

## ZERMATT NEWS SUMMER 2019.



Zermatt – Matterhorn: a destination brimming with the spirit of innovation. The following six categories share what's new for the 2019 summer season.

More information, facts, figures, contacts, a photo and video database and resources for journalists and tour operators can be found here:

[www.zermatt.ch/en/media-corner](http://www.zermatt.ch/en/media-corner) | <https://www.zermatt.ch/en/Tour-operators>

## NEWS – ACTIVITIES

### EIGHT NEW BIKE TRAILS

The biking paradise of Zermatt has lots of news to announce, including eight new bike trails to add to the existing thirteen, some of which have also been changed slightly. This means bikers can now indulge their cycling passion on 220 km of trails, which have new signposts at the trail intersections (e.g. Riffelalp).

From summer 2019, the 21 bike trails will be divided into the following three categories: Flow trails (2), Enduro routes (6) and tour routes (13). The difference is that flow trails and Enduro routes go mainly downhill, unlike tour routes. Enduro routes are also natural, whereas flow trails are man-made.

[Bike trails in Zermatt – Matterhorn](#)

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### NEW PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

There will be a new photo scavenger hunt in summer 2019. If you would like to take part, you can register online. You will see ten different images on your smartphone, in the wrong order. During the hike you need to find and sort the objects in the images. There are two routes: one goes along the Matterhorn Trail from Schwarzsee to Zermatt, the other goes from Sunnegga via Findeln to Zermatt. If you succeed in putting the images into the correct order, you will receive a winner's certificate and automatically be entered into the main prize draw.

[Matterhorn Trail](#)

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### SECOND TREASURE HUNT

In summer 2019, Zermatt – Matterhorn will offer visitors a second treasure hunt in the village. This is aimed at families with children over 5 years old. A treasure map will lead children to eight stations where they answer questions. An example of one of the questions: "You are currently standing on a bridge. What is it made of?" The answers will give children a code that they can use to open the lock on the treasure chest in the tourism office. The route is 6 km long and takes approx. 2 hours. The other treasure hunt in the destination ('Wolli's Treasure Hunt') will continue.

[Second treasure hunt](#)

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## FOREST FUN PARK: MOON TREES

From 1 June 2019, the Forest Fun Park offers the fun, active Moon Trees game. In this game, teams need to work together to become Moon Trees heroes. Each player does what they're best at. So a climber climbs, a runner runs and a clever person thinks. This outdoor teambuilding is ideal for companies, families and other groups.

[Forest Fun Park High Rope Course Moon Trees](#)

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## WIDENING OF KIRCHBRÜCKE

The Kirchbrücke is the perfect place from which to take a photo of the Matterhorn. This viewing point is now being widened to make it easier for guests and traffic to accommodate each other. A lift will also be installed in addition to the stairs. The new, wider bridge is scheduled to open on 7 September 2019. Due to the construction work, the photo point will not be accessible during summer 2019. There are alternative viewing points on the community centre terrace, on Riedweg and at Zen Stecken.

[Widening of Kirchbrücke](#)

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## NEW DESTINATION APP

In December 2018, Zermatt Tourismus and Zermatt Bergbahnen AG launched the Matterhorn app, with a wide range of features. These include a news feed, webcams, an events calendar, a live piste map, weather info and a ticket shop with a 5% discount on all tickets for guests. There is also a map with a filter function showing the closest restaurants, shops and other facilities. Other functions such as online restaurant reservations in the destination are being planned.

[Matterhorn app](#)

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## NEW BIKE TRAIL IN TÄSCH

From summer 2019, Täsch will have a new bike trail. The newly marked trail starts from the village of Täsch and leads along the banks of the Matter Vispa around the Schalisee. The Schalisee is the perfect place to relax; guests can cool off in the lake or enjoy a refreshing drink from the snack bar. The route back takes you through the old village centre of Täsch where you can see typical Valais barns and granges. Length: 4.3 km, ascent and descent: 48 m.

