" will be presented in such a soulful way that it truly immerses the audience in the material. It will be presented at the time-honored and unique Riffelberg venue . Performances will be held Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

September 8-9, 2025

UCI Mountain Bike World Championships



(c) Maxime Schmid

The first combined mountain bike world The championships will take place from August 30 to September 14, 2025, and will span the entire canton of Valais. Zermatt will be one of the six Australian

The event will be held on September 9th and will provide the stage for the Cross-Country Short Track discipline. Training and any qualifying will take place the day before, September 8th. In addition to the professional, so -called elite categories, there will also be competitions for men and women at the U23 level . The circuit in Zermatt will be located within walking distance of the village in the "Zen Stecken" area and will largely run on existing trails.



(c) Zermatt Tourism

Switzerland Travel Mart

September 21–25, 2025

The Switzerland Travel Mart (STM) is Switzerland's most important incoming trade fair and will take place in Zermatt from September 21 to 25, 2025. The STM brings together around 400 international travel buyers and 350 Swiss suppliers. This event offers hotels and other service partners a unique opportunity to showcase their

To present offers and establish new business relationships. Zermatt Tourism, in cooperation with its service partners, strives to build on the tremendous success of 2015. A key factor in this result is the support of the hotels, which make an important contribution by providing room quotas .

Zermatt Tourism

«Zermatt Tourism meets»: The exclusive view that certain something, the decisive difference

Zermatt Tourism is currently launching "Zermatt Tourism Meets," a new narrative format that highlights its service partners, their offerings, stories, and people. What it's all about.

Zermatt Tourism will now regularly publish reports in text, image, and film formats, providing a glimpse behind the scenes and into the inner workings of hotels, restaurants, railway companies, events, and other tourism providers. The content will appear on www.zermatt.swiss, all social media channels , and in various Zermatt Tourism newsletters. Service partners thus benefit generously from Zermatt Tourism's reach and contacts.

At the same time, the service partners visited can integrate the developed content and stories into their own communication measures . The reports are written and produced by Zermatt Tourism's PR/Communications and Social Media teams.

"Zermatt Tourism meets" offers guests an in-depth look into the cosmos and magic of Zermatt. Anyone who regularly consumes "Zermatt Tourism meets" can confidently call themselves a "Zermatt insider."



can impress those around him with his knowledge of Zermatt, knows better how Zermatt, with all its exciting facets, develops into a coherent overall package every day, and experiences the DNA of Zermatt.

"Zermatt Tourism Meets" demonstrates how the various components of our destination intertwine and presents service partners who contribute to the fascination of Zermatt with their heart and soul, their passion, and their hospitality. From insights into the cuisine and explanations of the spa concept to architectural ideas and the background of event processes, everything is included.

David Taugwalder, Head of PR/Communications at Zermatt Tourism, says: "Zermatt Tourism meets" is intended to strengthen the bond between Zermatt Tourism and the individual service partners in the destination and provide guests with a well-founded, exciting insight into the inner workings of the destination's tourism industry."

Specifically, the visits to the individual service partners will result in a reportage text, a rich selection of images, a film in landscape format, and a reel for the social media platform Instagram.

Would you also like to be part of "Zermatt Tourism meets"? Then contact us at media@zermatt.swiss. We will contact you, discuss the next steps, and tell the story of your business, your offering, or your event.

The claim to completeness is difficult to fulfill with such a format. A total of 15 to 20 articles are published per calendar year, with Zermatt Tourism striving to cover the destination in as diverse and balanced a manner as possible.

Here's to an exciting, shared chapter of Zermatt storytelling!

Show

Discover the **TEMPUR®** range

Now available from us:

CHARLY SHOP

Spissstrasse 23
CH-960 Zermatt
Phone: 027 967 52 00
info@charly-shop-ch
www.charly-shop.ch

wir bauen - wir renovieren - wir planen

Zermatt

Reinhold Imboden 18
39100 Zermatt
027 966 56 56

Täsch

Reinhold Imboden 130
39100 Täsch
027 966 56 56

Visp

Reinhold Imboden 36
39100 Visp
027 966 56 56

Unser Trumpf? Kompetenz vor Ort!

