

WELCOME TO SIERRE!

This booklet will give you a basic information on the city of Sierre in various fields. We hope that it will help you get integrated with ease in your new city!

For more information:

www.sierretakeuil.ch: the useful website for living well in Sierre

www.sierre.ch: the official website of the City of Sierre



www.sierretakeuil.ch

The Town

Sierre is located in the canton of the Valais, at the border with the German-speaking part of the canton ("Haut-Valais"). Contrary to the majority of cities that develop around a core, Sierre was built around its various neighbourhoods, which keep some independence still today. The city is known in particular for its many hours of sun, its wine, its castles, its industries and its schools of higher learning.

The inhabitants of Sierre

The town of Sierre **counts** 15 ' 400 inhabitants. Each year, more than 1000 new people settle in Sierre.

The **origins** represented are varied: 71% inhabitants of Sierre are from Swiss origin and 29% of foreign origin. On the whole, 95 nationalities are represented within the population.

The four most spoken **languages** in Sierre are: French (67.2%), Portuguese (9.4%), German (9%) and Italian (8.7%).

81.6% of the population is of the Roman Catholic **religion**, 4.4% is Protestant and 4% is Muslim.

Religious contacts:

Christian parishes (including Italian, Portuguese and Orthodox): www.paroissecteur-sierre.ch

Evangelical Church of Sierre: Tel. 027/456 13 10

Islam: Islamic Centre of Sion, rue du Stade 4, 1950 Sion / Tel. 027/203 53 95

Administration

The Municipal Administration is at the service of all the people in Sierre. The various administrative services are located in the building of the Town Hall.

Address: Hôtel de Ville, CP96, 3960 Sierre

Telephone: 027/ 452 01 11

E-mail: ville@sierre.ch

Website: www.sierre.ch

If you have any administrative difficulties, due to the language or the culture, do not hesitate to contact the **deputy in charge with the integration in the City**

Contact: Marie-Françoise Pitteloud

Office: No 305, on the 3rd floor of the Hôtel de Ville

Telephone: 027/ 452 02 34.

E-mail: marie-francoise.pitteloud@sierre.ch

Emergency numbers

Police: 117

Fire: 118

Doctor on duty: 0900 144,033

Pharmacy on duty: 0900 558,143

Municipal police: 027/4520 117

Ambulance and doctor: 144 (EMERGENCIES ONLY)

S.O.S Youth: 147

Dentist on duty: 0900 558 143

Inhabitant Control

As soon as you arrive in Sierre, you must announce yourself at the Inhabitant Control.

Address: the Inhabitant Control is in the right wing of the Town Hall.

Telephone: 027/452 01 11

Opening hours of the counters: Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 12:00, as well as Wednesdays from 13:30 to 17:30.

Residence permits

In Switzerland, there are 5 principal types of residence permits:

B Permit: must be renewed each year for non Europeans, every 5 years for member countries EU/EFTA

C Permit: must be renewed every 5 years for European and non European citizens

L Permit: for a duration of less than one year, renewable

F Permit: for provisional admissions

N Permit: for people asking for asylum.

For more information about the permits, visit the website of the Federal Office of Migrations:

www.bfm.admin.ch

Naturalisation

Ordinary naturalisation: After 12 years of residence in Switzerland, a foreigner can ask for Swiss naturalisation. The years spent in Switzerland between the age of 10 years and 20 years count twice. One also has to have lived 5 years in the Valais and 3 years in the same municipality.

Facilitated naturalisation: If the foreigner is married to a Swiss person, he or she can ask naturalisation after 5 years of residence in Switzerland and 3 years of marriage.

For the requests for naturalisation, one should address oneself directly to the State of the Valais, at the **Service of population and migrations (SPM)**. **Direct telephone:** 027/606 55 61 or 62 (ordinary naturalisation), 027/606 55 50 (facilitated naturalisation).