[Täsch Bike Trail](#)

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## 365 DAYS ON THE KLEIN MATTERHORN

Since the new Matterhorn glacier ride (the highest 3S cable car in the world) was opened in autumn 2018, the peak of the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise is even more accessible. The Klein Matterhorn can now be reached 365 days a year. When the Matterhorn glacier ride is being serviced (3-19 June 2019), the aerial tramway will be in operation.

[Matterhorn glacier paradise](#)

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## INFOCUBE

The InfoCube on Trockener Steg, which has been documenting the Matterhorn glacier ride construction work, has now been updated. From the end of summer 2019, it will display information on the forthcoming Alpine Crossing project.

Alpine Crossing will make it possible to cross the Alps by cable car (from Cervinia via Klein Matterhorn to Zermatt). Until summer 2021, LEITNER ropeways will be constructing a 3S cable car from Klein Matterhorn to Testa Grigia. More details on the project can be found in the 'Coming Soon' section.

[InfoCube information](#)

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## AROLEID KOLLEKTIVE: CERAMICS WORKSHOPS

The Aroleid Kollektive is a restaurant in Furi which will be offering ceramic workshops on their lower ground floor from summer 2019. Workshops for different abilities will be available.

[Ceramics workshops](#)



## NEWS – EVENTS.

### ZERMATT OPEN AIR THEATRE

It's time for the third act of the Zermatt Open Air Theatre, which in 2019 will present 'MATTERHORN: NO LADIES PLEASE!' After the success of 'The Matterhorn Story' in 2015 and 'Romeo und Julia am Gornergrat' in 2017, the open-air theatre is returning to the Riffelberg. The première of 'MATTERHORN: NO LADIES PLEASE!' will tell the story of Lucy Walker, a member of the British aristocracy who was the first woman to climb the Matterhorn. The writer Livia Anne Richard wrote and will once again direct the play, and live music will be provided by the Swiss Alpine horn player, Eliana Burki. Performances will take place from Thursdays to Sundays between 11 July 2019 and 1 September 2019.

[Zermatt Open Air Theatre](#)

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### EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Athletics Association has chosen Zermatt to host the 2019 European Mountain Running Championships. The European Mountain Running race up the Riffelberg takes place on Sunday 7 July 2019 and is only open to runners selected by their associations. The race which is open to the public, the Gornergrat Zermatt Marathon, takes place as usual the day before, on 6 July 2019.

[European Mountain Running Championships](#)

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### IGLUNA: RESEARCH ON THE KLEIN MATTERHORN

As part of the Igluna research project, there will be an 'Art Bungalow' in the Glacier Palace on the Matterhorn glacier paradise from 17 June – 3 July 2019. Here, 120 students will conduct experiments on the topic of life on the moon. They want to find out whether it would be possible for people to live on the moon.

As the glacier has similar conditions to the icy parts of the moon, it is ideal for field research.

A range of accompanying events is also planned. During the research period, the Glacier Palace will be open to the public.

[Igluna](#)

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## THE ENDURO WORLD SERIES IS COMING TO ZERMATT

In 2019 and 2020, Zermatt will welcome the Enduro World Series Mountain Bike Championship, bringing the Enduro World Cup to Switzerland for the first time. This year, the event will take place from 18-22 September. Wednesday to Friday will be dedicated to training events before the race on Saturday and Sunday. It is a great honour for Zermatt to be hosting the final of the eight stages and the award ceremony.

[Enduro World Series](#)

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## ROAD BIKE RACE: ZÜRICH-ZERMATT

As part of Chasing Cancellara, the one-day race from Zürich-Zermatt will take place for the first time on 19 September 2019. The road bike race is part of the international racing series for amateur cyclists and is being organised by Olympic champion Fabian Cancellara. Who will overtake the champion?