Mehr Infos finden Sie auf unserer Webseite:
www.imboden-elektro.ch

Zermatt Tourism - Column

Dear Swiss guests, welcome!



Dear insiders

At the recent Zermatt Tourism General Meeting, we were able to look back on another successful business year – despite a wave of negative external events and corresponding headlines. Despite the cancellation of the World Cup races, the discussions surrounding the entrance fee, and the effects of severe weather, the fascination for our destination remains undiminished. Guests from all over the world are enthusiastic about our tourism offerings.

It is particularly pleasing that many domestic visitors have also found their way to Zermatt. With 275,000 arrivals, the Swiss represent by far the largest group of overnight guests – a clear indication

This is proof of the attractiveness of our offering. But a closer look at the figures shows that the number of overnight stays by guests from our own country is declining compared to previous years . Reason enough for a closer look.

First, there is the enormous increase triggered by the pandemic: Due to a lack of alternatives, Swiss people have stayed in their own country. This effect has somewhat diminished in recent years. Thanks to the strong franc, travel abroad is currently very attractive. Nevertheless, there are more Swiss guests in Zermatt today than before the

Pandemic, which is certainly also due to the charm offensive with the host videos, the "Hope" or "10% more Matterhorn" campaign during and after the pandemic.

On the other hand, global developments also play a role: Asia and the USA are booming economically, while Europe has fallen behind. It is no coincidence that the highest growth rates are coming from these economically and politically successful regions. With their higher purchasing power, guests from these countries are displacing their traditional home markets.

Zermatt – Matterhorn has strategically embraced "Premium" : premium offerings, premium prices. Accordingly, the offering has evolved in this direction in recent years.

More offerings for a wealthy clientele were created, and communication was adapted accordingly. This strategy is working: Zermatt's appeal remains unbroken, and value creation throughout the entire destination is increasing.

However, the price-sensitive clientele is falling by the wayside and is being replaced by affluent guests from near and far. This is sometimes a painful process, as these often include long-term regulars and second-home guests.

We love our Swiss guests, as they are closest to us culturally and linguistically. Zermatt Tourism will continue to do everything in its power to ensure that they remain our most important guest – a large portion of our marketing budget is invested in Switzerland . True to the motto: Do one thing, don't neglect the other. We must admit that without our foreign guests, we would not be able to enjoy this standard of living (e.g., tax reductions) and this success.

Sincerely,
Yours, Daniel Luggen, Spa Director

advertorial

Business handover of HolzProfi carpentry

After more than 20 years of successful business, a new chapter began for the HolzProfi joinery. Effective January 1, 2025, Christian and Susanne Imboden handed over the business to Tobias Lochmatter, who will continue to run the company with dedication and fresh ideas.



Founded in 2003, the company has developed over two decades. Today, the team consists of around ten employees, and over the years, six apprentices have been successfully trained . Building a loyal customer base

and a strong network laid the foundation for the long-term development and sustainable success of the carpentry shop.

Tobias Lochmatter, a specialist with close ties to the company, has now taken over the business.

In 2013, he began as an apprentice in the carpentry shop and, after successfully completing his training, completed various further training courses. With his in-depth specialist knowledge, several years of professional experience, and his knowledge of internal processes, he is ideally suited to lead the company forward. In a supporting role,

Christian Imboden will continue to support the company with his experience and expertise.

We look back on the past financial years with great gratitude. Special thanks go to all employees who contributed to the success of the joinery with their dedication and long-standing loyalty. Thanks are also extended to all customers and partners for the

trust and reliable cooperation .

The HolzProfi joinery now looks to the future with great joy and motivation. The commitment to craftsmanship excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction remains our top priority. With a strong tradition and a motivated team, individual

Projects will continue to be implemented with passion and precision .



