

MATTERHORN MUSEUM ZERMATLANTIS.

UNIQUE
AUTHENTIC
TRADITIONAL
EXCITING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTRUCTIVE
INTERESTING
TRUE
ATTRACTIVE
ORIGINAL



Zermatt. No matter what

ZERMATT AROUND 1850 A UNIQUE INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

A subterranean world opens up underground under the glass dome adjacent to the village church: Zermatlantis. You enter rooms as they looked in days gone by in Zermatt. Experience how the people of the poor farming village tried to ward off the forces of nature with God's help. How mountaineers conquered the surrounding mountains and 4000-metre peaks and how the fatal fall of four climbers on the first ascent of the Matterhorn changed life in Zermatt for ever. Experience the myth of Zermatt and the Matterhorn for yourself through state-of-the-art presentation techniques. The farming village that became a world-famous holiday resort. And you can't say that you've really been to Zermatt until you have gazed at the original torn rope from the first ascent.

A world from the past has been excavated, a forgotten village reappears. Visit the old houses, immerse yourself in the world of mountain farming families, mules, mountain guides and the very first tourists. Experience here how the inhabitants of Zermatt lived in 19th century, when there were no mountain railways and ski lifts, and the first English mountaineers arrived in the village.

Special exhibitions

The museum has regular special exhibitions and offers the perfect backdrop for cultural performances.

Private and Corporate Events

The Museum premises can be used for private functions outside of normal opening hours (on request).



Museum concept and design: Steiner Sarnen Schweiz

HIGHLIGHTS

A The rope from the first ascent

The original rope from the first ascent – a hemp rope – is housed in the museum, like a valuable relic behind toughened glass. In 2005, the Swiss rope manufacturer Mammut reproduced the original rope and tested its tear resistance. A rope like this would only hold 150 kilogrammes – the four mountaineers on the first ascent, who fell despite being attached to the hemp rope, had no chance.

B The discovery of human remains on the Theodul Glacier

The 'soldier', the discovery of human remains with coins, shoes, fragments of clothing and a variety of weapons, is an archaeological sensation. He was discovered by locals on the Theodul Glacier in 1985. This is the second most important discovery of human remains in the Alpine region – following 'Ötzi', the Ice man, who came to light on an Austrian glacier in 1991.

C Prehistoric stone axe from the Neolithic period

The impressive green stone (eclogite) axe was discovered in 1959 above Furgg on the road to the Theodul Pass. A traveller could have lost it. However, this seems unlikely as it is of a respectable size and would have been extremely valuable in its time. The scientific community assumes that it was intentionally put there as a votive offering. It originates from the Neolithic period (about the 3rd to 5th millennium BC).





AUDIO GUIDE

The audio guide (chargeable) offers a unique opportunity to get to know olden-day Zermatt from the viewpoint of two different people:

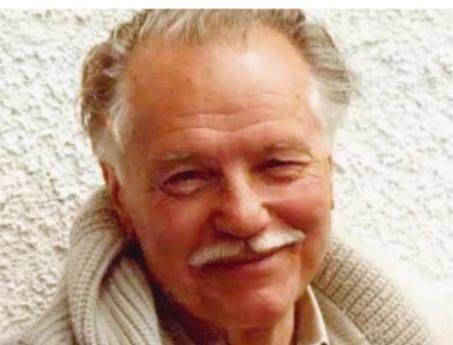


Edward Whymper

1850 – 1911

Edward Whymper was born on 27th April 1840 in London. Like his father, he learned woodcarving as a trade. He became famous through the tragic first ascent of the Matterhorn on 14th July 1865. He wrote books and guides and

undertook expeditions. Edward Whymper died on 16th September 1911 in Chamonix.

