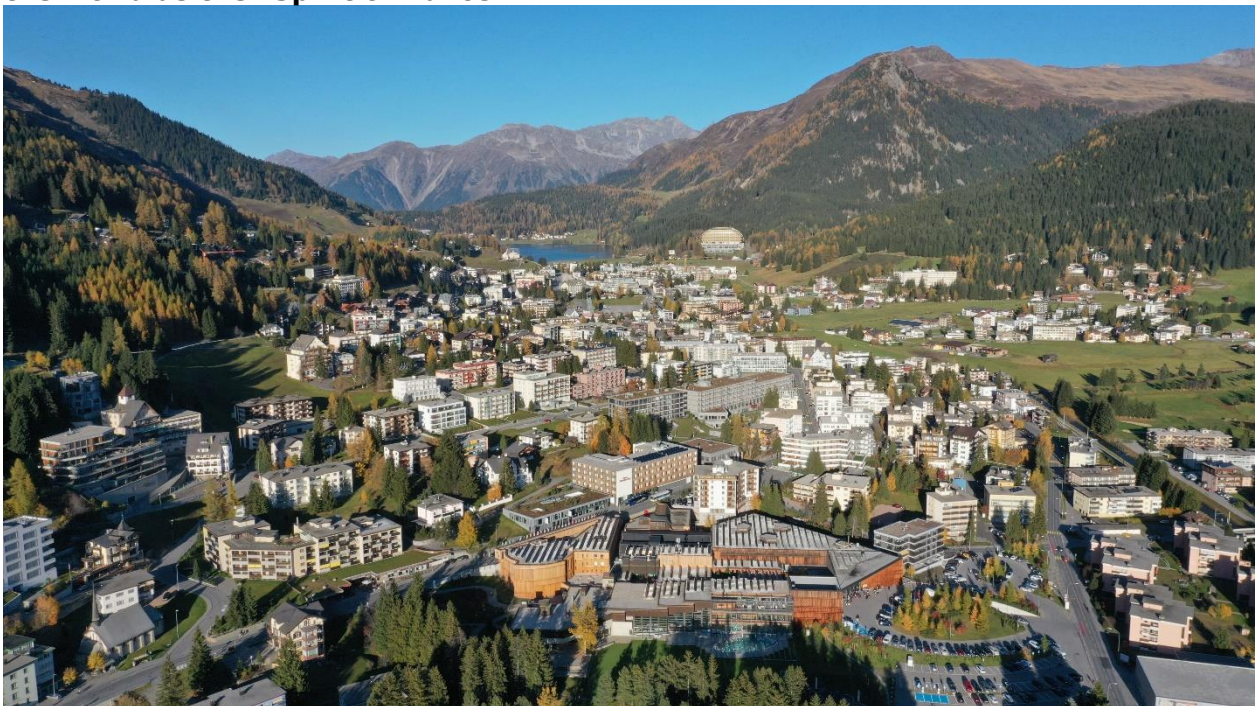


## Top-class global congress destination

The congress destination of Davos is the world leader when it comes to congress towns located in the mountains. And deservedly so - the town has a rich congress tradition, the most up-to-date congress centre in the Alps and hosts the World Economic Forum (WEF), an event with outstanding international prestige. However, Davos is a lot more than just a congress destination. The town is also the home of various famous research institutes such as the National Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, numerous specialist clinics and hospitals and is also a centre for energy, education and knowledge. All this nestled in a natural environment at 1,560 m above sea level, constituting what is known throughout the world as the "Spirit of Davos".



Davos is an important economic centre in the canton of Grisons in Switzerland.

## Davos – a congress destination with tradition

The roots of the congress industry in Davos go back to the 19th century when famous visitors and doctors from all over Europe lived in the mountain health resort. They exchanged their expertise at congresses. Doctors in Davos organised the first international congress in 1923, the Physical Meteorological Observatory followed in 1925 and in 1928, Albert Einstein inaugurated the first "Davos University courses". Davos had been elevated to the status of congress destination and became a meeting place for the intellectual elite.



