

Andermatt

Canton of Uri · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Andermatt sits at 1,444 meters in the Urseren Valley, in the canton of Uri. Four of Switzerland's best-known mountain roads meet here: the Gotthard, Furka, Oberalp, and Susten passes. For centuries this made the village a key stop on the route between northern Europe and Italy, and later the home of a large Swiss Army garrison.

Since the mid-2000s, a large resort project has added a new quarter beside the historic center, with hotels, apartments, and a concert hall built on former military land. The result is a small alpine town where a centuries-old core of stone and timber houses sits next to contemporary architecture. Andermatt suits travelers drawn to dramatic mountain scenery: freeride skiers head for the Gemsstock, cyclists and drivers tackle the surrounding passes, and the Glacier Express stops here on its way between Zermatt and St. Moritz.

When to visit

Winters are cold and reliably snowy, with skiing from December into April. Summers, from June to September, are mild and are when all four surrounding passes are open for driving, hiking, and cycling. Spring and late autumn are quiet shoulder seasons, when some high trails and passes can still be closed.

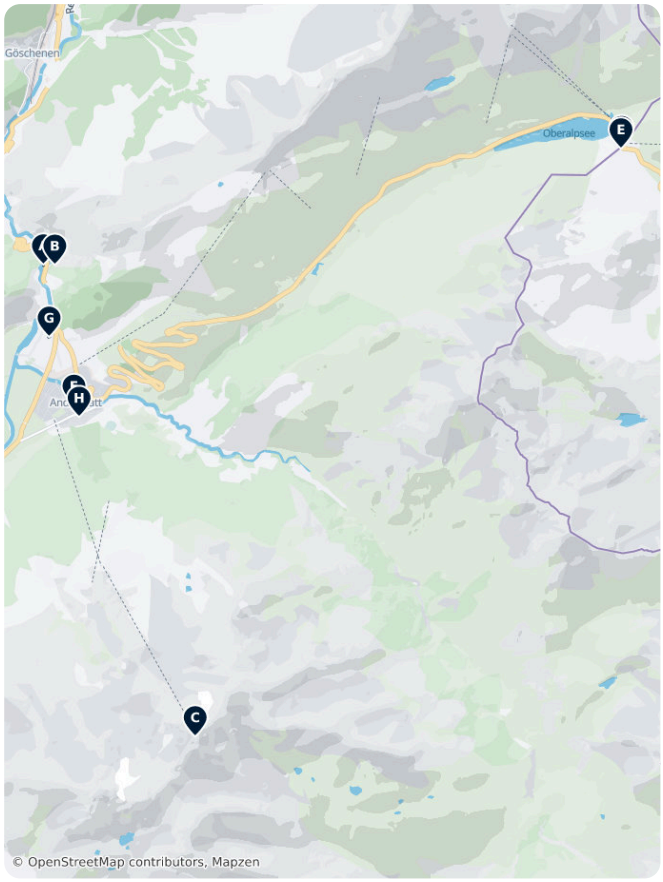
Plan around Freeride Days Andermatt, usually held on the Gemsstock in winter, when off-piste skiers and snowboarders from across the Alps gather to ride the mountain's steep terrain.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 4° Feels like -5°	-9° / -16°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	0° / 5° Feels like -4°	-9° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	3° / 7° Feels like -1°	-5° / -14°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	-1° / -9°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for hiking	13° / 20°	4° / -1°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	18° / 24°	9° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for hiking	20° / 24°	10° / 5°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	20° / 25°	11° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for cycling	16° / 21°	7° / 0°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 18°	3° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 11° Feels like 0°	-3° / -12°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	0° / 5° Feels like -4°	-8° / -16°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Even in summer, days rarely feel hot at this altitude, and afternoon showers are common, so pack layers for a visit in any season.

Top sights



- A Teufelsbrücke carries the old Gotthard road across a dramatic gorge on the Reuss river. A devil-themed mural and information panels nearby explain the bridge's construction legend and the 1799 battles fought around it.
- B Suvorov Monument is a memorial carved into the rock face of the gorge, honoring the Russian soldiers who died crossing the Alps under General *Alexander Suvorov* in September 1799.
- C Gemsstock rises to 2,962 meters above the village and is Andermatt's local ski mountain, reached by cable car, with terrain rated among the more demanding in the Alps.
- D Oberalppass is the highest point on the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn railway, where a small alpine lake, the Tomasee, marks one of the sources of the Rhine.
- Nearby, E Leuchtturm Rheinquelle is a small working lighthouse built in 2010, standing at over 2,000 meters — an odd sight this far from any sea, and the only lighthouse in the Alps.
- F Pfarrkirche St. Peter und Paul is the valley's Baroque parish church, built in 1602, with an ornate high altar and reliquaries said to hold relics of Zurich's patron saints.
- G Andermatt Konzerthalle opened in 2019 as Switzerland's highest-altitude concert hall, home to the Swiss Orchestra and one of the most visible new buildings in the resort quarter beside the old village.
- H Talmuseum Ursern traces the history of the Urseren Valley, including the century-old Furka mountain railway, inside a building more than 240 years old.

