

# Canton of Valais

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*Disambiguation – "Valais" refers here. If you are looking for other meanings, see **Valais** (disambiguation) .*

The **Canton of Valais** ( AFI : /valˈleːze, -eːse/ , in German and Swiss German *Kanton Wallis* ; in French *Canton du Valais* ; in Romansh *Chantun Vallais* ; in Arpitan *Quenton du Valês* ) is one of the twenty-six Swiss cantons , located in the south- western part of the country , in the Pennine Alps , around the Rhone river valley , from its source to Lake Geneva . It has belonged to the Swiss Confederation since 1815; its capital is Sion , which is also the most populous city in Valais.

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Canton Valais <div>canton</div>	
<div><div><div><span></span></div><div>(<span>DE</span>) <span>Kanton Wallis</span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div>(<span>FR</span>) <span>Canton du Valais</span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div>(<span>RM</span>) <span>Chantun Vallais</span></div></div></div>	
<div> <div><div><span></span></div></div> <div><div><span></span></div></div> </div>	
<div><div><span></span><span>The Rhone Valley . Note the country of Leytron and in the distance the capital city of Zion .</span></div></div>	
Location	
State	<div><div><span></span></div><div>Swiss</div></div>
Administration	
Capital	<div><div><span></span></div><div>Zion</div></div>
Government	Conseil d'Etat, Staatsrat (5)
Legislator	Grand Conseil, Grosser Rat (130)
Official languages	<span>German</span> <span>French</span>

<u>Crans Montana</u>
<u>Leukerbad</u>
<u>Martigny</u>
<u>Monthey</u>
<u>Saas Fee</u>
<u>Sierras</u>
<u>Zion</u>
<u>Verbier</u>
<u>Zermatt</u>
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## Physical Geography

The Canton of Valais is located in the southwestern part of Switzerland. To the south and east it borders with Italy ( Valle d'Aosta and the provinces of Vercelli and Verbano-Cusio-Ossola , in Piedmont ), to the south-west with France ( the department of Haute-Savoie in the Rhône-Alpes ). To the north, the canton borders on the Canton of Vaud and the Canton of Bern ; the canton of Uri and the canton of Ticino are located to the east.

It is the third largest canton in Switzerland after the canton of Grisons and the canton of Bern .

The broad glacial Rhône valley dominates the region. There are many side valleys branching off from the main one. The latter vary from the narrowest and most remote to the largest and most populated. At the top of the Mattertal valley lies Zermatt , a tourist village which is dominated by the Matterhorn massif (4 478m ) .

The Rhône flows into the main valley flowing east-west to Martigny , where it veers north and enters Lake Geneva . After the small town of Saint-Maurice , the northern bank of the river belongs to the canton



The entry of the Rhone into Lake Geneva . On the left the canton of Vaud , on the right the canton of Valais.

<b><u>Date of establishment</u></b>	<u>1815</u>
<b><u>Territory</u></b>	
<b><u>Coordinates of the capital</u></b>	<u>46°13'40"N 7°21'31"E</u>
<b><u>Altitude</u></b>	<u>512 m</u> above sea level
<b><u>Surface</u></b>	<u>5 224.49 km²</u>
<b><u>Inhabitants</u></b>	<u>345 525</u> (31/12/2019)
<b><u>Density</u></b>	<u>66.14 inhabitants/ km²</u>
<b><u>Districts</u></b>	<u>14</u>
<b><u>Common</u></b>	<u>126</u>
<b><u>neighboring cantons</u></b>	<u>Canton of Bern</u> , <u>Canton of Ticino</u> , <u>Canton of Uri</u> , <u>Canton of Vaud</u> , <u>Piedmont</u> ( <u>Italy</u> ), <u>Valle d'Aosta</u> ( <u>Italy</u> ), <u>Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes</u> ( <u>France</u> ) <div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><span><span></span></span></div></div>
<b><u>More info</u></b>	
<b><u>Jet lag</u></b>	<u>UTC+1</u>
<b><u>ISO 3166-2</u></b>	<u>CH-VS</u>
<b><u>Plate</u></b>	<u>vs</u>
<b><u>Inhabitant name</u></b>	<u>walliser / valaisans</u> (Valaisans)

<b><u>Cartography</u></b>


of Vaud. The main valley is bounded by the Bernese Alps to the north and the Pennine Alps to the south. Only half of the total area of the canton is considered productive.

