

ENGLISH

schwyz

SUMMER 2020 *magazine*



**NATURE IN SCHWYZ:
STEP OUT. INHALE. ARRIVE.
WIN A SUMMER PASS**

Photo: Mythenregion, Stefan Zürcher



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FOREWORD

THE LANDSCAPES OF SCHWYZ – NATURAL, UNIQUE, AND FULL OF CHARACTER

The views from Rigi Kulm or the mountains of Fronalpstock and Grosser Mythen are breathtaking. A mesmerizing must. But the holiday and excursion world of Schwyz also offers more subtle, quietly intriguing moments of beauty. We are happy to introduce you to the characteristic landscapes of Schwyz, including some scenic jewels off the beaten track.

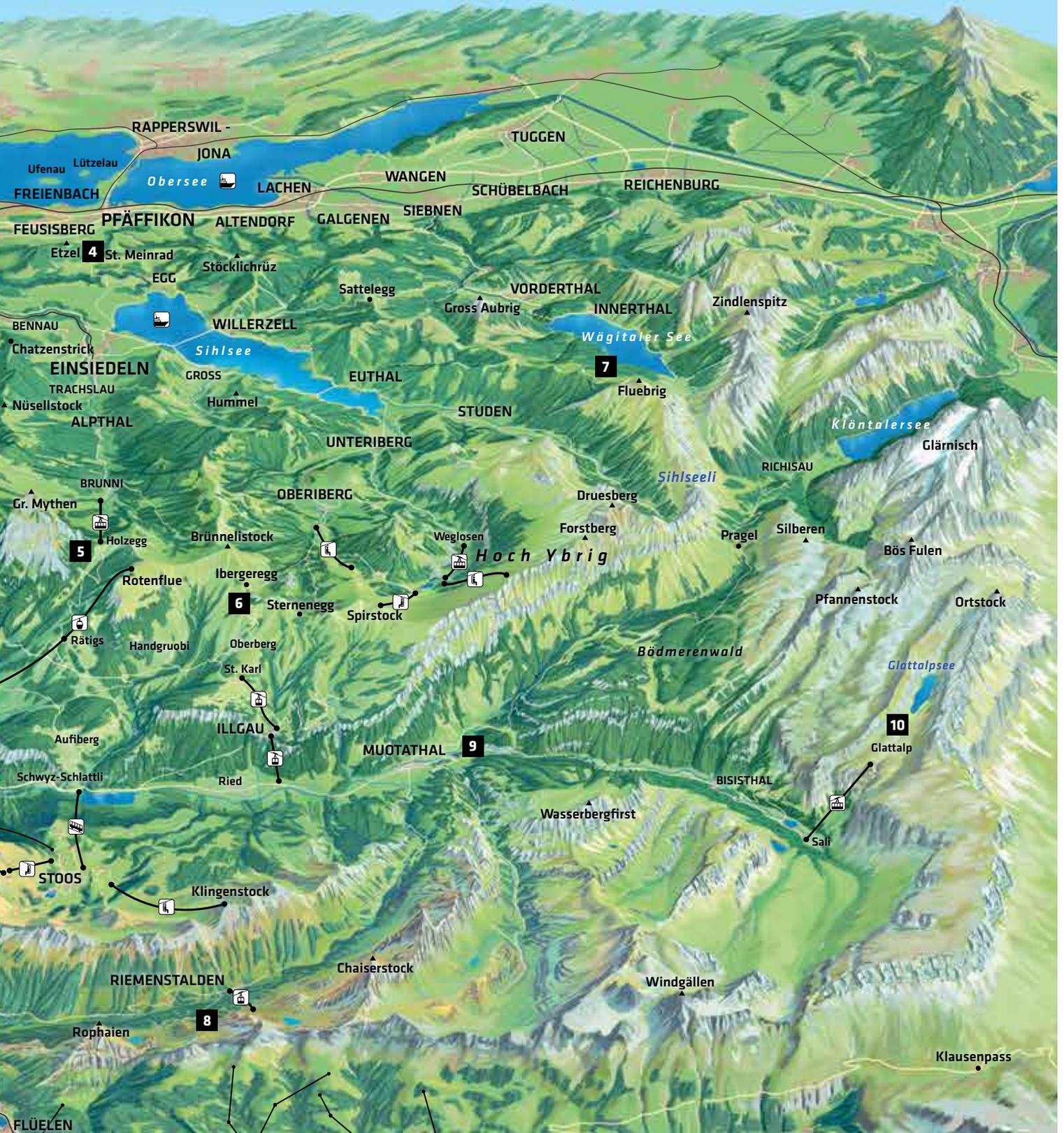
We also present four people who live or work in some of these beautiful stretches of nature. Ever since the Swiss voters in 1987 strongly endorsed the protection of moors, Albert Marty has been guiding visitors through the diverse moorland of Rothenthurm. Alpine herdsman Edi Gwerder celebrates his 66th summer high up on Glattalp. The head of rescue missions in the Wägital, Linda Züger, brings stranded visitors back to safety. And ranger Christina Ebnetter takes groups on an exploration of the Goldau landslide area.

You will also find many useful tips on how to experience the Schwyz sceneries – in hiking boots, with your whole family, or on small mountain railways.



NATURAL DIVERSITY

Exploring the striking scenery
www.wanderwunder-schwyz.ch



IBBEREGEGG

Bog forests - Landscape of the Year in 2019



WÄGITAL

Alpine terrain near the gates of Zurich



RIEMENSTALDEN

Steep, rough, and impressive terrain



MUOTATHAL

Pristine natural paradise



GLATTALP

A natural gem with an idyllic lake



A PASSION FOR NATURE: For decades, Albert Marty has guided groups through the moors of Rothenthurm.



Photo: Stelian Zürrer

ALBERT MARTY, TOUR GUIDE AND AUTHOR

SCENE OF RARITY

The moorland of Rothenthurm is an intrinsic part of Albert Marty's life. Early on he recognized its value, strove to protect it, and began guiding schoolchildren as well as scientists through this rare stretch of nature.

Albert Marty is a collector. He collects kitsch postcards and photos of yesteryear, for instance. His collector's instinct is only topped by his hunger for knowledge – to learn more about the history of Rothenthurm and the nature of the moorland. Entering the 71-year-old pensioner's study, one automatically ducks. Boxes, books, albums, and papers in every size and shape are neatly arranged on the shelves and the tables. The impressive collection continues on into the rooms on the upper floor.

This vivid interest in the moorland was aroused in the 1970s and 1980s, when the Swiss government began planning an army base in Rothenthurm. Before then, like most of his fellow villagers, Albert Marty

had never given the surrounding landscape a second thought. As conservationists in Switzerland began mounting a campaign against the federal plans, he got busy figuring out for what purposes people had been using the moorland and how they planned to use it in the future – as a producer of peat used for fuel, for instance, or as a location for a reservoir, or as the site for an airfield and army base.

SWITZERLAND'S UNIQUE UPLAND MOOR

“At the same time, people began to get curious about this particular landscape,” Albert Marty recalls. So in the 1990s, he and his wife Sylvie began offering guided tours. Ever since, the head guide and founder



Photo: Albert Marty

RARE PLANTS: Peat mosses and sundews thrive in the nutrient-poor wetland.



