



*Zermatt. No matter what.*

# KEY DATA ZERMATT HISTORY.





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BC	0	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000
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<b>Mesolithic &amp; Neolithic Agea</b> <b>8000-1800 BC</b>	<p>Oldest human traces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Schwarze Tschugge" shelter at Schwarzsee</li> <li>• Cup-marked stone at Ofenen, above Zmutt</li> <li>• Stone axe blade from the Theodul Pass</li> </ul>
<b>100 BC / 400 AD</b>	The Theodul Pass was used as a crossover and trade route for the Romans (coin findings) and the Romanised Celts.

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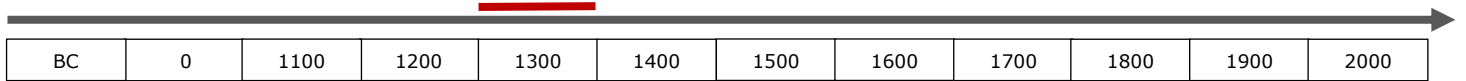
<b>8<sup>th</sup> century</b>	The Alemannic take possession of Upper Valais. German replaces Latin.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> century</b>	Year-round settlement of the Mattertal valley. Processing of talc.
<b>888</b>	King Rudolf I founded the Kingdom of Hochburgund to which the countynged.
<b>999</b>	The last king of Hochburgund, Rudolf III, leaves the county to the Bishop of Sitten as a fief. In the years to follow, the bishops transfer their rights to various secular liege lords.

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<b>1285 / 1291</b>	The church of Zermatt <i>de Pra Borno</i> and the village <i>Prato Borni</i> (meadow in the source region?) are mentioned in documents.
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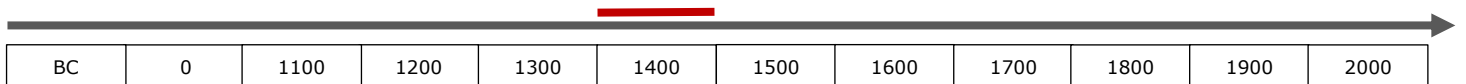


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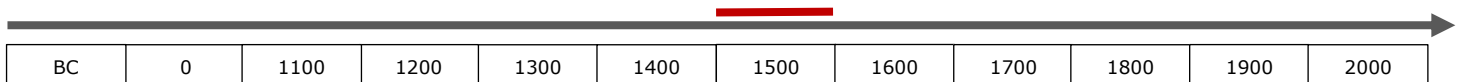
**1300**

The Lords of Raron build their castle above the village in Bodmen. Today the site is still called Kastell and wall remains still attest to the former presence of the castle.



**1495 / 1497 / 1545**

The place names "Matt" and "Matter" appear on the first topographical maps.

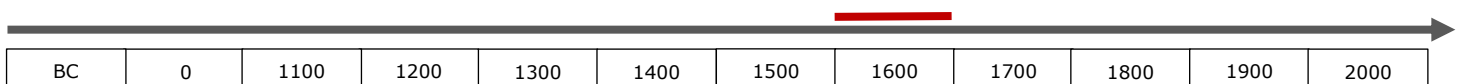


**1538 / 1562 / 1618**

The residents of Zermatt buy their freedom from the feudal rights of the Werra, Perrini and de Platea families.

**1575**

Construction of a larger church.



**1688**

Duke Victor Amédée II of Savoy builds a fortress on the Theodul Pass. He wants to prevent Waldensians who had fled to Switzerland from returning to Piedmont.



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<b>1758 - 1770</b>	The first visitors are scientists, including botanist Peter Thomas and his son Abraham. They come on behalf of the universal scholar Albrecht von Haller and travel by foot from Les Plans-sur-Bex via Aosta – Theodul Pass to Zermatt.
<b>1791</b>	The independent hamlets of Hofero (im Hof), Winchilmattero (Winkelmatten (Muttero) (Z'Mutt)) and Aroleitro (Aroleit) join together to form the municipality of Zermatt.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> August 1792</b>	Genevese scholar Horace Bénédict de Saussure climbs the Klein Matterhorn. From the Theodul glacier, he determines the height of the Matterhorn to be 4,501.7 m (today 4,477.5 m) using a 50-foot-long chain spread out on the glacier and a sextant.

