

Guest Information

for Guests Hotel Brienerburli

Hoppid!

This is our traditional Brienz greeting – a warm welcome to our cozy woodcarvers' village.

We wish you a wonderful and unforgettable stay and hope that the beautiful mountain scenery, along with the many excursion opportunities in our region, will delight you now – and perhaps inspire you to return to Brienz again in the future.

On the following pages, you will find information about local attractions and interesting facts about our region.

We wish you a relaxing and pleasant stay. Should you have any further questions, our reception team will be happy to assist you at any time.

The Huggler Family and team



Hotel Restaurant Brienerburli | Seerestaurant Löwen | Hotel Restaurant Weisses Kreuz

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www.brienerburli.ch | hotel@brienerburli.ch | www.weisseskreuz-brienz.ch | hotel@weisseskreuz-brienz.ch

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Check-In & Check-Out

- **Arrival:** Your room is generally available from 3.00 p.m. onwards. Depending on the season, the reception is open until **5.30 p.m./9.00 p.m.**
 - **Late Arrival/Late Check-In:** If you plan to arrive after 9.00 p.m., please inform us in advance. Self check-in is available, and we will be happy to send you all the necessary information for a smooth and easy self check-in.
 - **Departure:** On the day of departure, we kindly ask you to vacate the room by 11.00 a.m. at the latest.
 - Please check carefully before departure to ensure that no personal belongings are left behind in the room. Any forwarding or shipping costs will be charged to you.
-

Breakfast

Breakfast is served in the Restaurant Brienzerburli.

In July and August, our breakfast buffet is available from **7.30 a.m.**, otherwise from **8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.** Guests are welcome to help themselves to our generous breakfast buffet.

Upon request, we are happy to provide an early self-service breakfast or prepare a packed lunch instead of breakfast. Please inform the reception by 5.30 p.m. the day before.

Room Amenities

- **Wi-Fi:** Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel.
Hotel Brienzerburli: Network "*Hotel Brienzerburli Free*" – no password required.
Edelweiss Apartments: Please refer to the QR code in your apartment.
 - **Television:** The television is pre-programmed. We kindly ask you not to change the settings. A list of TV channels can be found in your room.
(Exception: Edelweiss Apartments/Loft do not have televisions.)
 - **Safe:** An in-room safe is provided. Instructions for use are available in the room.
(Exception: Edelweiss Apartments/Loft do not have a safe.)
 - **Kitchen – Edelweiss Apartments/Loft:** Upon arrival, you will find the kitchen inventory according to the provided list in the apartment/loft. Please check the inventory on arrival and inform us immediately of any missing or damaged items. Upon departure, the inventory must be complete and the kitchen returned fully cleaned. Any missing or damaged items, as well as **special cleaning costs**, will be charged according to the effort involved and may be deducted from the deposit collected upon arrival, if applicable.
-

Important Hotel Information

- **Entrance Door:** Please always carry your room key with you so that you can access the hotel at night when the entrance door is locked. The card reader is located to the right of the entrance door.
 - **Non-Smoking Rooms:** All rooms are non-smoking.
In case of violation, a cleaning fee of at least CHF 200 will be charged.
 - **Cooking in the Room:** Cooking in the room is strictly prohibited.
(Exception: apartments/lofts with a kitchen.)
In case of violation, a fee of at least CHF 200 will be charged.
 - **Dogs:** Dogs are welcome. We charge CHF 10 per dog/night (food not included).
We kindly ask that only house-trained and quiet dogs are brought along.
Please note that, for hygiene reasons, dogs are not allowed on beds or sofas.
Any additional cleaning required will be charged accordingly.
 - **Further Information on Edelweiss Apartments/Loft:** Please refer to the information provided on-site in your accommodation.
-

Hotel-Services

- **Guest Card:** You will receive a guest card from us, which allows you to benefit from various discounts in the region. Further information is available at reception or under following link: [Guest Card Information](#)
- **Parking Spaces:** Our hotel guests (*excluding Airbnb guests*) may use free parking spaces, subject to availability, either directly behind the hotel or at "Löwenplatz" in the yellow zone.

As the number of parking spaces is limited, **reservations are not possible** and we cannot guarantee availability. Please also note that parking on the day of departure is only permitted **until 11.00 a.m.**

If our hotel parking spaces are occupied, we recommend the nearby **public parking spaces in the white zone** in front of the hotel or **below the church** (approx. **150 metres away**) at a rate of **from CHF 8 per day**.

We accept **no responsibility for parking fines** resulting from incorrect parking or unpaid parking fees.

- **Hotel Transfer:** A transfer service to and from the train station is **available** on arrival and departure from **8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**, by prior arrangement only and with advance notice of your arrival/departure time. (*Service not included for Airbnb guests*)
- **Luggage:** You are welcome to store your luggage with us both on arrival and on departure.
- **"We Wash" (Laundry Salon):** Self-service laundry facilities "We Wash" are located at Hauptstrasse 41, approximately 150 metres from the hotel. Further information is available [here](#).

Our Restaurants

- **Restaurant Brienzerburli**: Traditional and cozy dining rooms such as the “*Buurestube*”, “*Geissenstübli*” and “*Puddigg*” create an authentic atmosphere. Our [menu](#) offers a wide selection of **delicious regional specialties** as well as **classic Swiss dishes**.
- **Lakeside Restaurant Löwen**: Located **directly by the lake**, featuring a beautiful lakeside terrace and **brehtaking view**. Discover our refreshing **apéritif drinks** and enjoy a relaxing break by the water. The [menu](#) offers a selection of **fine fish dishes**, as well as **meat and vegetarian options**.



We would also like to recommend our **Restaurant Weisses Kreuz**, located **directly next to the train station**, approximately **1 km east of the hotel**.

- **Restaurant Weisses Kreuz**: Our traditional hotel restaurant is **open 365 days a year** and offers a variety of spaces for every occasion, including a **bar, restaurant, banquet hall and a large terrace**. Enjoy an **apéritif on the terrace or at the bar**, and let us **treat you to a memorable culinary experience** at Restaurant Weisses Kreuz. [Menu available here](#).



The [opening hours](#) of all our restaurants can be found on our website or obtained from our reception team.

Fire Alarm, Emergency Numbers and other Phone Numbers

- **Fire Alarm:** In the event of a fire, please **remain calm**. The hotel is equipped with a **modern fire protection system**.

Emergency escape routes are displayed on the back of your room door.

Assembly point: Parking area in front of the **Restaurant Löwen**.



- **Reception** **400**

- **Emergency Numbers**
Night Emergency Phone **444**

Please note that the night emergency number is for emergencies only.

Any non-emergency calls at night, or incidents caused by the guest, will be charged accordingly.

Police **117**

Fire Department **118**

Ambulance **144**

- **Further Phone Numbers**

Tourist Office +41 33 952 80 80

Fruitt Taxi +41 79 841 70 10

Doctors in Brienz

Burgerhaus Medical Practice, Hauptstrasse 61, 3855 Brienz +41 33 951 33 33

Brienz Medical Group, Hauptstrasse 133/135, 3855 Brienz +41 33 951 11 11

Additional Information and Services A-Z

- **Allergies:**

Breakfast: Gluten-free bread and lactose-free milk are available upon advance request. Please inform us in advance.