Photo: Albert Marty

UNDEVELOPED AND FREE-FLOWING: Many animal and plant species live along the Biber, which meanders freely through the moorland.

of the Moorevent company has been telling visitors how the upland valley was shaped by glaciers during the Ice Age, how it became the subject of gruesome tales and myths, and how it was exploited as a source of peat right up to the Second World War.

“People will only want to protect something they know,” he says. Which is why Albert Marty’s tours place a strong emphasis on the uniqueness of the moor. Rothenthurm’s moorland spans more than 1,000 hectares and consists of lowland and upland moors, also called fens and raised bogs. While farmers are allowed to use the fens subject to certain conditions, the valuable upland moor area, Switzerland’s largest, is specifically protected. The Biber River that traverses it is also somewhat unique: it is one of the last Swiss rivers allowed to meander without restrictions.

NATURAL SPECTACLE

“Spring arrives late in the moor, not until May,” Albert Marty says. It is a fascinating time, he says, because every week another plant starts blooming, such as the carnivorous sundew, orchids, cotton grass, moor gentian and, in some years, even the Comarum palustre, also known as marsh cinquefoil or purple marshlocks.

But he also loves the mystic aura in autumn – ground fog shrouds the moorland in the evening, only to be

“People will only want to protect something they know.”

torn apart by the sun next morning. In that moment, the dew drops hanging from the spider webs on the grassy surface start glittering all at once. “It’s a spectacle,” he exclaims.

In 1987, the conservationists’ campaign against the army base successfully led to the protection of moors in Switzerland. All the material that Albert Marty had collected over the years, but also his own experiences as a youngster, culminated in a book he wrote about Rothenthurm. He has thus become the village historian – and the once dreaded moorland is now widely appreciated as a nature reserve and relaxation area.

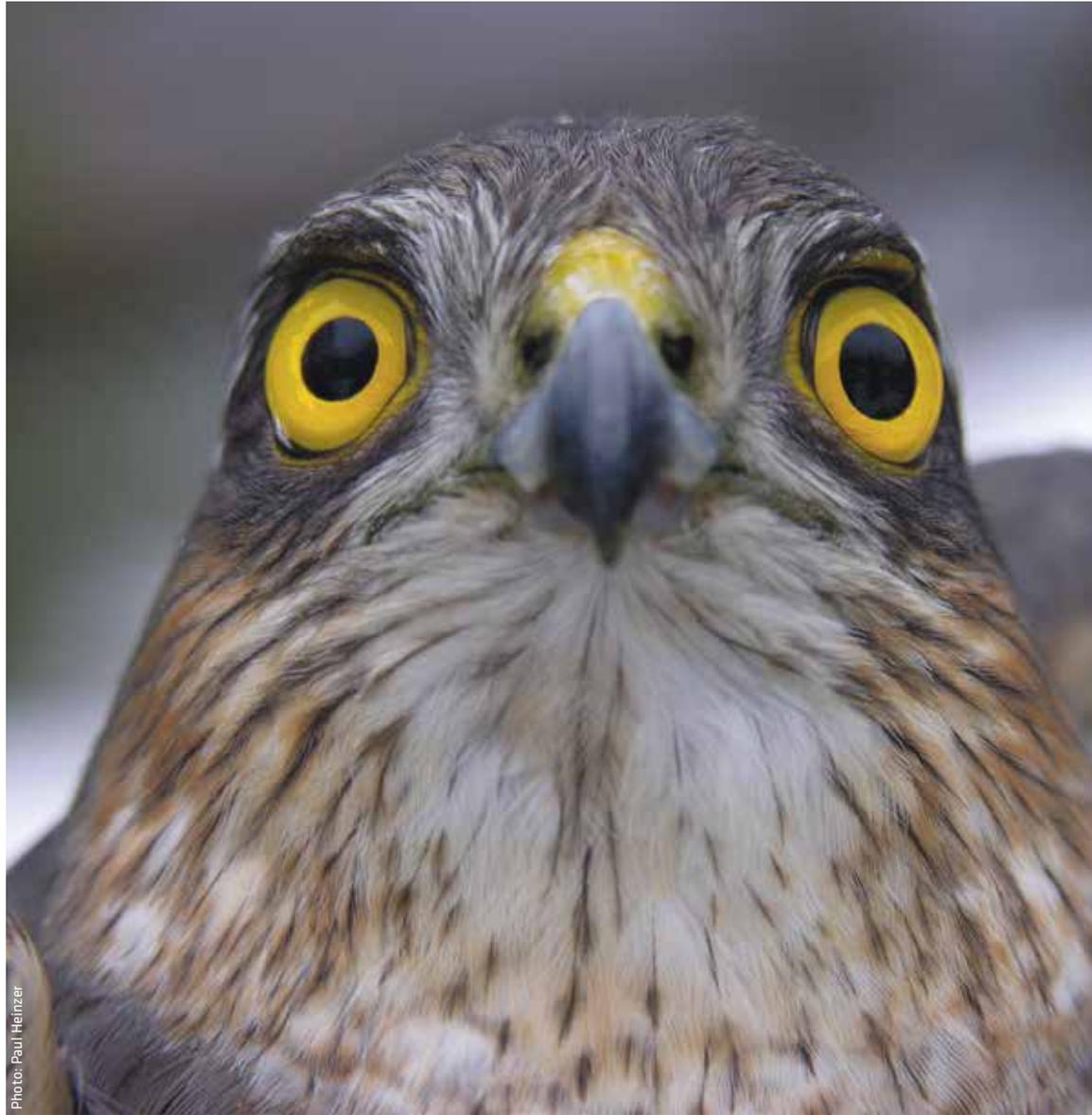
Moorevent organizes guided tours to the most diverse moor landscape of Switzerland: www.moorevent.ch

In-depth information on Rothenthurm and its moorland can be found in Albert Marty’s book “ROTHENTHURM – mehr als Turpnä- und «Schä»” (in German only). The Moor Trail from Biberbrugg train station to Rothenthurm train station offers the best opportunity to get acquainted with the wonderful moorland.

ANIMALS IN THE WILD

Those who hike with their senses tuned to nature can experience many surprising encounters on the trails of Schwyz. Our photographers were at the right place at the right time. Here we reveal what their cameras caught.

MUOTATAL: The yellow irises of a young sparrowhawk may turn orange in later years.



WILDSPITZ MOUNTAIN: Even the most agile climbers need a break every so often.



Photo: Meisterfoto

Photo: Paul Heinzer



Fotos: Alois Schmidig



SEEWEN: Striking a pose – spotted woodpecker, kestrel, and goldfinch.



Photo: Meisterfoto

MYTHEN RESERVE: Hikers may well encounter chamois and red deer in Switzerland's oldest game preserve.



Photo: Sepp Gräter

PRAGEL PASS: The ibex prefers loftier climes, as do the marmots.



Photo: Meisterfoto



Photo: Meisterfoto



Photo: Meisterfoto



Photo: Paul Heinzer

MUOTATAL: Two young foxes looking from their den - curious to the world.

LAKE LAUERZ: Always on the run - the hare.