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<b>1813</b>	The Breithorn is the first four-thousand-metre peak to be climbed.
<b>1839</b>	Zermatt surgeon Lauber opens the first inn (Hotel Cervie) with three beds. Today's Hotel Monte Rosa.
<b>1852</b>	State councillor Jos. Anton Clemenz from Visp builds his Hotel Mont Cervin with 14 beds. A post office is opened; post is carried back and forth to Visp by foot.
<b>1853 - 1854</b>	Alexander Seiler, originally from Blitzingen in the Goms Valley, leases Lauber's inn. He purchases it in 1854 and expands it into the "Hotel Monte Rosa" with 35 beds.
<b>1853</b>	The clergymen Ruden, Kronig and Welschen build the "Riffelhaus" hotel on the Riffelberg.
<b>1858</b>	The Zermatt Mountain Guide Association (Bergführerverein Zermatt) is founded.
<b>1858 - 1862</b>	The cattle track from St. Niklaus to Zermatt is developed into a road.



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<b>14<sup>th</sup> July 1865</b>	Together with Zermatt mountain guides Peter Taugwalder senior and junior (father and son), the mountain guide Michel Croz from Le Tour near Chamonix and the Englishmen Rev. Charles Hudson, Douglas Robert Hadow and Lord Francis Douglas, Edward Whymper is the first to reach the top of the Matterhorn via Hörnligrat. Croz, Hudson, Hadow and Douglas perish in an accident during the descent.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> August 1871</b>	St. Peters English Church is opened.
<b>1873</b>	Zermatt is connected to the Morse telegraph network.
<b>1878</b>	While visiting Zermatt, American author Mark Twain composes the comic story "Climbing the Riffelberg".
<b>1879</b>	The citizens open the "Hotel Zermatt" – today's Grand Hotel Zermatterhof – which was partially constructed using forced labour.
<b>1880</b>	Construction of the Hörnli Hut SAC, 3,260 m.
<b>1884</b>	After 6 years of construction, the Hotel Riffelalp with 150 beds is opened.
<b>1886 - 1887</b>	Opening up of the Gorner gorge for development by the Lauber and Taugwalder brothers.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July 1891</b>	The steam-operated Visp-Zermatt railway (VZ) goes into operation. Until 1933 only in summer, 1 May to 31 October.  The first train to leave on schedule from Zermatt takes along the coffin with the corpse of Alexander Seiler.
<b>1894</b>	The electricity plant goes into operation.
<b>1898</b>	Founding of the Kur- und Verkehrsverein (Health Resort and Transport Association).
<b>20<sup>th</sup> August 1898</b>	The Gornergrat Bahn is the first electric cable car to go into operation for the summer.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January 1899</b>	The German Wilhelm Paulcke and Robert Helbling of Basel bring skiing to Zermatt and climb the Monte Rosa.