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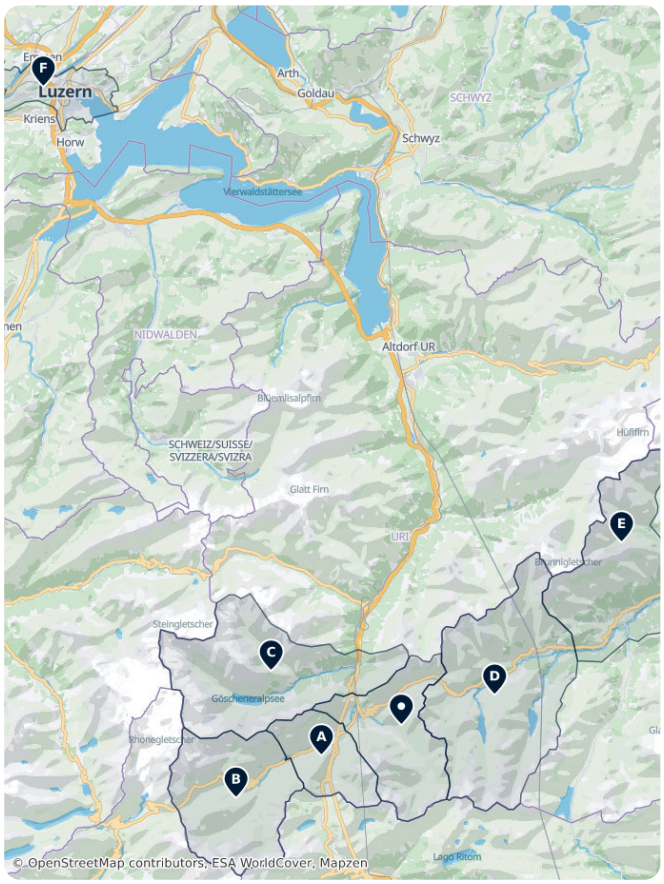
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What to experience

- Cycle or drive one of the four alpine passes that meet at Andermatt — a rite of passage for road cyclists each summer, with the Furka and Oberalp both featuring on classic Swiss touring routes.
- Ride the historic Furka steam train from Realp over the pass on preserved rolling stock from the original line, a slow, scenic summer trip through the mountains.
- Walk through Andermatt Reuss, the new resort quarter built beside the old village, where contemporary Swiss design sits next to centuries-old farmhouses.
- In winter, ride the Gütsch-Express gondola up to Nätschen for wide views back across the Urseren Valley, away from the busier Gemsstock slopes.

Day trips

Andermatt's location at a crossroads of alpine passes makes it a good base for day trips, from five-minute neighboring villages to a full day over a mountain pass.



- A Hospental — about 10 minutes by bus or a s village watched over by a 13th-century tower.
- B Realp — about 10 minutes by train. Base of that climbs toward the Furka Pass in summer.
- C Göschenen — about 10 minutes by train thr the Gotthard rail tunnel, with hiking trails back
- D Sedrun — about 30 minutes by car or train c SkiArena Andermatt-Sedrun, with its own gentl
- Furka Pass and the Rhône Glacier — about 30-4 road is one of Switzerland's most dramatic driv grotto cut into Rhône Glacier each year.
- E Disentis/Mustér — about 50 minutes by trai Benedictine monastery has stood here for over
- F Lucerne — about 1.5 to 2 hours by train. A fu bridges, and Lake Lucerne cruises.