Half board: On prior request, we are happy to prepare a vegetarian option corresponding to the set menu for vegetarian guests. For any other allergies, please contact us in advance to clarify whether this can be accommodated. Various options such as gluten-free and lactose-free are available upon request and at an additional charge.

- **Confectionery/Shop:** Visit our small shop next to the reception, where you will find lovingly made homemade specialties, charming regional souvenirs, and refreshing drinks. Perfect as gifts or a little treat for yourself!

- Pavées chocolate, cookies, and Brienzerburli pralines – handmade with care
- Our popular house salad dressings (French & Italian) – a guest favorite
- Souvenirs such as magnets, wooden cows, keychains, and other small keepsakes
- Refreshments: Soft drinks, beer, and other beverages
(Additional drinks are available in our restaurant and can be charged directly to your hotel bill.)

- **Damages/Special Cleaning:** If any damage or extraordinary soiling occurs during your stay, please report it immediately to the reception. Costs for damages or special cleaning will be **charged to your credit card or invoiced**.

- **Gift Vouchers:** Give the gift of joy with one of our gift vouchers! Vouchers can be issued directly at the reception – quick, easy, and personal. Even easier: **Purchase your voucher [online](#) print it at home, and your gift is ready in no time.** Vouchers can also be ordered by phone or email.

- **Half Board:** Half-board guests are served from **5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.** at **Restaurant Brienzerburli**. A table is reserved for you.

- **Laundry Service:** You will find a **laundry bag with a price list in the wardrobe**. Our laundry service is available to you.

Please note that our **standard service may take up to 48 hours**, and **express service up to 24 hours**, before your laundry is returned to you.

- **Mail:** You may hand in your mail at the reception. Incoming and outgoing mail is handled **once daily**, around **10:30–11:00 a.m.**

- **Millstone Game:** A traditional **millstone game** is available behind the hotel.
- **Newspapers:** Daily newspapers and magazines are available in the restaurant and at the reception. We kindly ask you to return them after reading.
- **Packed Lunch:** Would you like to take a **packed lunch** for your hike or excursion? Please order **by 5.30 p.m. the day before** at the reception. The lunch package includes:
 - Sandwich
 - Fruit
 - sweet
 - egg
 - 0.5 l Brienzerburli water

Price: CHF 14.00
- **Pétanque:** A **pétanque court** is located behind the hotel. Please collect the balls at the reception and return them after use.
- **Pillows/Blankets:** Additional pillows or blankets are available upon request. Please contact the reception in advance.
- **Postcards:** A selection of postcards is available in our shop next to the reception. Postage stamps can be purchased at the reception.
- **Quiet Hours:** Out of consideration for other guests, **quiet hours apply from 10.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.**
- **Repairs:** Despite regular checks, technical issues may occasionally occur. Please report any defects directly to the reception or fill in the repair note provided in your room. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Sewing Kit:** Available at the reception upon request.
- **Shoe Cleaning Machine:** A shoe cleaning machine is located **next to the elevator** in the Brienzerburli. Shoe polishing cloths are available **free of charge** at the reception.
- **SUP (Stand-Up Paddleboarding):** Interested in a SUP tour? Please make your **reservation in advance at the reception.**
- **Table Tennis:** A table tennis table is available behind the hotel. Please collect paddles and balls at the reception and return them afterward.

- **Telephone:** Our rooms are equipped with an **internet-based telephone system**. Call destination, number, duration, and costs are automatically recorded and charged to your room account, payable on departure. Further details are provided on the telephone information sheet. Incoming calls cannot be made directly to your room. Please provide callers with the hotel number **+41 (0)33 951 12 41** and your **room number**, and we will connect the call.
- **Toiletries:** Forgot something? **Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and shaving kits** are available at the reception.
- **Towel Change:** For environmental reasons, towels are **not changed daily**. Please place your towels on the floor if you would like them to be replaced.
- **Water/Hot Water:** Our tap water is of **excellent drinking quality** and can be safely consumed directly from the tap. A kettle for shared use is available at the reception (**self-service**).

If you have any further questions, our reception team will be happy to assist you.

Useful Information for your stay

- **Brienz Experience Card**
Staying with us for two or more nights? With the **Brienz Experience Card**, you get **boat trips, admission to the Ballenberg Open-Air Museum, and a Rothorn ticket** – all in one!
Best of all: **Children under 16 travel for free**.
More information is available at the reception..
- **Travelling by Public Transport?** Plan your journey with **SBB**.
- **Brienz Tourist Office**
- **Brienz and Surroundings**
- **Tipps for Bad Weather**

Interesting Facts about Brienzerburli GmbH, Brienz and Surroundings

History of Hotel Brienzerburli GmbH

Our ancestors primarily earned their living from **agriculture and woodcarving**. According to oral tradition, the property “uf dr Mur” has been in the family since 1520. “Uf dr Mur” is the local name of the land where Hotel Brienzerburli now stands.



During the constitutional unrest of 1830, the village was divided into two camps: the **Blacks**, i.e., the Conservatives, and the **Whites**, i.e., the Liberals. At that time, the only baker in the village was a Liberal and refused to provide bread to the Blacks. Quickly, the dairyman **Melchior Huggler** saddled his horse, rode to Thun, and ordered a stove builder—and probably a baker—to supply bread to his fellow party members. In the house “uf dr Mur”, the packhorse stable had become redundant. A stove was installed there, and a bakery was set up, which remained in operation in the old house until 1936.

In 1937, our great-grandfather **Jakob Huggler** built the new commercial building with four apartments, three guest rooms, a bakery, and a tea-room. The original oven can still be seen in the restaurant today.



After the completion of the new building in 1938, our grandparents **Fritz and Mathilde Huggler-Thöni** took over the business during difficult times. With great dedication and determination, they managed to survive the war years, during which Fritz Huggler was on active service in Valais.

The picture on the right shows our grandfather **Fritz Huggler** at the “Brienzer Market” selling the “**Brienzer Chrapfen**”.



The 1950s brought an economic upswing across many regions. In 1957, the **Tea-Room extension** was built on the west side

On **1st January 1975**, our parents **Peter and Edith Huggler-Arnold** took over the business. Their goal was to transform the property **Hotel Brienzerburli** in the “Aenderdorf” into a modern, cozy hotel and hospitality establishment. Year by year, they worked step by step to implement and expand this vision.



In 1991, our father **Peter Huggler** acquired the property “**Seerestaurant Löwen**”, located opposite the Brienzerburli. The new establishment was successfully integrated into the existing concept, and many improvements have been made since then.



In **winter 1999**, the **third floor of the Brienzerburli** was expanded. One room was enlarged, and three new rooms were added, including the **Honeymoon Room** with breathtaking views of Lake Brienz. A wheelchair-accessible shower and toilet were also installed during this renovation.