## Mountains

The canton of Valais is affected by many major Alpine peaks . In fact, 51 peaks higher than 4,000 meters are located in the canton of Valais , including the Matterhorn and the Dufourspitze , the highest mountain in Switzerland (4 634 m asl ), located in the Monte Rosa massif .



The Alpine sections and subsections affecting the canton are:

- Pennine Alps ( Grand Combin Alps , Weisshorn and Matterhorn Alps , Monte Rosa Alps , Mischabel and Weissmies Alps )
- Graian Alps ( Mont Blanc Alps )
- Bernese Alps ( Vaud Alps , Bernese Alps sensu stricto, Urane Alps )
- Savoy Pre-Alps ( Sciablese Pre-Alps )
- Lepontine Alps ( Monte Leone and San Gottardo Alps )

## Valleys

Valais is essentially crossed by the Rhone valley . A whole series of lateral valleys branch off from this valley. These include: the Val-d'Illiez , the Trient Valley , the Bagnes Valley , the Entremont Valley , the Ferret Valley , the Nendaz Valley , the Herens Valley , the Anniviers Valley , the Turtmanntal , the Vispatal , the Mattertal , the Saastal , the Nanztal and the Lötschental .



Valais Alps: on the left the Dom , in the center the Matterhorn and on the right the Weisshorn

## Glaciers

- The largest and longest glacier in Europe, the Aletsch Glacier, is located in the canton of Valais . Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List , it measures approx 23 km long and between 1 and 2 km wide.
- The Valais area comprises 680 glaciers, which contain around 52 billion m<sup>3</sup> of ice. They represent two thirds of the glaciers present in Switzerland and one third of those present throughout the Alpine territory.



The Aletsch Glacier seen from Konkordiaplatz , in the Bernese Alps

## History

### Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

The Romans called the upper Rhone valley *Vallis Poenina* . It was probably conquered by the Romans in the context of the campaign of the conquest of the Alps between 26 and 14 BC : certainly the four Celtic tribes of the Valais (Uberi, Seduni, Veragri and Nantuates) are mentioned in the monument of La Turbie which celebrates that campaign <sup>[1]</sup> . The region was incorporated into the province of Raetia . Each of the tribes constituted a *civitas* which maintained a certain internal autonomy.

Under the reign of the emperor Claudius ( 41 - 54 ), the Valais was detached from the province of Rezia and became the procurator province of the *Vallis Poenina* , which generally had the same principal as the province of the *Alpes Graiae* <sup>[2]</sup> . Near the Celtic *Octodurus* (today's Martigny ) the capital of the province was founded,



The canton of Valais in the region of " *Alpi Graiae and Poeninae* " in Roman Italy .

*Forum Claudii Vallensium* <sup>[3]</sup> . It was probably on this occasion that the four *civitates* were united into one, the *Civitas Vallensis* , whose inhabitants were of Latin law <sup>[4]</sup> .

Theodore of Sion is mentioned in the acts of the 381 council of Aquileia as bishop of Octodurus : he is the first Valaisan bishop of which we have news <sup>[5]</sup> . Theodore himself claimed to have discovered the remains of the martyrs of the



The amphitheater of *Forum Claudii Vallensium*

Theban Legion in Agaunum (today's Saint-Maurice ) and consequently started the cult of Saint Maurice .

At the end of Roman rule over Gaul, in 454 , Valais was incorporated into the kingdom of the Burgundians and the future king Sigismund founded the abbey of Saint-Maurice d'Agaune there in 515 , which became the religious center of the Kingdom, a destination for pilgrimages . The kingdom of the Burgundians was in turn annexed to the kingdom of the Franks in 534 .

Around 585 the episcopal seat was moved from Martigny- *Octodurus* to Sion which in the meantime had become the largest city in the Valley <sup>[6]</sup> .

With the Treaty of Verdun in 843 , the Valais was assigned to the emperor Lothair I . After the death of the latter, the Valais was part of the domains of the king of Lotharingia Lothair II , as sanctioned by the Treaty of Prüm of 855 , to then become part of the Kingdom of the East Franks with the Treaty of Meerssen of 870 .

In 888 Rudolf founded the kingdom of Burgundy Transjurana , of which Valais was a part <sup>[7]</sup> and had himself crowned in the abbey of Saint-Maurice. His successor Rudolf II acquired the Kingdom of Provence in 934 and unified it into the Kingdom of Burgundy <sup>[8]</sup> .