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LOFTY PLAYGROUNDS



SATTEL-HOCHSTUCKLI

Non-stop fun for children

To call this a playground would be an understatement because Sattel-Hochstuckli is an entire mountain for the whole family. Kinderland (children's world), bouncy castles, a summer toboggan run, and a tubing run – even the less adventurous could get carried away. The 1.5-kilometre strolling path is achievable for small kids, not least because the next playground, complete with donkey and goat enclosures, already appears halfway along the path at the Herrenboden.

www.sattel-hochstuckli.ch



FRONALPSTOCK

THE HIGHEST ONE

Who cares about the majestic mountain panorama when you can slide, swing, or climb? At 1,920 metres above sea level, the playground at the top of Mount Fronalpstock is the highest in the Canton of Schwyz. While the adults take in the views of 10 lakes, the historic Rütli meadow, and numerous peaks, the children will happily pet the pygmy goats.

www.fronalpstock.ch



HOCH-YBRIG

HOP TILL YOU DROP

Bouncy castles, sandboxes, and many other attractions make it hard to leave the playground at the Restaurant Fuederegg in Hoch-Ybrig. The trampolines are sure to entertain the older children as well so the parents and grandparents can relax over a house coffee or cold cuts on the sunny terrace.

www.fuederegg.ch

ILLGAU

Pine-cone race and witch's cottage

Want to hike across a storybook landscape from playground to playground? The Lady Bug Path in Illgau offers just that. The hiking itself becomes a game because everybody joins the search for the kids of the Lady Bug Family. Tip: Make sure to leave enough time for the forest playground near the top station of the Illgau-St. Karl cableway. It takes time to explore the pine-cone track, the toy cable car, the catwalk, the witch's cottage, and everything else.

www.seilbahn.illgau.ch



RIGI

The most diverse playground on the Rigi is next to the Rigi Scheidegg restaurant. The small ones have fun on the trampoline, the climbing elements, or the adventure ship. The big ones embark on the "Ark" and enjoy stunning 360-degree views.

www.rigi.ch

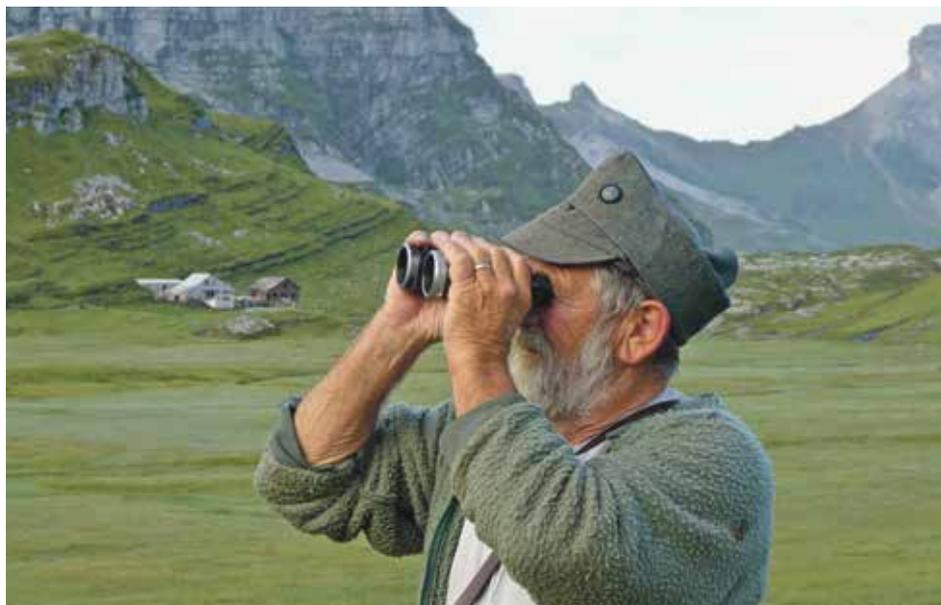
More playgrounds as well as barbecue pits:
www.outdoor-schwyz.ch



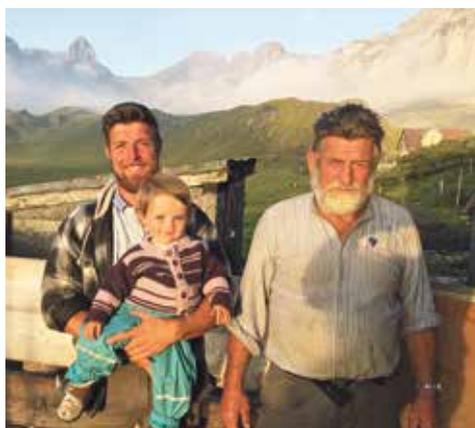
EDI GWERDER, ALPINE HERDSMAN

66 ALPINE SUMMERS

Since he was born, Edi Gwerder's life has evolved around two distinct yearly cycles: the time at home in Ried-Muotathal and the alpine summers on the Glattalp. Work on the alp is just as hard as work in the valley, despite the idyllic setting, and the responsibilities are even greater.



RESPONSIBILITY: Edi Gwerder regularly checks whether the cattle are doing well.



THREE GENERATIONS: Edi (right) and Christian Gwerder with Lina.

“The cows sense it’s that time of year.”

Edi Gwerder

“In my first summer, I wasn’t of much use,” jokes Edi Gwerder. He doesn’t talk much. When he does, it’s with a dry sense of humour. His face bears witness to the many hours spent outdoors. And when he picks up his binoculars, he may well resemble a seasoned mariner. Now 66, he has followed in the footsteps of his father Heinrich Gwerder, who in 1946 took up the job as alpine herdsman on the Glattalp. The Glattalp is an extensive and brilliantly beautiful plateau high above the Bisistal where meadows and rocks exist in sharp contrast.

FIERCELY INDEPENDENT

Edi Gwerder was still a boy when it became clear that he would be the one of the six children to take over the alpine farming business from his father. “I knew every animal and every cowbell,” he says. Today, some 500 animals spend the summer months on the Glattalp. Usually around the beginning of July, Edi Gwerder’s family and a second leaseholder family drive the animals up the mountain: mother cows, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and even the pigs negotiate the ascent in roughly five hours. “The cows sense when it’s time to go up to the alp and invariably try to get going several days in advance,” he says. Once up there, the animals are free to roam the Glattalp meadows until the beginning of September. This also means a lot of trekking for Edi and his son Christian. Every day they have to count the animals and check the fences, walking up to 30 kilometres each time. Because they take care of the livestock of 50 different farmers, the responsibility is huge. Each morning and evening they milk their 25 goats by

hand and their own five cows by machine. Edi Gwerder is also responsible for producing alpine butter, while his wife Bernadette makes the goat cheese.

SNOW IN JULY

Even in a dry summer, the animals will always find enough grass and water on the Glattalp. “You can see how the cattle are fattening on the alp,” Edi Gwerder points out. It is a good moment, he says, when he returns the animals to their owners in good health. The alp itself gives him plenty of moments to cherish: when the ground vibrates as the horses gallop by, or when the sun rises and the whole area is still exclusively theirs, with no tourist in sight.

