

ZERMATT SUMMER NEWS 2018.

NEWS FROM THE REGION AROUND THE MATTERHORN

The Zermatt – Matterhorn destination continues to invest in the future.



Zermatt – Matterhorn, these are the [summer events](#) on the highest mountains in Europe. A Zermatt summer offers 400 km of hiking trails, over 100 km of mountain bike trails, and 21 km of pistes for skiing on the glacier. Furthermore, there is superior gastronomy and many events to round off any programme. And so that the destination continues to progressively develop, Zermatt is investing in the future. The following pages are a summary of all of the improvements for the current season.

Further information, facts and figures, contacts, photographs, video database, and much more for journalists and tour operators, please visit:

<http://www.zermatt.ch/en/Media-corner> | www.zermatt.ch/en/Tour-operators

NEWS - ACTIVITIES.

RIDE ON MOUNTAINCARTS

Three-wheeled go-karts take you over the new 1.6-kilometre mountain bike trail from the Blauherd (2,571 m) to Sunnegga (2,288 m). Thanks to a comfortable seat, high-quality aluminium construction, wide tires and good brakes, there is nothing standing in the way of comfortable and safe driving pleasure. The carts' low centre of gravity ensures great stability. This opportunity is valid from 30 June to 30 September 2018 and is suitable for children from 9 years old and 135 cm tall. When driving down the hill over hill and dale, 283 meters of altitude are overcome - something for the adventurous.

[Mountain carts](#)



HELIBIKING NOW OFFERED

Air Zermatt now offers Helibiking. From the Air Zermatt base station, a helicopter takes you to one of three mountain landing sites, Äschihorn, Alphubeljoch or Unterrothorn, which have been approved by the Swiss federal government. The latter can be reached without a mountain guide for biking. However, the descents from the other two mountain landing sites lead over glaciers, which means that these Helibiking tours are only possible together with a mountain guide. This event is aimed at people with very good biking skills and is available from CHF 80.00 per adult. Depending on the weather, Helibiking takes place from May to November.

[Helibiking in Zermatt](#)



BIKING IN THE MORNING SUN

There is a new package including a bike mountain ticket and breakfast buffet in the Sunnegga restaurant. With the mountain bike you take the early morning ride on the mountain railway to Sunnegga. During the trip, the sun rises behind the peaks. Once at the top, guests can enjoy a hearty breakfast before enjoying the bike trails in the Sunnegga area under the morning sunshine. The package is bookable from July to the end of August and includes a single trip up the Sunnegga and the breakfast.

[Sunnegga Sunrise](#)



MOUNTAIN BIKE: NEW SUNNEGGA TRAIL

The new Flow Trail from Sunnegga to Zermatt is not only popular among the experts. The Mountain Bike Trail is 1.5 m wide and thus offers plenty of safety. The underground funicular railway goes from Zermatt to Sunnegga. From there you can bike down to the village. Distance: 6 km, altitude difference: 500 m, average gradient: 8 per cent. Opening is planned for the summer of 2018.

[Mountain biking in Zermatt](#)



WOLLI CARD FOR CHILDREN

In autumn 2017, the Zermatt - Matterhorn destination introduced the Wolli Card. With it, children up to the age of nine can also benefit from numerous advantages during the summer: They travel for free with all mountain railways, stay for free in many hotels and holiday apartments, get special offers in restaurants and receive further free offers. The only requirement for purchasing a Wolli Card is that the accompanying adult buys a multi-day mountain railway ticket.

[Everything about the Wolli Card](#)



WOLLI'S TREASURE HUNT

Accompanied by adults, children over the age of 5 can go on a treasure hunt and discover Zermatt in a special way. With a treasure map and the hints of Wolli, young and old playfully learn new and exciting things about Zermatt. Concentration and an accurate counting of Wolli's symbols are required to open the treasure at the end of the approximately 1-hour search. The treasure hunt is available in German, English and French and can be played throughout the year.

