

# The Swiss Path

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# The Swiss Path

All of the individual cantons in Switzerland are involved in the foundation which has been established to create the Swiss Path. In contrast to other types of short-lived anniversary celebrations in 1991, the Swiss Path was conceived as a lasting reminder of the 700th anniversary of the Confederation. It will delight future generations with its natural beauty and provide an opportunity for quiet contemplation, and serve to reinforce our ties with nature and stimulate our interest in the history of Switzerland.

The Swiss Path is a route around the Lake of Uri. It starts on the Rütli in the Canton of Uri and goes through Seelisberg, Bauen, Isleten, Seedorf, Fluelen and Tellsplatte to Sisikon. It then crosses into the canton of Schwyz and goes through Morschach, ending in Brunnen. Each of the twenty-six cantons which make up the Swiss Confederation is represented by a stretch of the route. The beginning of each canton's part of the footpath is marked by a special boundary stone. The length of each canton's stretch of the footpath is proportional to the number of people living in the canton (in approximately 1991). This means that every Swiss is represented by five millimetres of the 34.86 kilometre path.

But the Swiss Path can also be seen as a symbolic progress through the history of the Swiss Confederation.

The parts of the route representing the individual cantons appear in the order in which the cantons either became part of the Confederation or in which they came into existence. In this way they form a continuous chain, linking the past and the future.

The Swiss path is intended to remind us that traditional, democratic ways of doing things form the touchstone of every healthy, lasting society and community.

The stretches of the Swiss Path representing the individual cantons :

Uri	UR	182m
Schwyz	SZ	544m
Obwalden	OW	146m
Nidwalden	NW	163m
Lucerne	LU	1632m
Zurich	ZH	6089m
Glarus	GL	197m
Zug	ZG	424m
Berne	BE	4980m
Fribourg	FR	1026m
Solothurne	SO	1179m
Basle-Stadt	BS	1072m
Basle-Land	BL	1206m
Schaffhausen	SH	376m
Appenzell	AR	263m
Appenzell	AL	71m
St Gallen	SG	2152m
Grisons	GR	890m
Aargau	AG	2506m

Thurgau	TG	1019m
Ticino	TI	1475m
Vaud	VD	2907m
Valais	VS	1227m
Neuchatel	NE	836m
Geneva	GE	1951m
Jura	JU	348m

There are six walks around the lake (all starting points are accessible by public transport), however people may wish to do more than one walk at once.

They are :

- Rütli - Seelisberg - Treib = 5km, 1h 3/4, difference in altitude 322m
- Treib - Seelisberg - Bauen = 6.1km, 1h 3/4, difference in altitude 328m
- Bauen - Isleten - Seedorf - Fluelen = 9.8km, 2h 3/4, no difference in altitude
- Fluelen - Tell's Chapel - Sisikon = 8.2km, 2h, difference in altitude 73m
- Sisikon - Morschach = 5km, 2h, difference in altitude 389m
- Morschach - Brunnen = 3km, 1h, difference in altitude 211m.

The Swiss Path ends in Brunnen. The Place of the Swiss Abroad is on the lake. It lies directly behind the Hotel Waldstatterhof, on a piece of land called the Wehrhaggen. The name refers to the 'Wehr', or barricade, which protects Brunnen and affords shelter and protection to boats from the terrible Fohn storms. In spring and autumn these winds blow down from the Gotthard massif over the lake. They whip up enormous waves which crash over the walls of the harbour. But most of the time the lake is calm and tranquil and gently laps at the breakwater on the Wehrhaggen. The glorious view, the quiet and the wide lakeside walk have tempted generations of visitors to spend a while here by the lake. Thanks to the financial support of numerous Swiss citizens living abroad, a charitable foundation was able to buy this piece of land in 1990. It is a symbol of the links which the Swiss abroad maintain with the country of their birth. The Place of the Swiss Abroad hosts a number of events.

Next time you are in Switzerland why not take a walk along this path ... if not all of it, a part of it ... and be sure to visit the Place of the Swiss Abroad. It is certainly well worth the time to visit this beautiful area, and take in some natural beauty. There are, of course, various places where you can stay ... and certainly many places

where you can have a delicious meal, or some other refreshments. Be sure to take time out of your hectic schedule to undertake some exercise, and then some relaxation!!!

Another great place to visit ... and believe me you can spend a terrific amount of time looking at things is the Swiss Museum of Transport and Communication (Verkehrshaus der Schweiz) which is in Luzern. Highlights include - Rail Transport (a huge collection of vehicles, Gotthard Railway Model, Gotthard Tunnel Show), Road Transport (from unicycle to four-wheel drive, reflex and vision test, biggest collection of Swiss old-timers, night vision simulator), Aviation and Space Travel (more than thirty aircraft and 300 original objects, models, dioramas and simulators on the history of aviation and astronautics, Airport control tower, Breitling balloon gondola Orbiter 2, Research Satellite EURECA),

Navigation (on river and inland navigation and ocean navigation, original ships' engine from 1929, model of a lock), Communication (see and experiment, television studio), Cableways and Tourism (about the steel rope and the exciting way up the mountains, first skiff, first cable-railway), Hans Erni Museum (more than 300 works of the renowned Swiss painter, graphic designer and plastic artist), Planetarium (looking at the stars and the sky) and much

## Answers to Anagrams

Answers to city names	Answers to sets of things
1. Gore	1. flowers
2. Marton	2. stamps
3. Havelock	3. bees
4. Palmerston	4. fruit trees
5. Hawera	5. footballers
6. Leeston	6. grapes
7. Pokeno	7. thieves
8. Nelson	8. cards
9. Napier	9. pups / pigs
10. Arrowtown	10. furniture
11. Ngatea	11. sheep
12. Morrinsville	12. singers
13. Hokonui	13. cows
14. Martinborough	14. fish
15. Winton	15. chicken
16. Taradale	16. musicians
17. Porirua	17. people / listeners
18. Featherston	18. dancers / acrobats
19. Whitianga	19. stars
20. Oтира	20. ships
21. Westport	21. soldiers
22. Gisborne	22. bananas
23. Coromandel	23. chocolates
	24. wheat



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