Between the 8th and 9th centuries , the Valley underwent the progressive infiltration of Germanic populations speaking Alemannic from the Bernese Oberland . They seem to have initially settled on the until then uninhabited mountain pastures. Consequently, the linguistic frontier, first located between Brig and Visp moved further downstream in the 11th century , along the Lonza stream <sup>[9]</sup> .

## Feudal age

In 999 , King Rudolf III of Burgundy invested the bishops of Sion with comital rights <sup>[10]</sup> . However, the frontiers of the *commitatus valensis* were not defined: it will only be in the 12th century that the frontier will be fixed at the Dranse in Martigny.

Upon the death of Rudolf III in 1032 , the kingdom of Burgundy, and with it the Valais, was incorporated into the Holy Roman Empire , of which the bishop of Sion therefore became prince <sup>[11]</sup> . Transjuran Burgundy in turn was granted as a fief by the Emperor to the House of Zähringen as the duchy of Burgundia Minor . Consequently, for about two centuries the history of Valais was a history of the wars between the count-bishops of Sion and the Zähringer.

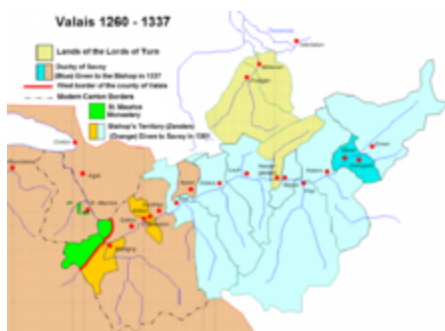
After the extinction of these in 1218 , the feud passed to the Savoys and so for the next two centuries the area was dominated by the struggle between the Savoys and the counts-bishops. Peter II of Savoy invaded Valais in 1260 conquered some castles and forced the bishop to accept peace and the Morge stream (just downstream of Sion) was recognized as the border between Savoyard and French-speaking Lower Valais and Upper Valais , episcopal and German-speaking, this divided between various vassal feudal lords of the Bishop, such as the lords of Raron, those of La Tour-Chatillon, and the counts of Visp <sup>[12]</sup> . In 1291 the Count of Castello sold Sempione and Gondo to Bishop of Sion Boniface de Challant.



At the end of the thirteenth century , on exceptional occasions, the General Council of Episcopal Valais ( *Consilium generale patrie* or *Consilium generale totius terre Vallesii* ) began to meet: in addition to the Bishop, it included the great feudal lords, the representatives of the communities and of the chapter of Zion. In the fifteenth century , following the end of the feudal domains, the weakening of the power of ecclesiastics other than the bishop, and the meeting of the municipalities in " degagne " <sup>[13]</sup> , (decanie, in German *Zenden* ) the Council was transformed into a meeting, a or twice a year, of the representatives of the seven worthy, which were those of Zion, Sierre, Leuk , Raron , Visp , Brig and Conches <sup>[12]</sup> . In this way, what was defined as the " Republic of the seven degagne " was gradually formed .

Similarly, the lordships and communities of the Lower Valais regularly participated in the " States of Savoy ".

In 1375 the Conte Verde conquered Sion: the episode represented the maximum Savoyard expansion in Valais. In the ensuing revolt the forces of the Zenden, allied with the Bishop, overthrew the power of the La Tour-Chatillon and their territories became subject to degagne. Similarly, in 1388 the Zenden overwhelmed the forces of the count and his nobles at Visp.



Valais in the Late Middle Ages

During the Raron revolt from 1410 to 1420 some cantons of the Swiss Confederation took the field in Valais. Lucerne , the canton of Uri and Unterwalden sided with the rebels from Upper Valais, while Bern supported the noble family of Raron. The revolt succeeded in driving out the Raron but nearly led to civil war in the Confederacy. The overthrow of the lords of La Tour, Visp and Raron in favor of the Degagne represented the end of feudalism in the



The castle of the Bâtiâz

Valais and the beginning of the patriciate or the formation of an elite within the communities, partly coming from the small nobility. The patriciate took the place of the feudal nobility also in the General Council <sup>[14]</sup> .