Getting there

- **By air**: the main gateway is Zurich Airport, roughly 2 hours away by car or train (change at Arth-Goldau or Erstfeld). Milan's airports are a similar distance to the south via the Gotthard route.
- **By train**: Andermatt is a stop on the Glacier Express between Zermatt and St. Moritz, and sits on the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn line, with connections east toward Chur and Disentis over the Oberalp Pass. From the Swiss lowlands, trains reach Andermatt via Göschenen and a branch line up through the Schöllenen Gorge.
- **By bus**: seasonal PostBus routes cross the Susten and Furka passes in summer, connecting Andermatt with Bern and Valais when the roads are open.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the historic village center is small and easy to walk. Reaching sights outside the village, like the Gemsstock or the passes, needs a cable car, train, or car.
- **Cable car**: gondolas run from the village up to the Gemsstock ski area and toward Nätschen and Gütsch, useful for both skiers and summer hikers wanting valley views.
- **Trains and buses**: local Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn trains and PostBus services link Andermatt with nearby villages; buy tickets at station machines or through the SBB app. SBB

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The historic core is compact and easy to explore on foot, but sights like the Gemsstock, Oberalp Pass, and Schöllenen Gorge require a cable car, train, or car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley floor has cycling paths, and road cyclists use the surrounding passes, but steep grades make this serious cycling rather than casual riding.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Trains and buses cover the village and open passes, but a car gives more freedom to explore the passes at your own pace. Skip it if you are only staying in the village itself.
- **Passes close in winter.** The Furka, Oberalp, and Susten passes, plus the old Gotthard Pass road, typically close from around November to May depending on snow — always check current conditions before planning a route over them.
- **Andermatt stays open year-round.** The village itself is reachable by road at any time of year via Göschenen and the Schöllenen Gorge. When the Furka Pass is shut, a car-carrying train through the Furka Base Tunnel still links Realp with the Valais side. Toward Ticino, the Gotthard road tunnel keeps a year-round link to Airolo even when the historic pass road above it is closed.
- **Parking**: several car parks and an underground garage serve the village center; street space is limited during the winter high season.

Food & drink

Andermatt's kitchens reflect its position in the Uri Alps: rösti, älplermagronen (alpine macaroni baked with potato, cheese, and fried onion), and local mountain cheeses appear on most menus, along with game dishes in autumn.

For eating, head to the historic core along Gotthardstrasse, where family-run guesthouses serve regional food, or to the newer piazza in Andermatt Reuss, which added several restaurants and cafés alongside the resort's hotels.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Birchermüesli
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

LUNCH

Rösti
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

DINNER

Cheese Fondue · Fondue
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

Raclette
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

Zürcher Geschnetzeltes
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

Älplermagronen
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Cervelat
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

Basler Läckerli
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

DRINKS

Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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Safety & health

Andermatt is a very safe destination with little crime; the main risks come from mountain weather and terrain rather than people. Tap water is safe to drink throughout the village.

Mountain conditions can change quickly: check avalanche and weather bulletins before skiing off-piste or hiking above the tree line, and expect some roads, cable cars, and trails to close outside the main seasons. Sun exposure is stronger at altitude, so use sunscreen even on cool or overcast days.

History

Andermatt's fortunes have always followed the route through the Alps. The Schöllenen Gorge blocked a direct path north until a bridge — ancestor of today's Teufelsbrücke — was built across it around the 13th century, opening the Gotthard route between northern Europe and Italy and turning Andermatt into a trading and coaching stop.

In September 1799, Russian and French forces fought through the gorge as General *Alexander Suvorov*'s army crossed the Alps during the Napoleonic Wars; Suvorov Monument marks the site today. Canton Uri, whose capital Altdorf lies at the foot of the valley, is also the setting of the William Tell legend, the founding story of the Swiss Confederacy.

Andermatt later became home to a large Swiss Army garrison, which shaped the village through much of the 20th century. Since the mid-2000s, much of that former military land has instead been developed by Andermatt Swiss Alps, a project led by Egyptian investor *Samih Sawiris*, adding hotels, apartments, a golf course, and Andermatt Konzerthalle in a new quarter beside the historic village center.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