François Mitterrand, General Secretary of the French Socialist Party and Edward Heath, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, during the European Management Symposium, the precursor of the World Economic Forum. (Archive WEF)

### Facts and dates

- In 1865, the first tuberculosis patient was healed in Davos. The town gained in importance as a research and clinic location.
- At the beginning of the 20th century, courses and congresses were arranged to pass on the scientific and medical findings made in Davos.
- In 1928, Albert Einstein inaugurated the Davos University courses.
- In the 1950s, German doctors met in the highest town in Europe for further education courses.
- The great success of these courses led to the construction of the congress hall in 1969 which was gradually extended to become a modern congress centre.
- The internationally renowned World Economic Forum (earlier referred to as the Management Symposium) took place in the town of Davos from 1971 onwards with many important figures from international business, politics, society and the scientific world.
- The congress centre was subsequently extended three times due to the continuing popularity of Davos as a congress town - the last time being in 2010. The town of Davos (13,000 inhabitants) invested almost 40 million Swiss francs in the last major extension.



## A congress destination with state-of-the-art infrastructure

The infrastructure available in the congress destination Davos is unique and unparalleled in the Alpine region and features the congress centre with its new extension, sufficient overnight accommodation for major congresses and a large number of specialist conference hotels.



The impressive plenary hall in the Congress Centre Davos which was last extended in 2010.

### Facts and dates

- The Congress Centre offers the following capacities:
  - Total capacity: 5,000 congress delegates
  - Plenary hall for 1,800 people
  - 34 meeting rooms for 20 to 1,800 participants covering an area of 12,000 m<sup>2</sup>
  - 3 separate building sections which are individually operational and can be combined
  - No fixed furnishings and fittings – rooms can be furnished and equipped according to requirements
  - State-of-the-art equipment including the latest video and audio systems
- Following the extension to the Congress Centre in 2010, Davos now sets new standards amongst all other comparable congress destinations – both nationally and internationally.
- The congress destination Davos offers a well-developed meeting infrastructure with 13 conference hotels.
- Altogether, there are 6,900 hotel beds of all categories available for congress delegates and security staff in the congress destination Davos - this is a definite advantage for large congresses.

## Congresses as a key pillar of the economy

Davos invests more than any other Swiss destination in congress infrastructure. Congress business is one of the most important sources of income for the town of Davos, whose jobs very much depend on this sector of the economy. The local inhabitants stand firmly behind the congress destination Davos – therefore they clearly agreed to the expenditure of almost 40 million Swiss francs for the extension of the Congress Centre in Davos in 2010.



The local inhabitants clearly agreed with the proposal to spend millions of Swiss francs on the extension to the Congress Centre.

### Facts and dates

- Davos generates around 61 million Swiss francs in turnover from congresses every year.
- This leads to a regional value creation of around 56 m Swiss francs.
- Not only the local hotels profit, but also the local restaurants, trade, commerce and other service providers.
- Around 650 full-time jobs in the town of Davos depend directly or indirectly on congress business.
- The local population is aware of the importance of congress business and the specialist work force in the town allows a highly professional handling of events of all sizes.
- The gross domestic product of the town of Davos was around CHF 740 m in 2008.

Source: Value creation study 2008, University of St. Gallen

## Renowned organisers, especially in the field of medicine, have come to rely in Davos

For decades, Davos has attracted conferences from the medical and medical technology sectors. Conference attendees from all over the world meet here for further education and training purposes. Tradition and the latest findings in the field of traumatology and orthopaedics come together throughout the courses held by the Davos-based AO Foundation.

The annual meeting of the WEF conveys the "Spirit of Davos" to the rest of the world - familiarity in a "global village", networking in a small-town atmosphere and urban infrastructure in an impressive mountain setting.



AO Course Davos @AO Foundation

### References for the congress destination of Davos

- Annual Meeting Davos World Economic Forum (WEF), 3000 participants, [www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)
- AO Courses, 2000 participants, [www.aofoundation.org](http://www.aofoundation.org)
- Ultraschall-Dreiländertreffen SGUM/DEGUM/ÖGUM, 1200 participants, [www.sgum.ch](http://www.sgum.ch)
- Ärztefortbildung der Lungenliga Zürich, 1000 participants, [www.lunge-zuerich.ch](http://www.lunge-zuerich.ch)
- Internationaler Diagnostikkurs IDKD, 1000 participants, [www.idkd.org](http://www.idkd.org)
- Pharma Davos, 800 participants, [www.pharmadavos.ch](http://www.pharmadavos.ch)
- Cardiology Update, 850 participants, [www.cardiologyupdate.ch](http://www.cardiologyupdate.ch)
- World Immune Regulation Meeting, 800 participants, [www.wirm.ch](http://www.wirm.ch)