## The fight between the Degagnes and the Bishop

With the appointment of Walther von Supersax of Conches as bishop in 1457 , the German-speaking part of the valley definitively achieved supremacy. At the outbreak of war with Burgundy in 1475 , the bishop of Sion and the Degagne allied themselves with Bern. In November of that same year they took possession of all of the Savoyard Lower Valais up to Martigny. In March of the following year, after the victory of Grandson , they also captured Saint-Maurice, Evian , Thonon and Monthey , but had to return the last three districts in 1477 ; districts which, moreover, were reconquered in 1536. With the Treaty of Thonon of 1569 Monthey, Val d'Illiez and Bouveret were definitively annexed to Valais. These conquered districts in Lower Valais were always governed as subject territories by the bishop assisted by the General Council ( *Conseil du Pays* ) which brought together the deputies of the Degagne.

Once the feudal lords had been overthrown, the struggle began between the bishop and the Degagnes, whose patricians had assimilated the small nobility, for temporal power. In 1435 the General Council gained control over the appointment of priests and officials. A few decades later the Degagnes also obtained the right to nominate their castellan every year.

On 12 March 1529, Valais became a perpetual ally ( *Zugewandter Ort* ) of the Swiss Confederation . The territory also remained Catholic due to the spiritual power that the bishop of Sion held until 1798 .

In 1613 the Degagnes imposed a new agreement on the bishop, under which the Cathedral chapter retained the right to present candidates, but it was the Council of the Seven Degagnes that put the insignia back on the new bishop. The Bishop then became an elective prince and the temporal power now belonged only to the Degagne. In 1634 Valais officially became a republic, the **Republic of the Seven Degagne** ( *République des Sept Dizains* , *Republik der Sieben Zehenden* ) under the direction of the prince-bishop and the bailiff ( *bailli* ).

In 1640 Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper organized a courier service between Milan and Geneva via the Simplon pass ,

## From the French Revolution to today

The Republic of the Seven Degagne lasted until 1798 , when Napoleon 's troops invaded the Valais and proclaimed an ephemeral Valais Republic on 16 March , which was quickly (1 May) incorporated into the Helvetic Republic . However, in 1802 the territory was reconstituted into an independent Republic of the Rhône , which moreover became the French department of *Simplon* (Simplon) in 1810 .

Valais became independent again in 1813 and two years later, on 4 August 1815 , it entered the Swiss Confederation as a canton. In 1845 the Canton of Valais joined the Catholic separatist league ( *Sonderbund* ), but chose not to fight Confederate troops and in 1847 submitted to Federal forces.

## Symbols

The coat of arms blazes:

« party of argent and gules, with 13 stars, arranged in three rows in the post; the 5 in the middle of one to the other , the 8 lateral of one in the other .

## Economy

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Wine production and tourism are among the canton's main industries

## Tourism

Valais enjoys a long tradition of tourism, which has made it a popular tourist destination in both summer and winter. César Ritz was also born in this canton, the founder of the Ritz Hotels in Paris and London who, in the last decades of the 19th century and until the outbreak of the First World War, helped to develop the concept of a luxury hotel intended for a wealthy clientele and demanding, coming mostly from the noble class from all over the world.

Valais has more than 120 winter and summer destinations, including:

- Goms Valley : Fiesch -Eggishorn, Bellwald , Binn , Ernen , Oberwald
- Aletsch , UNESCO World Heritage : Bettmeralp, Fiescheralp, Riederalp
- Brig and surroundings: Blatten , Belalp, Mund , Termen , Birgisch
- Visp and surroundings: Visperterminen , Bürchen , Eischoll , Stalden , Töbel , Unterbäch
- Zermatt , dominated by the Matterhorn , Switzerland's symbol mountain
- Saas Valley: Saas-Fee , Saas-Almagell , Saas-Grund



Vineyards near Zion



Winter hiking from Bettmeralp to Riederalp (VS)

- Leukerbad
- Sierre , Salgesch and the Val d'Anniviers : Chandolin , Saint-Luc , Grimentz , Vercorin, Zinal
- Crans Montana
- Sion and region: Ayent -Anzère, Val d'Herens : Arolla , Euseigne, Evolène , Hérémente , Mase , Saint-Martin
- 4 Valleys ski area: Nendaz , Verbier , Veysonnaz , Thyon-Les Collons, Mayens-de-Riddes/La Tzoumaz
- Valaisian Chablais and Portes du Soleil : Champéry , Champoussin , Morgins , Les Crosets , Torgon , Val-d'Illiez , Le Bouveret, Saint-Maurice , Monthey , Evionnaz , Saint-Gingolph



Pleasures of summer - La Chaux (Verbier)

Most of the resorts are located at more than 1,500 meters above sea level and 9 ski areas are located above 3,000 metres.

