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### Epic Places in Switzerland

#### Highlights

- The Consul Reflects
- At Violinos
- Cricket in Switzerland

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Photo © St. Beatus Caves/Dietrich Weidmann/WikiCommonshttps

Epic Places in Switzerland that even the Swiss don't know about. Switzerland is spoiled when it comes to scenery, with stunning lakes and the Alps. However, there are many more sights to see that are less well known, but not any less breath-taking.

The St. Beatus Caves are located on the northeastern shore of Lake Thun near Interlaken and lead deep into the interior of the immense Niederhorn Massif.

The legend of the cave revolves around its namesake, the wandering Irish monk St. Beatus, who lived around 100 AD, and chose this cave in which to spend his pious hermitage. To his annoyance, however, he discovered someone was already living there; a horrible dragon, who shot lasers of fire from his blazing eyes. St. Beatus, however, would not be run out of his cave so easily, and held his cross up to the beast, invoking the Holy Trinity. Thrown into a hysteric fit, the dragon ran down the cliff and threw himself into Lake Thun below, causing the placid clear water to rise and boil. So the legend goes.

Like the Alps once were, the St. Beatus Cave is largely unexplored. A beautiful old fashioned Swiss-style building that serves as the cave entrance clings to a vertical rock face. A

waterfall seems to leak from beneath the structure, and into Lake Thun below. Bridges and walkways cross the waterfall, and as one climbs to the top, each vista is more inspiring than the last.

The cave has charmingly named stalactites and stalagmites, and a number of underground waterfalls and lakes. A prehistoric settlement as well as the cell of St. Beatus can also be viewed in the caves. A small museum with cave bear artifacts discovered within and a history of the dangers and delights of caving is also housed here. The cave museum also informs about cave research and surveying. For children and adults with a fascination of the mystique of dragons, the Fable House is full of displays on dragons throughout history and Bernese Oberland legends.

More epic places on page 10.

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