## Davos - the research location

The Fridericianum, a sort of grammar school for tuberculosis patients, was founded in Davos as early as 1878. Shortly after the turn of the century, Carl Dorno opened the first small research institute. As the site of four internationally renowned research institutes employing hundreds of scientists from all over the world, Davos now has a high standing in the international research community.



Measurement of snow hardness.

### Research institutes based in Davos

- Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, [www.slf.ch](http://www.slf.ch)
- Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research SIAF, [www.siaf.uzh.ch](http://www.siaf.uzh.ch)
- AO Research Institute (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osteosynthese – Association for the Study of Internal Fixation), [www.aofoundation.org](http://www.aofoundation.org)
- Physikalisch - Meteorologisches Observatorium and World Radiation Centre PMOD, [www.pmodwrc.ch](http://www.pmodwrc.ch)
- Global Risk Forum - GRF Davos, [www.grforum.org](http://www.grforum.org)
- CK-Care, Christine Kühne – Centre for Allergy Research and Education, [www.ck-care.ch](http://www.ck-care.ch)

## Davos - the energy town

The "energy town" is a programme organised by SwissEnergy and a prime example of how responsible action can enhance the quality of living and protect the climate. The European energy award is presented for the adoption of a consistent and solution-oriented energy policy. Davos has held the "energy town" seal of approval since 2001.



Davos, the energy town: a commitment to sustainability, nature and environmental responsibility.

### How Davos became an energy town

- The town of Davos has been a member of the learning group for the "energy town" project since 1992.
- Davos was officially awarded the title "energy town" by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy and the support association "Label Energiestadt" on 1 November 2001.
- The government of Davos commits itself to stabilising energy consumption and promoting the shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.
- Examples are the district heating network in which the indoor swimming pool is heated by using the waste heat from the refrigerating machines of the ice-skating stadium and also the expansion of public transport services which has led to a rise in annual passenger frequencies of 5.5 million.
- The solar collectors on the roof of the congress Centre Davos and indoor swimming pool of Davos are in operation since November 2013.
- As of December 2019, the destination Davos Klosters is climate neutral.
- From 01 June 2020, the Davos Congress Centre will be the first climate-neutral congress centre in Switzerland.



## Davos - the knowledge town

Thomas Mann, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson or Prof. Dr. Martin Allgöwer and Dr. Carl Dorno are only a few of the many creators of knowledge who have worked in Davos. The association "Wissensstadt Davos" (Knowledge Town Davos) will ensure that valuable knowledge will continue to be created in Davos in the future. The aims are to strengthen and develop Davos as a research and education location, create meeting platforms for inter- and transdisciplinary exchange and to establish innovative training and further education initiatives, courses and conferences.



Research and development in the World Radiation Centre Davos (PMOD/WRC).

