

Saint-Maurice Abbey celebrates its 1500th anniversary in 2015

The oldest monastery in the Western world!

Located in the Valais region of Switzerland Saint-Maurice d'Agaune, the abbey was founded in the year 515 over the grave of Martyrs Maurice and his companions, who, circa 290, gave their lives for their Christian faith. The monastery will celebrate its 1500th anniversary in 2015, making it the oldest living monastery in the western world!

Who was Maurice?

Maurice was a roman officer from Egypt, who commanded a Legion from Thebes (now Luxor). Neither he nor his soldiers obeyed the imperial order to hunt down the Christians and were decimated. King Sigismund of Burgundy founded the monastery.

The Abbey

Following the rule of S. Augustine, the Abbey's monks are now active in Liturgy and parish life, education and conduct missionary work. The Abbey itself reports directly to the Pope.

The Jubilee

In the run up to the jubilee year (from 22nd September 2014 to the anniversary date on 22nd September 2015), the Abbey is completing three major projects to entice the public: improvement of the archaeological site of Martolet, presentation of the Abbey's Treasure, reorganisation of the Abbey's historic archives. Key events are planned during the Jubilee year.

The Abbey's Treasure at the Louvre for 3 months

The Abbey's Treasure has international significance and includes some truly unique pieces. It will be the subject of a special exhibition at the Louvre in Paris in the spring of 2014.

The martyr's influence

Maurice is the patron saint of hundred of towns, parishes, churches and institutions in Europe and around the world. A series of pilgrimages will be hosted during the jubilee year.

A unique event recognised by UNESCO

Keen to celebrate the Abbey's contribution to mutual cultural enrichment, UNESCO has decided to link up with the Abbey's Anniversary year. This is the only UNESCO planned joint event in Switzerland in 2014 and 2015.



KEY JUBILEE DATES

01-02.03.2014	Presentation of the Abbey's treasure, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris
14.03-16.06.2014	Exhibition of the Abbey's Treasure at the Louvre Museum
22.09.2014	Opening of the 2014-2015 Jubilee year
24.12.2014	Midnight mass in Eurovision
15.03.2015	Concert for the Passion with Trinity Choir of Cambridge
22.09.2015	The Abbey's 1500 th anniversary




New features for tourists

In parallel to the their preparations for the 1500th anniversary, the Abbey is working to complete three major projects seeking to present the Abbey's unique historical collection to the world and to the public. Enhancement of the Martolet archaeological site, presentation of the Abbey's treasure and reorganisation of the Archives are three such projects.

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Abbey sites to visit and tourist activities nearby

Abbey	Saint - Maurice	Between 10 and 20 min	Between 30 and 40 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basilica • Archaeological site • Abbey's Treasure • Scex Chapel • Verolliez chapel Place of the martyrdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairies' Cave • Castle • Fortresses • City tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aventure Labyrinthe • Salt mines • Gianadda Foundation • Thermal baths of Lavey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sion castle • Aquaparc • Chillon castle • Swiss Vapeur Parc
 <p>Abbey's Treasure</p>	 <p>Basilica</p>	 <p>Archaeological site</p>	 <p>Scex Chapel</p>

Programme suggestion

<p>2 hour programme</p> <p>Tour of the Abbey's Treasure</p>	<p>Half day programme</p> <p>Tour of the Abbey's Treasure + 1 local tourist activity at option *</p>	<p>* local tourist activities at option:</p> <p>Fairies' Cave Castle Fortresses and city tour</p>
<p>Day programme</p> <p>Tour of the Abbey's Treasure + 1 local tourist activity at option * + 1 regional tourist activity at option *</p>	<p>Week-end programme</p> <p>Tour of the Abbey's Treasure + 1 local tourist activity at option * + 1 night for 2 people at Hotel des Bains + 1 regional tourist activity at option *</p>	<p>* regional tourist activity at option:</p> <p>Lavey-les-Bains Salt mines Labyrinthe Aventure Swiss Vapeur Parc Aquaparc Gianadda Foundation</p>