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<b>28<sup>th</sup> August 1900</b>	The first 12 subscribers are connected to the federal telephone network.
<b>1901 / 1904</b>	Construction of a water supply system and sewers.
<b>1902</b>	First ski class.
<b>1908</b>	Founding of the Zermatt Ski Club.
<b>1909</b>	Founding of the Zermatt Music Society.
<b>1913</b>	The 16 <sup>th</sup> -century church, which has become too small, makes way for the construction of a new building.
<b>1922</b>	The Visp-Stalden road is opened.
<b>1928</b>	First winter season in Zermatt.
<b>December 1928</b>	The Visp-Zermatt railway begins limited winter operations. It is electrified in 1929.
<b>1929</b>	Foundation of the Swiss ski school.
<b>1930</b>	The Brig-Visp railway line goes into operation. The maiden journey of the Glacier Express St. Moritz – Zermatt takes place on 25/26 June.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August 1931</b>	Brothers Franz and Toni Schmid from Munich are the first to climb the north face of the Matterhorn.
<b>1933</b>	The BVZ begins year-round operation.
<b>1933 - 1935</b>	Expansion of the main road Visp-Stalden.
<b>1942</b>	Construction of the first ski lift (a hiking lift in the summer): Zermatt-Sunnegga.
<b>1944</b>	For the first time, more guests in the winter than in the summer.
<b>1947</b>	Construction of the Zermatt-Sunnegga chairlift and relocation of the existing ski lift to Sunnegga-Blauherd.



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<b>1947</b>	First electric car in Zermatt, owned by Karl Graven.
<b>1951 - 1965</b>	Pablo Casals' master courses for cellists.
<b>1955</b>	Founding of Luftseilbahn Zermatt-Schwarzsee AG (LZS).
<b>1955 - 1956</b>	Construction of the Zermatt-Furi-Schwarzsee aerial lift.
<b>1955 - 1958</b>	Construction of the Gornergrat-Hohtälli-Stockhorn aerial lift.
<b>1958</b>	The Alpine Museum is opened in the Seiler garden.
<b>1960</b>	Mr. Sommerfeld's invention: "Rolba" hauling service from Schwarzsee to Testa Grigia.
<b>1961</b>	The municipal council confirms that with a special permit cars can travel from Täsch to the town's northern entrance.
<b>1962</b>	Construction of the Furgg-Schwarzsee aerial lift.
<b>1962 - 1971</b>	Expansion of the main road between St. Niklaus and Täsch.
<b>1963</b>	Typhus epidemic.
<b>1964</b>	Waste incineration plant (ARA) goes into operation.
<b>9<sup>th</sup> October 1964</b>	Founding of Zermatter Rothorn-Bahn AG.
<b>1964 - 1965</b>	Construction of the Zermatt-Furi-Trockener Steg aerial lift.
<b>1966 - 1967</b>	Construction of the Sunnegga-Blauherd aerial cable car and the Blauherd-Unterrothorn aerial lift.
<b>1968</b>	Founding of Air Zermatt AG. The observatory in the Kulmhotel Gornergrat goes into operation.
<b>1971</b>	Construction of the Gant-Blauherd aerial cable car.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December 1972</b>	The residents of Zermatt vote to reject the construction of a public road between Täsch and Zermatt with 937 "no" and 497 "yes" votes.
<b>1974</b>	After Maloja and Lucerne, Zermatt opens Switzerland's third glacier garden in Dossen.
<b>1979</b>	The Trockener Steg-Klein Matterhorn aerial lift goes into operation (Europe's highest aerial lift at 3,820 m).