In 2009, we acquired an adjacent half-house behind the Brienzerburli. Here, in the “**Swiss-Chalet**”, three new rooms in **traditional Swiss style** were created, along with a **garden area** featuring a millstone game, ping-pong table, pétanque court, and a place to relax.



In 2011, the opportunity arose to acquire the traditional “**Hotel Weisses Kreuz**” near the train station, which was still leased at the time. Since June 2012, we have operated it ourselves and continue to expand our business.



In **summer 2015**, we acquired the “**Bistro Rothorn**”, which fits very well into the concept of the Weisses Kreuz. It includes a self-service bistro on the ground floor and two apartments on the upper floors. The Bistro Rothorn is open from May to October.



“Schybärg Beizli” – Since winter 2023/24, we have operated a new seasonal project on the Axalp during the ski season, with a **food container, wooden chalet and terrace** directly on the slopes, leased from the Axalp ski lifts. This complements the summer operations of the Bistro Rothorn and is operated only during the ski season.



In 2024, we acquired the **“Stähli Huus,”** now **“Edelweiss Apartments”**, opposite the “Rössliplatz”, about 150 meters from Brienzburli. Some apartments and a loft have already been completed, and more are under construction. This also gave us the opportunity to secure **two private bus parking spaces** and establish our own **“We Wash” laundry salon**.



Our **family business**, with its traditions and history, continues to inspire us. We are proud of the many expansions that have been realized and look forward to the challenges that the future will bring.



Management (from left to right):
Peter Huggler Jr./Peter Huggler Sr./Max Thoma/Christine Inauen-Huggler/Mathias Huggler

“Brienzen sparkling water”

The Swiss are a nation of mineral-water drinkers.

On average, people in Switzerland consume more than 125 litres of mineral water per person per year.

At the *Brienzenburli*, we have always made a point of offering only mineral water that comes from the local region. This makes particular sense from an ecological point of view, as the environmental footprint of a local product is significantly better than that of imported alternatives. Shorter transport distances, above all, make a real difference.

Transporting one litre of Swiss mineral water to the consumer requires between 0.2 and 0.3 decilitres of crude oil. Imported mineral water requires even more. In addition, the environment is further burdened by packaging and production processes.



Mühlebachfall ob Brienzen

**Brienzen
Quellwasser**

Tafelwasser
Wasser aus Brienzen Quellen
mit Kohlensäure
www.brienzenburli.ch
www.weisseskreuz-brienzen.ch

*** Hotel
Brienzenburli

Weisses Kreuz
HOTEL RESTAURANT BRIENZ

5 dl / 1 Lt

Since 2006, we have been offering “Brienzen sparkling Water” in our restaurants. This water is collected by the Brienzen municipal utilities from three different natural springs, including one at *Stättenried*, directly below the *Mühlebach falls*, located just a few kilometres from our hotel.

When served, the table water is gently carbonated.

It has been extremely popular with our guests, thanks to its excellent taste and outstanding environmental balance, which truly speak for themselves.

By the way, Brienzen sparkling Water is also available to take away from our shop/reception in 0.5-litre and 1-litre PET bottles.

Sources: *Kassensturz*, 29 August 2006, and *Brienzen Municipal Utilities*

La Belle Batelière de Brienz

Elisabeth Grossmann

At the beginning of the 19th century, a simple yet strikingly beautiful young woman from the Bernese Oberland village of Brienz gained worldwide fame. Her name was **Elisabetha Grossmann**, known to contemporaries and posterity as “**La belle Batelière de Brienz.**”

Born in 1794 in what is now the village of woodcarvers, Elisabetha grew up in poor small-farmer circumstances. There were no railways yet, and no steamships. Instead, graceful young women from Brienz – often gifted singers – rowed the first tourists, mostly aristocrats, across the lake to the wild and romantic Giessbach Falls or even to Interlaken, then an emerging spa resort.



Elisabetha is said to have worked as a rowing boatwoman from a very young age to support her parents. The German-Russian Baron **Wilhelm von Balk** was so taken by the delicate, charming young woman that he felt she should no longer endure such hard labour. He paid for her to spend a year at a prestigious finishing school in Bern and offered her the choice of returning to Brienz or joining him in Russia afterward.

Elisabetha preferred her beautiful village with its high mountains, blue-green lake, and roaring Giessbach Falls, and thus – unknowingly heading toward a tragic fate – returned to work among the boatwomen.

She remained very beautiful and fond of singing, and the travelling aristocracy adored her. One listener in particular was deeply captivated: **François Pettavel**, a 22-year-old grammar-school professor of Latin and Greek from a respected Neuchâtel family.

After their meeting they corresponded regularly, until in late April 1815 François asked for Elisabetha’s hand in marriage. He wrote to his mother announcing that he would arrive in Neuchâtel on Ascension Day with his fiancée and one of her brothers.

This letter caused alarm within the Pettavel family. A five-member family council was immediately convened, and decisive action was taken. The engaged couple never reached Neuchâtel territory – they were stopped in Aarberg. Elisabetha was not disliked by François’ strict mother, but she was deemed insufficiently refined to be the wife of a nobleman.

François submitted to maternal authority, breaking Elisabetha’s heart. Back in Brienz, she wrote him a final letter expressing her deep disappointment. François, now himself painfully affected, offered a compensation of **80 Louis d’or** in his reply.

The former lovers never saw each other again. In late 1822, the now 31-year-old Pettavel married a woman from Neuchâtel of suitable social standing. He never forgot the beautiful boatwoman.

You can view the unique painting “La belle Batelière” at the Brienzerburli, located in the passageway next to the reception.

Historical Notes on Brienz

Brienz first appears in historical records in the 12th century. It is documented in 1146 under the name “**Briens.**” It was the centre of a small lordship belonging to the Baron of Briens, a member of the renowned Raron family from Valais.



In the 19th century, economic activities began to take root that remain of great importance today: woodcarving and tourism. Woodcarving, initiated during the years of famine in 1816/17 by Christian Fischer, became a tradition in Brienz. In 1884, the School of Woodcarving was founded as a private institution. Since 1944, Brienz has also been home to the Swiss School of Violin Making.

With the introduction of steamship services in 1837, an important first step was taken in improving transport connections, which were crucial for tourism. This was followed in 1888 by the inauguration of the Brünig Railway, and in 1892 by the opening of the Brienz Rothorn Railway, the famous steam cogwheel railway.

Today, Brienz is a village with a socially diverse population, various trades and crafts, and a strong tourism industry.



