

Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair



Regional nature park candidate
UNESCO biosphere candidate
Park area: 198 km²
One municipality: Val Müstair
Canton: Grisons



Between two national parks

Val Müstair lies between the Swiss National Park, our partner for the future UNESCO biosphere reserve, and the Italian National Park Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio. This inevitably leads to a sort of buffer zone for both of the old and important protected or core zones.

Climatically Val Müstair lies in the region of the continentally characterised inner-alpine dry zone with a slight Mediterranean influence. The climate is mild with low rainfall. This special climate regime favours special plants and animal species.

Since 01.01.2009, six municipalities have merged to become one municipality Val Müstair, and the valley today has around 1650 inhabitants. The acceptance for the regional nature park is high among the population and was democratically approved in 2007 by 88%.

Nature and Landscape

The intact landscape in Val Müstair offers a high quality of life. The river Rombach, one of the last free-flowing main valley rivers in Switzerland, and a high number of biologically-managed agricultural farms (80%) suggest a conscious and active cooperation of the valley inhabitants in the service of the natural resources.

In a geological respect, Val Müstair lies in the east alpine tectonic system and is embedded in the old-crystalline Scarf cover. The corrie lake Lai da Rims lying at 2,400 metres above sea-level

presents a rich glacial geomorphology with the numerous glaciated knobs and polished glacier bars. The valley is the home to a variety of biotopes and habitats of national, regional and local significance. With regard to the large variety of plant and animal species the Val Müstair belongs to the region of richest biodiversity in Switzerland. The side of the valley exposed to the east and north is practically continuously wooded and only intersected by a few forestry roads and the Umbrail Pass road. This side of the valley borders with the Val Mora landscape conservation area, a simply unique nature experience.

Management

The various economic structures in Val Müstair are widespread. Basic provisions are available, but the trade- and businessmen have to look for new markets outside the valley due to the geographical situation. The largest market is in the Upper Engadine and in the rest of Switzerland. Besides arts and crafts, pure power energy and forestry, the largest growth potential lies in tourism. The attractive, park-related all-inclusive offers are to attract new visitors. The bordering magical triangle offers a variegated and cross-border proposition (Switzerland, Italy and Austria).

Culture

The cultural highlight and a particular jewel in the regional nature park

Biosfera Val Müstair is the internationally known UNESCO World Cultural Heritage St. Johann Monastery in Müstair. The monastery was founded by Charlemagne and holds the most extensive and best-maintained early middle-age cycle of paintings with impressive Carolingian frescoes. The last large hand-weaving factory in Switzerland, the Manufactura Tessanda, has been offering a three-year apprenticeship in textile designing for over 80 years.

The countless museums and also the undamaged sites with the magnificent houses decorated with graffiti are always a feast for the eyes for the visitor. The traditional language of Val Müstair is Romansch, to be precise *laeura*. The language is officially spoken in everyday life and has remained alive up to the present day.

A REVAIR IN VAL MÜSTAIR!

BIOSFERAÄ natüralmaing!

www.biosfera.ch