[Wolli's treasure hunt](#)



HIKE TO THE WORLD RECORD SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opened in July 2017: the Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge above Randa. It is 494 m long and at the highest point is 85 m above the gorge. A new circular route has been created from the Randa station to reach the bridge. The hike takes 4 hours and twice overcomes 850 metres.

[Circular Hike to the Randa Suspension Bridge](#)



GORNERGRAT WITH NEW HIKING TRAIL

Beginning in the 2018 summer, you can explore the Gornergrat (at over 3,100 m) on the new 360° circular hiking trail. For about 15 to 20 minutes, there are views of the Gorner Glacier, the Matterhorn and 28 other four-thousand-metre peaks from the trail. On the viewing platform, five Viscope telescopes are now available free of charge, opening up new perspectives. The Viscope is a novel telescope, which shows information about the mountain and place names or route names precisely in the field of view.

[Gornergrat](#)



NEW GUIDES AT GORNERGRAT

From 14 July to 15 September 2018, there are free, local, multilingual guides available at Gornergrat. They welcome the international guests to Gornergrat every day and provide information about the mountains, Alpine flora and fauna while telling stories about the Matterhorn. For online reservations made up to the day before, groups of up to 12 people can also reserve a 30 to 40 minute private tour in German, English, French or Japanese for CHF 50.00.

[Gornergrat Guides](#)



HUSKY SLEDGING IN FRONT OF THE MATTERHORN

The Zermatt Event Management agency is offering sledge rides with huskies all year round. In winter, the rides on private trails take place at Trockener Steg at almost 3,000 m and in summer on the Klein Matterhorn, over 3,800 m. The one-day event includes a briefing for the customers, group ascent, guide to the circuit, on-site care, drinks, information on the sledge dogs with acclimatization, ride on the sledge and independent driving with the sledge dogs. Each sledge is pulled by three to four dogs and has room for two people. The event is suitable for groups up to twelve persons and for children over the age of two. For larger groups, the event is combined with a second activity. Individuals can also book the event.

[Zermatt Event Management](#)



WORKSHOPS FOR COFFEE LOVERS

The Zermatt Coffee Rösterei will hold three different workshops for coffee lovers beginning 15 June 2018. Depending on the course, the event is aimed at people without prior knowledge or advanced coffee expertise. Subjects of the workshops are various preparation methods for good espresso, the basics of the latte art, brewing single-origin coffees as well as an introduction to specialty coffees and roasting. The courses last between 90 minutes and 3 hours and are suitable for groups of up to six people. Costs: from CHF 100.00 per person.

[Zermatt Coffee Rösterei](#)



THE GORNER GORGE RENOVATION

For the 2018 summer season, new wooden footbridges in the upper part of the Gorner Gorge were built. For almost ten years, sections had often been systematically renovated and repaired. With the most recent work, the gorge is now completely renovated. The original path was built more than 130 years ago and allows guests to discover Gorner Gorge and its unspoilt natural beauty. The opening of the gorge is planned for the end of May.

[Gorner Gorge](#)



NEW INDOOR GOLF

Beginning in May 2018 one can "play" golf indoors in Zermatt. Matterland Sports is opening an indoor golf facility in the basement of Haus Castor (Hofmattstrasse 30). You play in front of a big screen on which a simulator shows the ball's flight on realistic golf courses. In addition to playing on 18 different golf courses you can evaluate your own training data. Everyone is welcome - whether golfers or non-golfers - and the facility is also suitable for team events. A small bar and a lounge area complete the golf experience.

[Example of an Indoor Golf Facility](#)
[Matterland Sports](#)





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NEW SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITY AT OBERE MATTEN

A new sports and leisure facility has sprung up on the grounds of the Obere Matten. The following installations are now available for free: a small playground with tartan surface, beach volleyball field, street ball field, Ping-Pong tables, water games, board games, benches and lounge chairs. The area is used as an outdoor ice rink for skating and curling in the winter and for various occasions throughout the year - including the Zermatt Unplugged festival.