Some Interesting Dates from the History of Brienz

- 1146** Brienz is first mentioned in official documents
- 1308** Brienz comes under Bernese supervision for the first time
- 1626** First market in Brienz (Briensermärt)
- 1777** Beginnings of tourism
- 1815** Years of famine; beginning of woodcarving in Brienz
- 1839** First steamship, *Giessbach*, operates on Lake Brienz
- 1848** Permission granted to open a post office
- 1853** Construction of a woodcarving factory
- 1861** Completion of the Brünigstrasse road, Brienz-Alpnachstadt postal route with carriages
- 1862** Founding of the drawing school in Brienz
- 1864** Expansion of the Lake Brienz lakeside road
- 1868** Peak of woodcarving: 1,065 woodcarvers counted in Brienz and the surrounding area
- 1877** First experiments with the telephone
- 1879** Giessbach funicular railway put into operation
- 1884** Opening of the School of Woodcarving
- 1888** Opening of the Brünig Railway on 13 June after two years of construction. Travel time from Lucerne to Brienz (terminus) was 4½ hours; winter service was suspended
- 1890** Start of construction of the Rothorn Railway
- 1895** Opening of the first telephone network with 13 subscribers
- 1902** Winter timetable 1902/1903:
 - Travel time Brienz–Bern: 3 hours 36 min to 5 hours 30 min
 - Travel time Brienz–Lucerne: 3 hours 27 min to 3 hours 43 min
 - Service between Meiringen and Giswil suspended from 1 December to 31 March

- 1904** The increasing volume of motor traffic in recent years prompted the local council to limit the maximum speed to 8 km/h by installing signs at the entrances to the village.
- 1911** The Tourism Association proposes using the excavation material from the planned Brienz Lake Railway tunnel to create a lakeside promenade (quay).
- 1916** On 23 August, the Brienz Lake Railway is officially opened. From now on, Bern can be reached in three hours. The fare from Brienz to Interlaken is 90 Swiss cents.
- 1944** The heraldic emblem of Brienz is officially approved.
- 1946** Severe avalanches in 1942 and 1943 lead the municipality to purchase 35 hectares of steep terrain at Tanngrindel for protective construction and reforestation.
- 1978** The Ballenberg Open-Air Museum opens its doors.
- 1988** After more than ten years of construction, the left-bank Brienz Lake road (N8) is opened on 18 May.
- 1990** Storm “Vivian” hits the region on 27/28 February.
- 1993** Reconstruction work is carried out on the lakeside promenade (quay).
- 1999** In February, heavy snowfall leads to the temporary closure of transport routes. The Brünig railway and both lakeside roads around Lake Brienz are impassable. The Brünig Pass is closed, and Interlaken can only be reached by boat.
- 2005** On the night of 22–23 August, the village is struck by a severe storm that causes extensive damage.
- 2024** On 12 August, after heavy rainfall, a debris flow occurs at the Milibach stream. The transported material—stones, boulders and wood—overfills a collector above the village, causing debris to flow uncontrollably into the districts of Seematte, Rybi, Steiner and around the church. Buildings, parked vehicles, roads and public transport infrastructure are damaged.

The intense rain and thunderstorm cell that moved over the village on Monday evening also severely affected the Brienz Rothorn Railway.

A stretch of 2.2 kilometers suffered major structural damage to the track, ballast foundation and drainage system.

Woodcarving in Brienz



Brienz woodcarving was founded in 1816 by Christian Fischer. He was a talented mountain farmer who spent the winters caring for his livestock in the Giessbach valley. During the long winter evenings, he passed the time carving and discovered his artistic talent. In summer, he sold his carved figures to tourists.



At its peak, around 1,000 people in the Interlaken–Brienz–Oberhasli region were involved in woodcarving (some chroniclers even speak of up to 2,500). Entire families—fathers, mothers and often children—carved bears, pen holders, letter openers, frames, plates, baskets and many other items alongside their modest farming activities. Many were self-taught. The true masters of the old school learned their craft at the carving school, achieving great skill and virtuosity in detail and natural realism.

As the trade grew, shops emerged and a flourishing market developed due to the high production volume. However, traders sometimes used unfair practices to push prices down. Over time, carvers produced a lot but were paid less and less. Many survived only thanks to small-scale farming as a secondary income.

On the other hand, there were also periods when woodcarving flourished and provided good earnings. The song “Brienzerburli,” a humorous mocking song by carvers about farmers, likely originates from such a period.

Since 1816, Brienz woodcarving has experienced many ups and downs, numerous changes and developments, and has evolved into a modern yet deeply rooted profession.

Brienz School of Woodcarving



“Craft is always a work of the hands, but when it is inspired by the mind, it becomes a true satisfaction of the heart.” This saying perfectly captures the spirit and purpose of the Brienz School of Woodcarving.

Long before the school was founded, the craft of woodcarving had already taken shape. Christian Fischer is considered the father of Brienz woodcarving; in 1816 he began producing souvenirs for visitors. Supported by the rise of summer tourism, the craft spread around Lake Brienz and into the Hasli Valley. Around 1860, carving schools were established in Brienz and Meiringen, followed later by drawing schools in several villages.

In 1884, the Brienz School of Woodcarving was opened as the successor to the drawing school. Initial successes soon followed. Subsequently, the Oberland Woodcarving Industry Association was founded to market the school’s products. Nevertheless, the economic downturn from 1909 to 1923 did not pass without consequences. Tourism declined and an important source of income nearly disappeared. As a result, the school shifted towards toy production and architectural carving as alternative fields of work.



In 1927, the Canton of Bern took over the previously privately run school. From then on, it operated under the cantonal Department of Economic Affairs. Despite support from the Association of Oberland Woodcarvers (BOH), the crises of 1930 and 1947 were difficult years. Nevertheless, student numbers continued to rise, and space became increasingly limited. In 1950, the new school building was finally inaugurated.

Today, young people with manual and artistic talent can complete a four-year apprenticeship in all areas of woodcarving (human figures, animal figures, ornaments) and qualify as certified wood sculptors, a profession officially recognized by the Swiss authorities.



Visit the Brienz School of Woodcarving

Just a two-minute walk from the Brienzburli statue, directly below the Reformed Church of Brienz.

Exhibition Opening Hours

Visitors can access the exhibition through the visitor entrance on the lower ground floor.

Watch trainee wood sculptors at work.

The exhibition is closed on public holidays and during school holidays.

Guided Tours

Guided tours of the workshops are available from Monday to Friday upon request and depending on school activities. Learn about the history of wood sculpture and the structure of the school as a vocational institution and training workshop. Experience the atmosphere of the carving hall and observe students at work.

Please book in advance by phone: +41 33 952 17 51.



Brienzi School of Violin Making

The Brienzi School of Violin Making was founded in 1944 and led by Adolf König until 1973, during which time it was gradually developed. For a short period, he was supported by Frans van Dijk as a specialist teacher. Initially privately run, the school became a state institution in 1952. During König's era, almost all bowed and plucked string instruments were produced.

From 1974 to 1996, the school was directed by Ulrich Zimmermann. Under his leadership, training focused on the construction and repair of violins, violas and cellos using modern concepts. A key teacher was Hugo Auchli from 1972, followed by Simon Glaus from 1986.



