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## Holiday fun in Saas-Fee/Saas Valley

# Summer fun & the pleasures of the alpine mountain - There's plenty to do in the Saas Valley!

**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.**

Saas-Fee is located on 1,800 metres altitude in a sun-spoiled southern valley of the Valais, the Saas Valley. The village of Saas-Fee and the Saas Valley are surrounded by the highest mountains in Switzerland, including 18 that are over 4,000 metres. Look out over colourful summer meadows at snow-capped peaks under a bright blue sky, enjoy over 350 km of hiking trails and the region's idyllic picnic and barbecue spots, listen to burbling glacial streams, explore enchanting forest clearings, soak up the sun on restaurant terraces and in hammocks by mountain lakes, climb challenging via ferratas, mountain bike down quiet trails and experience the eternal snow of the glaciers on a high Alpine tour.

Whatever you are looking for in a summer holiday, Saas-Fee and the Saas Valley have something for everyone.

Here the guest can choose between culture, sport, action and relaxation and create a colourful and mixed holiday program. Both the village and the valley offer countless possibilities for enjoyment.

Just planning the holidays already makes you feel happy. In fact, there are so many activities, events and excursions available that you're bound to wonder how you can fit it all in! So a few tips and offers for the coming summer are listed below to provide you with a small information guide.

### **13th International Alpine Music Festival**

From 8 - 11 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. The village festival hall also regularly hosts nights of dancing and entertainment. Experience folk music and local traditions first-hand, join in the fun, make new friends and enjoy partying the Saas way.

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### **Jens Blatter fundraising marathon**

"We race for children" is the slogan of the fundraising cycling marathon organised by Jens Blatter and his team every two years. It will take place for the fourth time in 2010. This year the course will take participants from Visp (Valais) to Mount Etna (Italy) and on to Saas-Fee, where they will cross the finishing line on the village square on 31 July. For the final leg on 1 August participants will climb to the icy summit of Allalin at 4,027 metres.

### **Musica Romantica**

After a break of several years, the Musica Romantica classical music festival is returning to Saas-Fee. Over two weeks from 8 to 20 August, visitors will be able to enjoy eight superb classical concerts in the parish church in Saas-Fee. Headlining the festival this year will be pianist Eliane Rodrigues and the St. Petersburg Academic Symphony Orchestra.

### **Saas-Fee Raiffeisen concert series**

The Saas-Fee Raiffeisen concert series will take place for the third time in 2010. At least once a week this August, visitors to the village will be able to enjoy a concert in a distinctive musical style. This year's themes:

Country Music with *Nevada* (6 August), Party- and "Oktoberfest"-Music with *Münchner Zwietracht* (14 August), Blues & Boogie with *Elias Bernet & Band* (18 August) and finally a journey back to the 80s with *80Special* (27 August). All concerts are free.

### **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. The first traditional Alpine procession and cow fight of the year will take place on 20 June in Saas-Almagell. On 27 June there will be a procession to Trift above Saas-Grund, also followed by a cow fight. On 15 August a typical mountain festival will take place up on the Triftalp.

### **5th Culinary Mile**

On 5 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. This year the Nostalgic Culinary mile is themed: "Kids". Children will have the possibility to cook with Irma Dütsch at the village square.

### **First Saas Hiking Day**

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The first Saas Hiking Day will be held in Saas-Almagell on 18 September. Participants can choose between a romantic, an adventurous and a relaxing route, meaning there is sure to be something for everyone. You can also choose whether you want to walk alone or with a guide. Afterwards, everyone will meet back on the village square for refreshments, music and entertainment. The Saas Hiking Day will now take place every year, alternating between the valley's four villages.

### **Themed and 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. Various notice boards provide extensive information on the natural environment in and around the Saas Valley.

The Wellness and Fun Trail on Kreuzboden opened last autumn, providing visitors of all ages with a chance to experience water, clean air and the great outdoors as never before. Along the way, there are relaxation points with hammocks, picnic spots with barbecues, a mountain refuge and much, much more. 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 8 July to 19 August.

The daily animation program of the tourist offices invites 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 in the magic castle* in Saas-Grund and a *TUKA with the Indians* in Saas-Almagell.

### **Art and hiking**

Visiting a gallery while hiking through the mountains? Sounds strange, but this has been possible in Saas-Fee since last winter. The Galerie Maste 4 opened in January at Morenia station, 2,500 metres above sea level. On 25 June the gallery will open its doors for its first summer season. Its collection comprises pictures, sculptures and other works of art by a wide variety of artists, including Ales Knotek (CZE), Nick Twaalfhoven (NED), Detlef Müller (GER), Desi Deneva (BUL) and the gallery's director Marjolein Bos (NED). It will also hold workshops. The gallery promises to be an interesting cultural stop-off point on a variety of walks. Those who would rather take a cableway can reach the gallery in a matter of minutes with the Alpin

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Express.

As you can see, Saas-Fee and the Saas Valley are once again offering a summer filled with activities, relaxation and unforgettable holiday experiences in a breath-taking natural setting crowned by the highest peaks in Switzerland.

More information to all offers and to further 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.

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Photos: [www.photopress.ch/image/saas-fee](http://www.photopress.ch/image/saas-fee)