[Obere Matten](#)



SKI LESSONS IN CHINESE

Zermatt ski instructors are used to many different languages. The Stoked Snowsports School also offers ski lessons in Chinese in summer. This makes Europe's highest and largest summer ski area even more attractive to our Chinese guests. Skiers of every level are welcome.

[Stoked Snowsports School](#)



RAILWAY AND LIFT NEWS.

WORLD'S HIGHEST 3S CABLEWAY INAUGURATED

The time has come on 29 September 2018: the Zermatt Bergbahnen AG opens the new 3S Cableway from Trockener Steg to the Klein Matterhorn. The cableway is being built in addition to the existing aerial tramway and will increase the transport capacity by 2,000 guests per hour. Thus, it improves the ski area connection between Switzerland and Italy. 3S stands for 3-cables cableway. In contrast to conventional single-cable lifts, the 3S cableway has the support and tensioning of the cables separated. This lift is the highest of its kind in the world and has been under construction since spring 2016.



Valley station altitude: 2,923 m
Mountain station altitude: 3,821 m
Travel time: 9 min
Speed: 27 km/h
Number of cabins: 25
Per cabin capacity: 28

[The 3S Project](#)

SHORT SECTION - GLACIER EXPRESS

The Glacier Express now offers the Brig-Zermatt short section (in both directions). Thus, even guests who have no time for the entire route can experience the comfort of the Glacier Express and overcome almost 1,000 meters of altitude before breathtaking scenery. The trip takes place daily from 10 May 2018 until 14 October 2018 and lasts about 1.5 hours. Departure in Brig: 6:45 pm; departure in Zermatt: 7:52 am.



[Short Section - Glacier Express](#)

GLACIER EXPRESS AFTERNOON TRAIN

Beginning 10 May 2018, the Glacier Express will be offering a new afternoon service from Chur to Zermatt. For the first time the connections allow guests to enjoy the evening atmosphere in the Mattertal from the Glacier Express and to take impressive photos in the light at dusk. Furthermore, the new afternoon schedule allows guests to stay in Zurich or Lucerne until noon and then take the Glacier Express. Instead of having lunch on the train, dinner is freshly prepared in the galley and served at each seat. Departure in Chur: 2:16 pm; arrival in Zermatt: 8:10 pm.



[Glacier Express](#)

PRIORITY BOARDING FOR THE GORNERGRAT BAHN

Beginning May 2018, the Gornergrat Bahn in Zermatt will offer exclusive access before boarding the train. Thus, passengers can reserve their seat and enjoy the best view of the Matterhorn during the train trip. The surcharge for the ticket costs CHF 10.00 for departures before noon, and then CHF 5.00 per person. Booking is done online, at the ticket office in Täsch or at the valley station in Zermatt.

[Gornergrat Bahn](#)



NEW ZERMATT BIKE PASS

The destination now offers a Bike Pass for unlimited mountain rides (including bike transport) on all mountain railways. Until now, there were only bike day-tickets for individual sections or single trips in the destination. The price for one day is CHF 115.00; for two days or more you only pay CHF 18.00 for each additional day. In high season (July and August) the price for one day is CHF 128.00; for two days or more you only pay CHF 20.00 for each additional day. Holders of a Halbtax Card or GA get the Bike Pass for half price.

[Zermatt Bike Pass](#)



NEW PANORAMA WALLS IN THE VALLEY STATIONS

Beginning in the 2018 summer, Zermatt guests will be better informed at the base stations. The new, 2.3 metres high and 3.4 metres wide, energy-saving LED Panowalls show important information such as an overview of the open systems, the times of the first and last departures, webcam images, warnings and weather forecasts.

[Zermatt Bergbahnen AG](#)



CULINARY NEWS.

RESTAURANT YACHT CLUB NOW ALSO OPEN IN SUMMER

The Yacht Club restaurant in the basement of the Snowboat is also open this summer for the first time. From 1 July 2018, delicacies will be served evenings from Thursday to Sunday. Also, the terrace on the ground floor is newly furnished and now a cosy lounge. It is available from noon each day beginning 25 May 2018.