In 1996, government subsidies were largely withdrawn as part of cost-cutting measures, putting the cantonal violin-making school at risk of closure. After a thorough evaluation, educators, cultural representatives, professional associations and politicians worked together to save Switzerland's only specialized violin-making school. In 1998, the Brienzi School of Violin Making Foundation was established. Thanks to financial support from many private individuals and public and private institutions, the school was able to continue operating without interruption under its new foundation structure.

From 1996 to 2019, the school was jointly led by Hans Rudolf Hösli and Simon Glaus. Today, instruments of the violin family remain the core focus of the training. In concept, construction methods and design, the school follows the models of the great masters of Baroque, Classical and modern violin making. The program lasts four years.

The Brienzi School of Violin Making is located in the old village center, close to the School of Woodcarving.

Guided tours offer insight into the craft of string instrument making and are available by prior arrangement only.

Exhibition: "From Fiddles to Master Violins"

The violin in Switzerland and the art of violin making

Violin making to touch, to admire and to listen to.

Explore the exhibition and learn from the guides how Swiss string music sounded in the past, how it sounds today, and what kind of wood Swiss violins are made from.

A walk from the forest to the workbench, and from traditional music gatherings to the concert hall.

Opening hours

Brien Rothorn Railway - History

Switzerland's Only Steam Cogwheel Railway

There are many mountains called "Rothorn," but only one above Brienz, overlooking the beautiful Lake Brienz in the Bernese Oberland. Nowhere else can the ascent be experienced in such a romantic and impressive way: aboard the Brienz Rothorn Railway, the oldest steam cogwheel railway in Switzerland. Since 1892, it has been chugging, hissing and steaming its way up to Rothorn Kulm. Climb a vertical difference of 1,678 meters without breaking a sweat! The reward is a breathtaking panoramic view and access to unique hiking routes.



History



The Brienzer Rothorn was already well known before the railway opened. In 1829, the point where the cantons of Bern, Lucerne and Obwalden meet was marked with a granite stone. Along with the Faulhorn, the Rothorn was one of the most famous viewpoints in the Bernese Oberland.

How and when the Rothorn got its name is uncertain. According to a legend, Obwalden herdsmen who owned alpine pastures on Lucerne territory allegedly boiled a man from Entlebuch in a cauldron of whey around the year 1380. A guard who was meant to prevent such crimes is said to have blown his alpine horn so forcefully during another attack that he died from the exertion, and his horn turned red with blood—giving the mountain its name, "Rothorn" (Red Horn).

Builders of the Railway



With the construction of the Rigi Railway in 1871, it was proven that steam locomotives could even conquer mountains. The Bernese Oberland wanted to keep pace with Central Switzerland in terms of tourism. In 1889, a committee of tourism-minded citizens from Brienz was formed, led by the German engineer A. Lindner, who was living in Lucerne.

Lindner was fascinated by the idea of building what would then be the highest mountain railway in the world. He was a highly qualified railway expert and had also worked on the Gotthard Railway. In 1890, he wrote the "Memorandum on the Project of a Railway to the Rothorn."

Construction was entrusted to the master builder T. Bertschinger from Lenzburg. Having gained experience with the Seetal Railway, he dared to take on the entire project, including rolling stock, for a fixed price.

Construction of the Railway

In 1889, the Swiss Federal Assembly granted the concession to build the railway, and construction began in the summer of the same year. A contemporary report described the scene as follows:

“A lively and colorful bustle developed on the mountain. Work began immediately at the top and bottom, on scree slopes and rocky sections alike. Supplying the workers was no small challenge, and even hospitals had to be set up. At peak times, the workforce numbered 640 men, mostly Italians, housed in new barracks and old mountain huts in their well-known simple and practical manner.”

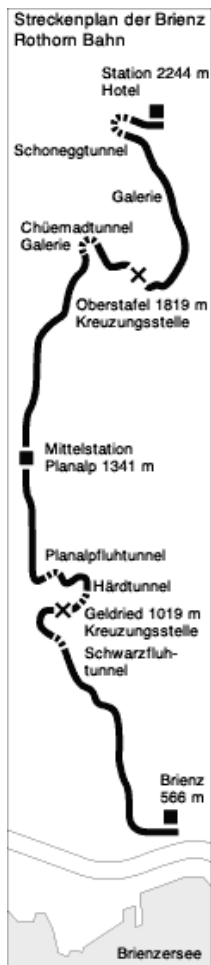
After just over one year of construction, on 31 October 1891, the first locomotive reached the summit of the Brienzer Rothorn, having travelled 7.6 kilometers and passed through six tunnels with a total length of 690 meters.

Operations officially began on 17 June 1892, and until 1914 steam trains ran regularly to the Brienzer Rothorn during the summer months. However, newly built railways in the region increasingly competed with the Rothorn Railway. With the outbreak of the First World War, passenger numbers declined further, and operations were suspended on 9 August 1914.

After 16 years of closure, service resumed in 1931. The locomotives and carriages stored in the depot were still fully operational, and the track infrastructure was in such good condition that the steam adventure on the Brienzer Rothorn could continue.

During its period of closure, the Rothorn Railway became the only steam cogwheel railway in Switzerland, as all others were electrified. Its value and uniqueness were now recognised and appreciated. It remains a living reminder of the romantic age of steam.





Route

With a track gauge of 80 cm, the route overcomes a vertical difference of 1,678 metres, with an average gradient of 225‰ and a maximum gradient of 250‰. To this day, it is considered one of the most beautiful and impressive railway routes in the entire Bernese Oberland.

The bold alignment and constantly changing views are repeatedly awe-inspiring. Particularly unique is the tunnel through the Planalp rock face, offering a spectacular view through a tunnel window. High above the abyss, like from an eagle's nest, passengers enjoy an unforgettable view of the village of Brienz, the green lake below, and the Giessbach waterfalls on the opposite shore.

Planalp

After 30 minutes, the train reaches Planalp at an altitude of 1,341 meters above sea level. The steam locomotives take a 10-minute stop. For the fireman and the driver, however, the hard work continues: refilling water—around 2,000 liters evaporate during the ascent—and lubricating the machinery. Passengers can use this time to take photographs.

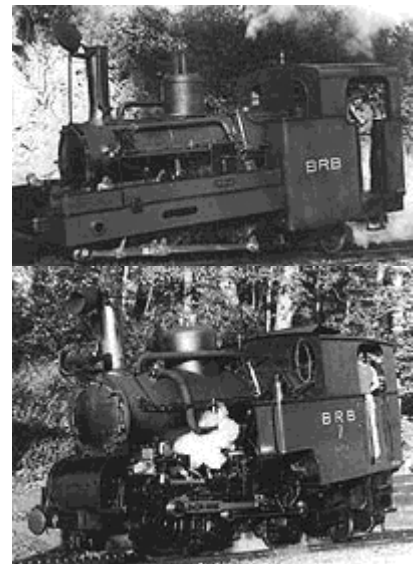
In addition to alpine huts, there are several chalets here. Just a five-minute walk from the station is a cozy mountain restaurant with a sunny terrace. Planalp is the starting point for various hikes and short walks.