Zermatt Tourism

A little Zermatt magic in the Swiss parlors

From December 2 to 22, 2024, the TV spot "Ski Destination Zermatt – Matterhorn" ran on SRF 1 and SRF 2. The second wave began on January 11 and will run until February 10, 2025.

To kick off the winter season, there was a special campaign in the Zermatt – Matterhorn destination area : From 2 to 22 December, an exclusive TV

A TV spot about the ski destination aired. The TV spot impressively showcases the breathtaking Alpine scenery, the incomparable slopes, and the unique skiing experience in Zermatt.

The goal is to bring the wonderful magic and unforgettable experiences of the Zermatt ski area to the lowlands and inspire potential guests for a winter holiday . With this spot, Zermatt Tourism aims to bring the fascination and magic of the destination into the living room.

bring many ski enthusiasts.

The broadcast will be broadcast on SRF 1 and SRF 2 at prime time, reaching a broad target audience who may still be looking for the perfect destination for their winter holidays.



TV SPOT



advertorial

Sustainable mobility in Täsch Hypercharger and modern car wash for the region

Attention electric car drivers and environmentally conscious vehicle owners: Täsch now offers a fast and cost-effective charging solution as well as a modern car wash. BS Energy AG is setting new standards for mobility and sustainability in the region.

Electric vehicle sales are declining. One reason for this is the lack of charging options. Especially in the municipalities of Zermatt, Täsch, and Randa, customers have to travel long distances to refuel their electric vehicles in a timely manner.

This is now over.

BS Energy AG has set up a hypercharger in Täsch . Here, you can charge your vehicle quickly, efficiently, and affordably, 24/7. Two charging points and three parking spaces are available. We even offer charging for electric trucks. The station is located at the Porta Cervino Hotel in Täsch.

In addition, you can now clean your vehicle in Täsch in the modern car wash provided by BS Energy AG (self-service or fully automatic cleaning).

With these investments, BS Energy AG, a company of the Schaller Group, is consistently pursuing a path of sustainability, thereby not only strengthening electric mobility in the region but also contributing to reducing CO₂ emissions. The motto **"together we shape our future"** underscores the joint approach to shaping the future sustainably.

If you are traveling in the region, you should definitely stop in Täsch and try out the new offerings .



Zermatt Tourism

Musical pre-Easter week with Zermatt Unplugged 2025

The 16th Zermatt Unplugged will take place from April 8 to 12, 2025. Over 30,000 guests from all over the world will enjoy the delights of Zermatt and the musical diversity of this unique spring festival over five days.



Of course, the Unplugged event should also be a positive experience for the people of Zermatt. The team is doing everything possible to keep unavoidable restrictions and emissions to a minimum and to adapt the processes from year to year. to further optimize.

Taste Village and Foyer Tent: free entry for locals

The Taste Village and the foyer tent, with its various concerts and culinary offerings, are freely accessible to locals throughout the five festival days. Upon presentation of the Blue Card (Zermatt, Täsch, Randa) on-site, an access wristband will be issued.

Discounted Unplugged Pass: For the numerous Discovery concerts on all other Unplugged Pass stages (Alex, Blue Lounge, Cervo, Blues Club, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, Pink, Beausite, Riffelberg) and the after-parties (Vernissage, Manud, Pink, Cervo), the Unplugged Pass is required. At Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, a seat reservation is offered in addition to the Unplugged Pass .

The Unplugged Pass is available to locals at the festival upon presentation of the Blue Card (Zermatt, Täsch, Randa) or the Staff Card at a special price of CHF 50 instead of CHF 85.

2025 Program: From Stephan Eicher to UB40 During the five festival days, over 120 concerts and parties will take place on 17 stages on the mountain and in the village.

National and international artists such as Stephan Eicher (including a full orchestra), UB40, Amy Macdonald, MIKA, and Clueso will perform on the tent stage in Zermatt. The opening event will feature Matt Berninger (frontman of The National), Samy Deluxe with a chamber music ensemble, as well as Jalen Ngonda, Amistat, and Paris Paloma. Get up close and personal with the artists at the Sunnegga Sessions (Calexico, Jade Bird, and Fink), at "At Home With..." in the Heinz Julen Loft (James Vincent McMorrow, Fil Bo Riva, and Gigi Perez), and at the Winkelmatten Chapel with Scottish singer-songwriter Cara Rose.