As did his father, Edi Gwerder keeps a log of the weather that accompanies the yearly ascents to the alp and the descents to base. His 66 years of alpine experience have given him plenty of firsts, like that summer that didn’t start until the 6th of August. On the other hand, it doesn’t really surprise him when it snows in July; after all, the Glattalp is 1,800 metres above sea level. He grew up with the rough mountain climate and the positive energy that the Glattalp creates. His two-year-old granddaughter Lina is now experiencing the same mix – it’s her second alpine summer.

The Glattalp can be reached on foot or by cable car. It offers hikes for both families and ambitious alpine hikers. The beautiful Glattalp Lake and the free-roaming animals lend a particular charm to the Karst terrain.
www.glattalp.ch

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STICKING OUT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

Cities are known to be cultural centres. But who would expect structures of significance in the middle of nature? The sights shown here turn a hike into a walk through cultural history.



Photo: Jha/fotografieren



Photo: zig Arde Architektur



Photo: Josef Wyssch

MORGARTEN

1 *Witness of times past*

How did the ancient Swiss live? The medieval Schwyzerhaus in Morgarten provides the answer. A window reveals the inner life of this erst-while home built around 1170, while modern audio technology serves to explain the social and economic conditions in Old Schwyz. The house is said to be Europe's oldest preserved wooden structure. Originally located in the town of Schwyz, it was rebuilt on its present site next to the Visitors' Centre for the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Morgarten.

www.morgarten.ch

MUOTATAL

2 *Switzerland's largest jungle*

Rough terrain, crevices, dead wood. A hike on the well-signposted "Virgin Forest Trail" is the best way to explore the primeval Bödmeren, a virgin spruce forest in the Muotatal. The trail begins at the "Virgin Forest Pavilion", a shingled structure that resembles a wooden sculpture. Inside, the panoramic window showcases the surrounding mountains, while a hidden-object portrayal offers a cross-section of the landscape right down to the large Hölloch cave system.

www.boedmeren.ch

LAKE ZURICH

3 *Walking across the lake*

Presumably, people wanted to cross Lake Zurich from Rapperswil to Hurden already in the Neolithic Age and built wooden walkways to do so. This historic transit route served as the model for Switzerland's longest wooden footbridge. Built in 2001 and anchored on 233 piles, it gives hikers or the pilgrims on the Via Jacobi the feeling of walking on water. On the Schwyz side, the path continues on through the Frauenwinkel nature reserve.

www.eyz.swiss

STOOS

4 *Made from Schwyz timber*

Switzerland hardly makes wooden shingles or parquet flooring any more. But for the Stoos Hüttä, the chalet on the Stoos plateau, the Swiss got active again. Entrepreneurs from the Basin of Schwyz and the Muotatal collaborated to ensure that the wooden structure could be built and furnished almost exclusively from local materials. Which is why the prominently situated Stoos Hüttä offers restaurant and hotel guests sweeping views but does not stick out like a sore thumb.

www.stooshutta.ch



Photo: Stefan Zührer

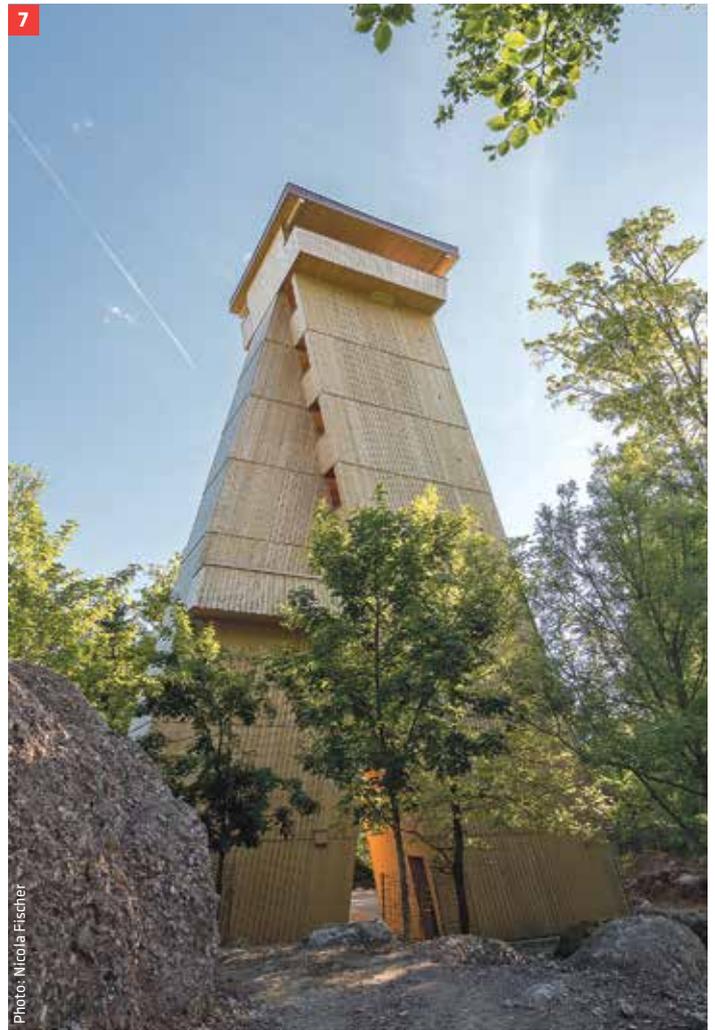


Photo: Nicola Fischer



Photo: Pascal Langenegger

RIGI

5 *The Eiffel Tower's little sister*

The Unterstetten bridge looks sturdy and yet delicate, seemingly taking a backseat to Mount Rigi's nature. From 1875 to 1931, the iron structure was traversed by the Rigi Scheidegg railway; today, families and mountain railway nostalgics walk on it – the former railway line has become a seven-kilometre long hiking route. The bridge, by the way, was built with the same technique as the Eiffel Tower in Paris: riveted wrought-iron lattice work.

www.rigi.ch

EINSIEDELN

6 *A milestone en route to the Abbey*

Pilgrims walking on the Way of St James between the Etzel pass and Einsiedeln cross the historic Devil's Bridge. It was built in the 17th century to bring the stone for the construction of the Abbey of Einsiedeln from the quarry in Etzel. But already in 1117, a footbridge on the same site allowed safe transit for people and mules. Paracelsus, the famous physician and natural scientist, was born near the bridge in 1493. In his honour, the coat of arms of the municipality of Egg features a golden mortar.

www.eyz.swiss

GOLDAU

7 *Lookout tower and residence*

The tower of the Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park Goldau looks like a gigantic forest dweller walking across the woodland. After negotiating the 144 steps to the top observation platform, at almost 30 metres above ground, visitors can see across the treetops to the Rigi's north face, the Mythen twin peaks, Lake Lauerz, and even Lake Zug. The tower was built from native spruce and silver fir timber, and different bird species and bats use it for nesting and sleeping.

www.tierpark.ch

SCHWYZ

8 *The splendour of yesteryear*

These noble buildings are the pride of Schwyz architecture. Beginning in the 16th century, influential military entrepreneurs from Schwyz had them erected as homes of aristocratic proportions to demonstrate their might. Only a few are open to the public, such as Haus Immenfeld, which can be visited on a guided tour and rented for events. Surrounded by meadows, the carefully renovated baroque estate has its own chapel, the Antonius-Kapelle.

