



Crans-Montana

Public information from the Crans-Montana, Lens and Icogne communes regarding the consultation process for a new regulation concerning the collection of visitor tax on a flat fee basis.

The 3 Crans-Montana communes (Crans-Montana, Icogne and Lens) are preparing to change the way visitor tax is collected. They want to switch to a flat fee system, which is already in place in numerous destinations in Valais, including all of the Val d'Anniviers, Verbier and the Val de Bagnes, Anzère and Ovronnaz.

The new regulation will be submitted to a vote at the 3 Communal Assemblies on 11 December 2017. The new regulation is open to public consultation as of 22 September 2017. This will continue until 13 October 2017 in order to allow anyone who wants to ask questions or give their opinion to do so.

Comments and questions will only be addressed if made in writing or by email to:

Association des communes de Crans-Montana (ACCM)

Commission Economie et Tourisme

Route de la Moubra 66

3963 Crans-Montana

consultation@cransmontana.ch

The new flat fee visitor tax in a few questions

1. Why is there a new regulation?

The new law on tourism in Valais allows communes to change the way visitor tax is collected. The 3 communes of Crans-Montana, Icogne and Lens have set up a working group which is proposing a change to a flat fee collection system.

2. What's new about the system ?

For professional accommodation providers, the current system remains the same. The only thing that changes is the amount charged for visitor tax, which increases from CHF 2.50 to CHF 3.

However, the change is important for all holiday home owners in the 3 communes. The proposed new system is intended to be as simple as possible. It is fairer, more egalitarian, simpler and above all requires less police work, as all second home owners will pay the tax, and not only those who are up to date with payments.

3. How much will the visitor tax cost ?

The visitor tax will be CHF 3 per adult instead of CHF 2.50 today. Children from 6 to 16 years will pay 50% of the tax. A series of exemptions is planned (see rules).

4. And how does the flat fee work ?

A calculation table has been drawn up, modelled on those used elsewhere in Valais. The flat fee tax will be based on an average of 50 overnight stays per year at CHF 3 (150 francs) multiplied by the units per household (UPH).

For example, for a 3 room property, equivalent to 4 UPH, the flat fee tax will be 600 francs per year. For a property with 6 rooms or more, (10 UPH) it will be a maximum of CHF 1,500.

This tax replaces the tourist tax that owners had to pay without any real checks, and which therefore led to very high losses. For those who have paid previously, the change will be modest. For others, it will certainly be more of a change, but a huge number of privileges will be created, including the launch of an advantage card.

The final point is that owners who rent out their accommodation can charge the visitor tax and keep it for themselves. All details can be found in the draft regulation.

5. How much do you estimate will be collected in additional payments and above all, what will it be used for ?

The new regulation should generate additional money. A survey is currently being conducted.

The proceeds of this visitor tax must be applied in the interests of those who pay it. It helps finance touristic expenses, in particular information and reservation services, local activities, and also the creation and running of tourist, cultural and sporting facilities.

So, the big news is that an advantage card will be introduced in 2018 entitling the holder to free transport all over the 3 communes (including the funicular) and the cable cars from 15 June until 15 October. A discount of 40% will also be offered with the card on a series of sporting and cultural activities, with a list currently being drawn up.

Finally, other advantages over the whole year are being studied.

6. Is this regulation public ?

Yes. It is public and open to consultation until 13 October 2017. You can find it on the websites of the 3 communes, the ACCM website and the CMTC website

7. What happens next?

The Communal Councils have planned to give their opinion on this new regulation after the consultation phase, so in principle, on 17 October 2017. Next, a communication and information phase will be implemented.

8. When will the vote take place ?

The 3 Communal Assemblies will declare their position on the new regulation on 11 December 2017. In the event it is approved, the new regulation will come into effect on 1st January 2018. It has to be endorsed by the Council of State before invoices can be sent to taxable persons.

Crans-Montana, September 2017