Rolling Stock of the Brienz Rothorn Railway

Until 1973, seven steam locomotives handled all traffic on their own. Acquiring new rolling stock was difficult, as no one was building mountain steam locomotives anymore, and there was little experience with alternative, non-electric drive systems. To protect the steam locomotives and reduce waiting times, the decision was made—after lengthy discussions—to purchase three diesel locomotives. The first entered service in 1974.

In Operation Today:

- 5 steam locomotives – built in 1891/92**
- 2 steam locomotives – built in 1933/36**
- 3 diesel-hydrostatic locomotives – built in 1973/75/87**
- 1 steam locomotive – built in 1992**
- 2 steam locomotives – built in 1996**



In the summer of 1996, two new steam locomotives were inaugurated. The Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works once again built steam engines—this time using the latest technical knowledge, while maintaining the external appearance of traditional steam locomotives.

Operating season: early June to mid-October, Journey time: 1 hour



Useful Information from A-Z about Brienz and the Surrounding

Banks

BBO Bank Brienz Oberhasli

Hauptstrasse 115, Brienz
International ATM available

033/952 10 50

Raiffeisen Bank Brienz

Hauptstrasse 111, Brienz
International ATM available

033/972 10 10

Berner Kantonalbank

Hauptstrasse 142, Brienz

033/951 20 53

Bar/Pub

Helvetia Pub, Brienz

076 202 83 37

Boat Rental

Pirate Bay

076 518 88 77

Steamship cruises

079 661 01 13

Bus

The bus stop is located at “**Rössliplatz**” (directly opposite Migros). The bus runs daily towards the railway station at:

8.30 a.m./9.30 a.m./10.30 a.m./11.30 a.m./12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m./2.30 p.m. /3.30 p.m.

Church Services

Service times for the Evangelical Reformed Church, Roman Catholic Church, New Apostolic Church, and the Salvation Army can be found in the event program.

The nearest synagogue is located in Bern.

Cinema Brienz

Thursday to Sunday, screenings at 8.00 p.m.
(see event program)

Dentist

Please follow the link above for information about a local dental practice.

Drugstore

Drogerie Haslebacher, Hauptstrasse 131, Brienz

033/951 09 77

near the gravel works. Information on whether the rink is open is posted opposite Migros.

Emergencies

Police

117

Local Police Station

031/638 87 10

Lake Police

031/638 76 66

Fishing

Fishing from the shore of Lake Brienz is permitted without a license.

[Rules, closed seasons, minimum sizes, and further information are available here.](#)

Fishing licenses can be obtained at the **Brienz Axalp Tourism Office**.

Fitness center

Garages

Ernst Abegglen, Hauptstrasse 243, Brienz

Ford and all other brands, Shell petrol station 033/951 21 65

Automotomarine, Hauptstrasse 232, Brienz

Kia, breakdown service, car rental 033/951 31 21

Garage Fuhrer, Hauptstrasse 306, Brienz

Honda and all other brands 033/951 24 17

Ice Rink Brienz (Winter)

Depending on weather conditions, a natural ice rink is available in winter on the lakeshore near the gravel works. Information on whether the rink is open is posted opposite Migros.

Indoor Swimming Pools

Meiringen Indoor Pool 033/971 16 68

Bödeli Bad, Interlaken (sauna, solarium, outdoor & indoor pools) 033/827 90 90

Lido/Lakeside Swimming Area

The lakeside swimming area (Tel. 033 951 05 40) features a large sunbathing lawn, children's pool, and restaurant.

Open daily from June to September from 9.00 a.m.

Facilities include table tennis and badminton.

Lost and Found

Municipal Administration Brienz 033/952 22 43

Mushroom Picking

Mushroom picking in the Canton of Bern is permitted without time restrictions. However, a limit of **2 kg per person per day** applies.

In Brienz, a mushroom inspection service is available to check collected mushrooms.

Further information is available at the Tourism Office.

Post Office

Hauptstrasse 144 (near the railway station) 033/951 25 05
084/888 88 88

Monday – Friday 08.00 - 11.30 a.m.

02.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 08.30 - 11.00 a.m.

Railway Station

The main railway station in Brienz is located in the village center (approx. 1 km or a 20-minute walk from the hotel).

There is also a smaller station, **Brienz West**, about 400 m or a 10-minute walk from the hotel.

Please note that trains stop there only once per hour in each direction.

Train and bus timetables are available at reception or online via [public transport schedules](#).

Storm Warning Service

Orange flashing warning lights are installed along the lakeshore.

- 40 flashes per minute: storm warning
- 90 flashes per minute: storm danger

All sports boats must immediately head to shore.
Emergency calls: 117 or Lake Police 031 638 76 66.

Ski Areas

From Brienz, you have two options for skiing:

Axalp

A small, family-friendly ski area, especially popular with families with young children. In addition to skiing, you can enjoy cross-country skiing, winter hiking, and sledding. Axalp is accessible by car or bus.

Meiringen-Hasliberg

A larger and more varied ski area offering cross-country trails, winter hiking paths, and sledding runs. The valley station in Meiringen can be reached by car in approximately 15 minutes. Piste maps for both ski areas are available at reception.

Taxi

Frutt Taxi, Brienz

079/841 70 10

Tourism Office

The Tourism Office at Brienz railway station can answer almost all your questions. A large brochure display provides information on excursions and activities. You can also purchase the popular regional pass, books, hiking maps, and various souvenirs.

Village Library

033 951 35 22

Winter Hiking Trails

Even in winter, there are many beautiful hiking opportunities around Brienz. A winter walk through the snow-covered landscape of the **Ballenberg Open-Air Museum** is especially recommended. Although the houses are closed in winter, the grounds remain open for walking.

Sights and Excursion Tips in the Region

Ballenberg Open - Air Museum

Located between the charming villages of Hofstetten and Brienzwiler, Ballenberg is the perfect place to slow down and enjoy nature. Discover traditional Swiss architecture and living culture surrounded by beautiful meadows, fields, and forests. Experience rural Swiss history in authentic historic buildings – at Ballenberg, Switzerland is preserved just as it once was. Tickets are available at reception.

Brienz Rothorn Railway

Conquer the mountain in comfort: the historic steam-powered cogwheel railway from 1892 takes you through meadows and forests towards a breathtaking panorama. On clear days, the Rothorn offers views of up to **693 mountain peaks**. Enjoy the nostalgic steam train ride and spectacular scenery. Tickets are available at reception.

Axalp – A True Piece of Nature

Opposite Brienz at an altitude of around **1,600 m**, the unspoiled Axalp is an idyllic destination with wild, romantic charm. A narrow mountain road climbs 850 meters in altitude to a peaceful landscape of chalets and alpine huts. In summer, Axalp offers numerous hiking and relaxation opportunities; in winter, ski lifts, cross-country trails, sledding runs, and winter hiking paths make it ideal for an active holiday.

