

Press release, 27th June 2024

Bookings open for the new jewel of the Swiss Youth Hostels in Martigny

After around two years of construction, the new addition to the Swiss Youth Hostels network will open on 28 February 2025 in the historic district of Martigny-Bourg. This project was only possible thanks to the generous support of patron Léonard Gianadda and the city of Martigny. The 48 beds in a building steeped in history are now available for booking.

The Swiss Youth Hostels network is growing: Advance sales for the brand-new Martigny Youth Hostel start today. For the hostel, the historic «Bâtiment de l'Horloge» – an important building for the region – was renovated over the course of two years. 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 individual travellers, families and couples, as well as school classes and groups. «We are delighted to be able to close the gap in the Rhone Valley with the opening of Martigny Youth Hostel and expand our presence in French-speaking Switzerland», emphasises Janine Bunte, CEO of the Swiss Youth Hostels.

The hostel also offers two lounges, a games room, luggage storage, a dining room in the cosy vaulted cellar, a small reception and a lift. One highlight is the terrace directly on the 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 dining room and two rooms on the first floor are easily accessible by wheelchair.

Adventure and culture 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 multitude of activities in the region. On nice days, extensive hikes and bike tours through the vineyards of Valais entice visitors during the warm months and Indian summers, when the landscape changes colour. In winter, the region is ideal for action-packed days of snow sports in the surrounding small and family-friendly ski resorts of Les Marécottes, Vichères Bavon, La Fouly, Champex, Ovronnaz and the famous Verbier 4Vallées ski resort.

Culture aficionados will also love the picturesque town at the foot of the 13th century Château de la Bâtiâz: One gem of the region is the internationally renowned Fondation Gianadda, which offers art collections, archaeological exhibitions, a vintage car park, one of the five most beautiful sculpture parks in Europe and concerts. Barryland is also nearby, where visitors can learn all about the Swiss national dog, the St. Bernard. In a nutshell: Guests will experience a «touch of France» during a stay in Martigny with its romantic flair. The Roman amphitheatre and the many smaller galleries and museums in the colourful alleys are also worth a visit.

A project close to the heart in Martigny by Léonard Gianadda

Martigny Youth Hostel would not have been possible without the generous donation of Léonard Gianadda, who has now sadly passed away. He fondly remembered his stays at the youth hostels as a teenager and wanted to make one in his home town a reality. And so he financed the entire conversion of the historic «Bâtiment de l'Horloge» into a youth hostel. Built in 1645, the building served as a community hall, school and lodging for soldiers.

The city of Martigny is the owner of the property. The Swiss Youth Hostels will act as the operator of the youth hostel in future. The conversion was planned and realised in cooperation with the local architecture firm Atelier-IT. «This project is a great success. On the one hand, it has successfully preserved the soul and history of the building's architecture, while equipping it with state-of-the-art technology. On the other hand, it will further enhance the vibrancy already present in Martigny-Bourg. We are very much looking forward to the opening scheduled for next February», says Anne-Laure Couchepin Vouilloz, President of the City of Martigny.

Key data for Martigny Youth Hostel:

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| 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 on each the 1st and 2nd floors are barrier-free and have a barrier-free shower/WC.

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

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

About the Swiss Youth Hostels

The Swiss Youth Hostels Association's network comprises 42 hostels under its ownership and 7 franchise properties, 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

For more information:

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