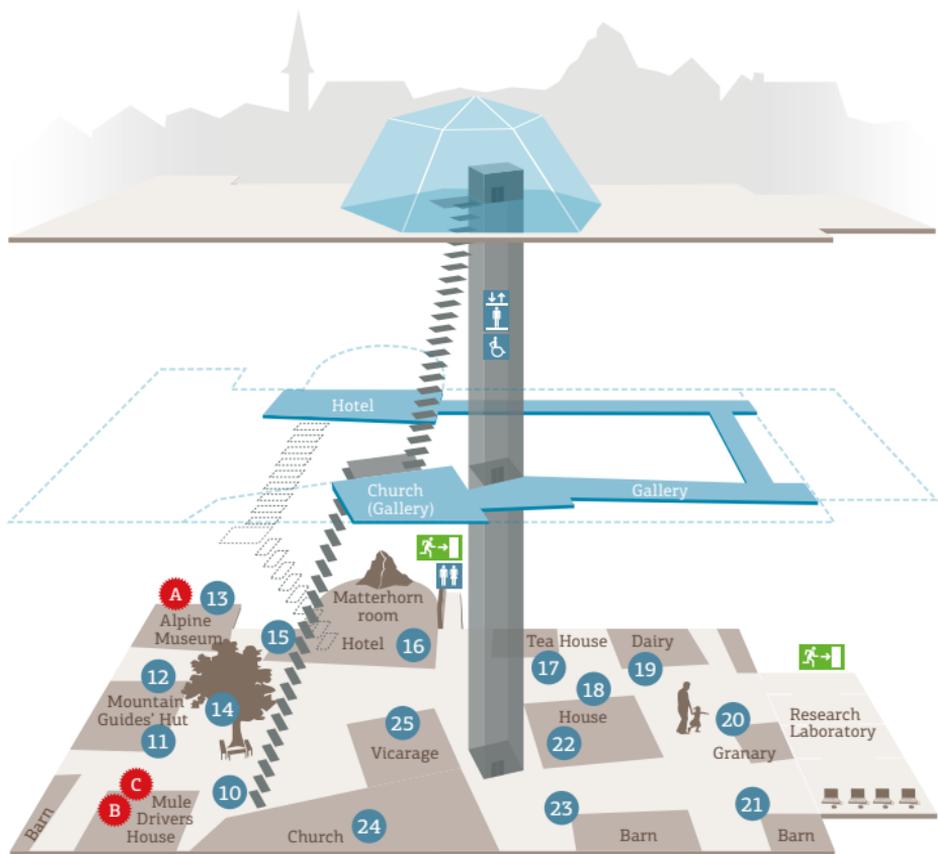


Hannes Taugwalder

1910 – 2007

Hannes Taugwalder was born on 21st December 1910 in Zermatt and grew up there. He left the valley, then worked as the Director of a knitwear factory and became a self-employed manufacturer of women's and children's

clothing. He has also written several novels, short stories, poems, radio plays and stage plays. He describes his childhood memories in Zermatt in his book 'The Lost Valley'. Readers are introduced to the everyday life of a mountain farming family in the years following the First World War.



Audio Guide Menu:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10 Introduction / Welcome | 18 House – Window |
| 11 Mountain Guides' Hut | 19 Dairy |
| 12 Rescue Sledge | 20 Granary |
| 13 Historic Alpine Museum | 21 Barn II |
| 14 Mountain Guides' Bench | 22 House |
| 15 Hotel Monte Rosa – Staircase | 23 Barn I |
| 16 Hotel Monte Rosa – Reception | 24 Church |
| 17 Tea House | 25 Vicarage |

 The museum is accessible to wheelchairs  Tour: approx. 1h

Free entry

- Swiss Museum Pass
- Raiffeisen 'Maestro', 'VISA' or 'MasterCard' cards
- Swiss Pass, Swiss Flexi Pass and Swiss Youth Pass

THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN

History

Between 1857 and 1865, 15 unsuccessful attempts were made on the Matterhorn from the Italian side and 3 from the Swiss side. In July 1865, London-born Edward Whymper made a further attempt with the Italian mountain guide Jean-Antoine Carrel. As Whymper waited for good weather in Breuil/Cervinia, he heard that Carrel had set out for the Matterhorn with an Italian roped party. By chance, Whymper met Lord Francis Douglas and learned of his intention to conquer the summit from Zermatt with Peter Taugwalder.

Departure

On 12th July, Whymper and Douglas reached Zermatt through the Theodul Pass and met the mountain guide Michel Croz, who was also planning the ascent with the Reverend Charles Hudson and D. Robert Hadow. They decided to make the ascent together and also involved Peter Taugwalder's son, also called Peter. They spent the night at the foot of the Matterhorn on 13th July and on 14th July 1865 at 3.40 a.m. climbed onto the rock pyramid on the Hoernli Ridge (Hörnligrat). The higher they climbed, the more difficult the ascent became – the inexperienced Hadow relied on help.



The Triumph

14th July 1865, 1.40 p.m.: The group stood together on the Matterhorn summit. There were no traces of their Italian competitors. Whymper spied the Italians far below. The victors drew attention to themselves with cries of joy and by throwing stones down the mountainside. Carrel recognised Whymper by his brightly-coloured trousers and disappointed began his descent.

The Disaster

After an hour, Croz, Hadow, Hudson and Douglas roped up to their strong rope and started their descent. Taugwalder senior also secured Douglas, the last in the party. He used his thin reserve rope, which was the only one he had available. Whymper, father and son Taugwalder followed in a second rope party. Douglas noticed Hadow's lack of confidence and asked Whymper to rope himself to Taugwalder senior. The seven men now formed a single rope party. To secure them, Taugwalder senior tied the fixed club rope that connected him to Whymper to a rock spur. Hadow suddenly slipped and pulled Croz, Hudson and Douglas with him. The impact of the auxiliary rope hit Taugwalder senior and injured his hands and chest, then severed off. The four unfortunate men plummeted down the North wall. The three survivors were deeply shocked and spent the night under the Hörnli shoulder. Whymper wrote later that, at sunset, they saw shadows that looked like crosses above the Lyskamm. On Saturday morning 15th July they arrived back in Zermatt.

The Rescue

The following day, Whymper climbed with three Anglican priests and five foreign mountain guides to the Matterhorn Glacier. They discovered the shattered bodies of Hadow, Croz and Hudson. They only found Douglas' gloves, one shoe and his belt. The body remained missing. The three dead were buried in the compacted snow of the glacier. On the orders of religious and secular authorities, the corpses were transferred to Zermatt on 20th July. Croz was buried with Roman Catholic rites in the cemetery, Hadow and Hudson were buried outside of the cemetery by an Anglican priest. Hadow's bones were later transferred to England, and Hudson's remains were enclosed within the altar of the Anglican Church in Zermatt.



The Epilogue

The court decided that Hadow was to blame for the accident. And yet no crime had been committed. Malicious tongues later claimed that Whymper or Taugwalder senior had cut through the rope to save themselves. The two suffered badly from this accusation. The tragedy brought worldwide attention to Zermatt and had a lasting effect on tourism development in the village.



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More information & opening hours:

www.matterhornmuseum.ch

www.facebook.com/matterhornmuseum