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The mountain experience with a 360-degree panorama

Gornergrat: a breathtaking view of the Matterhorn and 28 more four-thousanders

Spectacular, magical, unforgettable. We need big adjectives to describe the 360-degree panoramic view from the Gornergrat. An encounter with 29 four-thousanders – especially the world-famous Matterhorn – and two of the longest glaciers in the Alps is an unforgettable experience. The burghers of Zermatt provide front-row seats with different views of the mountain giants at their hotels: the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof at the foot of the Matterhorn, 1,600 metres above sea level, the Riffelhaus (also the highest four-star hotel in the Alps) at around 2,500 metres above sea level with a perfect view of the Matterhorn across the valley, and the Kulmhotel Gornergrat at 3,100 metres above sea level, an altitude at which one would usually expect to find an expedition station rather than a luxury hotel. From here, guests can almost reach out of the window and touch the Matterhorn and its fellow four-thousanders.

Being close to the Matterhorn and feeling the power of the mountains is something that everyone should do more than once a year, and certainly at least once in their lives!

Many people explore the Matterhorn in winter, on skis or snowshoes. But the 29 four-thousanders and their Alpine paradise are easily accessible to guests without sporting ambitions via the cog railway on the Gornergrat. For those who especially love exploring the mountains when they have a comfortable hotel room to return to, the Matterhorn Group offers a “hotel hike” with three nights’ accommodation.

Close, closer and even closer to the mountain of mountains

At 1,600 metres above sea level, the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof is the perfect place to get acclimatised to the mountain air, while the five-star service makes it easy to leave your everyday life behind. And when the mountain calls, a comfortable journey awaits. The Gornergrat Bahn departs from Zermatt, at 1,600 metres above sea level, towards the Gornergrat every 30 minutes. Its route covers 9,339 metres and 1,500 metres altitude difference, and crosses a number of spectacular bridges. A magnificent new mountain panorama awaits passengers as the train exits each gallery and tunnel. A 30-minute journey brings them to the Riffelberg station, just a short walk from the mountain hotel Riffelhaus 1853, where guests stand eye to eye with the Matterhorn. Following the reconstruction of the hotel, rooms with a view of the Matterhorn all have their very own “observation deck”.

The high point: the Gornergrat

The final stage of the “hotel hike” takes guests further up into the high mountains on a 15-minute journey with the Gornergrat Bahn to the Gornergrat and the 3100 Kulmhotel Gornergrat. Now is when those who have made the journey will stand and stare in silent awe, or perhaps even shout with joy. But choosing which view to take in first is not an easy task: from here, there are magnificent views of the Matterhorn, the highest peak in Switzerland, the Dufourspitze in the Monte Rosa massif, the infamous Liskamm and the imposing ice sheet of the Gorner Glacier. Nobody can fail to be overwhelmed by the monumental power revealed by this view of the mountain giants of Zermatt. It is difficult to find anywhere in the Alps that offers such a breathtaking panorama while also being so easily accessible. The view of the

4,478-metre-high Matterhorn from the Kulmhotel Gornergrat at 3,100 metres above sea level gives spectators an even more intimate familiarity with the imposing slopes. Information about packages available, including the Gornergrat 360 experience, can be found online at zermatterhof.ch, riffelhaus.ch and gornergrat-kulm.ch.

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