

## **FACT SHEET AVA SPRING MEETING 2012, DAVOS**

The AVA Spring Meeting 2012 will be held in Davos, Switzerland.  
The Schatzalp Hotel hosts the Congress.

Address: Hotel Schatzalp, 7270 Davos-Platz; Tel: +41 81 415 51 51

### **Travelling to Davos:**

#### **Plane/Train**

From the Airport (Zurich Airport, Phone: 0900 300 313 (Fixed network / CHF 1.99 per minute)) follow signs to the railways.

Get your ticket to Davos at the teller or at the ticket machine (you can pay with CHF/debit card/credit card).

There is a train leaving to Zurich main station every few minutes. Once there, get on the train to Chur (one per hour) and change train in Landquart. From there, the little red train "Rhaethian Railway" will take you to the terminal station Davos Platz.

Total travel time from Zurich main station: 2h 18 min

Get your travel schedule online: [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)

The last train to Davos leaves Zurich airport at around 9 pm.

If you are staying at the Schatzalp hotel: Either take the hotel shuttle, a taxi or the bus to the funicular railway up on Promenade. 4 more minutes uphill and you have reached the congress venue.

The last funicular leaves at 2 am.

#### **Car**

Car rental at the airport is available. By car, leaving the airport, follow indications to Chur. Go on A51, then A4, A3 and A13. Take exit 14, Landquart and follow signs to Davos (Route 28)

The Schatzalp Hotel is located above Davos, reached via a funicular railway.

Travel time: 2 hrs (140 km)

Address for navigation systems: Promenade 62, 72070 Davos Platz.

There is limited parking space so if your travel by car, call the hotel and make a parking lot reservation for 20 CHF per night.

### **At the Congress:**

#### **Registration Desk**

The congress secretariat will be available from 8.00 am to 7.00 pm

#### **Insurance**

The 2012 Spring AVA Meeting cannot be held responsible for any personal injury or loss of/damage to private property, or any

additional expenses incurred as a result of delays or changes in air, rail, sea, road or other services, weather, war or any other cause. Congress participants are advised to take out their own insurance.

### **Working Languages**

The official language of the AVA spring meeting (March 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>) will be English.

The official language of the Practitioner day (March 24<sup>th</sup>) will be German.

### **Badges**

Upon registration you will receive your personal envelope containing your badge. All participants, accompanying persons and exhibitors are kindly requested to wear their badges throughout the congress in order to be admitted to the scientific sessions and other scheduled activities.

### **Certificate of Attendance/Credit**

The Credit certificates shall only be issued if the participant has successfully attended the whole meeting and his/her professional qualifications comply with those required for entitlement to the study credits in question.

## **General Travel Information Switzerland/Davos:**

### **History of Davos**

The village of Davos is first mentioned in 1213. From about 1280 the barons of Vaz allowed German-speaking Walser colonists to settle down, and conceded them extensive self-administration rights, causing Davos to become the largest Walser settlement area in eastern Switzerland. Natives still speak a dialect that is atypical for Graubunden, showing similarities with German idioms of western parts of Switzerland, especially the Upper Valais.

From the middle of the 18th century, Davos became a popular destination for the ailing because the microclimate in the high valley was deemed excellent by doctors and recommended for lung disease patients. Robert Louis Stevenson, who suffered from tuberculosis, wintered in Davos in 1880 at the recommendation of his Edinburgh physician Dr. George Balfour. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote an article about skiing in Davos in 1899. A sanatorium in Davos is also the setting of the Thomas Mann novel *Der Zauberberg* (The Magic Mountain). Between 1936 and 1938, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, then at the end of his life, depicted Davos and the Junkerboden. His painting has a both romantic and pantheistic atmosphere and simplified formal structure.

In the "natural ice" era of winter sports, Davos, and the Davos Eisstadion was a mecca for speed skating. Subsequently, Davos became a famous ski resort, especially frequented by tourists from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. After peaking in the 1970s and 1980s, the city settled down as a leading but less high-profile tourist attraction.

### **Visa**

Visas are not required if you hold a passport for the UK, Ireland, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. Citizens of the EU may also enter Switzerland without a visa. Citizens of several African, Asian and Arab countries, plus Eastern European and Balkan states, require visas. In Switzerland, carry your passport at all times and guard it carefully. Swiss citizens are required always to carry personal identification, so you will also need to be able to identify yourself at any time.

### **Weather and Clothing**

In March you can expect nice, sunny winter weather. You will be up in the Swiss Alps at 1560 m asl, (5100 ft) – Davos is the highest-altitude town in Europe.

The air is cold but very dry.

Average temperatures: 0°C day / -10°C night

Bring warm clothes, good shoes that have grip on snow and, possibly, ice.

Sunscreen is very important as well as sunglasses.

### **Currency and Banks**

The Swiss currency is the Swiss Franc (SFr). There are numerous automatic 24-hour ATMs in town. Also you can usually pay in Euro as well. Major credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants and stores.

Banks are opened from Monday to Friday: 8.30 am -12.30 pm and 2.30 pm to 5 pm.

### **Electricity**

Electrical current in Switzerland is 230 volts, 50-cycle AC. Most power sockets are designed for three pin round plugs. The standard continental type plug with two round pins, applied for many electrical travel products, may be used without problems. Adaptors are available in most hotels.

### **Time**

The time in Davos is Central European Time.

### **Insurance and Medical Care**

The number for medical emergency service in Switzerland is 144. The REGA (mountain rescue) number is 1414.

Pharmacies are open from 8 am to 6 pm.

### **Public Transport**

There is a bus service in town and to the ski regions that you can use free of charge if you stay in one of the Davos hotels.

### **Sports activities**

For the active ones, there are plenty of slopes for skiing and snowboarding. You can rent equipment in several sports shops in town on Promenade street. Look for the Swiss Rental sign.

Sledging on Rinerhorn is fun as well!

Tandem paragliding from the top of Jakobshorn is a nice adventure. For those who like it less fast, there is plenty of cross country slopes in the valley. Equipment can be rented at Hofer sports near the golf parcours.

Horseback riding: There is a stable in Davos Frauenkirch that offers guided tours.

Or you just go on a winter walk. Maybe Wusl would like to join you?

### **Shopping**

Davos is a famous skiing destination with 24,000 guest beds and 13.000 permanent residents. You can find big supermarkets as well as upscale boutiques, sports gear stores, souvenir shops, stores that sell regional specialties to take back with you (think Graubunden nutcake, famous air-dried beef) and there is a dairy in Davos which sells delicious cheeses made from local dairy farm milk)

## **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

MEDICAL EMERGENCY 144

REGA (mountain rescue) 1414

FIRE BRIGADE 118

POLICE 117

HOSPITAL DAVOS +41 (0)81 414 88 88