

Press release, 29 March 2025

## **New addition in Western Switzerland: Martigny Youth Hostel celebrates its opening**

**The city of Martigny and the Swiss Youth Hostels are celebrating an opening together: Martigny Youth Hostel has been welcoming guests since the end of February 2025. The hostel in a historic building is the ideal accommodation for food, culture and nature lovers who want to discover the region on their own, with their families or in a small group.**

The network of Swiss Youth Hostels (SYH) is growing: The new Martigny Youth Hostel has been welcoming guests since 28 February. For the hostel, the historic «Bâtiment de l'Horloge» – an important building for the region – was renovated over the course of two years. The building is owned by the city and the SYH is responsible for running the youth hostel. The 48 beds in total are divided into double, family, 4-bed and 6-bed rooms – all with their own shower and WC. The variety of rooms is ideal for accommodating individual travellers, couples and families, as well as clubs and smaller groups. «With Martigny Youth Hostel, the Swiss Youth Hostels can reinforce their presence in this attractive tourist region of Western Switzerland,» says Janine Bunte, CEO of the Swiss Youth Hostels, delighted at today's opening press conference.

The hostel also offers two small lounges, a games room, a bicycle/ski room, a small reception and a cosy vaulted cellar for breakfast. Dinner is also available for groups on request. One highlight is the arcade on Rue du Bourg, where guests can observe the hustle and bustle of the alley. Due to the historical nature of the building, the youth hostel has limited barrier-free access: The breakfast room and one room on the first floor are easily accessible by wheelchair. The youth hostel is run as a two-season operation under the direction of hostel manager Anouk Moret. This year, the youth hostel is open continuously until the end of October and in winter from the end of November to the beginning of April 2026. In the first year of operation, the Swiss Youth Hostels expect around 4,500 overnight stays, which is projected to increase steadily in the following years.

### **Strong partnerships**

The city of Martigny and the Swiss Youth Hostels already looked at several options for a hostel in the past. The newly opened youth hostel was finally realised by the city of Martigny. «Martigny, a city of transit and culture, benefits from year-round tourism that is ideal for fans of sport, events and discoveries. Situated at a strategic hub, the city records around 117,000 overnight stays every year and offers a wide range of services with eleven hotels, campsites and inns. With tourism growing steadily, the city of Martigny is delighted to be able to count on a new high-quality offering,» says Anne-Laure Couchepin Vouilloz, Mayor of Martigny. Architect Nicolas Coutaz from the local architecture firm Atelier-IT planned the conversion of the building dating back to 1645 into a youth hostel.

The project would not have been possible without the generous support of Léonard Gianadda and the Fondation Léonard Gianadda Mécénat. Patron Léonard Gianadda, who has now sadly passed away, fully covered the renovation costs of CHF 4 million in order to make his dream of a youth hostel in his hometown a reality. «Léonard Gianadda was an exceptional person with a big heart. Sharing was what made him happy. The youth hostel he initiated is a wonderful example of this. With it and all his patronage, his memory continues to shine down on us,» says Caty Darbellay, member of the Board of Trustees of the Léonard Gianadda Foundation – Mécénat.

«We are grateful to have been able to enter into two excellent partnerships with the City of Martigny and the Fondation Léonard Gianadda Mécénat and to be able to incorporate this new business into our network through their support,» explains Janine Bunte. «We are convinced that the hostel will establish itself as the ideal accommodation in the region, especially for people on a tight budget, and that we will be able to offer all our guests encounters and experiences outside their familiar surroundings.»

**Whether summer or winter: Adventure and culture are right on your doorstep**

Martigny Youth Hostel is located in the historic district of Martigny-Bourg on a lively promenade with numerous cafés, bistros and traditional shops. It is the ideal starting point for a variety of activities in the region. In the warmer months, visitors are drawn from far and wide to the Valais, renowned for its fantastic hikes and cycling tours that weave through the region's countless vineyards. In winter, the region is ideal for action-packed days of snow sports in the surrounding small, family-friendly ski resorts of Les Marécottes, Vichères Bavon, La Fouly, Champex, Ovronnaz and Verbier 4Vallées, the largest ski resort in Switzerland.

Culture aficionados will also love the charming town at the foot of the 13th-century Château de la Bâtiaz: One gem of the region is the internationally renowned Fondation Pierre Gianadda, which offers art collections, archaeological exhibitions, a vintage car park, concerts and one of the five most beautiful sculpture parks in Europe. Barryland is also nearby, where visitors can learn all about the Swiss national dog, the St. Bernard. The Roman amphitheatre and the many smaller galleries and museums in the colourful alleys are also worth a visit. In a nutshell: Guests can enjoy a varied and eventful stay in Martigny all year round.

#### **Key data for Martigny Youth Hostel:**

Beds: 48  
Room availability: 6 double rooms with private shower/WC  
4 four-bed rooms with private shower/WC  
2 six-bed rooms with private shower/WC  
2 family rooms with private shower/WC

Barrier-free access: One double room with shower/WC has barrier-free access.

#### **Sample prices (per person/night including breakfast buffet and Swiss Youth Hostels membership):**

Overnight stay in a 6-bed room with private shower/WC including breakfast buffet from CHF 50.  
Overnight stay in a 4-bed room with private shower/WC including breakfast buffet from CHF 55  
Overnight stay in a double room with private shower/WC including breakfast buffet from CHF 72.

#### **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 around 800,000 annual overnight stays. The focus is on quality-conscious, sustainable and affordable tourism for young people and families. [www.youthhostel.ch](http://www.youthhostel.ch)

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

##### **Swiss Youth Hostels**

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