The Matterhorn

is one of the highest mountains in the Alps at 4478 metres. The Matterhorn is one of the most famous mountains in the world due to its striking shape and its history of being climbed. For Switzerland, it is a landmark and the most photographed tourist attraction.

The summit is located in the Valais Alps between Zermatt (Switzerland) and Breuil-Cervinia (Italy). The east and north faces are on Swiss territory, the south face in Italy, hence the second name Monte Cervinio.

The German name Matterhorn was first mentioned in 1682 and is probably derived from the term ‘Matte’, the grassy valley widening in the area of the present-day village of Zermatt.  
First ascent in 1865.

Since 1857, several unsuccessful attempts have been made to climb the Matterhorn, mostly from the Italian side. The Englishman Edward Whymper fell about 60 metres once.

On 14 July 1865, Edward Whymper, Charles Hudson, D.R. Hadow and Francis Douglas, together with the Zermatt guides Peter Taugwalder father and Peter Taugwalder son and the guide Michel Croz from Chamonix, made the first ascent. Whymper thus won his race for the first ascent against long-time rival Jean Antoine Carrel from Breuil.

During the descent, all three Englishmen (except Whymper) and Michel Croz fell fatally above what is now the Solvay Hut. Three of the dead were recovered a few days later on the Matterhorn glacier; the body of Lord Francis Douglas was never found.

Three days later, Carrel also managed the ascent from the Italian side.

The Matterhorn is the most climbed four-thousand-metre peak in Europe. Over 450 climbers have already lost their lives on the Matterhorn.

Matterhorn ascent today:

The ascent normally takes four to six hours, the descent three hours. A Zermatt mountain guide only takes one guest on the rope and charges a fee of around 1200 Swiss francs (approx. 900 euros)

Visiting the Matterhorn

Despite several plans, there is still no cable car to the Matterhorn.

For the Swiss mountain railway and gondola builders, the construction of a cable car would certainly not be a technical problem.

However, there are several cableways that lead to all possible points in the Zermatt region. From there you can marvel at the Matterhorn.

One example of this is the Gornergratbahn, an electrically powered cogwheel railway up the Gornergrat in the Monte Rosa region of Switzerland. It is the second highest mountain railway in Europe (3100m)

# World health resort Zermatt – „Mecca for mountaineers“

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| Location | Approx. 1610 m above sea level in Swiss canton of Valais |
| Area | 243 km² |

## Special features:

33 of the 74 Swiss peaks over 4000 metres are wholly or partly on Zermatt territory.

More than 3000 alpinists climb the Matterhorn every year.

Zermatt has been car-free since 1931 - the village can only be reached by train (Matterhorn - Gotthard railway)

Summer and winter tourism.

## Sightseeing attractions:

Matterhorn Museum

Marmot fountain

Church

Air Zermatt base (helicopter)