In Valais, wellness, beauty and fitness treatments have a centuries-old tradition. The Romans, their ancestors, were already aware of the "healing" virtues of the Valais waters. Thermal spas are located in Saillon , Leukerbad , Ovronnaz, Val-d'Illiez , Breiten and Brigerbad.

Valais has 9 golf courses in total. Five are 18-hole: Crans-Montana , Loèche-les-Bains , Sierre , Sion, and Verbier ; four are 9-hole Crans-Montana , Obergesteln , Riederalp and Zermatt .

Thanks to the constantly evolving tourist impact, Valais has seen the development of a varied offer, such as the Happyland New attraction parks, the Adventure Labyrinth, the Swiss Vapeur Parc and Aquaparc.

## Secondary sector

The tallest gravity dam in the world is located at Grande Dixence . The canton's hydroelectric power plants produce about a quarter of Switzerland's electricity.

A large aluminum production plant is located near Visp . Other metal and chemical products are produced near Visp and Sierre . A refinery is also located in the canton .

## Primary sector

Besides tourism and industry, agriculture is also still important, particularly cattle breeding in the mountains and dairy farming in the lowlands. The canton's wine industry is among the largest in Switzerland. There is also a large number of orchards in the region.

## Infrastructure and transport

- The canton is crossed by an excellent network of roads and many of the road crossings are well known: the Grimsel Pass connects the Rhone valley with the upper valley of the Aare river . The Furka pass, on the other hand, leads to Realp in the Urserental ( canton of Uri ) and the Nufenenpass, or Nufenenpass , connects the Valais with the Val Bedretto in the canton of Ticino . Both the Simplon Pass and the Gran San Bernardo Pass connect the Valais to neighboring Italy : the former connects the Canton to Piedmont , towards Domodossola, while the second connects the Valais to the Aosta Valley .
- The railway also plays a fundamental role in the transport of people and goods: there are four important railway tunnels: the Simplon , the Lötschberg Tunnel , the Lötschberg Base Tunnel and the Furka railway



Train on the Lötschberg Line



- tunnel. Through the Simplon tunnel as well as for the Lötschberg tunnel and the Furka tunnel there is also the possibility to load the car on the train and to remain in the car while the train travels through the tunnel section. The car is loaded in Brig or Iselle (Italy) for the Simplon, for the Lötschberg in Goppenstein or Kandersteg (canton Bern ) and for the Furka in Oberwaldor Realp ( canton of Uri ).
- Thanks to the opening in the new Lötschberg railway tunnel in December 2007, the canton of Valais moved one hour closer to northern Switzerland. In the 2007/2008 tourist season, the number of people who visited Valais, whether for skiing, winter excursions or for thermal baths, increased by about 20%.
  - Thanks to tourism there are many mountain railways and cable cars. The panoramic routes over the Furka Pass originate in the canton of Valais.
  - In the canton there is also a small airport, in Sion.
  - in the municipality of Binn there is the Zen Binnen dam .

## Company

### Demographic evolution

The entire canton is sparsely populated. The largest cities are the capital Sion , Monthey , Sierre , Martigny and Brig-Glis .

### Religions

Over 80% of the population is Catholic .

### Languages and dialects

In the Middle Ages the Rhône valley was still entirely Romance-speaking . Over the centuries, however, the eastern part of today's canton of Valais was largely colonized by German-speaking Walser populations ; this immigration radically changed the ethnic-linguistic landscape in the upper valley. As a result, the canton of Valais is now bilingual: French-speaking in the west and German-speaking in the east; the French-speaking population amounts to about two-thirds of the total population.

Traditionally Francophone regions were Franco -Provençal-speaking ; this idiom was gradually replaced by French, even if it persisted in the mountainous areas, in particular in Evolène , where in the 21st century it is also mastered by most of the younger people.

