



EXPLORING THE SILBERBERG

From the late 15th to the middle of the 19th century ore was mined above the Zügen gorge in Davos. Some of the tunnels in Grisons' largest mining establishments can be visited. An excursion to the «Silberberg» offers a great hiking adventure for families and the mining museum brings back to life the hard reality of former miners.

Visiting the «Silberberg» mining tunnels and therefore discovering how narrow the environment was, where miners had to carry out their dangerous work, will send shivers down visitors' spines. In the 19th century, up to 200 people carried out backbreaking work in the Davos mine for little income. According to the in 1845 documented regulations of the "Hoffnungsbau" mine, workers toiled in twelve-hour shifts from six in the morning until seven in the evening, receiving a one-hour lunch break.

Family Adventure

The mining museum as well as the renovated tunnels can be visited on half-day or all-day guided tours that are particularly suitable for families. Already during the two-hours hike from Schmelzboden to Jenisberg it becomes obvious, under what difficult conditions mining had been executed above the Zügen gorge. Visiting the tunnels is a special adventure for children and adults likewise since one enters the "mountain" directly, on the tracks of the Davos miners.

Mining for Lead and Zinc

Mining at Jenisberg was first documented in 1477 and lasted to the end of the 17th century. It was misleading that the mining area was called "Silberberg" (silver mountain) since only traces of this precious metal had been found. Mining for silver turned out to be unprofitable. Thus, lead ore was mined at Jenisberg and then transported to the Lower Inn valley in the Innsbruck region (A) where it was processed.

Largest Mining Establishment in Grisons

At the beginning of the 19th century, lead and later on also zinc ore were again mined at Silberberg on a larger scale. The mining settlement „Schmelzboden-Hoffnungsbau“ was built, featuring lodging, stables, melting furnaces, testing centre (lab), house of prayer and the still existing administration building. In 1848, the business was forced to shut down for constructional and economical reasons.

It was one of the largest plants mining for lead and zinc. The outputs of lead accorded to approx. 1000 tons and zinc several thousand tons in the 19th century. For comparison: nowadays, the world's yearly output accords to some three million tons for lead and 7 million tons for zinc.

Useful information on Grisons' Mining industry

The mining museum provides important background information. The former administration building at Schmelzboden houses an exhibition of minerals, ore, mining objects, documentation on mining history as well as some well worth seeing calc-spar and mountain crystal exhibits. Grisons' mining history is shown in a multimedia presentation.

Mining museum opening hours

Beginning of June to mid October.
Tuesday to Friday and Sunday from 2 – 5 pm
Monday and Saturday closed

Entrance fee

adults CHF 7.–
teenagers up to age 16 CHF 3.–

Further information silberberg-davos.ch

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 | www.klosters.ch

Further information

Basic articles, facts and figures as well as background information can be obtained in our [Media Corner](#). News can be found on our [news page](#) or on our social media channels – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

Photos

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