[Zermatt Snowboat](#)



RENOVATED SEMINAR AND GROUP ROOM

Through a comprehensive renovation, the seminar room on the first floor of the Matterhorn glacier paradise restaurant on the Klein Matterhorn has been adapted to the needs of groups so that it can be used not only for seminars but also for the catering of groups. Thus, either a buffet or a three-course menu can be ordered in advance. The room also has the necessary equipment for seminars, such as a projector, screen, loudspeaker and lectern.

[Matterhorn glacier paradise conference and meeting room](#)



HOTEL AND GUEST HOUSE NEWS.

THE HOTEL ARTEMIS IS NOW HOTEL BASECAMP

The 3-star Hotel BaseCamp (previously the Artemis) has been family-owned since 1980 and under the new management of Yvette and Richard Lehner since December 2017. This guide couple has renovated the premises and brought their own story to the hotel. As a mountain guide with more than 20 years of experience, it is important for Richard Lehner to offer his guests an active holiday. With its 27 rooms, the Garni-Hotel appeals to a sporting audience that has stories about the mountains, experiences on the Matterhorn and Richard Lehner's own experience as a rescue specialist.

[The BaseCamp Hotel](#)



KURT LAUBER'S LAST SEASON IN THE HÖRNLIHÜTTE

The long-time hosts in the Hörnlihütte on the Matterhorn, Kurt Lauber and Stéphanie Mayor, will take over the Berghaus Grünsee beginning 1 July 2018. They will be at both locations this summer before passing the sceptre of the Hörnlihütte to Martin and Edith Lehner in the winter of 2018. Kurt Lauber has spent 24 seasons in the Hörnlihütte and Stéphanie Mayor has been there for 10 seasons. They have renamed the Berghaus Grünsee the Ski-Bike-Hike Mountain Lodge. In addition, they are planning small changes to the hut. In a first step, the changes affect the two dining rooms that have been redesigned. In addition, they are adapting the menu, which now includes a small but fine offer with regional components and dishes.

[Berghaus Grünsee](#)



MORE WELLNESS IN THE HOTEL BELLA VISTA

The Hotel Bella Vista now has an infrared sauna (40°C) with a view of the Matterhorn. The infrared sauna is an addition to the previous Wellness area with a sauna (90°C), steam bath (45°C), Kneipp basin, Whirlpool and relaxation room.

[Wellness in the Bella Vista](#)





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NEW RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX MEMBER

The Chalet Hotel Schönegg is a new member of Relais & Châteaux. This association of exclusive hotels and top restaurants counts among its members around 550 award-winning landmark hotels and restaurants and stands for fine hospitality and the art de cuisine. The association was established in France over 60 years ago. To be accepted, the Chalet Hotel Schönegg had to meet a number of criteria. "We see Relais & Châteaux as a seal of quality, which is why we are very pleased about our being accepted," say Anna and Sebastian Metry, the sister and brother directors of the Chalet Hotel Schönegg.

[Chalet Hotel Schönegg](#)



RENOVATIONS IN THE EUROPE HOTEL & SPA

In May 2018, the Europe Hotel & Spa is renovating the last 12 of the total 38 rooms. Mid-July 2018, all of the rooms will have a modern Alpine design. A new family room with a view of the Matterhorn is being created on the top floor.

[Europe Hotel & Spa](#)



RENOVATIONS IN THE ASCOT HOUSE

In December 2017, the duplex attic apartment in the Ascot House was renovated. The apartment has also been given a new name. Now instead of Ascot House it is called the Ari Village Loft at Ascot.

[Ari Village Loft at Ascot](#)



SHOPS.

FUCHS BAKERY WITH RENOVATED STORE

The Fuchs Bakery is completely renovating its Bahnhofstrasse 28 business location. The refurbishment includes the bakery on the ground floor and the café on the first floor and runs from 23 April to 3 June 2018. During this time, the shop is closed. The bakery highlights its expertise in chocolate with a new offering and introduces a new beverage concept with freshly squeezed orange juice and a choice of syrup for self-made drinks. The premises of the café will have a new, modern and cosy style.