www.immenfeld.com

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...HUGE BACKDROPS



GLATTALP

MAJESTIC ARENA

Problems? Stress? Relentless pace? None of it matters when leaving the cable car at the Glatalp – the only feeling is one of humility. Steep mountains fringe the extensive plateau. In summer, cattle, horses, pigs, goats, and sheep graze and roam freely between the Karst terrain and the moorland.

www.glattalp.ch



ILLGAU

Remote and tranquil

A simple cableway gondola with wooden benches takes people from the mountain village of Illgau up to St. Karl. Here, in this remote and mellow stretch of nature with its mountain views, they can inhale deeply and restore their energy. It's a place where the proverbial fox and hare bid each other good night.

www.seilbahn.illgau.ch

RIEMENSTALDEN

Rough, pristine, and spectacularly steep – that's the scenery of Riemenstalden. The top station of the Chäppelberg-Spilau cableway is the perfect starting point for a hike to the nearest peaks or around Lake Spilau.

www.spilau.ch

BRUNNI-HOLZEGG

At the foot of the Mythen

When disembarking from the Brunni-Holzegg cable car, the eyes are immediately drawn to the red peak of the Grosser Mythen. But it's also worth looking down, especially from the terrace of the mountain restaurant: the views extend across the Basin of Schwyz right up to Lake Lucerne and the many shimmering summits. A few steps from the cableway top station visitors will also see into the valley leading to Einsiedeln and further into the mountains of Ybrig.

www.holzegg.ch



URMIBERG

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S DREAM

Behind the holiday resort of Brunnen, a small cable car takes visitors 702 metres up to the Urmiberg. The sunrays glittering in the turquoise waters of Lake Lucerne, fringed by the Uri mountains, look almost exaggerated from here. Relax in the mountain restaurant, embark on a robust hike to Rigi Scheidegg, or descend to the lake for a refreshing swim? It's easy to want to do it all.

www.urmiberg.ch

RIGI

Nothing but peace

Not only the well-known cog railways that depart from Goldau or Vitznau lead up to the Rigi massif, seven other mountain cable cars do too. Like the small cable car that takes tourists and locals from Gersau to Rigi Burggeist. The peaceful, unspoilt nature and the brilliant views of Lake Lucerne are the perfect antidote to a hectic lifestyle.

www.rigi.ch





Photo: Quersicht



LINDA ZÜGER: The rescue chief knows the name of every peak in the Wägital.

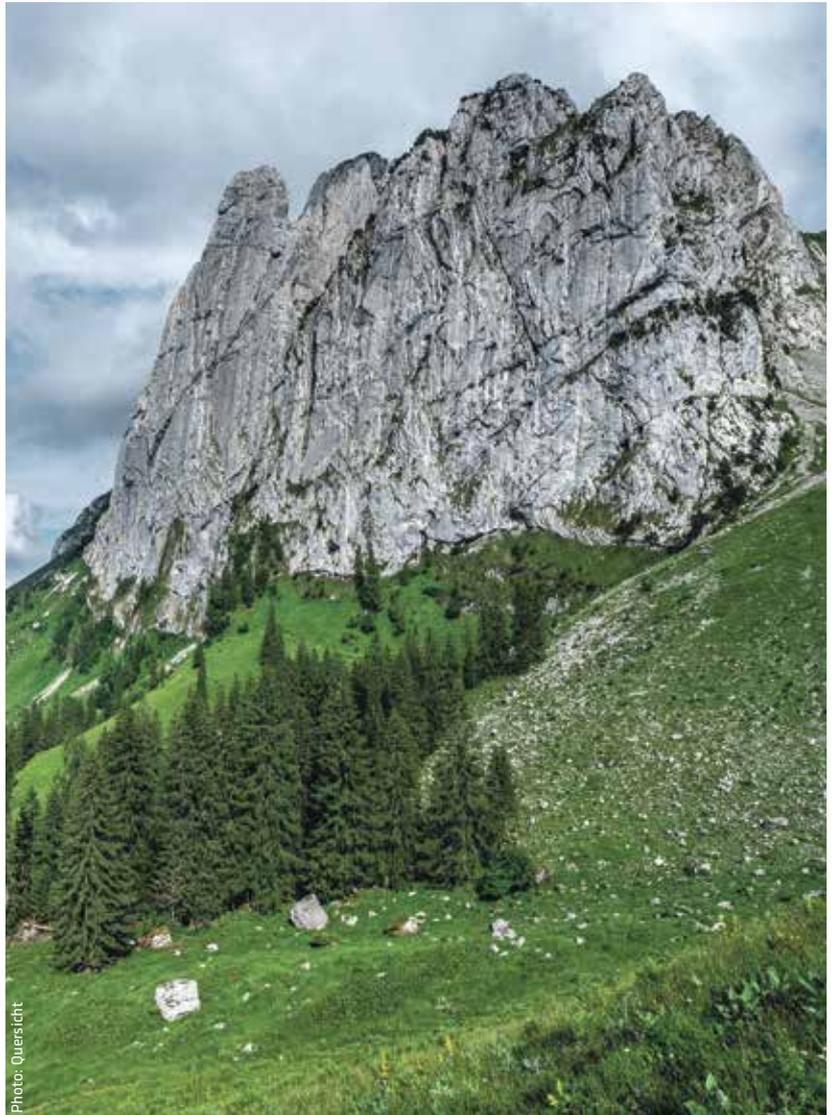


Photo: Quersicht

VERTICAL: Only experienced climbers should tackle the face of the Bockmattli.



ATMOSPHERIC: When the sun sets, the water reflects the mountain peaks and the Bockmattli begins to glow.

LINDA ZÜGER, HEAD OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB (SAC) ZINDELSPITZ RESCUE TEAM

“THE PEAKS WERE MY PLAYGROUND”

If a hiker goes missing in the Wägital area, Linda Züger gets going. The head of the SAC Zindelspitz rescue team has been roaming these mountains since she could walk.

“Once you have won your spurs in the mountains, it no longer matters whether you are a man or a woman” – Linda Züger, a trained civil engineer, doesn’t mince words and has never let gender stereotypes stop her. She won’t dwell on the fact that only 250 of roughly 3,000 mountain rescue workers are women. She would much rather talk about the mountains. She discovered her passion for them with her family and later shared it in the Youth section of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC). “The mountains were my playground,” she says.

After serving as one of the leaders of the Youth section and as a squad leader, it was a logical step to become head of mountain rescue. For three years now, 24 hours a day, she has been carrying a pager from Rega, the Swiss air rescue organization. A hiker has had an accident? A climber is stuck on a rock face? A paraglider got tangled up in a tree? In such situations, Rega will page Linda Züger and her squad leaders so that they can provide support on the ground. External rescue workers and the police appreciate her extensive local knowledge since she spends a lot of her spare time in the Wägital mountains.

FLOWERING MEADOWS AND ROCKY KARST TERRAIN

Linda Züger does not only hike and bike, she is also a passionate climber. The Bockmattli, which in a manner of speaking is just a stone’s throw away from her doorstep in the municipality of Vorderthal, is known internationally for its challenging routes. First-time visitors to the Wägital are always surprised by its alpine character given the relative proximity to Lake Zurich. Linda Züger says the area has much to

offer for families and ambitious sportspeople alike, such as “Lake Wägital with multifaceted flora in the lower regions and rocky terrain further up”.