Woodcarvers' Trail Axalp – Hinterburgseeli

"Hiking where the wood chips fly." The alpine area above Lake Brienz near Hinterburgseeli was severely damaged by avalanches during the snow-rich winter of 1998/99. This event inspired a creative project: every summer, around eight wood sculptors transform tree stumps along the hiking trail from Axalp above Brienz to the idyllic Hinterburgseeli into artistic sculptures. The motifs range from animals and wildlife to forest, nature, and mountain themes. Today, these artworks line the entire trail back to Axalp.

Brienz Wildlife Park

Founded in 1896 at the initiative of the Brienz School of Woodcarving, the wildlife park originally served as a source of inspiration and nature study for future woodcarvers. Thanks to strong commitment, the park has been preserved and expanded over the years. Set in a green, natural environment, the park is about a 20-minute walk from the hotel and is open year-round.

Boat Cruises on Lake Brienz and Lake Thun

"A boat trip is always a pleasure..." Twelve vessels, including three historic paddle steamers, operate on the two lakes of the Bernese Oberland. Whether you prefer the dramatic mountain scenery of Lake Brienz or the gentle landscapes surrounding Lake Thun, both cruises promise unforgettable experiences. With the guest card, you receive **20% off a day pass** for lake cruises.

Giessbach Waterfalls

The world-famous Giessbach Falls cascade down **14 steps** from the Giessbach Valley into Lake Brienz – a spectacular natural attraction. Access is possible by car or by BLS boat to the **Giessbach See** stop, followed by a ride on Europe's oldest funicular railway. If you enjoy walking, a scenic and varied trail leads from the waterfalls to the picturesque fishing village of **Iseltwald** on Lake Brienz. The route is also suitable for strollers and bicycles. From Iseltwald, you can return to Brienz by boat.

Meiringen-Hasliberg Mountain Railways/Cable Cars

In winter, Hasliberg becomes a true snow paradise for guests of all ages. Freeriding, child-friendly ski lessons, atmospheric winter hikes, and thrilling sledding adventures await. In summer, the area offers not only hiking but also a wide range of activities for explorers and action lovers – a diverse leisure experience in the heart of the Bernese Alp.

Alpentower - 2250 m

„Enjoy the breathtaking 360° panoramic view, let your dreams wander, and watch eagles silently circling the sky.” The Alpentower stands on Planplatten, the most beautiful viewpoint of the Meiringen–Hasliberg hiking and winter sports area. It is easily accessible by mountain railway from Meiringen or Hasliberg Reuti.

Muggestutz – Adventure on the Dwarf Trail

The Hasli dwarfs have a long tradition in the valley, and **Muggestutz** is the oldest of them. Along the dwarf trail, he tells countless stories that children can experience at interactive stations such as the “Pine Cone Dryer,” “Eagle Swing,” and “Cave.” The pure walking time along the approximately **5 km** trail from Mägisalp via Gummenalp to Bidmi is about **2 hours**. The path gently descends across alpine meadows and through fir forests.

Muggestutz and the House in the Bannwald

This continuation trail leads from Käserstatt through high moorlands via Blisalp, following a mountain stream to the Bannwald forest. New adventure stations – including dwarf houses, a ropeway, suspension bridge, and stream crossings – allow children to follow the story in a playful way.

The approx. 3 km trail from Mägisalp via Baliaalp to Bannwald (starting point: Lischen) takes about 1.5 hours and gently descends through moorlands, alpine pastures, and fir forests.

These are easy hiking trails (not suitable for strollers), recommended for children aged 4–10 years, with picnic areas.

Equipment: sturdy footwear (hiking or trekking shoes), comfortable clothing, sun and rain protection.

Both trails are open, weather permitting, from early or mid-June to mid-October.

Also at Mägisalp: **Trottibike riding** – great fun for the whole family. Enjoy a downhill ride from Mägisalp to Bidmi or from Käserstatt to Twing.

«Kugelweg» – The Marble Run Hiking Trail.

A hiking trail for playful explorers, leading from the Bidmi mid-station to the Reuti valley station. Along the way, you'll find **13 creative and varied marble runs**, built by local carpentry and metalworking companies. The trail is not suitable for strollers.

Further summer activities include «Explor Games» and the «Chrüz und Quer Challenge» suitable for older children as well as parents and grandparents.

Aare Gorge (Meiringen)

One of the classic excursion destinations in the Bernese Oberland – a walk through a dramatic and romantic gorge. From Meiringen railway station, it is about a **30-minute walk** (bus connections available during the season).

Rosenloui Glacier Gorge

Over thousands of years, water has shaped – and continues to shape – a spectacular natural sculpture of rock. Swirling, roaring, foaming. The gorge can be explored via a well-maintained pathway and offers a refreshing experience in a magnificent mountain setting. The Rosenloui Glacier Gorge is located **10 km from Meiringen** in the Reichenbach Valley, along the post bus route Meiringen – Schwarzwaldalp – Grosse Scheidegg – Grindelwald. Access by private car is possible only from Meiringen. Open from mid/late May until the end of October.

Old Sawmill Schwarzwaldalp

Located slightly above Rosenloui, Schwarzwaldalp offers a glimpse into historical technology. The restored sawmill from **1896**, powered by a water wheel, is open to visitors.

Steingletscher at Susten Pass

An educational glacier trail at the foot of the Steingletscher. The glacier is easily accessible by car. Before the large left-hand bend towards Susten Pass, you will find the **Steingletscher Restaurant**. From there, a toll road leads about **5 km** to the glacier. The area can be explored on foot.

Engstlenalp/Gental

Like a jewel at **1,850 m**, Lake Engstlen lies nestled among lush alpine meadows, surrounded by glaciers and snow-covered peaks. A romantic excursion destination with unique flora and fauna – well worth a visit.

Grimselwelt – The World of Hydropower

Experience spectacular mountain railways, explore emerald-green reservoirs, discover underground power plants, and enjoy a break at charming mountain restaurants. Every excursion here becomes an unforgettable experience.

KWO Grimsel Power

Our mountains, with their altitude differences and high levels of precipitation, make it possible to generate large amounts of renewable energy from hydropower. The electricity coming from your socket is the result of a complex interaction between different types of power plants producing various qualities of energy. KWO operates **13 power plants with 28 turbines**, generating **2,200 gigawatt hours** of electricity annually. This allows electricity to be produced on demand, exactly matching current consumption needs. Hydropower generation by KWO contributes to a stable, reliable, and climate-friendly electricity supply in Switzerland and Europe.

Visit KWO in the Grimsel and Susten regions to explore impressive power plant facilities set in extraordinary natural surroundings. Guided tours provide fascinating insights into hydropower generation.

Gerstenegg Crystal Cavern

This world-unique crystal cavern was discovered in 1974 during the construction of a KWO power plant. Located about **1.5 km inside the Grimsel massif** and over **20 m long**, it is the only crystal cavern in the Alps accessible in its natural form. Visiting the cavern is a highlight of the power plant tours.

Gelmerbahn – A 106% Railway Experience!