[Fuchs Bakery Zermatt](#)



FROM THE NIGHTCLUB TO A BIKE WORKSHOP

The former Schneewittchen Nightclub becomes the extended mountain bike workshop of Slalom Sport. Slalom Sport Zermatt (Hotel & Sport Julien AG) has been rebuilding the two-storey premises since January, before the opening event will take place in mid-June. Slalom Sport, as a major bike dealer in Zermatt, has a need for additional, professional workspace. With the new workshop Slalom Sport can offer improved service quality.

[Slalom Sport Zermatt](#)



NEW BOOK OFFERING IN THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

So that the Portuguese population can also benefit from the library's offer, the Zermatt Community Library now offers English, French, Italian as well as books in Portuguese. At the moment there are around 200 books. Also, the library always has the new daily edition of the newspaper Walliser Bote.

[Zermatt Library](#)



EVENTS.

AIR ZERMATT CELEBRATES ITS 50-YEAR JUBILEE

The heroes of the skies celebrate: 50 years ago the Zermatt Beat H. Perren founded the helicopter company Air Zermatt - a pioneering achievement. Today, Air Zermatt is a world leader with expertise. Helicopter pilots from around the world are trained by the Zermatt mountain rescuers and maintain an experience exchange and also send experts to Nepal. On 19 and 20 May 2018, Air Zermatt celebrates its anniversary as part of an open house day with sightseeing flights and helicopter shows.

[50 Years Air Zermatt](#)



AUGUST 1ST WITH STEFAN BÜSSER

The Swiss comedian and moderator Stefan Büsser holds the festival address in Zermatt on August 1st, which is Switzerland's national holiday. With him, the destination was able to attract one of the most successful Swiss media professionals. The free celebrations take place before an impressive backdrop at Stellisee. On the day before, 31 July 2018, guests and locals gather for traditional specialties and music during the major street festival in the village.

[Swiss National Holiday](#)



FOLKLORE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 50-YEAR JUBILEE

For 50 years, the Folklore Festival has transformed the village of Zermatt into a colourful, cheerful backdrop of costumes, dances and music. Due to this anniversary and because the long-time president Ted Mate is departing, this year's festival will last two days instead of just one: from 11 to 12 August 2018. On Saturday, music groups will play all day at Gornergrat and in the church square. The highlight on Sunday is the parade through Zermatt with 50 folklore groups. For the festival a package is available that includes accommodations and a ticket to Gornergrat.

[Folklore Festival](#)



RING COW FIGHT COMES TO ZERMATT

The annual summer festival of the Swiss Eringer Association will be held in Zermatt for the first time on 19 August 2018 - under the name "Reine du Cervin". In the ring cow fight, about 50 cattle fight in their natural behaviour based on the hierarchy within the herd. The traditional Valais tradition of folklore, food, drink and music provides folk accompaniment. The proceeds of the Reine du Cervin benefit the Zermatt Alpine Cooperatives for the sustainable maintenance of their infrastructure.

[Ring Cow Fights at the Matterhorn](#)



NEW MOUNTAINBIKE FESTIVAL - TRAILLOVE

From 14 to 18 September 2018, everything in Zermatt is about mountain bikes. The three-day Traillove Festival is the beginning (Friday to Sunday); the completion is the two-day Traillove Summit (Monday and Tuesday). The festival offers races, an exhibition area, test bikes, special MTB offers and shows. At the summit, specialists from the fields of trail building, destination development and the public sector meet to discuss new findings in the field of trail construction and to ensure sustainable development.

[Traillove Festival](#)



WINTER 2018/2019 PREVIEW.

