



## MODERN KLOSTERS WITH ITS VILLAGE CHARACTERISTICS

**Three historical events have influenced Klosters architectural development: the foundation of the monastery, which gave the town its name, the immigration of the Walser people and its development as a summer and winter resort in the 19th and 20th centuries. The internationally renowned holiday resort has retained its village structure to this day. It boasts individual buildings in particular.**

Klosters developed from the Premonstratensian «monastery or hospital of St. Jacobus and Christophorus in the Walt in the Thale Prättigau», built in 1208 – 1222. The monastery owned twelve courtyards in the immediate vicinity, probably with a Romansh-speaking population. Today, the Reformed Church of St. Jakob is located on the site of the former monastery. Its oldest part is the 13th century Romanesque tower. It is also the oldest building in the village of Klosters. After a complete renovation of the church in 1921/22, Augusto Giacometti created three colourful stained glass windows in the choir of the church, which were consecrated in 1928 and are now one of the town's sights.

At the beginning of the 14th century, the first Walsers of Davos immigrated to Schlappin and founded the first Walser settlement there. The original Walser buildings can be seen in the various hamlets on the periphery such as Schlappin, Monbiel and Serneus. In these districts, the original appearance has remained practically unchanged. The classic, nowadays barely visible division into Klosters Dorf and Platz also indicates the Walser settlement.

### **400 years old Walser House**

The present museum of local history «Nutli Hüschi» is one of the witnesses of the Walser culture. The name is made up of the name of the builder, Christian Nutli, and «Hüschi», the Prättigau dialect word for «small house». When and where it was built is not quite certain, presumably 1565 near the present location. The house was used as a residential building until the 19th century. In 1918, Fritz Schoellhorn, then Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Winterthur Haldengut brewery, took over the dilapidated property. The house was demolished and rebuilt about 100 meters east of the site. Thanks to only a few changes, the «Nutli Hüschi» has remained an over 400 year old original Walser house.

### **Development into a Health Resort and Sports Centre**

The construction and opening of the Prättigauerstrasse in 1852 and the opening of the section of the railway line from Landquart to Klosters in 1889 marked the beginning of the town's development into a health resort and sports centre. Vereina and Silvretta are among the oldest hotels, but their original architecture has not been preserved. The old 19th-century spa building of Hotel Bad Serneus, which uses a sulphur spring discovered in the 15th century, has remained almost unchanged.

### **Hotel in the style of «Heimatstil»**

In 1938 Hans Guler had the hotel «Chesa Grischuna» built. With the national exhibition in Zurich, the museum had returned to the style of Heimatstil. The hotel building is composed as a work of art. Its architectural and interior design, as well as its small furnishings and the entire inventory up to the ashtrays are the work of the then well-known Zurich architect Hermann Schneider. Artists from the circle of friends of the owner's family, including the well-known painter

and draughtsman Alois Carigiet (1902–1985), contributed to the total work of art with frescoes and paintings. Today the hotel is still owned by the founding family, who maintain it in its original condition and professionally tend it.

### **New Landmark**

The Sunniberg Bridge is the late work of the internationally renowned bridge builder Christian Menn from Chur and has become the new landmark of the community of Klosters-Serneus. The bridge is part of the 6.5 km long Klosters bypass. The cable-stayed bridge rests on four pillars, is 525 metres long and bent within a radius of 500 metres. The unusual combination of elevated roadway with flat-routed cables makes the structure finely detailed and transparent. The bridge was completed at the end of 1998. Even before the opening of the bypass in December 2005, the building was awarded the prestigious international «Outstanding Structure Award» of the «International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE)» in 2001 due to its unique design.

The newer, architecturally successful buildings include the parsonage and church hall of the Protestant parish of Klosters-Serneus, which was built between 2006 and 2008, the extension of the sports centre with two halls to form the Arena Klosters and the new building of the Comprehensive School Klosters Platz, which is to be opened in 2019.

### **Destination Davos Klosters**

Davos Klosters is one of the most famous holiday resorts in the world and boasts the most comprehensive holiday, sports and meeting facilities in the mountains. Although the contrast between urban Davos and idyllic Klosters could not be greater, both villages, which lie only ten minutes drive from each other, have one thing in common: their fascinating and breathtaking mountain backdrop.

[www.davos.ch](http://www.davos.ch) | [www.klosters.ch](http://www.klosters.ch)

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