

EARLY HISTORY

A sharply jagged, pointed stone dating from about 400 B. C. and a few Roman coins from 300 A.D. indicate the crossing of the the Urserntal (Latin ursaria = The Valley of the Bears) by messengers, Legionaires and merchants in early history.

- 1170-1190 Walser (a celtic people) founded the Urserntal Colonies belonging to the Monastery of Disentis in about 800 A.D. These included Andermatt (an der Matt - on the meadow).
- 1200 ab. The passage of the "Schöllenen" with the building of the Devils Bridge and the hanging bridge made possible a vastly increased commercial traffic over the Gotthard.
- 1363 The promulgation of the first orders licencing the pack animals passing over the Gotthard.
- 1382 Ursern was granted political independence and its own jurisdiction by King Wenzel in Frankfurt am Main.
- 1410 Signing of a Common Law contract with Uri:
Renunciation of responsibility for external affairs.
In return for extensive autonomy in internal matters.
- 1615 First regular courier service on foot over the Gotthard.
- 1707 The opening of the tunnel through the Urnerloch" as substitute for the hanging bridge.
- 1798 / 99 Andermatt suffered occupation by French, Austrian and Russian troops.
- 1818 - 30 The opening of the first real road over the Gotthard.
- 1834 Initiation of the first regular Post Service over the Gotthard.
- 1864 - 66 The opening of the Oberalp and Furka roads led to the discovery of Andermatt as a Summer holiday resort and increased the Tourist traffic and new hotels led to well-known people coming to the Valley.
- 1882 The opening of the Gotthard-Tunnel between Göschenen and Airolo led to the break-up of the flourishing trade over the Gotthard and constrained many to emigrate to America.
- 1883 Andermatt became a Winter health resort.
- 1895 Creation of the weapon training area in Andermatt.
- 1902 Founding of the Electricity works of Ursern (EWU)
- 1909 Restoration of the Gotthard postal service to promote tourism.
- 1917 Opening of the Schöllenenbahn (Railway Göschenen-Andermatt)
- 1920 / 21 Post coaches travelled over the Oberalp, Furka and Gotthard.
- 1926 Opening of the Furka-Oberalp railway between Gletsch and Disentis.
- 1937 Opening of the first Ski-lift in the Valley.
- 1951 Avalanches penetrated into village, destroying houses and causing loss of life.
- 1963 Opening of the Gotthard cable-railway to the Gemsstock.
- 1980 Opening of the Gotthard road-tunnel; heavy traffic is no longer running over the Gotthard-Pass.
- 1982 Opening of the Furka-railway-tunnel; connection throughout the year with the Valais.