

The Alps, a tourist attraction

Hörtexte

Every year hundreds of tourists from all over the world come to visit the Swiss Alps. Some of them want to go skiing, others go climbing or hiking and some come because they have never seen snow before.

Lots of these tourists speak English. That's why most people who live and work in one of the famous tourist resorts, such as Zermatt, Davos, St. Moritz or Wengen have to speak English. And they often need to know other languages, too!

Meet some of the visitors. Look at the pictures and find out why these tourists come to Switzerland. Now listen to what they say.

Number 1

I'm Paul. My friend Chris and I live in Vancouver, Canada. We go cycling together all the time and we're always looking for exciting new adventures. This is our first time in the Alps. We want to cycle from Switzerland to Italy. We started our tour in a place called Scuol. I don't know how to say it right, but you spell it S-C-U-O-L. We are cycling all the way up the – what's it called? Hmm, yes the Val d'Uina. When we get to the top, we'll be in Italy. From there it's a great ride down into South Tyrol and to a town called Merano. There we'll relax and go swimming. This tour is absolutely fantastic, some friends told us about it and we're enjoying every minute. Yipeeee! Here we go!

Number 2

Hi there. I'm Georgina Jones from New York. I'm 22 and I'm training to be a sports teacher. I am in Zermatt because I want to go climbing. Did you know that the first guy who climbed the Matterhorn was British? And he was only 26! I saw a programme about him on TV. My main aim is to beat him and get to the top of that Toblerone mountain before I'm 26. There are fixed routes up the Matterhorn nowadays so it's not very dangerous. Tomorrow I'm off on my first tour. It's really hot here in July, so I've got to be careful not to get sunburnt.

Number 3

Our name is Dal. We're from Calcutta, India. We are on a guided tour through Europe. June is the only month we can travel because our children are on holiday then. We are spending three days in Switzerland. Yesterday we were in Berne. Today we'll go up the Jungfrau – I don't know if I say the word correctly. It's the name of a mountain in the Bernese Alps. They call the place the Top of Europe, because it is 13'642 feet high. For the first time in our lives we'll go walking in the snow. Our daughter Chhanda can't wait to touch the snow and see the ice palace.

Sourav, our son, wants to go for a sleigh ride. Our guide says that they have sleighs pulled by dogs up there. Anything like that is perfect for Sourav, our youngster. My husband and I just want to enjoy the fresh mountain air. And, of course, we all want to go to the Indian restaurant at the top. What a surprise to get Indian food on top of a Swiss mountain!

Number 4

Hi folks. I'm Steve from Aviemore in Scotland. My family have friends in Laax and I am staying with them over Christmas. I love snowboarding. We go halfpiping and freeriding all day. That's fun. How much do you know about snowboarding? Any idea what a goofy or a regular is? You should know because you live in a country where you can go snowboarding every day. I wish I could live in Switzerland all winter. I have to go home again tomorrow.

Number 5

I'm Lewis Gordon. My wife Becky and I are from Birmingham. We have been to Switzerland before. We love the Swiss countryside. We are always amazed how beautiful a lot of the villages in the Swiss mountains still are. We think people in Switzerland realize how important it is to protect nature. Two years ago we were here in winter. Now we're here in summer. This time we are in the French part of Switzerland. We are staying in Chateau d'Oex - my French is not very good, but I know that chateau means castle in English. We want to go hiking as much as possible this time.

Number 6

G'day, I'm Brett from Australia and I'm staying at a youth hostel in Engelberg. These are some of the people I have met at the hostel. I'm just travelling through Europe and thought I'd visit the Swiss Alps. Yesterday Yolanda - she's the one with the big smile and the yellow gloves standing just behind me - told us that curling is fun. So we'll all go curling this afternoon. Yolanda will show us how to play. If we don't like curling, we'll come back to the hostel and build an igloo. There's heaps of snow. And then I'll sleep in the igloo and save on hostel money! Ha!

Number 7

And where do these tourists come from?
What do they say?

Moi, je vais à la montagne pour faire de l'escalade.
!Ay, que lindo estas montañas, mira los glaciares!
Dalla cima di questa montagna, la vista è bellissima!
Ich bin zum ersten Mal in den Schweizer Bergen (schwedisch)