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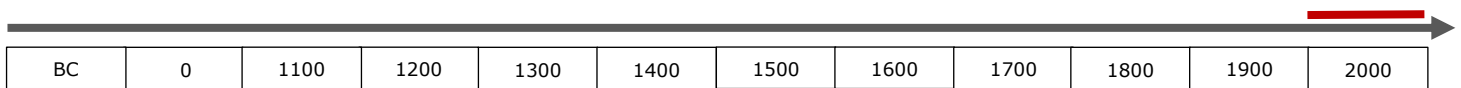
<b>1980</b>	Zermatt has the first underground funicular in Switzerland: Metro Sunnegga.
<b>1982</b>	The underground sewage treatment facility (ARA) is opened.
<b>1982</b>	Construction of the Zermatt-Furi six-passenger aerial cable car and the Furi-Trockener Steg aerial lift and replacement of the Kumme ski lift with a three passenger chairlift.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May 1984</b>	Following its disbandment in 1949, the "Patrouille des Glaciers" (Patrol of the Glacier) is reinstated.
<b>1984 - 1989</b>	Artificial snow system in the Blauherd-Rothorn region with 105 snow cannons.
<b>1986</b>	Opening of the Hohtälli-Rote Nase aerial lift.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 1986</b>	The residents of Zermatt agree to the partial expansion of the Täsch-Zermatt road (winter safety) with retention of the existing limitations with 1265 "yes" (92%) and 108 (8%) "no" votes.
<b>1988</b>	The public inner-town bus goes into operation.
<b>1989</b>	The Sunnegga-Blauherd and Patrullarve-Blauherd ski lifts are replaced by four-passenger chair lifts.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July 1990</b>	On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the first climb of the Matterhorn, 90-year-old mountain guide Ulrich Inderbinen climbs the Matterhorn. The climb is broadcast live on Swiss television.
<b>1991</b>	Opening of the library in the old chaplain's house.
<b>1991</b>	A new group circular cableway replaces the old FurggSchwarzsee aerial lift.
<b>1992</b>	Opening of the artificial ice rink. 200 Years of Alpinism anniversary celebration.
<b>25 to 27.9.1992</b>	Celebration of the 100 millionth Swatch. "Swatch The World".
<b>1994</b>	Launch of info channel; broadcast of local teletext information on televisions.
<b>1996</b>	The Blauherd-Unterrothorn cableway from 1967 is replaced by a 150-passenger cable car.





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<b>1997</b>	Opening of the Grächen-Zermatt Europaweg.
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 1997</b>	The resort of Zermatt is twinned with Myoko Kogen (Japan).
<b>1998</b>	Opening of the Gant-Hohtälli aerial lift.



<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2002</b>	<p>Sunnegga-Express AG, Rothornbahn AG and Matterhornbahnen AG fuse together to become Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, Switzerland's largest mountain cable car company.</p> <p>The winter sports facilities of the Gornergrat-Monte Rosa railways are also added to the merger as a contribution in kind.</p>
<b>2002</b>	Opening of the Matterhorn Express, 8-passenger aerial cable car Zermatt-Furi-Schwarzsee.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July 2002</b>	First Zermatt Marathon, St. Nicklaus – Gornergrat.
<b>2003</b>	New chair lifts "Furggsattel" and "Gifhittli".
<b>2004</b>	"Santa Fe" lift between Metro valley station and Riedweg.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> March 2005</b>	Nearly 53 percent of those able to vote express interest in a secure public road from Täsch to Zermatt in an advisory vote with 808 "yes" and 719 "no" votes.
<b>2005</b>	New combi cable car (aerial cable car and chairlift) travels between Sunnegga and Blauherd.
<b>2005</b>	New attraction: "Matterhorn Ski Safari" 10,000 metres in altitude in one day.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2006</b>	<p>Opening of the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matterhorn Terminal in Täsch</li> <li>• Four new shuttle trains Täsch-Zermatt</li> <li>• Four new low-floor carriages on the Gornergrat</li> <li>• Furi-Riffelberg aerial cable car</li> <li>• Matterhorn Museum – Zermatlantis</li> </ul>