NEW: Sunday concerts at Beausite and Cervo. For those who want to end the festival in a relaxed atmosphere on Sunday, the sun terraces of Beausite and Cervo are ideal. Midday and early afternoon there will once again be dedicated to acoustic music on April 13th.

Assembly, Dismantling, and Transportation:

Assembly, dismantling, and transportation will take place from March 17th to the end of April. The artificial ice rink will remain open until the end of the sports holidays on March 9th – temperature permitting. In consultation with the authorities, fixed times for transportation and construction work have been defined for assembly and dismantling, including the Easter weekend, to ensure quiet hours are observed, prevent children from being on their way to school, and minimize disruption to businesses. The local community and Zermatt Unplugged will provide information about the exact schedule via newsletter.

Information and tickets: www.zermatt-unplugged.ch

Show



IMBODEN ROLAND AG

Plumbing & Heating

Spissstrasse 1 - 3920 Zermatt – roland.siam@bluewin.ch





Iseli + Albrecht AG

Neue Filiale neben der Lonza Arena



Ihr Spezialist für Haushaltgeräte.

Beratung. Montage. Service.



«Poison Hit»

At the end of the 19th century, increasingly wealthy Britons were either or transported to the Gornergrat by chairlift carriers . However, paying for this service occasionally caused resentment among guests. To defuse the situation, visitors were given a small gift as compensation – such as a dried edelweiss. The British guests then called the building the payment point.

affectionately called "Gifthouse," which translates into German as "gift house." This term was eventually modified by the Zermatt locals into their dialect , "Gifhittli." Although the original building later disappeared, the term has persisted to this day and has been applied to the ski lift.



After 22 years of operation, the historically significant Riffelberg–Gifhittli chairlift will be replaced by a modern eight-seater chairlift from Leitner.

Construction of the new and comfortable chairlift is scheduled to begin immediately after Easter, on April 21, 2025, and will be finalized by the start of the 2025/26 winter season.

Since its opening, the cable car has been a significant addition to the Matterhorn Ski Paradise. As a central connection between the Sunnegga-Rothorn and Gornergrat areas, guests are offered a variety of slopes as well as high Flexibility between ski areas was offered. The chairlift enjoyed great popularity from the start of operations. This is also reflected in the average frequency of approximately 1.2 million users per winter season. Due to the high frequency of use due to the high transport capacity, the resulting high capacity utilization, and the short stops for the heavy chairlifts, the operating and maintenance costs became increasingly greater. The resulting signs of wear and tear on the 22-year-old facility make it necessary to replace the chairlift in spring 2025.

New eight-seater chairlift Gifhittli

With the new Gifhittli chairlift, Zermatt Bergbahnen is opting for a modern eight-seater chairlift with weather protection hoods, manufactured by Leitner . As one of the first eight-seater chairlifts in Switzerland, it sets new standards in terms of com-

