**Zermatt**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Non-skiers

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

36

**Intermediate Runs**

81

**Advanced Runs**

30

**Total Runs**

147

**Lifts**

56

**Chairs**

21

**Drags**

17

**Gondola Cable Cars**

18

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

3m (10ft).

**Overview**

Zermatt is undisputedly one of the world’s top 10 ski resorts – both in terms of altitude and importance – with more than two million visitors each year attracted this car-free village beneath the iconic Matterhorn.

The resort is Europe's highest ski destination, with two top T-bars that are among the 10 highest lifts in the world. These are so high, that Zermatt only opens them through the summer as it continues to offer skiing on its glacial runs 365 days a year – one of only two resorts worldwide to do so. This great height means Zermatt ski resort is one of only nine ski areas in the world to offer top to bottom skiing in excess of 2,200 vertical metres (7,120ft).

It also stands out due to its link to Cervinia in Italy’s Aosta Valley. The two resorts are connected by a six-seater chairlift that actually crosses the border – a unique way to enter another country.

Besides its remarkable ski area, Zermatt's success can be put down to the ambience of its car-free village, often packed with pedestrians, horse drawn carriages and numerous little electric carts that are used as taxis and goods transporters.

**Location**

The Swiss resort of Zermatt is located in the German-speaking area of the Valais canton in the southern Alps. It is close to the border with Italy and is linked to its Italian neighbour Cervinia by a chairlift.

**Website**

http://www.zermatt.ch

**Piste Map**

http://www.zermatt.ch/en/page.cfm/lifts\_and\_pistes/piste\_map

**Hit The Slopes**

The main winter season in Zermatt ski resort runs from late November until late April, but the resort remains open for skiing and snowboarding throughout the year on its glacier.

Zermatt's skiing is spread across three separate areas, which are all connected by ski lifts. These extend over the border into Italy to create one of the world's biggest ski regions with 365km (227 miles) of runs. The lift ticket that allows access to the whole of this vast area is Europe’s most expensive for adults, while for children it is one of the most affordable – children under nine are free, while older children pay half price.

Given the size of the ski area and the huge skiable vertical, there is skiing for all ability levels, as well as extensive off-piste terrain for freeriders alongside experienced guides. Heli-skiing is also offered.

Each of the main ski areas that make up Zermatt ski resort has a beginners' area. The Gornergrat sector in particular is good for its easy runs, while the Rothorn zone has arguably the best nursery area just below the top of the funicular chairlift at Sunnegga.

There is countless terrain for intermediates, ranging from cruisy runs to more challenging hard reds, particularly heading down from the Matterhorn glacier paradise area.

Zermatt offers endless attractions for expert skiers, with a good selection of black runs. But it is off-piste skiing that dominates, with options leading all the way over to Cervinia.

**Zermatt**

**Resort**

1620

**Base**

1620

**Top**

3883

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Outdoor activities in Zermatt include ice skating, ice climbing, snowshoeing, tubing and winter hikes on 50km (31 miles) of marked and cleared paths. There are also 16 ice rinks in which to try the popular sport of curling, or the lesser-known ice-stick shooting (an Alpine version of the sport) (tel: 027 967 6264).

There are also various museums and art galleries, including the Zermatlantis Matterhorn Museum (Kirchplatz; tel: 027 967 4100), which exhibits a range of historical artefacts, including the broken rope of the famous first ascent of the Matterhorn.

**Family Fun**

There are some pros and cons to staying in Zermatt for families. The main cons are that the resort is quite spread out and that it can be expensive in terms of accommodation and day-to-day living.

On the other hand, lift tickets for children are either free or very reasonably priced. Children (accompanied by a paying adult) can ski free until the age of nine, receive half-price tickets until age 16, and continue to receive a discount up to 20 years of age.

There are several childcare facilities in Zermatt for younger non-skiing children. Arguably the best known is Kinderparadies Zermatt (tel: 027 967 7252; [www.kinderparadies-zermatt.ch](http://www.kinderparadies-zermatt.ch/)), which accepts children from age three months. This nursery is open from 0900 to 1700 daily, English is spoken and reservations are essential.

