

ZERMATT



Zermatt lies at the foot of the Matterhorn. The town's touristic development is closely linked to what is most probably the world's most famous mountain. The vacation destination is a car-free zone, has preserved its original character and offers nearly unlimited possibilities as far as excursions are concerned.

The ski region encompasses 54 mountain railways and lifts as well as 360 kilometers of pistes. The region called "Matterhorn glacier paradise" is Europe's largest and highest lying summer skiing region. Numerous national ski teams train here in the summer. The region is legendary amongst mountaineers: the Haute Route, a challenging international route that takes several days to complete, leads from Mont Blanc to Zermatt. Over 400 kilometers of hiking trails lead through and out of the Matter Valley, including the mule traders' trails, which date back to the 13th century (a part of these paths is paved).

GENERAL INFO:

Population: 5,775 inhabitants

Language spoken: German

HOW TO GET THERE:

- Geneva Airport - Trains depart every half an hour, transfer time is around four hours, www.gva.ch
- Zurich Airport - Trains depart almost every half an hour, transfer time is around three hours and 30 minutes, www.flughafen-zuerich.ch
- EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Freiburg - Trains depart almost every half an hour, transfer time about three hours and 45 minutes, www.euroairport.com
- Zermatt Tourism, Bahnhofplatz 5, Postfach 247, 3920 Zermatt, T. +41 (0)27 966 81 00, info@zermatt.ch, www.zermatt.ch
- Zermatt on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVhX3pR4YIA>





HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gornergrat** – a cog railway wends its way up the mountain to an altitude of 3089 metres; a magnificent panorama.
- **Matterhorn Museum** – houses the items of equipment used during the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865 which ended tragically.
- **Matterhorn glacier paradise** – the highest place in Europe (3883 m) able to be reached by a cableway, with a viewing platform and the highest glacier palace in the world.
- **Gorner gorge** – a footpath across narrow bridges and steps as well as a fixed rope route guide visitors through the deeply scarped gorge.
- **Village of Findeln** – original Valais settlement with a small chapel; it has Switzerland's highest rye crop fields at an altitude of 2100 metres.

RESTAURANTS

ON THE MOUNTAIN:

- **Vis-a-Vis**

Part of the imposing mountaintop Gornergrat hotel (3,089m), Vis-a-Vis is underrated and rarely too busy. Its traditional dishes are beautifully done and presented: options include garlic soup served in a "bread bowl", or rösti with veal sausage. Service is speedy and there's a vast terrace with the best views of the Monte Rosa massif. You can often see ibex, too, yards from the terrace. The self service place in the next-door room is adequate.

3100 Kulmhotel Gornergrat, T. +41 (27) 966 64 00, gornergrat.kulm@zermatt.ch

- **Fluhalp**

Within this handsome old mountain hut is a warren of cosy little wood-panelled rooms. Soups, pastas and salads – including a great tagliatelle – come in satisfying portions at reasonable prices. There's live music in February and March on the large terrace, which has a view of the most perfect aspect of the Matterhorn.

T +41 (27) 9672597, pollux.zermatt@reconline.ch, fluhalp-zermatt.ch, +41 (27) 9672597

IN TOWN:

- **Restaurant du Pont**

An unpretentious, family friendly place, offering great value rösti, viande sechee and fondue, quick service and a cosy, convivial atmosphere. There's a similar place right next door.

Oberdorfstrasse 7, 3920 Zermatt, T. +41 (27) 967 43 43, www.dupont-zermatt.com

- **Heimberg**

This acclaimed culinary temple at the top of the main street has a Michelin star and an imaginative approach, offering "surprise Alpine dining", such as a sliver of fish served on a piece of scree, a starter of trout with goat's cheese, a main course of pike perch with spiced wine and a dessert of hazelnut, apple and beetroot.

Bahnhofstrasse 84, 3920 Zermatt, T. +41 (27) 967 84 84, www.heimberg-zermatt.ch

SHOPPING

Bahnhofstrasse, contains branches of stores you might have expected only in much larger cities, with an emphasis on luxury goods, alpine souvenirs, and sporting goods. Ski and mountaineering equipment here tends to be state of the art.