The canton of Valais has placed Italianness among its cultural heritages, thanks to its large presence, due to immigration from Italy. <sup>[15]</sup>



Albinen , typical Valais village



Sign in French and Franco-Provençal in Saint-Gingolph

%	Linguistic breakdown (main groups) <sup>[16]</sup>
25.3%	German native speaker
67.7%	French native speaker
4.2%	Italian mother-tongue



Year	total population	French %	German %	Italian %
1880	100 190	67 214 (67.1%)	31 962 (31.9%)	1 018 (1.1%)
1900	114 438	74 562 (65.2%)	34 339 (30.0%)	5 469 (4.8%)
1950	159 178	103 457 (65.0%)	52 833 ( <b>33.2%</b> )	2 583 (1.6%)
1970	206 563	122 536 (59.3%)	66 929 (32.4%)	<b>12 792 ( 6.2% )</b>
2000	272 399	<b>171 129</b> (62.8%)	<b>77 255</b> (28.4%)	5 987 (2.2%)
2013		( <b>67.4%</b> )	(26.5%)	12 607 (3.8%)

## Culture

### Kitchen

Typical are the preparations based on cheese, such as the " croûte au fromage " (bread, wine and melted alpine cheese grated in the oven) the raclette (melted cheese accompanied by potatoes and pickles) and the fondue au fromage (pieces of bread or potatoes infused in melted cheese together with Kirsch liqueur, with cognac or wine variations ), which can be accompanied with Fendant , the local white wine; for tourist use, as in all of Switzerland, the fondue bourguignonne (logs of beef infused in oil), the fondue chinoise(beef or veal strips boiled in broth). Another typical dish of the Valais, as of all of Switzerland, is the potato-based Rösti .











### Education

The European Graduate School , which mainly focuses on media and communications , is based in the canton.

## Administration



### Districts

The canton of Valais is divided into 13 districts (in German *Bezirk* , in French *District* ), represented with 13 stars in the cantonal coat of arms:

-  Bezirk Goms with capital Goms
-  Bezirk Raron, divided into two semi-districts:
  - Bezirk Östlich Raron with capital Mörel-Filet
  - Bezirk Westlich Raron with capital Raron
-  Bezirk Brig with capital Brig-Glis
-  Bezirk Visp with capital Visp
- Bezirk Leuk with capital Leuk
-  District de Sierre with capital Sierre
-  District de Sion with capital Sion
-  District de Conthey with the capital being Conthey
-  District d'Hérens with capital Vex
-  District d'Entremont with the administrative capital, Essendoncher
-  District de Martigny with capital Martigny



Districts of the canton of Valais

-  [District de Saint-Maurice](#) with capital [Saint-Maurice](#)
-  [District de Monthey](#) with the capital [Monthey](#)

## Towns and villages

 Individual entries are listed under ***Category:Municipalities of the Canton of Valais*** .

Valais is known for its important ski resorts, but also for the characteristic rural villages typical of the area. Below is a list of the main villages and towns in the canton of Valais.

### Brig

[Brig](#) is a municipality of about 12,000 inhabitants, located in the German-speaking part of the canton, directly at the intersection with the road leading to the Simplon Pass . It experienced an important development thanks to [Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper](#) (1609-1691), who erected the [homonymous castle](#) in the city. In September 1993, the municipality suffered serious damage during the flooding of the Saltina River.

### Crans-Montana

[Crans-Montana](#) stands at an altitude of 1,400 meters [above sea level](#) , overlooking the city of Sierre. Crans-Montana has an important offer of hotels and apartments, with a total of 39,000 beds. The station offers 140 km of ski slopes, as well as an immense possibility of walks during the summer.

### Leukerbad

[Leukerbad](#) is the largest spa and wellness center in the Alps, located in the central part of Valais. In the summer it also offers 60 km of trails and in winter the possibility of skiing and accessing the ski slopes and spas with a single flat-rate ticket.

### Martigny

[Martigny](#) is located at the bottom of the Rhône Valley and has about 16,000 inhabitants.



Leukerbad, view of the village

### Monthey

[Monthey](#) is celebrated for carnival. In the region there is the Portes du Soleil ski area (between Lake Geneva and Dent du Midi). It is the largest ski area in the world, thanks to its 650 km of slopes. Large choice of snow parks and toboggan runs.

### Saas Fee

Saas-Fee is located in the Zermatt area, in the valley next to the famous ski resort. The village is surrounded by a dozen peaks of over 4,000 metres. This is why Saas-Fee is sometimes referred to as *The Pearl of the Alps* . Saas-Fee is shaded by the Dom , the highest peak entirely in Switzerland (4 545 asl ). The ski area is very large. Even via a small train in the tunnel you can reach the altitude of 3,456 meters below the summit of the Allalinhorn , where the highest revolving restaurant in the world is located.

