

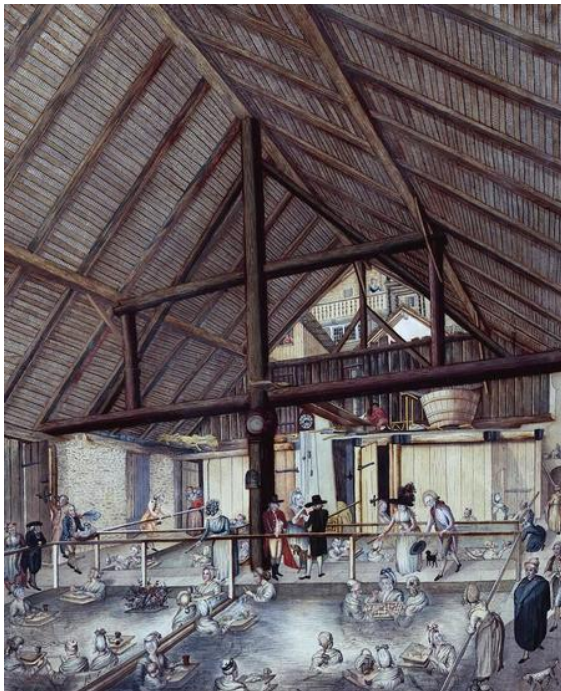
# Leukerbad

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Political municipality of the canton of Valais, district of Leuk. At the foot of the Gemmi Pass

(/de/articles/008850/2013-11-26/), in a basin surrounded by the Gemmi rock face, at an altitude of 1404 m, the village has an extensive settlement of hotels, baths and chalets that developed around its old core in the 20th century. 1229 *Boez*, later *Balnea*, *Thermae*, *Baden*. 1850 557 inhabitants; 1900 613; 1950 505; 2000 1431.



The interior of the large and first baths in Leuk in Valais. Watercolor outline etching by Abraham

Finds from Roman times, settled by Burgundians and Alemanni (Roman and German field names). Before 1798, Leukerbad (a municipality since around 1315) together with the municipality of

Zenden Leuk. The Maenchet Tower has survived from the Middle Ages. At first, Leukerbad was a parishioner to Leuk. The church dedicated to Saint Barbara was built between 1484 and 1486 and was elevated to the status of parish church in 1501. In 1864 the new Marienkirche was built. In addition to the Catholic parish, there is also a Reformed parish; In 2000 about 10% of the residents were Reformed. The baths were already famous in the Swiss Confederation at the end of the 15th century. The most important of the approximately 20 springs is the Lorenz spring (51°C). From the 18th century, spa life experienced a steady rise. 1739-1741 the Gemmiweg was expanded, that connected Leukerbad with the Bernese Oberland, in the 19th century the road to the Rhone Valley. In 1915, Leukerbad was connected to the railway network with a line leading to Leuk, which was replaced by buses in 1967. There has been a cable car from Leukerbad to the Gemmi since 1957, and another to the Torrenthorn since 1971. Important facilities for spa life included the hotels Maison blanche (before 1719) and Des Alpes (1826) as well as the Heilbad, the Werra or Junkerbad, the Armenbad (1876, since 1979 Volksheilbad) and the Zürcherbad. The rheumatism clinic (1959-1961), the polio clinic (1962) and the St. Laurent Alpine thermal baths (1993-2002) are more recent. The hotel and spa company founded in 1896 was responsible for the development into a tourist resort (above all winter sports). In the 1980s and 1990s, significant investments (including a sports center, town hall, multi-storey car park) led to a high level of debt, as a result of which Leukerbad was partially subject to cantonal

administration from 1998-2004. An international literature festival has been held in Leukerbad every summer since the mid-1990s.

## **sources and literature**

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**literature**

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## **web links**

authority files

GND

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## **systematics**

Political Units / Municipality (/de/search/category?f\_hls.lexicofacet\_string=2/006800.006900.007800.)

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Heritage / Baths (/de/search/category?f\_hls.lexicofacet\_string=2/006800.012100.012300.)

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## **citation suggestion**

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