Older children can join the Swiss Ski and Snowboard School (tel: 027 966 2466; [www.skischulezermatt.ch](http://www.skischulezermatt.ch/)) from age four, with lessons tailored to the child’s age and ability.

**Retail Therapy**

There are more than 300 shops in Zermatt. Shoppers here will find a wide choice of tourist souvenir retailers, ski outlets, as well as upmarket fashion boutiques and jewellers.

Good places to peruse are The Matterhorn Group’s (Bahnhofstrasse 53; 027 966 6760; [www.matterhorn-group.ch](http://www.matterhorn-group.ch/)) shops, which stock everything from local delicacies to branded clothes.

**Splashing Out**

Enjoy the adventure of staying in an igloo high on the mountain. The Gornergrat cogwheel train takes guests up to the highest igloos in the world, complete with a hot tub ([www.iglu-dorf.com](http://www.iglu-dorf.com/)).

**Apres Ski**

Zermatt is one of the world's best choices for après-ski fans. In fact, partygoers can stagger straight from one of the late-night spots (there are eight nightclubs, most open until at least 0330) up the mountain to see the sun rise on the Matterhorn.

There are more than 50 bars suitable for lively après-ski in Zermatt, including no fewer than five in the animated Hotel Post (Bahnhofstrasse 41; 027 967 1931; [www.hotelpost.ch](http://www.hotelpost.ch/)), which is home to the famous Broken Bar Disco in its cellar. A nice place for a more relaxing experience is Bar 55 (Schluhmattstrasse 55; tel: 027 967 7676; [www.bar55-zermatt.ch](http://www.bar55-zermatt.ch/)) with its comfy sofas, roaring fires and pool tables.

**Eating Out**

Zermatt offers a bewildering choice of more than 90 places to eat, including French, Italian, Japanese, Thai and Chinese restaurants, plus many traditional Swiss eateries. Many of the best restaurants can be found on the slopes in traditional huts.

At the gourmet end of the scale, The Parkhotel Beau-Site's restaurant (Brunnmattgasse 9; tel: 027 966 6868; [www.parkhotel-beausite.ch](http://www.parkhotel-beausite.ch/)) has special menus on different evenings. Alternatively, try China Garden (Bahnhofstrasse 18; tel: 027 967 5323; [www.chinagarden-zermatt.ch](http://www.chinagarden-zermatt.ch/)), which serves oriental cuisine and Capri (Bahnhofstrasse 31; tel: 027 966 8888; [www.palacezermatt.ch/mont-cervin-palace](http://www.palacezermatt.ch/mont-cervin-palace)), a Michelin-starred gourmet Italian restaurant.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Geneva International Airport (GVA); Zurich Airport (ZRH).

Distance to resort: 244km (152 miles); 248km (154 miles).

Driving time: 3 hours; 3 hours 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Zermatt.

Distance to resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Zermatt is a pedestrian-friendly resort and most points are accessible either by foot or by funicular railway or cable car/gondola. Small electric vehicles are used to help those with walking difficulties or to transport luggage when required. There is also an electric ski bus that follows a 4.5km (3-mile) route around the village, (included in the ski pass).

Private cars should be left down in the valley where there are spaces for several thousand vehicles in covered and uncovered car parks. Drivers then continue to the resort by train or taxi.

**Hotels**

Zermatt’s village base is a mixture of chocolate-box chalets and grand hotels. The chalets range from affordable to luxury, while the 120 or so hotels are mostly traditional 3- or 4-star establishments. There are, however, an ever-increasing number of 5-star hotels in Zermatt.

**Hotel Butterfly**

This well-located Best Western 3-star hotel features friendly staff, a relaxing piano bar and a small wellness area.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

027 966 4166.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-butterfly.com

**Grand Hotel Zermatterhof**

Dating back to 1879, the 5-star Grand Hotel Zermatterhof offers timeless elegance and luxury with the icing on the cake being spectacular Matterhorn views.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

027 966 6600.

**Website**

http://www.zermatterhof.ch

**Matterhorn Hostel**

Matterhorn Hostel provides basic but well-located and affordable accommodation with shared bathroom facilities.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

(027) 968 1919.

**Website**

www.matterhornhostel.com