**Sierras**

Sierre is located in the Rhone Valley, approx15 km from Zion. The emblem of the village is a sun. Indeed, Sierre is nicknamed *the sunniest city in Switzerland* . It can boast more than 300 days of sunshine per year.

**Zion**

Sion is the capital of the canton of Valais. Famous in the capital are the Valère Basilica (Basilique de Valère) and the Tourbillon Castle (Château de Tourbillon), located on two adjacent hills.

**Verbier**

Verbier is a renowned ski resort. The 4-Vallée ski area (comprising the region of Verbier, Nendaz, Veysonnaz, Thyon and La Tzoumaz) is the largest in Switzerland, with410 km of slopes and 89 lifts. Impressive is the ascent with the funicular up to the prince peak of the region, the Mont-Fort (3 330 asl ).

**Zermatt**

Zermatt 's fame comes from the Matterhorn , Switzerland's mountain par excellence (although the summit is in co-domination with Italy). Not only winter skiing, Zermatt also offers the greatest summer skiing opportunities in Switzerland, in the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise region. Here is also the Gornergrat , the second highest point in Europe accessible by railway and the Klein Matterhorn (3,883 meters above sea level), known for being the place where the flying kilometer was held .

**Notes**

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1. ^ *Nouvelle Histoire de la Suisse et des Suisses* , 2e edition, Payot, Lausanne, 1986, page 54
2. ^ François Wibl , *Martigny-la-Romaine* , Fondation Pierre Gianadda, 2008, p. 28
3. ^ François Wibl , *Martigny-la-Romaine* , Fondation Pierre Gianadda, 2008, p. 27-28
4. ^ Historical Dictionary of Switzerland (<http://www.dhs-dds.ch/7867.php>) (<http://www.dhs-dds.ch/7867.php>)
5. ^ François Wibl , *Martigny-la-Romaine* , Fondation Pierre Gianadda, 2008, page 37
6. ^  ric Chevalley et Justin Favrod, *Les  v ch s et leurs m tropol s* in *Les Pays romands au Moyen  ge* , 1997, Payot, Lausanne, p. 222
7. ^ The Encyclopaedia Britannica: a dictionary of arts, sciences, literature and general information (<https://www.archive.org/stream/encyclopaediabri27chisrich#page/838/mode/2up/search/Valais>)
8. ^ «Rodolphe II, fils de Rodolphe I, acquit en 934-935 le "Royaume de Provence" pour constituer le grand royaume de "Bourgogne-Provence" ou "Royaume d'Arles", qui demeura autonome jusqu'  la mort de Rodolphe III, en 1032. » (Jean-Pierre Felbert, *De l'Helv tie romaine   la Suisse romande* , Soci t  d'histoire de la Suisse romande, 2006, p. 63)
9. ^ Jean-Pierre Felbert, *De l'Helv tie romaine   la Suisse romande* , Soci t  d'histoire de la Suisse romande, 2006
10. ^ 999 Donation Document Image ([http://www.mediatheque.ch/php/trousse/uploads/s16\\_F18.pdf](http://www.mediatheque.ch/php/trousse/uploads/s16_F18.pdf)) ([http://www.mediatheque.ch/php/trousse/uploads/s16\\_F18.pdf](http://www.mediatheque.ch/php/trousse/uploads/s16_F18.pdf))
11. ^ Jean-Pierre Felbert, *De l'Helv tie romaine   la Suisse romande* , Soci t  d'histoire de la Suisse romande, 2006, p. 108



12. Encyclopedia Britannica, ed. 1911
13.  Garzanti *Historical Atlas*
14.  *Histoire du Valais* in *Annales valaisannes 2000-2001* , Sion, 2002
15.  https://dantevallese.ch/index.php/it/home/la-dante-vallese/l-italianita-nel-vallese
16.  Regional overviews of the Federal Statistical Office 2020 (https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/it/home/statistiche/statistica-regioni/ritratti-regionali-cifre-chiave/cantoni.assetdetail.11587768.html)
17.  *Canton of Valais* , in *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* .

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- ## External links
- (, ) *Official website* , su *vs.ch*.

(, , ) *Canton Valais* , su *hls-dhs-dss.ch* , Historical Dictionary of Switzerland .

() *Canton of Valais* , in *Encyclopædia Britannica* , Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

() *Official statistics* , su *statistik.admin.ch* .

*Official information from Valais tourism* , *www.valais.ch* . URL accessed November 21, 2011 (archived from the original url on December 1, 2011) .

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