A MATTER OF TRUST

As the head of the rescue missions, the 30-year-old has to know whom she can trust in an emergency. “Rescuing, just like climbing, is based on trust,” she says. She has known many of the 31 members in her rescue team since childhood. But rescuing also boils down to practice, she adds. The SAC Zindelspitz rescue team trains regularly and also attends external training to ensure that their missions run without a hitch. A life without mountains is not feasible for Linda Züger. While studying in France and Germany, she was consumed by homesickness for her Wägital landscape. Even though she experiences a lot of accidents and other emergencies in the mountains, to her they are synonymous with recreation and freedom. Some emergencies prove to be rather mundane: for instance, when she goes jogging around Lake Wägital and runs into hikers who are overwhelmed by the panorama. She will happily help them to put a name to each and every peak.

“Rescues are based on trust.”

Linda Züger

Find out more about the recreational possibilities in the Wägital: www.waegital.ch, www.eyz.swiss

NATURALLY UNIQUE

There is only one way to get to know the characterful landscapes of Schwyz properly: on foot.

The following “WanderWunder Schwyz” routes are also contained in a hiking brochure (in German only) available for free at all tourist information centres in the Canton of Schwyz.



Photo: Jean-Christophe Dupasquier



RIEMENSTALDEN

PRISTINE

Bizarre rock formations, wild Karst terrain, steep meadows and forests – the hike starts in the smallest village of the Canton of Schwyz and leads through rough scenery. A break at the Lidernenhütte cabin offers entertaining views of Lake Lucerne or the nearby climbing park. The cable car takes the hikers back to Riemenstalden.

MEDIUM	
Route	5,8 km
Duration	2 h 20 min
Ascent	570 m
Descent	45 m



RIGI SCHEIDEGG

SWEEPING

The stunning views of mountain peaks and various lakes remain etched in memory forever. Weather permitting, hikers on the loop trail to and from Rigi Scheidegg may even glimpse Germany’s Black Forest. The steep ascent and descent of the middle section can be negotiated better with trekking poles.

MEDIUM	
Route	6,7 km
Duration	2 h 30 min
Ascent	356 m
Descent	356 m



Photo: Quersicht



GOLDAU

FULL OF ORCHIDS

Giant pieces of rock, remnants of the 1806 Goldau landslide disaster, are still visible along the “Landslide Trail”. However, the tragic event enabled the advent of plant species that could not otherwise have grown in this woodland. In early summer, the upper part of the trail features various types of orchids in full bloom, among them the Lady’s Slipper.

MEDIUM	
Route	8,6 km
Duration	3 h 20 min
Ascent	622 m
Descent	622 m



WÄGITAL

PICTURESQUE

Both Lake Wägital and the alpine character of the rocky landscape make this circular hiking path unforgettable – just a short drive away from Lake Zurich. The varied path takes the hikers through woodland and across meadows, past plant protection areas, and over rocky terrain. The views of Zindlenspitz mountain may well inspire the desire to return here again.

MEDIUM	
Route	10,3 km
Duration	4 h 15 min
Ascent	871 m
Descent	871 m



IBERGEREGG

NORDIC

The hike from Rotenflue to Oberiberg reveals a landscape that looks almost Scandinavian – the bog forests of Ibergeregg. A return ticket that includes cable car and bus rides as well as a coffee break turns this hike into a day trip. The open moorland and damp forest soil provide a precious habitat for several endangered animal species.

EASY

Route	8,1 km
Duration	2 h 15 min
Ascent	42 m
Descent	543 m



ROTHENTHURM

COLOURFUL

Many animals and plants that have become rare elsewhere prosper in the moorland of Rothenthurm. The colours are most vivid in autumn. The Biber River flows unencumbered. The Moor Trail between the railway stations of Rothenthurm and Biberbrugg is sometimes gravelled, sometimes trailed, and occasionally a wooden walkway.

MEDIUM

Route	11,1 km
Duration	2 h 55 min
Ascent	78 m
Descent	171 m

FREE TRANSPORT IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

WIN TWO SUMMER TELL PASSES



THE SUMMER TELL PASS

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THE BIG QUESTION: Where can the Tell Pass be used?

- A Central Switzerland
- B Switzerland
- C Only in the Canton of Schwyz

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- free travel by rail, coach, ship, and numerous mountain railways in Central Switzerland on 3 consecutive days
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- valid from 1 April to 31 October 2021

PARTICIPATION

Send your answer with your name, address, and phone number to: info@schwyz-tourismus.ch (e-mail) or Schwyz Tourismus, Zeughausstrasse 10, 6430 Schwyz (postcard)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 31 OCTOBER 2020

No correspondence will be entered into. There will be no legal recourse. No cash payment. The participants' data will be treated confidentially. The data collected may be used for marketing purposes by Schwyz Tourismus AG and its partners.



ETZEL

HISTORIC

With its many creeks, meadows, pastures, woodlands, and intermittent moors, the Etzel mountain offers a most diverse hiking area. Already in the Middle Ages, a trade route led from Pfäffikon on Lake Zurich across the Etzel, and for centuries pilgrims have prayed at St Meinrad's Chapel on Etzel Pass.

MEDIUM

Route	6,4 km
Duration	1 h 55 min
Ascent	191 m
Descent	191 m



Photo: Paul Heintzer



MYTHEN

WILD

The hiking trail around the Grosser Mythen, the landmark of Schwyz, opens up views toward Lake Lucerne and Central Switzerland, but also to the mountains of Ybrig. If you pay attention to your surroundings, you may also, with a little luck, see some of the wildlife in the oldest and smallest game reserve in Switzerland.

MEDIUM

Route	6,4 km
Duration	2 h 15 min
Ascent	131 m
Descent	649 m



GLATTALP

POWERFUL

The Glattalp is an impressive plateau high above the Bisistal, fringed by majestic mountains. It can be reached either on foot or by cable car. Hikers on the loop trail up to Charetalp may well encounter free-roaming cattle and sheep that spend the summer here. Sinkholes, furrows, and Karst terrain give this landscape a powerful aura.

MEDIUM

Route	8 km
Duration	2 h 45 min
Ascent	357 m
Descent	357 m



MUOTATHAL

TRADITIONAL

In the area of Muotathal Sunnehalb, traditional Schwyz farmhouse culture meets an imposing mountainscape. While the proposed hike is oriented on the sacral and traditional structures of the village, the lush pastures, steep wild-hay slopes, and lofty peaks occasionally distract the eye.

EASY

Route	4,6 km
Duration	1 h 20 min
Ascent	143 m
Descent	143 m

GUIDED TOURS IN 2020

The characteristics of an area are best explored with a local guide.

29 May	Landslide area Goldau: guided hike
5 Jun	Landslide area Goldau: guided hike
6 Jun	Wägital: wild-plant hike
4 Jul	Rothenthurm: guided tour of the moorland
4-5 Jul	Rigi Scheidegg: night-time hike
5 Jul	Mythen: hike with the game warden
16 Aug	Mythen: hike with the game warden
29 Aug	Wägital: wild-plant hike
29 Aug	Rothenthurm: guided tour of the moorland with bird-banding stop
30 Aug	Bog forests of Ibergereg: hike with the forest ranger
12 Sep	Etzel: mushroom walk
20 Sep	Bog forests of Ibergereg: hike with the forest ranger
26 Sep	Wägital: hike to the Bockmattli mountain

Information and bookings at www.wanderwunder-schwyz.ch

LOCAL FLAVOURS

Good looks are one thing. Inner values are another. The same is true for the land. Schwyz producers know how to extract the finest Schwyz products from it.



