



Language

A medieval dialect

The official languages in Valais are French (from Sierre down the Rhone river to St-Gingloph and German (from Sierre up the Rhone to Gletsch). English is very common in the major tourist centres such as Zermatt, Saas-Fee and Verbier.

Through contact with their many international guests, the Valaisans generally have a good ear for foreign languages. The approximately 80,000 German-speaking people of Upper Valais, however, are particularly proud of their local dialect, "Walliserdeutsch", or Walliser German. Older than most of the other Swiss dialects, Walliser German is a form of Highest Alemannic and features a number of French loan words due to its proximity to Francophone regions. This can all lead to comprehension problems outside the canton. However, the most successful dialect singer in Switzerland, Sina, sings in Walliser German. The dialect's difficulty may well be precisely what makes it so fascinating.

German courses in Valais / www.integration-ow.ch

Walliser German / www.walser-alps.eu

Dialect singer Sina / www.sina.ch

"Wallisertitschi Weerter" für den Alltag

"Wallisertiitsch"	German	English
iisch / iisch	uns	us
summi	einige/manche	some
sienta / hienta	manchmal	from time to time
embrüuf / obschi(g)	hinauf	up
emapcha / embricha / embri / nitschi(g)	hinunter	down
hüerugüet	fantastisch	fantastic
flät / fleet	sauber	clean
tullu / brillu / flännu / griinu	weinen	to cry
hirme / liwwuu	ausruhen	to rest
chorru	probieren	to try
antru	imitieren	imitate sb./sth.
di Pfyolttra / di Pfyolttru	der Schmetterling	the butterfly
där Hopschl / Hopschil	der Frosch	the frog
ds Schwingi / ds Gaschi	das Schwein	the pig
d Wägschta	die Schönste	the most beautiful
där Botsch	der Junge	the boy
ds Mämmi	das Baby	the baby
ds Gotti / di Gotta	die Patin	the godmother

där Getti	der Pate	the godfather
där Etro	der Onkel	the uncle
där Frigor	der Kühlschrank	the refrigerator
di Guttra	die Flasche	the bottle
di Pusset	der Kinderwagenthe	the pram
di Poort / di Poorta / ds Tiri	die Tür	the door
d'Haba	die Klinke	the handle
där Schaft	der Schrank	cupboard
där Tschuggu	der Fels	the rock
di Tschiffra / di Tschiffriu	die Traghutte	wooden back pack
Frontag	Donnerstag	Thursday
Üstag	Frühling	spring