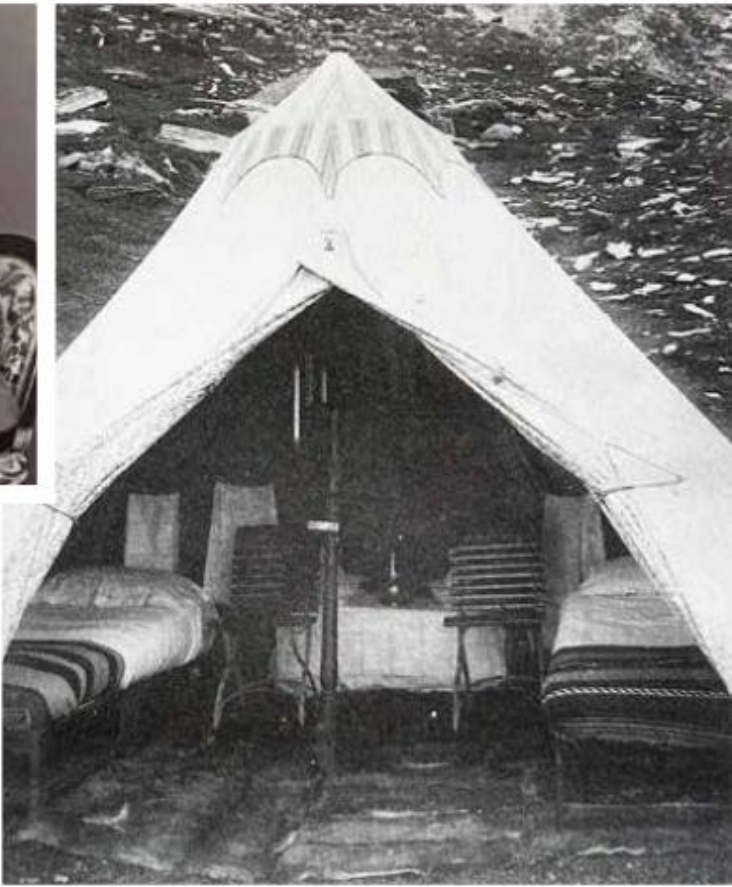
and technology. Access to the train is optimized by a straight entrance in the direction of travel, which improves the flow of passengers and makes boarding much more comfortable for them. For maximum comfort on the route, the new EVO premium chair is used. With the DIRECTDRIVE drive and LEITCONTROL control system, the system is equipped with the latest Leitner technologies . The system is also being prepared for future unmanned operation.

The dismantling of the current facility and the construction work will begin immediately after the end of the winter season on April 21, 2025. The existing facility will be professionally dismantled and rebuilt by a third-party company in another European ski area . The entire construction project will be carried out under ecological construction supervision. Due to the existing length profile and the static conditions , over half of the support foundations of the

The existing facility will be reused for the new chairlift. This will minimize the impact on the environment and allow Zermatt Bergbahnen to set an example in terms of sustainability. activity strategy.

History of Zermatt

Majesty in Zermatt – Queen Margherita climbed the Breithorn



Queen Margherita of Italy was magically drawn to the high mountains. The enthusiastic mountaineer spent a week in Zermatt in August 1889.

For four days, the monarch spent time on mountain tours. She reached Riffelalp on foot and on horseback and climbed through the Gorner Gorge. But Her Majesty wanted to go even higher. She had set her mind on climbing the Breithorn. The weather took a turn for the worse. She was n't exactly happy about the weather-related extension of her stay at the Hotel Mont Cervin. When the weather improved, the resolute aristocrat seized the opportunity.

On the way back to Italy, the delegation spent the night in the simple Theodul Hut on August 25th and climbed the Breithorn, located at 4,166 m above sea level, the following day—"in excellent health" and in a respectable time. They returned to the hut for the evening and slept there. On August 27th, they and their entourage left the pass toward Gressoney.

Patroness of the Capanna Margherita. Following Queen Margherita's visit in 1889, the delegate assembly of the Italian Alpine Club decided to build mountaineering accommodation and research station on the Signalkuppe (4,554 m above sea level), a peak in the Monte Rosa massif. In 1891, the 35-square-meter building made of pitch pine was provisionally assembled in Gressoney so that Queen Margherita—the hut's donor—could perform the naming ceremony . On August 18, 1893, she climbed to the summit of the Signalkuppe and spent the night in "her" hut. In 1980, the Italian Alpine Club built the current hut.

Like its predecessor, the double-walled wooden structure was covered with a copper jacket to shield the hut against electrical fields, such as those generated by lightning strikes. Today, the mountain hut still houses scientific facilities for high-altitude medical experiments.

