

# **Summer fun in the Saas valley – enjoy the pleasures of the alpine mountain**

**What does summer in the mountains has to offer us? The answer is simple: many events, excitement, adventure, relaxation and of course, pure nature! Welcome to the Summer fun in Saas-Fee and the Saas Valley.**

People's typical summer holiday wishes are clearly defined to all intents and purposes: it should be relaxing, but also varied, exciting and eventful, one wants to enjoy nature, be active or just relax. Some like to be involved in animation programs or want to get insights into the culture of the host country. Anyone who still believes that these wishes can only be fulfilled by the sea or in distant countries is quite obviously not familiar with the enticing mountain world around the Saas Valley in the beautiful canton of Valais (Switzerland), because it is precisely all these aspects which are available locally to visitors here.

Saas-Fee is located on 1,800 metres altitude in a sun-spoiled southern valley of the Valais, the Saas Valley. The village and the valley are surrounded by the highest mountains in Switzerland. Here the guest can choose between culture, sport, action and relaxation and create a colourful and mixed holiday program. Just planning the holidays already makes you feel happy. There are so many offers, events and choices of destination that you need to make sure you really do include everything in the programme and don't leave anything out. So a few tips and offers for the coming Summer are listed below to provide you with a small information guide.

## **12. International Alpine Music Festival**

From 9 - 12 July the whole village is turned into a stage, with rural groups and yodellers in the restaurants and streets of Saas-Fee setting the scene and creating a happy atmosphere. In addition, entertainment and dance evenings offer an invitation to celebrate, to see and experience folk music and tradition.

### **Festival dei Festival Lugano visiting Saas-Fee**

From 24 to 25 July, for the seventh time, the best mountain films will be shown on the village plaza of Saas-Fee. All films were awarded prizes at international mountain film festivals. A cinematic delight in front of terrific and authentic scenery!

### **Raiffeisen Concert Series**

In August for the second time at least one concert per week will be staged in Saas-Fee/Saas Valley focusing on one special musical direction. This year's themes: the 60s with *The Beatles Unlimited*, Spanish and Latin-American flair with *Alma*, Swiss Mundart (dialect) with *Span*, show/party/atmosphere with the *Amorados Showband* (2008 show band of the year in Switzerland) plus swing/jazz with the marching band *BrassBuffet*.

### **4. Culinary Mile**

On 13 September, Gsottus, Cholera and other Valaisian specialities will be served. The beautifully decorated table will be set up in the village and invite you to eat and relax. Of course the many traditional costumes may not be lacking, worn with pride by the locals as well as by the guests at this day.

### **Cow fightings and Alpine farmers` festivals**

Great emphasis is based on tradition in the Saas Valley where guests can witness traditional cow fighting, alpine processions and alpine festivals. In Saas-Grund and Saas-Almagell these events are held annually between June and August. In addition, on 9 August 2009 a cantonal Summer cow fighting show will once again be staged in Saas-Fee. The last time this was held in the glacier village was in 2002.

### **Themed routes & educational trails**

The Saas Valley is well known for its numerous interesting and informative walking paths. Up to now there have been a good dozen of these located in all four valley districts. For example there is the recently new themed trail covering the 18 four-thousand metre peaks on Hohsaas, the new glacier educational path in Saas-Fee or the alpine flower walk above Saas-Grund. Various notice boards provide extensive information on the natural environment in and around the Saas Valley. However, there are also a number of attractively-designed routes for young children such as e.g. the Märliweg (fairytail trail) or the Sun Trail in Saas-Fee. Water lovers will find exactly what they're looking for with the Suonen trail (trail along former water

pipelines) from Saas-Almagell to Saas-Grund newly created in 2008.

Numerous other themed routes and info trails invite the visitor to take a number of exciting and interesting walks.

### **Summer concerts, markets and animation programs**

From the end of June to mid September Saas-Fee/Saas Valley as a destination will also be offering its visitors Summer concerts staged by local clubs in all four villages of the valley. The popular Summer markets are held in Saas-Fee's main street every Thursday from 9 July to 20 August.

The daily animation program of the tourist offices invite you to participate in exciting trips, cultural events or play and sport activities for all ages. For example, there are marmot feedings in free nature, wine samplings, guided village tours or guided hikes. The highlight for children is certainly once again the TUKA Circus in Saas-Fee. The very young become the stars here. There will also be a *TUKA Wikingen afternoon* in Saas-Grund and a *TUKA im Zauberwald* (Magic Forest) in Saas-Almagell

### **Tips for individualists**

Of course there are other possibilities to create an individual program. There are activities such as hiking (more than 350 km of hiking paths around Saas-Fee and the Saas Valley), biking, climbing, swimming, golfing or playing tennis. And you can also ski in summer. Looking for more action? A spectacular gorge crossing or high alpine tour will provide that adrenaline rushes, breathtaking climbs along the 'via ferratas' (iron walkways) waiting to be discovered. In the Adventure Forest (high robe garden) visitors can brave the heights in the lofty treetops.

You prefer being more comfortable? There are BBQ sites, idyllic near streams, small lakes or in the woods where you can have your barbeque. A number of restaurants in the village and on the mountains invite you on their big sun terraces where tasty dishes are being served.

Mountain relaxation and active leisure is the holiday motto in the beautiful Saas Valley.

Further information to all offers and activities you will find on: [www.saas-fee.ch](http://www.saas-fee.ch) or call Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourism: +41 (0)27 958 18 58. *sf*

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