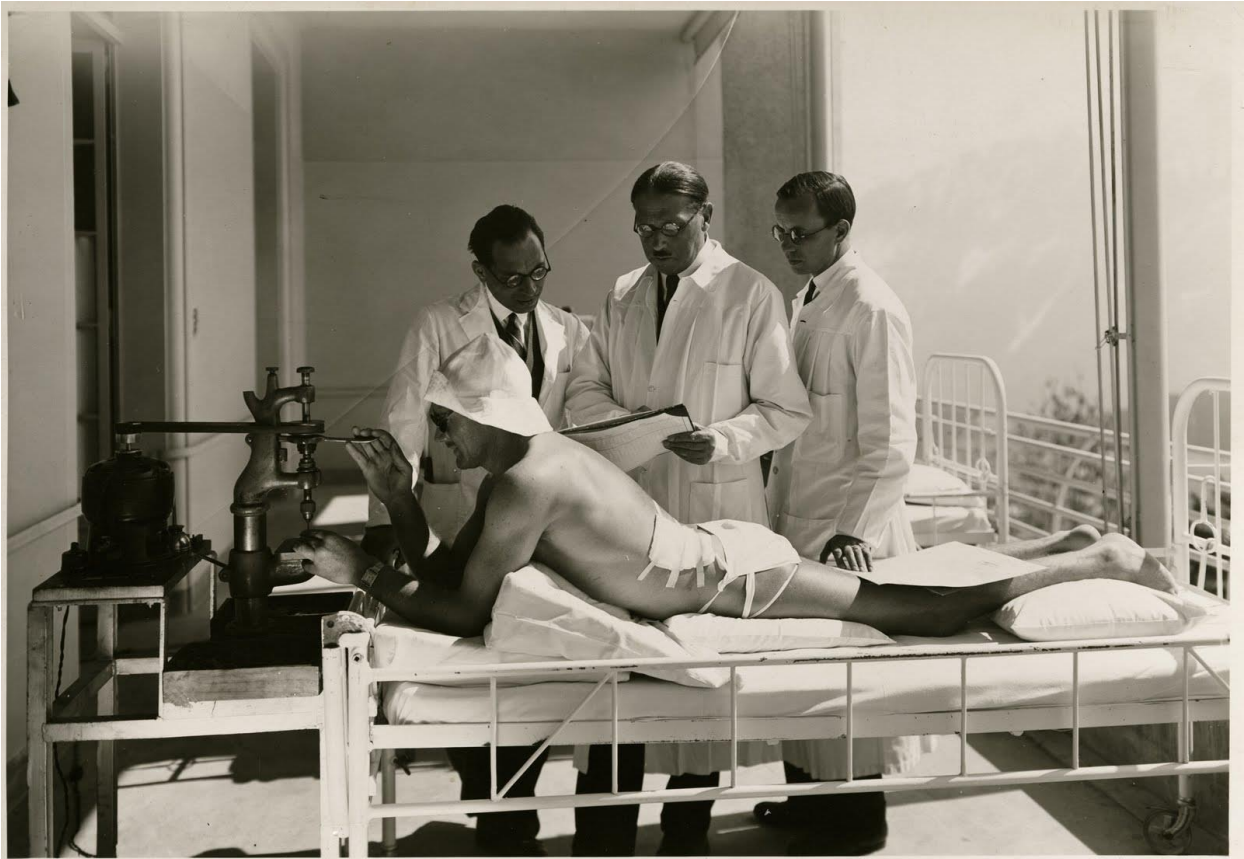
### Local members of the association "Wissensstadt Davos"

- Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, [www.slf.ch](http://www.slf.ch)
- Physikalisch - Meteorologisches Observatorium and World Radiation Centre PMOD, [www.pmodwrc.ch](http://www.pmodwrc.ch)
- Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research SIAF, [www.siaf.uzh.ch](http://www.siaf.uzh.ch)
- AO Research Institute (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osteosynthese – Association for the Study of Internal Fixation), [www.aofoundation.org](http://www.aofoundation.org)
- Schweizerische Text Akademie, [www.textakademie.ch](http://www.textakademie.ch)
- Kirchner Museum Davos, [www.kirchermuseum.ch](http://www.kirchermuseum.ch)
- Global Risk Forum - GRF Davos, [www.grforum.org](http://www.grforum.org)
- Destination Davos Klosters, [www.davos.ch](http://www.davos.ch)
- Schweizerische Alpine Mittelschule Davos (school), [www.samd.ch](http://www.samd.ch)
- European Asthma and Allergy Centre Davos, [www.eacd.net](http://www.eacd.net)
- Municipality of Davos, [www.gemeinde-davos.ch](http://www.gemeinde-davos.ch)
- Municipality of Klosters-Serneus, [www.klosters-serneus.ch](http://www.klosters-serneus.ch)
- Davos Hospital, [www.spitaldavos.ch](http://www.spitaldavos.ch)



## Davos - a health resort with a long tradition

The history of Davos as a health resort is closely connected with the pioneer Alexander Spengler. The town developed into a climatic health resort because he discovered the beneficial and health-promoting properties of the mountain air in 1853. The high-altitude climate with its low levels of allergens and air pollution is especially beneficial for those with respiratory ailments (e.g. tuberculosis and asthma). Well-known clinics and hospitals in Davos still contribute to the town's reputation as a health resort.