DYNAMIC PRICES ON THE MOUNTAIN LIFTS

Ever since the current winter season, the Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, has offered variable prices for individual trips, depending on the season and capacity. Beginning in the 2018-2019 winter, the prices for ski passes will be dynamically set. Factors such as supply, demand and time of purchase are included in these calculations. Therefore, three seasons (pre-season, off-peak season and peak season) are introduced. The prices then vary up or down during the course of the season depending on capacity. The aim of the new price model for ski passes is to optimise utilisation during the winter and to attract guests during low-demand times through cheaper prices. Known discounts for children and adolescents remain. In addition, the new price system rewards early bookers and online bookers with lower prices. So, if one buys early via partner or online through the Webshop, the least expensive price is ensured.

[Tickets and Tariffs on the Bergbahnen](#)



GLACIER EXPRESS EXCELLENCE CLASS

The Excellence Class is the new premium coach class on the Glacier Express, which will be launched for the 2018-2019 winter. It offers comfortable lounge seating with a total of 20 seats and impressive panoramic windows. Each guest is guaranteed a window seat. Supplement services include a personal travel companion, an extensive culinary offer and tablets for on-board entertainment.

[Glacier Express](#)



OPENING OF THE 22 SUMMITS BOUTIQUE HOTEL

In December 2018, the 22 Summits boutique hotel will open its doors. The four-star hotel with 22 rooms is located on the Zen Steckenstrasse in Zermatt and is being built by the Norbert Julen family (from the Casa Vanessa Aparthotel and the Henuu Stall après-ski bar). The motto: Alpine Chic Meets Modern. The hotel is located on a quiet hillside, only a three-minute walk from the Matterhorn glacier paradise valley station and a five-minute walk from Bahnhofstrasse. The 22 rooms are mostly spacious double rooms from 25 m² each with bathroom and shower. The new hotel also features a two-storey spa with an outdoor hot tub, a trendy bar and a lounge on the ground floor.

[22 Summits Boutique Hotel](#)



HOTEL SONNE RENOVATIONS

From April to autumn 2018, the 4-star superior Hotel Sonne will be refurbished and newly built. The three previous buildings will be joined together as a new building. Until now, only one floor has a corridor connecting the buildings. As part of the refurbishment, the hotel will bring the not yet renovated guest rooms up to date. In addition, nine new rooms will be created. There will also be a multifunctional room, which has space for seminars, banquets and other events with up to 50 people. The lobby lounge bar, reception and restaurant will be expanded, and the fitness room and SPA area will be renovated and opened to the public. The reopening is on December 1, 2018.

[Hotel Sonne](#)



RENOVATION IN THE HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF

The 4-star Hotel Schweizerhof will begin extensive renovations on 16 April 2018. All 95 rooms will be refurbished (but the number stays the same). Furthermore, a new catering concept with a food mall and an open kitchen is planned. The entrance area will also be new. A reopening is scheduled for December 21, 2018.

[Hotel Schweizerhof](#)



NEW WELLNESS IN THE SUNSTAR STYLE HOTEL

The Sunstar Style Hotel Zermatt is renovating the entire spa area. The new Wellness oasis with steam bath, Finnish and bio sauna as well as Whirlpool and relaxation zone will be available from mid-September 2018. In the meantime, guests can use the Wellness offer of a partner hotel as an alternative.

[Sunstar Style Hotel Zermatt](#)





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SUMMER 2019 PREVIEW.

ZERMATT OPEN-AIR THEATRE

In July and August 2019, actors from the region will perform the story of the first woman on the Matterhorn. The performances under the direction of Livia Anne Richard will be at Riffelberg (Gornergrat) at 2,600 m with a view of the Matterhorn. The exact dates will be published soon. Special terms and conditions for tour operators.

[Open-Air Theatre \(in German\)](#)



THE ENDURO WORLD SERIES COMES TO ZERMATT

In 2019 and 2020, Zermatt will welcome the Enduro World Series Mountain Bike Championships, bringing the Enduro World Cup to Switzerland for the first time. In 2019 the event is scheduled from 18 to 22 September. From Wednesday to Friday, training takes place before the race events on Saturday and Sunday. As the last of the eight stages, Zermatt has the honor of hosting the finals and the awards ceremony.

[Enduro World Series in Zermatt](#)

