

Climate Change in Europe: Blatten, the tiny Swiss village engulfed by a mountain.

May 28th 2025: 15.24 pm

The Kleine Nesthorn Mountain collapsed onto the glacier below, which collapsed onto the village of Blatten in the valley bottom, burying it under 10 million cubic metres of ice, rock and earth.

Walking down towards Blatten, unspoilt and nature-friendly in 2024.



Walking through Blatten 2024



Blatten Before and Afterwards



What Happened on May 28th 2025?



- May 19th: Residents and animals were evacuated as a precautionary measure
- A few gentle rockfalls happened
- **May 28th catastrophic event happened**
- 10 million cubic metres of rock, ice and soil fell
- 3.1 magnitude earthquake registered
- 90% of village buried
- Area affected is 1.2 miles long, 660feet wide, 600+feet deep
- Blocked river flooded untouched areas, made a big lake
- 1 death, an old man who refused to leave his home, never seen again.

What Next?

- Following the Blatten disaster, the authorities said they would rebuild Blatten in three to five years. The plan includes a road, village square and church.
- In November 2025 it was announced that 70% of the area is in the highest risk 'red zone' with unstable ground and rock falls.
- Efforts to rebuild Blatten will now focus on alternative , safer locations within the valley.
- On April 28 2026 it was reported that work had begun on the road that will connect the nearest village of Wiler to Blatten by the end of 2029, as well as by a temporary cable car .
- This temporary emergency road has partially restored access, but it remains vulnerable to natural hazards and is impassable in winter.

Hotel Momentum opened Spring 2026



- Born out of necessity, supported by community.
- After the landslide in Blatten, the idea arose to create something new—for guests, for the valley, and for the residents, for the future.
- Built in just 105 days above the neighbouring town of Wiler, the wooden hotel is one of the clearest signs of how displaced residents are rebuilding their lives after the disaster.
- Hotel Momentum is part of the “Die Lötschentaler” hotel cooperative and combines local values with modern architecture. All Swiss designed and built with local materials.
- “A hotel that shows what is possible when people stick together. Sustainably designed, modular construction.”
- Momentum is a temporary hotel for five years—and a lasting symbol of new beginnings and solidarity in the Lötschental valley.