

**Venice Extension**

\$304.00 PP

3-nights lodging at the 3 star Venezia Hotel, 2 per hotel room

[www.hotel-venezia.com](http://www.hotel-venezia.com) just 15minutes from Venice Island by shuttle bus.

Reason for staying in Mestra is the price as we save a substantial amount. Follow hotel link and you see a very nice hotel.

Breakfast daily

Bus transfers Milan to Venice

Bus transfers from the hotel to Venice airport

This gives us two and half days to explore the local area before returning to U.S.

(Airfare from Venice back to USA could change)

## Zermatt Switzerland March 2012

- Departs March 16 return March 24, 2011 from Great Falls, Helena, \*\*Kalispell, \*\*Missoula and Denver to Milan Italy where we are transferred by private coach to Zermatt. *Extensions available for those who would like to spend more time in Italy but I need to know when you sign-up to avoid penalties from the airline.*
- Price is \$2,449 pp (Great Falls departure) (Helena \$2,393 pp) (Denver \$2,347 pp) (\*\*Kalispell and Missoula see note below \$2,449 pp) per person, rooms based on double occupancy. Includes: airfare, transfers, lodging, breakfast and dinner all but three nights at four-star Hotel Astoria.
- Three main places to you can depart from for skiing with accessible by the shuttle bus system in Zermatt.
- Lift tickets are not included as you may want to travel away from Zermatt or just not ski for a day. We will be buying tickets for the group once ski days have been determined. Ski and boot rentals are available. Due to the changes in airline baggage policy you may have to pay extra to check your skis and boots. Rental prices may still make checking your skis and boots more cost effective.
- \*Deposit: \$500 due at sign-up with payment schedule as follows: third in 15 October, third, 15 December and balance 15 February. You can always pay in advance or just pay for entire trip at once if you choose.
- \*A portion of or all of deposit may be non-refundable if your cancellation violates terms of contract. Contract terms will be made available.
- Price based on Dollar to the Swiss Franc at .84 and Dollar to Euro at 1.4, changes in these exchange rates will change the price up or down unless we buy currency futures.
- Be prepared for warm sunny days of great skiing/site seeing on the mountain. I encourage you to go online and checkout what skiing is available or buddy-up with those who have been there before.
- \*\* Kalispell and Missoula bookings and travel routing/itineraries could be different due to aircraft seating availability. Trip price could change in an effort to avoid an extra over-night for people returning to these cities.

**Any questions should be forwarded to Marv Jordan [mjordan@mtadvclub.org](mailto:mjordan@mtadvclub.org)**

### **Zermatt Switzerland Information**

The Hotel Astoria\*\*\*\*\* is located in the neighbourhood 'Steinmatte', right in the center of the village. We are about 10 minutes' walk from the station / the Gornergrat train, the Sunnegga

Express, and 10 minutes' to the Little-Matterhorn cable car. Immediately next to the hotel there is a lively bar, a little supermarket, a bakery, several sports shops and restaurants. Around the corner you'll find the bus stops to the train station, the Sunnegga Express and to the Little-Matterhorn cable car. To the Bahnhofstrasse (the main street) it is 5 minutes walk, and you'll find loads of lovely boutiques, exquisite restaurants, book shops, jewelers and souvenir shops.

The hotel has 18 big and comfortable twin rooms (two beds, no king size beds) with SAT-TV, radio, safety box, minibar, sitting / living area, bathroom (bathtub/ shower/ WC, hairdryer, make-up mirror), and balcony with views of the village or the surrounding mountains. There are 3 small but cosy single rooms with SAT-TV, radio, safety box, bathroom (shower/WC, hairdryer, make-up mirror).

The breakfast buffet leaves nothing to be desired! MÃ¼esli, yogurt, fruit juices, different fruit; croissants, different rolls and bread, boiled eggs, breakfast meats, cheese specialities, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausages. Coffee, tea, ovomaltine, hot chocolate, and: who would mind a cup of champagne on a Sunday? â€ and of course Antonio's attentive and friendly service!

Half-board , an excellent 4 course dinner.

