

## THE MAIN DESTINATIONS

### THE EMIGRATION OF THE WALSER DURING THE 12TH AND 13TH CENTURIES

Starting at the end of the 13th century, mountain peasants native to the Upper Valais left their land, usually travelling on the southern slope of the Alps, to settle other alpine regions that were still occupied predominantly by a Romanic population.

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### 1819: FIRST WAVE OF EMIGRATION TO BRAZIL

The first major wave of transatlantic emigration took place as early as 1819 with Brazil as destination.

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### 1851 ? EMIGRATION FROM THE VALAIS TO ALGERIA

In 1848, financial problems and political dissent in the Valais contributed to creating a favourable context for emigration. In that same year, the French government, after having conquered Algeria in 1830, implemented the plan of turning it into a colony for settlers, but the recruitment on French soil did not satisfy its ambitions.

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### 1855: FIRST DEPARTURES FOR ARGENTINA

After having gained its independence in 1816, Argentina first fell under the sway of a military dictatorship before endowing

itself with a liberal constitution in 1853.

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### 1883: THE EMIGRATION TO CHILE

In 1883, the first European and Valaisan immigrants arrived at Araucania in the south of Chile, a region that had been annexed only two years before.

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### THE EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Although these countries were not among the favourite destinations of the Valaisans during the 19th century?unlike emigrants in other Swiss cantons?about a hundred Upper Valaisans from the Vispताल settled in Morrilton, Arkansas, as early as the 1880s.

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