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<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	First Zermatt Unplugged Festival, the music festival of a special kind, with singers and bands from all over the world. Venue: the Festival marquee and various hotels throughout Zermatt.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> August 2007</b>	25th anniversary – International Matterhorn Run
<b>25<sup>th</sup> September 2009</b>	New Monte Rosa Hut is opened. The innovating building with the nickname "Bergkristall" (mountain crystal) is over 90 % energy self-sufficient. It was planned by the ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology).
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2009</b>	Zermatt wins the MILESTONE – the most important award in the tourism industry – for "New Monte Rosa Hut SAC" in the category special prize.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> January 2010</b>	The region of the Klein Matterhorn (Matterhorn Glacier paradise) is declared by Swiss meteorologists as the point of Switzerland with the most hours of insolation during the year.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010</b>	Zermatt Bergbahnen AG are awarded the Swiss Solar Prize and the European Solar Prize (10.12.2010) for the building complex with restaurant at the Matterhorn glacier paradise (Klein Matterhorn).
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 2010</b>	Zermatt wins once more a prize: It is declared several times "the best ski resort of the world", e.g. by the ADAC SkiGuide 2010 (German).
<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b>	Seraina Müller and Daniel F. Lauber win the MILESTONE for their hotel and restaurant Cervo in the category young talent.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>	Helicopter pilot Daniel Aufdenblatten and mountain rescue expert Richard Lehner receive the Heroism Award, i.e. the aviation industry's Oscar, from Aviation Week USA. They rescued two mountaineers at 7,000 m on the Annapurna. Their exploit was featured in the media all over the world. Subsequently, in 2012, they also received the Prix Courage, the people's choice award, as well as other awards.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> August 2011</b>	First Swiss Food Festival in Zermatt. Featuring 17 Zermatt chefs with a total of 246 GaultMillau points between them.  Kitchen Party at the Mont Cervin Palace and the Zermatterhof, with "Eringer" beef brochettes and an aerial cable-car breakfast.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> August 2011</b>	The slopes of Zermatt can be seen by mouse click: Google street view presents for the first time in Switzerland a ski resorts' slopes on line.
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011</b>	22-year-old Zermatt local Andreas Steindl takes 2 hours 57 minutes to run the circuit from Zen Stecken in the centre of Zermatt to the summit of the Matterhorn.



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<b>5<sup>th</sup> September 2011</b>	Zermatt is Switzerland's most sustainable winter resort. The Matterhorn Village was picked among 14 Swiss destinations by the VCS, the Swiss Transport and Environment Association.
<b>April 2012</b>	Zermatt Unplugged: First time with Sunnegga Sessions
<b>21<sup>st</sup> November 2012</b>	Zermatt is awarded the "Families welcome!" quality label (Family Destination) from the Swiss Tourist Federation.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>	For the fourth time in a row Zermatt Matterhorn is voted Best Alpine Ski Resort in the World by the 2013 ADAC SkiGuide.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> January 2013</b>	Alex Lax Taugwalder, head instructor at the Swiss Ski School Zermatt, is the world's best ski instructor, finishing first at the ISIA Ski Instructors World Championships.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b>	The first ultra-class ski touring team race takes place. Premiere of the Matterhorn Ultraks, with trails over distances of 20, 30 and 36 km and altitude differences of up to 2900 m.
<b>June 2013</b>	Implementing of the restored funicular Sunnegga – Express
<b>11<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b>	The Zermatt Unplugged wins the 3rd place at the MILESTONE in the category outstanding project.
<b>June 2015</b>	New opening of the remodelled Hornlihutte
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b>	150th anniversary of the first ascent to the Matterhorn by Edward Whymper.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015</b>	The destination Zermatt – Matterhorn wins the 1 <sup>st</sup> place at the MILESTONE for the project "Anniversary 150 years first ascent of the Matterhorn" in the category outstanding project.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	Inauguration of the Matterhorn glacier ride – the highest 3S cableway in the world.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>	The Bonfire AG wins 1 <sup>st</sup> place at the MILESTONE with its digitalization strategy in the category Innovation. The Glacier Express is classified in the same category on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> place with the "Excellence Class".



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## POPULATION DEVELOPMENT IN ZERMATT

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1798	600
1811	335
1850	369
1900	741
1920	798
1950	1424
1960	2731
1970	3101
1980	3548
1990	4544
2000	5528
2003	5478
2004	5625
2005	5687
2006	5634
2007	5648
2008	5640
2009	5650
2010	5669
2011	5640
2012	5661
2013	5670
2014	5625
2015	5628
2016	5671
2017	5495
2018	5460
2019	5430

(Status 01.11.2019)