Sauna (included in the room rate); solarium (extra: CHF 5.00 / 10 minutes)

*Zermatt -- 300 miles of well prepared trails  
More than 70 cable cars and chairlifts  
132 ski trails, 22% difficult, 60 % intermediate*

*All hotels central to lifts*

*Linked to [Cervinia](#) Italy*

*105 restaurants in the village  
50 mountain restaurants  
Great apres ski -- 44 bars and discos, live bands at night*

*Sports facilities include curling rink, ice rink, swimming, wellness, bowling*

*Boutique shopping, wine bars, and wellness centers*

*Train station*

**Zermatt -- historic climbing town with lashings of Alpine charm, snow-sure skiing, luxury accommodation and the best mountain restaurants in the Alps. Suits all standards of skier and rider, as well as non-skiers.**

[www.zermatt.ch](http://www.zermatt.ch)

**BEST FOR**

**All standards of skier and rider, non-skiers, reliable snow-cover, mountain restaurants**  
Zermatt is no stranger to change. Ever since Victorian mountaineer Edward Whymper controversially conquered the Matterhorn in 1865, with four of his companions falling to their deaths on the downward journey, Zermatt has regularly reinvented itself as a tourist destination.

Most recently this has been in the form of a high-tech ski resort by building a modern lift system to slowly replace the old network of sardine-can cable-cars and drag-lifts that had changed precious little during the previous 40 years. At the same time it has developed a range of smart hotel and sumptuous restaurants on the mountain that have few rivals anywhere else in the world.

The bustling little town, set at 1620m above the valley town of Visp, attracts well-heeled skiers and snowboarders who want to combine snowsports with excellent eating and nightlife. Faithful followers include Robbie Williams, the Duchess of York, Sir Bob Geldof, Ronan Keating, Diana Ross, Sir Paul McCartney, Nicole Kidman, and Peter Gabriel, along with members of Pink Floyd and Dire Straits.

The town ‘actually it is no more than a large village, its size dictated by limited avalanche-safe building territory’ dates back to the Middle Ages. Old blackened barns stand beside modern hotels and smart boutiques and farmers still tend to their chickens and goats within 200m of the resort centre. Transport is by myriad high-speed electric taxis and an electric ski bus system. These reduce noise and air pollution but can cause a dangerous traffic hazard to pedestrians.

Zermatt's ski area is linked via the Klein Matterhorn to Cervinia in Italy and the two resorts share a lift pass. Skiing continues here 365 days a year at 3900m on the border with Italy, with seven lifts and a vertical drop in summer of 1000m. The terrain park has a super-pipe and a half-pipe open from the second week of July until the end of October.

**Linked resorts:** [Cervinia](#)

**Nearby resorts:** [Crans Montana](#), [Grachen](#), [Riederalp](#), [Saas Fee](#)

## Mountain

The skiing divides into three once separate areas that are now linked on the mountain. The lifts system has been dramatically improved in recent years

Focus for experienced skiers and riders is on the Trockener Steg ‘Klein Matterhorn’ Schwarzsee sector that is linked across the Plateau Rosa to Cervinia in Italy. The Matterhorn Express gondola provides fast access to Furi and Schwarzsee. A cable-car from Furi takes you up to 2939m Trockener Steg, and another continues up to the Klein Matterhorn at 3820m. Last season saw the opening of an important eight-person gondola connecting Furi to Riffelberg, the final link in joining the previously separate ski sectors.

The area provides a wide range of scenic and occasionally demanding snow-sure intermediate skiing with magnificent views of the mighty Matterhorn. On sunny days, Zermatt-based skiers head over the top for the long intermediate run to Cervinia and an Italian lunch at half the price of Switzerland. Distances are huge and it is important to allow plenty of time for the return journey. Missing the last lift involves a six-hour taxi journey or, more sensibly, an overnight stay in a B&B.

The second area of Sunnegga is reached by an underground funicular from near the centre of town that takes you up to 2288m. A new combination cableway ‘half gondola half six-pack chair’ brings you on up to Blauherd, replacing the slow old cable-car. The Sunnegga sector has some demanding pistes including the black roller-coaster, Obere National FIS, as well as

more benign red descents to the valley.

From 3103m Rothorn the area links via a long scenic piste and the Gant cable-car to the third sector of Gornergrat. This can also be accessed from the resort by a slow surface train that winds gently up the mountainside. Hoht alli above Gant and parallel Rote Nase-Stockhorn are the starting points for some of the best advanced pistes in the resort including the notorious Stockhorn descent to Triftji. However, these runs are often closed until mid-January because of insufficient snow.

The whole of Zermatt has enormous off-piste potential, with heli-skiing possible on the Monte Rosa and the Alphubeljoch with descents of up to 2600m. Snowboarding is a serious business with free-riding popular beneath Hoht alli. The winter terrain park is served by the Furggsattel lift above Trockener Steg.