[Chasing Cancellara](#)

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## TRAILLOVE DERBY

It's time for something new: the Traillove Derby introduces a new format into the festival, offering participants a fun, imaginative way to experience all the biking excitement the Zermatt – Matterhorn destination has to offer. The Traillove Derby will take place from 18-20 September 2019.

Over three days, 50 two-person teams will take on various challenges, learning about the best trails and the hidden corners at the foot of the Matterhorn. There will also be Zermatt cuisine, a lively evening programme and plenty of chance to socialise. Thanks to the all-inclusive package, the Derby teams can focus all their attention on biking.

[Traillove Derby](#)

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## MATTERHORN: LADIES PLEASE!

Four women, who shared their motivation in a video, are ready for this challenge. They qualified for the 'Matterhorn: Ladies Please!' project and will show the world via their social media channels what it is like to climb the Matterhorn. The winning applicants:

Judith Wernli, radio presenter  
Anne-Sophie Thilo, former professional yachtswoman  
Sue Hirschi, nurse  
Steffi Hunziker, web and multimedia publisher

The women will undergo intensive training in Zermatt from 11-18 July 2019 before climbing the Matterhorn on 19 July 2019. They will share their experience from beginning to end on social media.

[Matterhorn: Ladies please!](#)

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## MATTERHORN ULTRAKS – NEW RACE

The Matterhorn Ultraks mountain races have taken place every year in Zermatt since 2013 and offer a new category for 2019 – the Extreme Race. It is one of four Supersky races in the 2019 Migu Skyrunner World Series, with 25 per cent of the race at more than 3,000 metres above sea level. Its Supersky status means that participants who finish the race in Zermatt will receive twice as many points, enabling them to climb up the overall rankings. The Matterhorn Ultraks will therefore attract the attention of the world's best trail runners.

The race will take place on 23 and 24 August 2019.

[Matterhorn Ultraks](#)

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## GORNERGRAT POP-UP EXHIBITION

From 29 June – 27 October 2019, there will be a pop-up exhibition on the Gornergrat on the topic of 'Rock Stars: Women on the Matterhorn', telling the story of the first women to climb the Matterhorn. The exhibition will show who these women were and how they reached the summit. As part of the exhibition, six life-size figures of significant Matterhorn women will be set up on the route from the Gornergrat cable car station to the exhibition. The exhibition will be open every day and is included in the Gornergrat Bahn ticket price.

[Gornergrat pop-up exhibition](#)

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## SHEPHERD'S FESTIVAL AND WOLLI'S BIRTHDAY

The Shepherd's Festival will take place on Sunday 8 September 2019 in the Matterhorn arena in Zen Stecken (at the south-western end of Zermatt). The highlight of the festival will be the prize-giving for the best Blacknose sheep.

There will also be celebrations for the destination mascot Wolli's birthday, with cakes and games for children, plus festival food and drink and traditional Swiss folk music. Entry is free.

[Shepherd's festival and Wolli's birthday](#)



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## MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT ON THE RIFFELBERG

August 2019 will be all about folklore music. On 3, 4, 7, 10 and 31 August, local folklore musicians will play on the terrace of the Riffelberg self-service restaurant. The band will appear from 13:00-16:30 hrs.

[Musical entertainment on the Riffelberg](#)



## NEWS – ACCOMMODATION.

### SAC MONTE ROSA HUT: NEW MANAGEMENT

The continuation of the SAC Monte Rosa Hut has been secured. The Rubin family had to stop managing the hut for health reasons, but Richard Lehner (Zermatt mountain guide) and Kilian Emmenegger (Zermatt ski instructor) have been confirmed as the new managers. They both bring a wealth of experience with them, as they used to manage the Gandegg-hütte. They will start their new role in summer 2019.

[New management of SAC Monte Rosa Hut](#)

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### KINHÜTTE – NEW PACKAGES

In time for the season opening on 28 June 2019, the Kinhütte has announced a wide range of new packages. These include guided Kin Glacier hikes where you can see wild Alpine goats, voluntary work such as chopping wood, drying crockery and baking cakes, yoga and a relaxation programme with a massage. At 2,584 metres above sea level and surrounded by four-thousanders in the Mischabel group, the hut prioritises sustainability and takes waste reduction, food recycling and the use of local products very seriously. Eating together round a table provides companionship and sociable conversation for sole travellers.