EINSIEDELN

Monastic wine

The baroque Abbey of Einsiedeln has an impressive wine cellar that can be visited on a guided tour. You will learn interesting facts about the winemaking tradition of the Abbey and the wine region of upper Lake Zurich. It's a winemaking journey – from the scales to the bottle. A tasting rounds off the tour.

www.eyz.swiss/gruppen

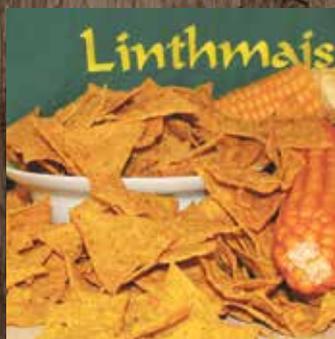


EINSIEDELN

Show dairy

The Milchmanufaktur in Einsiedeln has been producing cheeses and yoghurts from local mountain milk since 2012. With its show cheese dairy, the restaurant, and its Regio Shop it offers a range of experiences – watch the cheese makers at work, try your hand at the traditional art, or visit the cows that supply the milk on the farm itself.

www.milchmanufaktur.ch/gruppenangebote



LINTHEBENE

Old corn type rediscovered

Around 1700, the inhabitants of the flat stretch called Linthebene began growing corn. Later almost forgotten, Linth corn was rediscovered and is now being used again in many regional specialities. In the Linth corn tortilla chips, for instance – fried in local rapeseed oil and seasoned with salt. They are ideal with pre-dinner drinks, with grilled meat, or with a delicious Maisgold beer. But be aware – the chips can be addictive.

www.linthmais.ch



RIGI

Royal alpine cheese

Each summer, alpine farmer Franz Toni Kennel produces up to 12,000 kilos of tasty alpine cheese in 15 different types in his dairy on Rigi Kulm. He gets the first-grade milk for his cheeses, butters, and yoghurts from the 33 cows in the stable next door, from another 17 cows of a tenant farmer, and some other local milk suppliers.

www.rigi.ch/alpchaeserenholz



LAUERZ

Prize-winning spirits

For more than 70 years, Lauerz has been the site of passionate spirit making. The Z'Gräggen Distillery was awarded the distinction of "Swiss Distiller of the Year" for the seventh time for its Gravensteiner and Rigi Alpenbitter products. The long-standing know-how, passed on for generations, ensures the creation of outstanding products.

www.zgraggen.ch/distillerie



CANTON OF SCHWYZ

Culinary discovery tour

More than 40 restaurants with the quality label "echt SCHWYZ" offer dishes of the Schwyz cuisine. Not only are the recipes regional but also most of the ingredients, since the restaurants work with local butchers, hunters, fishers, or farmers. The "echt SCHWYZ" vouchers are a perfect gift for family members, friends, and work colleagues.

www.aecht-schwyz.ch







The wild and romantic Muotatal intrigues with its unique landscape and traditions that are still very much alive. The hiking opportunities are endless. Don't miss going on a hike with a husky.

www.erlebnisswelt.ch

LANDSLIDE: The fracture of the Rossberg can be seen to this day.



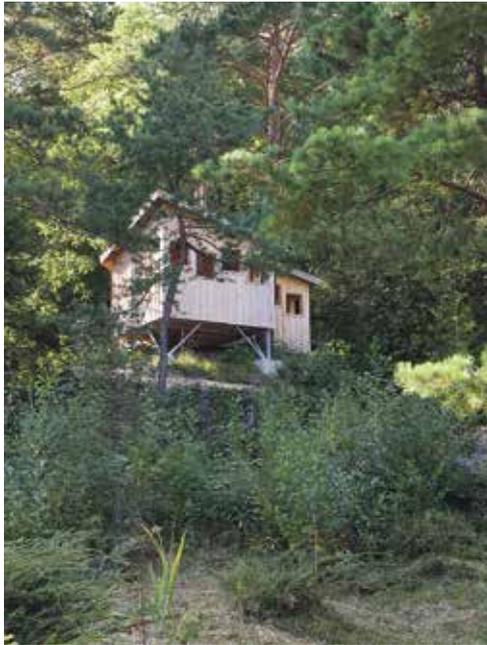
BIODIVERSITY: The endangered ringlet butterfly likes sparse tree cover.



CHRISTINA EBNETER, BIOLOGIST AND RANGER, NATURE RESERVE AND WILDLIFE PARK GOLDAU

HOW A TRAGEDY GENERATES LIFE

As far as Christina Ebnetter is concerned, the woods warble. She recognizes the sound of every bird call. Even when she talks about the landslide, the biologist will invariably return to the topic of birds – and to her own actions to ensure that the birdsong continues.



NATURE RESERVE: The observation hut and the “Landslide Trail” reveal much about this special area.

BIRD LOVER: It’s pretty rare to see Christina Ebnetter without her binoculars.



“We learned a lot about the protective function of forests.”

Christina Ebnetter

The eye feasts on emerald green, dragon green, bottle green. From somewhere a blackcap can be heard. Visitors standing on the observation tower in the Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park Goldau can hardly imagine that this area was almost completely deforested 200 years ago. After two very wet years, in 1806, heavy rain triggered a landslide on Rossberg mountain: 400 million cubic metres of rocks and scree thundered into the valley, killing more than 500 people. There was no forest to prevent it. “We have learned a lot about the protective function of forests since then,” says Christina Ebnetter.

Today, the scene of the tragedy showcases how new life can grow from rocks. The 30-year-old ranger guides groups to the park’s “Window to Nature”, an observation hut looking out on a protected hillside moor located outside of the park. From here, it’s not so much the animals that are observed than the landslide landscape. Just to prove the opposite, a green woodpecker briefly laughs.

BLOOMING ORCHIDS

“Wetlands have become very rare in Switzerland, so the situation in the landslide area is unique,” Christina Ebnetter explains. That’s why the rare ringlet butterfly has survived here. Other rare species have been sighted here as well, such as the European nightjar or the bee orchid. “Orchids thrive particularly well in this landslide area because they love nutrient-poor soil.” Easily adaptive and undemanding plants such as grasses were the first to begin sprouting on the rocky debris of the landslide, followed by orchids, shrubs, and trees.

NATURAL DISRUPTERS

Nowadays pines dominate the scene outside the “Window to Nature”. “Even nature reserves need to be looked after by humans, otherwise they become overgrown and the biodiversity declines.” Previously, European bison herds used to pass here, grazing on young shoots or trampling them. Or beavers became active as lumberjacks. On this day, the park’s staff have taken on the role of natural disrupters and are working on preserving the glade. They are cutting grass and arranging it in heaps around poles to provide shelter for hedgehogs and other small mammals, and to minimize the accumulation of nutrient-rich soil. They are clearing shrubs and forming clumps of branches that serve as retreat for wall lizards and smooth snakes. “The European pied flycatcher, a songbird, is breeding here in the park,” says Christina Ebnetter, underscoring the success of the various conservation measures.