Mussolini supported

Margarethe was nationalistic, conservative, and anti-parliamentary , as well as deeply religious. She supported the rise of the future Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. She opposed Italy's entry into the war on the Allied side in 1915, probably because her mother was a German princess. Margarethe showed great interest in aviation. In 1908 , she traveled to France to watch the first flight demonstrations in Europe at Le Mans, given by Wilbur Wright, who was a guest there.

In 1893, Queen Margherita baptized the hut in her name

A notice:

Text and images are from the Book «Crossing Borders – Zermatt/Cervinia through the ages», 2024, rottenedition gmbh

Show

ENGEL&VÖLKERS

Snow-covered Peaks, brilliant deals. Sell now!

ZERM AT T

T +41 (0)27 966 06 76
engelvoelkers.com/zermatt

Refrigeration and air conditioning technology, heat pumps
Renewable energy and building energy technology, floor pumps

Kälterling K

Kälte-Siem AG, Kaplesstrasse 75c, 3900 Visp
Kälte-Siem AG, Kaplesstrasse 75c, 3900 Visp
Telephone 027 640 40 40, www.kalte-siem.ch
Telefon 027 640 40 40, www.kalte-siem.ch



«I want the burger
community the diverse
Concerns and wishes
our citizens
does justice.»

Zermatt Citizens' Community

Leo Schuler: The new Burger President of Zermatt introduces itself

Leo Schuler took office as President of the City Council on January 1, 2025. Who is the new President of the City Council, and what are his expectations and wishes for his term in office?

TO PERSON

Mr. Schuler, who is the new Burger President?
My name is Leo Schuler, I am 66 years old and was born and raised in Zermatt.

What can you tell us about your professional and personal background?
After primary school in Zermatt, I completed my Matura (high school diploma) at the Brig College. I then trained as a secondary school teacher in Freiburg, specializing in mathematics and science. From 1982 onward, I worked at the Zermatt high school, where I primarily taught mathematics.

I was a school principal for the last twelve years before my retirement in 2023. Personally, I am married, have three children, and am the proud grandfather of six grandchildren.

How would you describe your relationship with Zermatt and the local community?
As a citizen of Zermatt, I have deep roots here and, with the exception of my time as a student, have always lived here. I am grateful to be able to live here and appreciate the work of the Zermatt community, which I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the past eight years on the Zermatt Council.

Vision and goals

What are your priorities for your term as Burger President set?
My goal is for the Burger Council to feel the pulse of the citizens and to manage our assets responsibly.

I am pleased to be able to count on the support of the Burger Council, the Burger Clerk, and the Secretariat.
I am also very grateful for the advice of my predecessor, Andreas Biner.

Are there any special projects that are close to your heart?
The cheese dairy/cheese storage project is particularly important to me, as it represents a major step forward for agriculture. At the same time, there are many other important projects we would like to tackle.

How do you plan to reconcile tradition and modernity?
Traditions are the foundation upon which Zermatt was built. Without them, Zermatt would not be what it is today.
At the same time, we must be open to modern developments in order to preserve the village character and remain sustainable.

Challenges and opportunities

What do you see as the biggest challenges for the community?
It will be a challenge to meet the diverse concerns and wishes of our citizens .

What opportunities do you see for the further development of Zermatt?
Zermatt has shown that success comes from developing and implementing visions together. If we work together and treat our nature and people with respect, we can achieve a great deal.

How would you like to encourage young people to get involved in the civic community?
By participating in the Citizens' Assembly, young citizens can actively participate in shaping the future . It is in their hands to preserve traditions while simultaneously forging new paths.

Personal insights

What do you like to do in your free time?
I'm passionate about curling and spending a lot of time outdoors. The hamlet of Zum See is particularly dear to my heart. In spring and summer, I enjoy relaxing at a campsite on Lake Murten.

Do you have a personal motto that guides you in your office?
Participation, appreciation and delegation are the pillars of my leadership style.

What does home mean to you, and how does this concept influence your actions?
Home is where my roots are. For me, Zermatt is a place that is a vacation destination for many, but for me, my home. This gratitude shapes my actions.

Mr. Schuler, thank you for the interview and we wish you a successful term in office.