

KEY DATA

ZERMATT HISTORY





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

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8th century	The Alemannic take possession of Upper Valais. German replaces Latin.
7th / 9th century	Year-round settlement of the Mattertal valley. Processing of talc.
888	King Rudolf I founded the Kingdom of Hochburgund to which the county belonged.
999	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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1285 / 1291	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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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.

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1495 / 1497 / 1545 The place names "Matt" and "Matter" appear on the first topographical maps.

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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.

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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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1758 - 1770 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.



1791	The independent hamlets of Hofero (im Hof), Winchilmattero (Winkelmatten (Muttero) (Z'Mutt)) and Aroleitero (Aroleit) join together to form the municipality of Zermatt.
13th August 1792	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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1813	The Breithorn is the first four-thousand-metre peak to be climbed.
1839	Zermatt surgeon Lauber opens the first inn (Hotel Cervie) with three beds. Today's Hotel Monte Rosa.
1852	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.
1853 - 1854	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.
1853	The clergymen Ruden, Kronig and Welschen build the "Riffelhaus" hotel on the Riffelberg.
1858	The Zermatt Mountain Guide Association (Bergführerverein Zermatt) is founded.
1858 - 1862	The cattle track from St. Niklaus to Zermatt is developed into a road.
14th July 1865	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.
6th August 1871	St. Peters English Church is opened.
1873	Zermatt is connected to the Morse telegraph network.



1878	While visiting Zermatt, American author Mark Twain composes the comic story "Climbing the Riffelberg".
1879	The citizens open the "Hotel Zermatt" – today's Grand Hotel Zermatterhof – which was partially constructed using forced labour.
1880	Construction of the Hörnli Hut SAC, 3,260 m.
1884	After 6 years of construction, the Hotel Riffelalp with 150 beds is opened.
1886 - 1887	Opening up of the Gorner gorge for development by the Lauber and Taugwalder brothers.
6th July 1891	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.
1894	The electricity plant goes into operation.
1898	Founding of the Kur- und Verkehrsverein (Health Resort and Transport Association).
20th August 1898	The Gornergrat Bahn is the first electric cable car to go into operation for the summer.
5th January 1899	The German Wilhelm Paulcke and Robert Helbling of Basel bring skiing to Zermatt and climb the Monte Rosa.



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



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



1979	The Trockener Steg–Klein Matterhorn aerial lift goes into operation (Europe’s highest aerial lift at 3,820 m).
1980	Zermatt has the first underground funicular in Switzerland: Metro Sunnegga.
1982	The underground sewage treatment facility (ARA) is opened.
1982	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.
5th May 1984	Following its disbandment in 1949, the “Patrouille des Glaciers” (Patrol of the Glacier) is reinstated.
1984 - 1989	Artificial snow system in the Blauherd-Rothorn region with 105 snow cannons.
1986	Opening of the Hohtälli-Rote Nase aerial lift.
20th April 1986	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.
1988	The public inner-town bus goes into operation.
1989	The Sunnegga-Blauherd and Patrullarve-Blauherd ski lifts are replaced by four-passenger chair lifts.
14th July 1990	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.
1991	Opening of the library in the old chaplain’s house.
1991	A new group circular cableway replaces the old FurggSchwarzsee aerial lift.
1992	Opening of the artificial ice rink. 200 Years of Alpinism anniversary celebration.
25 to 27.9.1992	Celebration of the 100 millionth Swatch. “Swatch The World”.
1994	Launch of info channel; broadcast of local teletext information on televisions.



1996	The Blauherd-Unterrothorn cableway from 1967 is replaced by a 150-passenger cable car.
1997	Opening of the Grächen-Zermatt Europaweg.
24th May 1997	The resort of Zermatt is twinned with Myoko Kogen (Japan).
1998	Opening of the Gant-Hohtälli aerial lift.

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15th February 2002	<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>
2002	Opening of the Matterhorn Express, 8-passenger aerial cable car Zermatt-Furi-Schwarzsee.
6th July 2002	First Zermatt Marathon, St. Nicklaus – Gornergrat.
2003	New chair lifts "Furggsattel" and "Gifhittli".
2004	"Santa Fe" lift between Metro valley station and Riedweg.
6th March 2005	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.
2005	New combi cable car (aerial cable car and chairlift) travels between Sunnegga and Blauherd.
2005	New attraction: "Matterhorn Ski Safari" 10,000 metres in altitude in one day.
18th December 2006	<p>Opening of the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matterhorn Terminal in Täsch • Four new shuttle trains Täsch-Zermatt • Four new low-floor carriages on the Gornergrat



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furi-Riffelberg aerial cable car • Matterhorn Museum – Zermatlantis
14th April 2007	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.
19th August 2007	25th anniversary – International Matterhorn Run
25th September 2009	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).
17th November 2009	Zermatt wins the MILESTONE – the most important award in the tourism industry – for "New Monte Rosa Hut SAC" in the category special prize.
1st January 2010	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.
3rd September 2010	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).
21st December 2010	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).
16th November 2010	Seraina Müller and Daniel F. Lauber win the MILESTONE for their hotel and restaurant Cervo in the category young talent.
8th March 2011	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.
10th August 2011	<p>First Swiss Food Festival in Zermatt. Featuring 17 Zermatt chefs with a total of 246 Gault Millau points between them.</p> <p>Kitchen Party at the Mont Cervin Palace and the Zermatterhof, with "Eringer" beef brochettes and an aerial cable-car breakfast.</p>
20th August 2011	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.



23rd August 2011	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.
5th September 2011	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.
April 2012	Zermatt Unplugged: First time with Sunnegga Sessions
21st November 2012	Zermatt is awarded the "Families welcome!" quality label (Family Destination) from the Swiss Tourist Federation.
30th November 2012	For the fourth time in a row Zermatt Matterhorn is voted Best Alpine Ski Resort in the World by the 2013 ADAC SkiGuide.
31st January 2013	Alex Läch 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.
20th April 2013	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.
June 2013	Implementing of the restored funicular Sunnegga – Express
11th November 2014	The Zermatt Unplugged wins the 3 rd place at the MILESTONE in the category outstanding project.
June 2015	New opening of the remodelled Hörnlihütte
14th July 2015	150th anniversary of the first ascent to the Matterhorn by Edward Whymper.
3rd November 2015	The destination Zermatt – Matterhorn wins the 1 st place at the MILESTONE for the project "Anniversary 150 years first ascent of the Matterhorn" in the category outstanding project.
29th September 2018	Inauguration of the Matterhorn Glacier Ride – the highest 3S cableway in the world.
12th November 2019	The Bonfire AG wins 1 st place at the MILESTONE with its digitalization strategy in the category Innovation. The Glacier Express is classified in the same category on the 3 rd place with the "Excellence Class".



POPULATION DEVELOPMENT IN ZERMATT

Year	Population
1798	600
1811	335
1850	369
1900	741
1920	798
1950	1'424
1960	2'731
1970	3'101
1980	3'548
1990	4'544
2000	5'528
2003	5'478
2004	5'625
2005	5'687
2006	5'634
2007	5'648
2008	5'640
2009	5'650
2010	5'669
2011	5'640
2012	5'661
2013	5'670
2014	5'625
2015	5'628
2016	5'671
2017	5'495
2018	5'460
2019	5'430

(Status 01.11.2019)