Clumps of branches are also a useful contribution to nature preservation in private backyards, she says. The biologist clearly has a lot of tips for the visitors: “If all flat roofs in Switzerland were to be planted like the roof of our park restaurant “Grüne Gans” – that is, with orchids or wildflowers – the insect populations would increase again.” And that, she says, would in turn increase the bird populations.

The Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park Goldau offers guided tours dedicated to the landslide theme. The “Landslide Trail” covers much of the landslide area.

www.tierpark.ch

TELL-TALE NUMBERS

1711

What makes the Swiss laugh? What do others find funny about the Swiss? These are some of the questions explored in "Made in Witzerland. A guide to Swiss humour" at the Forum of Swiss History Schwyz. From the outside, the museum is a Baroque granary and armoury dating from 1711. Inside, the temporary multimedia show casts a humorous eye on Switzerland.
www.forumschwyz.ch



12

Once in the water, there's no return. Young people and youthful oldies alike shoot down the 12 slides of the Alpamare Water Park in Pfäffikon: some are dark, some are icy, and others ensure bob or speed. The wave pool allows some more bobbing. And the iodine brine thermal bath restores those frazzled nerves.
www.alpamare.ch

1897

The Spartan model is presumably the most famous "Swiss Army Knife". Karl Elsener, the founder of Victorinox, developed it and had it patented on 12 June 1897. The Swiss Knife Valley Visitor Center in Brunnen showcases the history of the knife and the milestones of the Victorinox company in an interactive exhibition.
www.swissknifevalley.ch



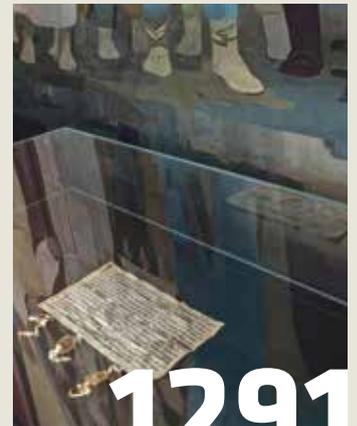
27

The Black Madonna of the Abbey of Einsiedeln has intrigued pilgrims and historians alike. Some simply pray at Maria's feet, while others can't wait to see which of her 27 robes the Madonna features this time round. A guided tour of the Abbey sheds light on the mystery why the Madonna is black and also offers a chance to see the Abbey library, which is not open to the public.
www.eyz.swiss



2

Pin, strike, spare. At the Swiss Holiday Park in Morschach, the youngsters bowl like the big guys. Everything in the 2 bowling lanes for children is adapted to small hands. The bowls are lighter and easy to grip. The lanes are shorter. And the rules are made by each family as they please.
www.swissholidaypark.ch



1291

Revered as confederation-founding document on the one hand, dismissed as irrelevant on the other – the Federal Charter of 1291 has stirred mixed emotions since the Middle Ages. The Museum of the Federal Charters in Schwyz presents its colourful history. The guided summer tours explore unusual questions such as: How can you make a document from a sheep? Why does the Federal Charter suggest that its writer was thrifty?
www.bundesbrief.ch

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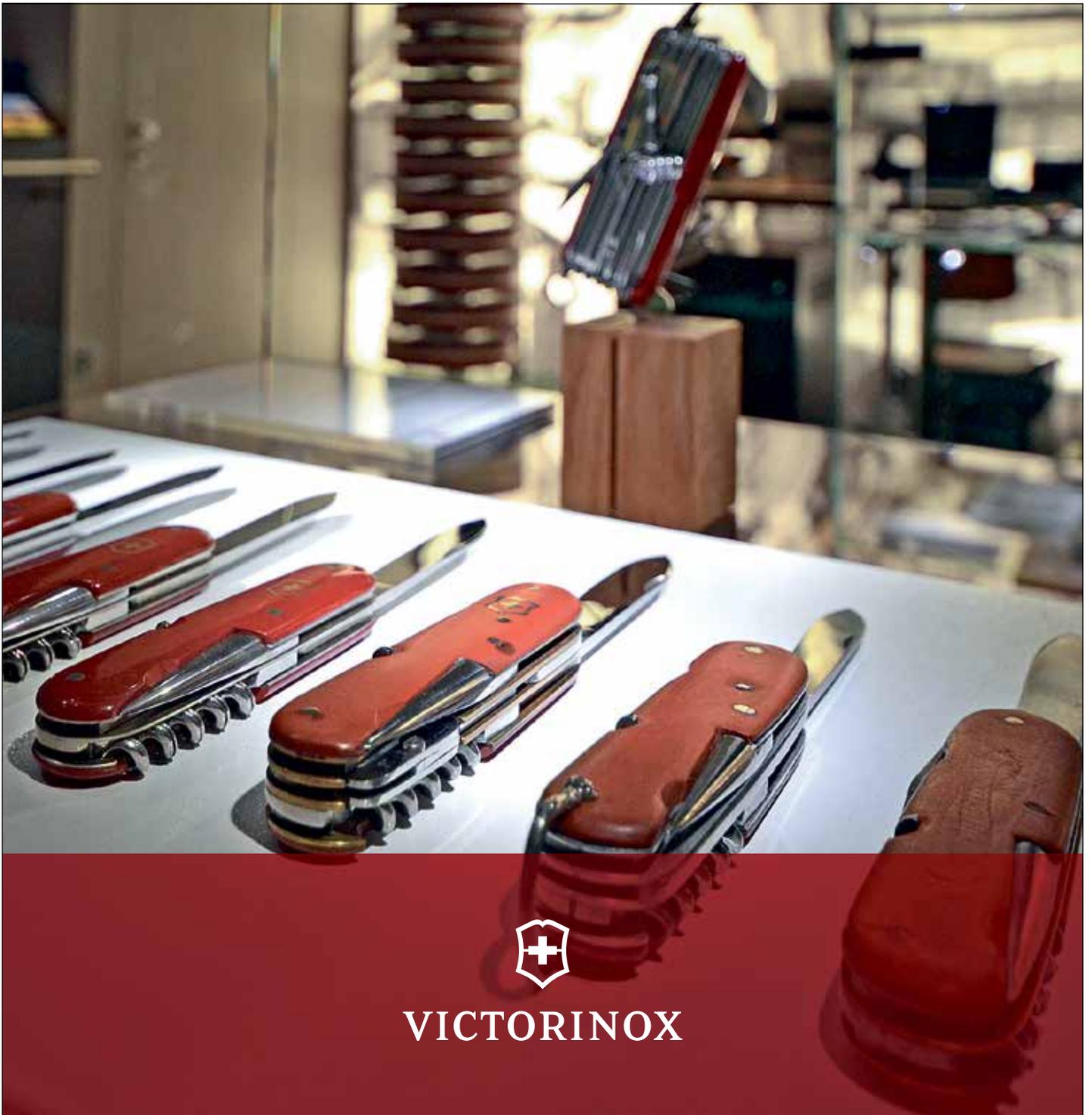
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GUT BERATEN, SCHWY**ZER ART:
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www.szkb.ch



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