The town of Davos has been an established health resort for over 140 years. The picture shows a patient in one of the famous Davos sanatoriums.

### Clinics and hospitals in the town of Davos

- Hochgebirgsklinik Davos (1,590 m), [www.hochgebirgsklinik.ch](http://www.hochgebirgsklinik.ch)
- Zürcher Höhenklinik Davos (1,686 m), [www.zhd.ch](http://www.zhd.ch)
- Nederlands Astmacentrum Davos (1,590 m), [www.nad.ch](http://www.nad.ch)
- EACD - European Allergy and Asthma Centre Davos (EACD), [www.eacd.net](http://www.eacd.net)
- Davos Hospital, [www.spitaldavos.ch](http://www.spitaldavos.ch)
- Swiss Olympic Medical Base Davos, [www.davos-sportmedizin.ch](http://www.davos-sportmedizin.ch)

## **Davos: a centre for the arts, culture, nature and sport too**

Davos is the highest town in Europe (1,560 m above sea level) and the largest municipality in Switzerland by surface area. As far as quality and variety are concerned, the town's services are unique and second to none when compared with other congress destinations. In addition to first-class congress facilities and an excellent transport infrastructure, the home of Hollywood film director Marc Forster offers cultural events as well as internationally famous museums, galleries and music festivals. The Hockey Club Davos is one of the most successful and most popular ice hockey clubs in Switzerland. The Davos Ice Stadium is architecturally one of the most interesting stadiums of its kind in Europe. Davos also boasts excellent restaurants and a broad range of recreational activities throughout the year against a backdrop of impressive and unspoiled mountain scenery.



The Kirchner Museum attracts visitors to Davos from all over the world.

### **Davos...**

- is the leading congress and holiday destination in the Alps.
- offers 12 months of hospitality a year and an impressive cultural and social scene, the likes of which you will scarcely find anywhere else at this altitude.
- means "Swissness at its best": safety, reliability, quality, authenticity, nature, punctuality and stability in politics and the economy.
- is one of the strongest tourism brands in the Alps and the only one which combines the advantages of urban and rural life so harmoniously.
- is a town of the future and home to headquarters of international organisations.
- is unique worldwide when it comes to the quality and variety of the services offered.
- is focusing on sustainable infrastructure and energy recycling.
- offers convenient transport connections to three international airports. Located within the triangle formed by the three great economic centres of Zurich, Munich and Milan.



## **As a state-recognized science centre, Davos meets all the conditions for successful medical conferences**

Strict guidelines apply to events such as congresses attended by medical and pharmaceutical specialists and which are sponsored by companies in these industries. These rules are governed by the premise that the main purpose of medical congresses is to communicate scientific or specialist information. The duration of the congress must be significantly longer than any supporting programme. For the workshops, the presence of the participants is checked at the entrance. The congress destination of Davos takes the guidelines very seriously, refers to them in all publications and contracts, moreover complies them entirely.

The organisers honour this commitment with their loyalty and not without reason. For whilst the very limited free time of congress delegates can be used for business visits in other congress destinations, the village atmosphere of Davos nestled amongst the mountains allows delegates to focus successfully on the congress they are attending. As a rule, there is simply not enough time for any other activities.



The heart of the congress destination Davos: the Congress Centre.

### **Davos fulfils all the basic conditions for medical congresses in Switzerland in accordance with the following guidelines:**

- Code of conduct of the Swiss pharmaceutical industry (Pharma Code)  
<https://www.scienceindustries.ch/pharmakodizes>
- FASMED Code of Business Conduct (for medical technology companies)  
[www.fasmed.ch/fileadmin/pdf/polit\\_dossiers/Medien/FASMED%20CBC%2026.05.2010.pdf](http://www.fasmed.ch/fileadmin/pdf/polit_dossiers/Medien/FASMED%20CBC%2026.05.2010.pdf)
- Guidelines of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences SAMW (Cooperation between medical profession and industry)  
[www.samw.ch/dms/de/Ethik/RL/AG/d\\_RL\\_ZAeI\\_06.pdf](http://www.samw.ch/dms/de/Ethik/RL/AG/d_RL_ZAeI_06.pdf)

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