

A week in alpine life – Mürren and Gimmelwald, August 8th to August 13th

Mürrens Mini Museums current exposition shows tradition and rituals in alpine farming, and informs about the alpine societies of Gimmelwald and Mürren (see brochure with English text)

1257 people from Lötschental came over the mountain and founded the alpine settlement Montem Murren. They organized themselves in alpine societies for farming. Throughout the centuries these societies formed detailed rules for using and maintaining the common land and knew keys for the distribution of the crop. The exhibition shows the still existing structures, dating back to the Walser culture, although being changed by different lifestyles over the centuries. Walser barns and stables are an important heritage of this culture. Originally made of wood only they are in danger of decomposition. The original shingle roofs are often replaced by corrugated sheet roofs.

Monday, August 8th, 12am. noon: meeting point Schilthornbahn station

We visit barns and stables with shingle roofs, go for a stroll through Gimmelwald village and visit the old sawmill down by the river. We learn how wooden shingles are made, and how the roof of an old barn will be covered with shingles. We visit the old sawmill run by water power, dating back to 1858. A representative of the owner, the alpine society of Schilt will be present. A picnic and barbecue with freshly cut sticks to put your sausage on follows.

Tuesday, August 9th, 9.00 am: meeting point Schilthornbahn station

Alpine farming in the inferior Lauterbrunnen valley. This hike of the day leads you to the pastures at the end of the valley. You visit the alpine chesery and learn more about alpine farming. Lunch and transport to Stechelberg not included, picnic to be taken with you

Wednesday, August 10th 9.00 am: meeting point Schilthornbahn station

Visit the alpine chesery of Schiltalp. Walk about 1 hr. uphill to Schiltalp and enjoy an alpine breakfast while you watch the sheperds produce their daily cheeses. After breakfast you visit the cheese cellar of the alp where the whole summer production is stored.

Thursday, August 11th, 10.00am. meeting point at BLM train station

Alpine Society Winteregg: Introduction into alpine farming in Mürren. Participants visit an alpine farm and the modern cheese factory of Winteregg.

Thursday, August 11th, 2pm. meeting point Allmendhubelbahn station Mürren

Alpine farming today: visit the modern stable of the Linder family and see how the cattle lives on the alp today, followed by a walk to Blumental valley and some old barns, followed by an apéro.

Thursday, August 11th, 8pm Hotel Regina Mürren

“Die Walserin” lecture by author Therese Bichsel (in German). A family saga through the centuries, from the Lötschental to the Lauterbrunnental to Canada. (no inscription needed)

Saturday, August 13th, 8.30 pm Uhr Hotel Regina Mürren

„Das Erbe der Bergler“ German spoken movie by Erich Langjahr about the heritage of the alpine population (no inscription needed)

Costs per daily event: CHF 15. Inscription and payment at Mürren Tourist office until 5pm. the day before. Participants are requested to wear suitable outdoor clothes with rain gear and heavy boots. Participation at own risk, Organizers deny any liability.