[Kinhütte](#)

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### HOTEL HEMIZEUS: RENOVATIONS

From 30 June 2019, the Hotel Hemizeus will be renovating one of their apartments and several of the bedrooms. Out of the 32 rooms, 8 will undergo a complete redesign, and two bedrooms will be combined to create a suite. Out of the 9 apartments, 1 will be renovated, plus a new bathroom will be fitted.

[Hemizeus](#)

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## HOTEL BELLA VISTA RENOVATES ROOMS

The friendly Hotel Bella Vista in Zermatt is renovating 5 of its 21 bedrooms. These include a suite, which will be given a whole new look, two double rooms and a single room. Walls will be moved, existing windows enlarged and new windows and bathrooms installed. The work is scheduled to be completed in time for summer 2019.

[Hotel Bella Vista](#)

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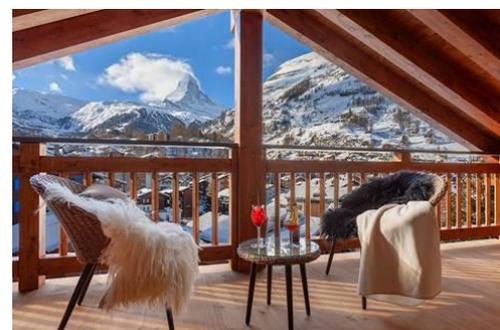


## EUROPE HOTEL & SPA: NEW PANORAMA SUITE

The Europe Hotel & Spa completely renovated its top-floor rooms in December 2018. There is now a 70 m<sup>2</sup> suite with panoramic views of the Matterhorn. There is also both a rainfall shower and a freestanding bath.

[Europe Hotel & Spa: Panorama Suite](#)

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## HOTEL SILVANA FOCUSES ON BIKERS

Hotel Silvana has lots to offer bikers. The owners have built a bike store providing repair and cleaning equipment and hire out e-bikes. There will also be a special bikers' menu for summer 2019.

[Hotel Silvana](#)



## NEWS – CUISINE.

### IT'S A RECORD: 5 MICHELIN STARS

Zermatt has never had as many Michelin stars as it does in 2019; the Matterhorn village now has five stars, two more than last year. The Omnia and the Alpine Gourmet Prato Borni have both been awarded one star. The After Seven retained its two stars and the Ristorante Capri still has one star.

[Zermatt's Michelin Stars](#)

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### FUCHS BAKERY ACQUIRES BINER

As of 30 April 2019, Bäckerei Pius Fuchs AG will take over the production and some of the staff of Bäckerei Biner, which is closing as a new manager could not be found. It is not clear what will happen to the two Bäckerei Biner shops. However, customers won't need to go without their favourite Biner products, as the Fuchs range will be expanded to include some Bäckerei Biner specialities.

The acquisition benefits both parties; Bäckerei Biner couldn't find a new manager and Bäckerei Fuchs was looking for a larger bakery.

[Biner becomes Fuchs](#)

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### NEW RESTAURANT: L'ATELIER GRANDSIRE

The new L'Atelier Grandsire restaurant opened in December 2018. Guests have been enjoying lunchtime and evening meals in a cosy French atmosphere. The restaurant also offers homemade patisseries and a wine store on the lower-ground floor.

Janine Tschümperlin and Yannik Robert Jacques Grandsire are the people behind this new restaurant. Grandsire previously worked as a patissier in Hotel Mirabeau and is originally from France. His partner is Swiss and they run the restaurant together.