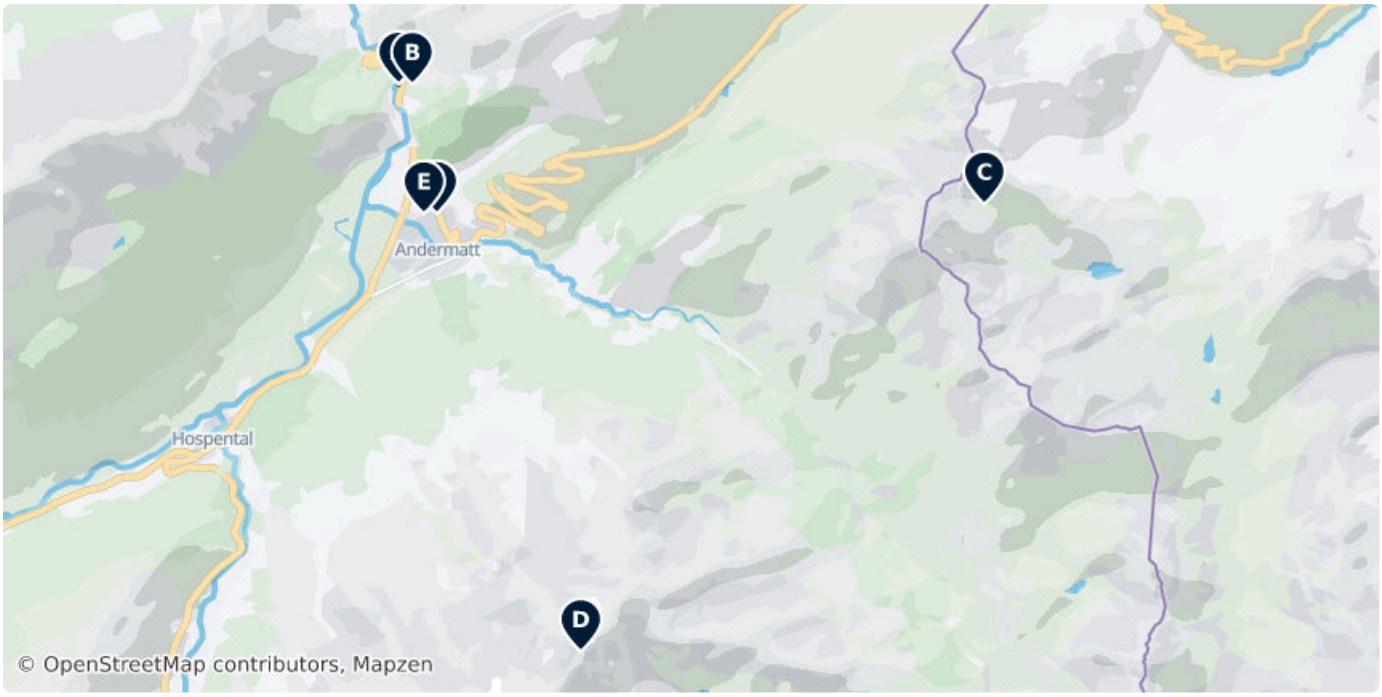
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Andermatt Unmissables

This collection highlights the essential landmarks of Andermatt, situated at the historic crossroads of the Gotthard, Furka, and Oberalp passes. It features the Teufelsbrücke and the nearby Suworow Monument, which commemorates the 1799 Napoleonic battle in the Schöllenen Gorge. High-altitude experiences include the Gemsstock peak at 2,961 meters and the hike to Lake Toma, the primary source of the Rhine. The list also covers practical hubs like the main train station, a key stop for the Glacier Express, and the central tourist information office.





A Devil's Bridge

A historic stone bridge spanning the Reuss river in the Schöllenen Gorge. It marks a critical crossing point on the Gotthard Pass and is associated with a local legend about a pact with the devil.

Teufelsbrücke, 6490 Andermatt, Switzerland (46.64736, 8.59029)

andermatt-sedrun-disentis.ch/andermatt... , +41418887100



B Suvorov Monument

A 12-meter-high cross carved directly into the rock face of the Schöllenen Gorge. It commemorates the Russian soldiers under General Alexander Suvorov who died during the 1799 battle against Napoleon's forces.

6490, Switzerland (46.64733, 8.59189)



C Sources of the Rhine

Lake Toma in the Swiss canton of Grisons is generally regarded as the Source of the River Rhine.

7189, Switzerland (46.63776, 8.65854)



D Gemsstock

A 2,961-meter peak accessible by cable car from Andermatt. It provides panoramic views of hundreds of Alpine summits and serves as a major hub for high-altitude skiing and glacier hiking.

6490, Switzerland (46.60198, 8.61152)

andermatt-sedrun-disentis.ch/en/

E Andermatt

A central transport hub served by the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn. It is a significant stop for the Glacier Express, connecting Zermatt to St. Moritz, and features wheelchair-accessible facilities.

4 Bahnhofstrasse, 6490, Switzerland (46.63700, 8.59324)

F Andermatt

The primary information center providing maps, hiking guides, and details on local events. It offers assistance for the Andermatt-Sedrun-Disentis holiday region.

2 Gotthardstrasse, 6490, Switzerland (46.63700, 8.59474)

Mo–Fr	09:00–17:00
Sa	10:00–16:00

andermatt.ch

DATA SOURCES

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- Sources of the Rhine — "Rein da Medel bei Pardé" by Adrian Michael, CC BY 2.5
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