

Press release, 29 March 2026

## Green Light for Savognin Youth Hostel

**The voters in the municipality of Surses today voted in favour of the municipality's purchase of the former Hotel Cube by a majority of 75 per cent. This clears the way for the conversion into a youth hostel, which will be operated in future by the Swiss Youth Hostels. The municipality, destination and project partners see this as an important stimulus for the region's tourism and economic development. The aim is to reopen at the start of the 2026/27 winter season.**

Following the very clear approval of the municipal assembly in February, the municipality of Surses voted in favour of the purchase of the former Hotel Cube in Savognin on 29 March 2026, with 75 per cent of votes in favour. The property can therefore be purchased by the municipality and will be reopened as a youth hostel in future. It will be operated by the Swiss Youth Hostels (SYH), which will manage the property on behalf of the municipality. With this decision, the municipality is securing a strategically important infrastructure in the tourist centre of Savognin. The hotel building with around 280 beds and the adjoining building have been empty for several years and will now be put to use again.

### Important project for destination and operator

The municipality, Tourismus Val Surses and project partners see the decision as an important step in the further development of tourism in Val Surses. The reopening of the building is intended to generate additional overnight stays and improve the utilisation of existing offerings. The municipality of Surses welcomes the decision of the electorate: "The reactivation of the existing infrastructure as a youth hostel is a key step in the tourism development of our destination. It strengthens value creation in the valley, creates jobs and specifically appeals to new guest segments. Strong tourism is the livelihood of our valley," says Daniel Wasescha, mayor. The planned youth hostel is aimed in particular at families, groups and schools and complements the existing accommodation offering in the valley. At the same time, it is intended to help strengthen the destination's position as a year-round destination.

With the Swiss Youth Hostels, an experienced organisation will be running the property. They operate a nationwide network of currently 50 youth hostels and, through Hostelling International, bring with them global visibility and strong sales channels. "As a destination, Val Surses is a valuable addition to our network. We look forward to working with the municipality to create an offering that appeals to new guests and enables sustainable experiences. By integrating it into platforms in Switzerland and abroad, the new youth hostel should generate additional demand and increase awareness of the region in the long term," says SYH CEO Janine Bunte. Albert Kruker, CEO from Tourismus Val Surses Savognin Bivio AG adds: "With Savognin Youth Hostel, we will be able to increase the number of guests required for the sustainable development of the destination, while improving the utilisation of our offerings. The location between the mountain railway and the lake couldn't be better for a youth hostel. The reopening provides the impetus for a number of tourism developments in Val Surses. We look forward to working together."

### Next steps

Following the positive vote, the municipality will complete the purchase of the property and initiate the further steps towards its renovation and reopening as a youth hostel. The aim is to open the youth hostel at the start of the 2026/2027 winter season.

### About the Swiss Youth Hostels

The Swiss Youth Hostels Association's network comprises 43 hostels under its ownership and 7 Associated Youth Hostels, ranging from romantic castles to urban design locations and wellness hostels. The non-profit organisation records more than 820,000 overnight stays every year. The focus is on quality-conscious, sustainable and affordable tourism for young people and families. [www.youthhostel.ch](http://www.youthhostel.ch)

#### **About the Municipality of Surses**

With an area of around 325 km<sup>2</sup>, the municipality of Surses in Graubünden is the fourth-largest municipality in Switzerland – and one of the most exceptional. Located on the Julier and Septimer passes, the municipality of Surses unites 11 villages, three languages and two ski resorts in Savognin and Bivio. Parc Ela, Switzerland's largest nature park, and the multi-award-winning Origen cultural festival make the municipality of Surses a unique place where nature, culture and linguistic diversity come together in a truly special way.

#### **About Tourismus Val Surses Savognin Bivio AG:**

Tourismus Val Surses Savognin Bivio AG is the destination organisation of Val Surses with the holiday resorts Savognin and Bivio. It oversees marketing, tourism product development and guest relations in the region. With a wide range of summer and winter offerings, it makes a significant contribution to value creation in the valley.

#### **For more information:**

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