[L'Atelier Grandsire](#)

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## ELSIE'S BAR HAS A SPARKLING NEW LOOK

From 1 May 2019, JuMa Gastro will take over Elsie's Bar. There will be some small aesthetic changes and a new menu. Elsie's Bar will now be a wine and champagne bar with speciality finger food such as oysters. The theme of the bar will remain the Belle Époque. It will re-open on 1 June.

[Elsie's Bar](#)



## NEWS – TRANSPORT.

### FOUR CRYSTAL RIDE CABINS

During the winter season, only groups of more than ten people were able to use the new Matterhorn glacier ride Crystal Ride cabins, but they will be open to all in summer 2019. These special cabins are studded with Swarovski crystals and also have a glass floor that changes from milky-white to clear three minutes into the journey. This allows you to look 170 metres down through the glass floor and admire the imposing glacial landscape. A new sound system will enhance the spine-tingling atmosphere.

[Crystal Ride](#)

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### VIP GONDOLA REDESIGN

The VIP Gondola, where you can sip champagne on leather seats while floating gently above the ground, has undergone a redesign.

After spending several years transporting guests from near and far between Zermatt and Trockener Steg, the time came for a new look. The details, however, will be kept under wraps until summer 2019.

[VIP Gondola](#)

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### GLACIER EXPRESS: NEW FOOD CONCEPT

In spring 2019, the Glacier Express is launching a new food concept. This will include a wide range of regional specialities such as Älplerteller (sausage and cheese), Bratwurst with onion sauce, pasta and apple sauce, and pear bread. The menu is intended to reflect the culinary variety of the areas that the train is travelling through.

[Glacier Express Food Concept](#)



## NEWS – COMING SOON.

### ALPINE CROSSING

It's been a long time in the planning, but the decision has finally been made – the new cable car from the Klein Matterhorn to Testa Grigia is going to be built. This means that from 2021, it will be possible to cross the Alps in a cable car (Alpine Crossing). Just like the Matterhorn glacier ride, opened in autumn 2018, the new cable car to Testa Grigia will also be a 3S cable car, built by Leitner ropeways. Construction work has already begun.

[Alpine Crossing](#)

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### FATBIKE NIGHT RIDE

In Zermatt, you can now go fat biking at night. The three-hour fatbike tour takes you over snowy paths in the darkness. Bright lights on the bike enable you to ride safely, cycling steadily uphill before speeding back down to Zermatt. This is the only place in Switzerland to offer this type of fat biking. The tour is available every Thursday from December to the middle of March, and may be available daily on request. Costing CHF 120 per person for more than three people, it includes all equipment.

[Fatbike Night Ride](#)

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### HOTEL ADMIRAL BECOMES HOTEL MAMA

Hotel Admiral will remain open until 30 April 2019. After that, it will be fully renovated both inside and out. The hotel will re-open for the 2019/2020 winter season under the new name of Hotel Mama, with 29 rooms (four more than before). It will continue to be a three-star superior hotel and will be managed by JuMA Hotel AG.

Hotel Mama will also have a co-working space managed together with PuraWorka.

[Hotel Admiral becomes Hotel Mama](#)

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## HOTEL CARINA: COMPLETE RENOVATION

In December 2019 the covers will come off the newly renovated Hotel Carina. Work will be carried out from April to November, with everything redesigned from the ground up. This includes the name, branding and overall concept.

[Hotel Carina](#)

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## HOTEL ELITE HAS A NEW LOOK

The three-star Hotel Elite Garni, located in the heart of Zermatt, will undergo renovations from 1 May till the end of November 2019. It will re-open at the beginning of the winter season.

[Hotel Elite](#)

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## HOTEL SILVANA: SPA IMPROVEMENTS

The Silvana Mountain Spa in the Silvana Mountain Hotel is being extended in time for the 2019/2020 winter season. The plan includes the creation of an Alpine sauna landscape with lounge (pine sauna, herbal steam room, Swiss chalet / vitarium), a multi-sensory shower and a massage facility. The spa is open to non-residents.

[Silvana Mountain Hotel Pool and Spa](#)