The Gelmerbahn, the steepest open funicular railway in Europe, takes you to the picturesque Lake Gelmer (1,850 m above sea level), set in a stunning mountain landscape. The lake invites visitors to linger and serves as a starting point for hikes and mountain tours. The valley station is located near the Grimsel Road at Handeck, about 6 km above Guttannen, with a post bus stop at Handeck. As the railway is often fully booked, we recommend purchasing tickets online in advance.

Operating season: mid-June to mid-October

Travel time: approx. 10 minutes.



Grindelwald – The Glacier Village

One of the traditional holiday destinations in the Bernese Oberland is Grindelwald, situated at an altitude of 1,034 m above sea level. It is the starting point for excursions by gondola to First, the “Top of Adventure,” featuring the spectacular Cliff Walk, First Flyer, Glider, as well as Trottbike and Mountain Cart rides.

The Pfingstegg cable car takes you high above Grindelwald, where pure action and nature await. Enjoy a thrilling ride on the summer toboggan run, a scenic flight on the Fly Line, beautiful hiking trails, and breathtaking views of the Alps and the Grindelwald valley.

The legendary Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe (3,454 m) can be reached via Kleine Scheidegg by train or with the modern 3S gondola “Eiger Express” via the Eigergletscher.

The Männlichen can be reached within 19 minutes by gondola and is the starting point for unforgettable hikes, including routes to Kleine Scheidegg.

Schynige Platte

After a scenic boat trip across Lake Brienz to Interlaken Ost, continue to Wilderswil, where the historic Schynige Platte Railway climbs to the mountain station at 2,057 m above sea level. At the summit, you’ll enjoy spectacular panoramic views and a fascinating Alpine Garden.

Lauterbrunnen – The Hub of the Jungfrau Region

From Lauterbrunnen, whose famous Staubbach Falls were already admired by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, you can reach the resort village of Wengen on the eastern side, with excursions to the Jungfrauoch or the Männlichen. On the western side of the valley lies the car-free resort of Mürren at 1,645 m, the starting point for trips to Allmendhubel or the nearly 3,000 m-high Schilthorn.

Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe

Snow and ice guaranteed 100%! The Sphinx Observation Deck, the Ice Palace, and the plateau for walks on eternal snow are year-round attractions. The Ice Gateway connects the Ice Palace with the glacier plateau. In this protected facility, visitors can experience the high-alpine world up close in all weather conditions and seasons.

Schilthorn

From Stechelberg, at the end of the Lauterbrunnen Valley, the world’s steepest cable car (opened in 2024) ascends to Mürren. With a maximum gradient of 159.4% (approx. 58°), it is a true engineering masterpiece. From Mürren, travel via Birg and its Thrill Walk to the 2,970 m-high Schilthorn (Piz Gloria), offering a breathtaking 360° panoramic view.

Trümmelbach Falls

Located in the Lauterbrunnen Valley between the village of Lauterbrunnen and the valley station of the Schilthorn cable car in Stechelberg, the Trümmelbach Falls consist of 10 glacier waterfalls inside the mountain, accessible by tunnel lift and illuminated. The Trümmelbach drains the massive glaciers of Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau, transporting 20,200 tons of rock debris per year.

Niesen

Known as the “Swiss Pyramid” on Lake Thun, the Niesen can be reached from Mülenen in the Kandertal by a leisurely funicular ride to the 2,362 m summit.

Lake Oeschinen

From Kandersteg, Switzerland's ski-jumping paradise, it is just a short trip to the beautifully located Lake Oeschinen. During summer, advance purchase of gondola tickets is recommended.

Blausee (Blue Lake)

Between Frutigen and Kandersteg lies the Blausee Nature Park, a true gem of the Bernese Alps. The deep-blue, crystal-clear lake is set in a peaceful, car-free 20-hectare nature park.

Gstaad

This highland village—green in summer, white in winter—is not only a paradise for celebrities, stars, and royalty. Visitors are warmly welcomed to this charming chalet village, home to the world-famous Gstaad Palace Hotel. Gstaad lies on the route to Montreux on Lake Geneva.

St. Beatus Caves

On the way to Interlaken along the right bank of Lake Thun, you'll reach the entrance to the caves where, according to legend, Saint Beatus once lived. Guided tours provide fascinating insights into this underground world. Accessible by car or bus from Interlaken West railway station.

Sunny Tips for Rainy Days

(The sun will be shining again soon!)

If a short rain shower appears, here are some great ideas:

- Visit the Woodcarving School, Violin Making School, or the Woodcarving Museum
- Borrow an interesting book from the Village Library
- Explore weather-proof attractions throughout the Bernese Oberland

Trauffer Experience World

Experience and discover! Since 1938, Trauffer has been carving and painting its famous wooden cows and figures. The family tradition continues proudly into the third generation. Enjoy the scent of linden wood, feel the craftsmanship, and see the colorful results—sustainable toys and souvenirs that delight children and adults alike.

Crystal Museum Guttannen

Founded in 1975, the museum showcases the most beautiful crystal “treasures” collected by Ernst Rufibach during his many years as a crystal hunter. An ideal half-day excursion, easily reached by car via Meiringen–Innertkirchen.

Sherlock Holmes Museum Meiringen

The world’s only authentic replica of Sherlock Holmes’ living room at 221B Baker Street—a truly immersive experience.

Oberhofen Castle

This castle museum offers insights into Bernese residential culture from the 16th to the 19th century. It is the only interior museum of its kind in the Canton of Bern. The lakeside park with exotic trees transports visitors to another world.

MUMM Oberhofen – Museum of Clocks and Mechanical Music

The small-clock gallery presents futuristic timepieces as well as demonstrations of the historic craft of weaving watch chains from human hair.

Spiez Castle

Discover the architectural evolution from a medieval fortress to a 17th–18th century patrician residence of the Bernese aristocracy.

Hiking Suggestions

From Brienz Station

- Church (lakeside promenade) and return 30 Min.
- Church (lakeside promenade) – Wiesplatz – Brunngasse – return 40 Min.
- Feldstrasse – “Am Nussbaum” – Restaurant Wildbach – return 1 hour 15 Min.
- Brunnen – Engi – Giessbach – return by boat 1 hour 15 Min.
- Kienholz – Giessbach – Iseltwald – return by boat 2 hours 45 Min.
- Hotel Giessbach – Schweibenalp 1 hour 20 Min.
- Kienholz – Lauenen – Oberschwand 40 Min.
- Aaregg – Brienzwiler / railway station 50 Min.
- Aaregg – Brunnen – Bächlischwendi – Unterbach – Meiringen 3 hours 20 Min.
- Axalpstrasse – Jägglisglunte Nature Reserve 30 Min.
- Unterschwanden – Hofstetten – Brienzwiler / station – Unterbach / station – Meiringen / station 3 hours 20 Min.
- Unterschwanden – Oberschwanden – Schried – Hofstetten – Brienzwiler / bus stop 1 hour 40 Min.
- Bächlischwendi – Margel and return by post bus 1 hour 40 Min.
- Kienholz – Brienzberg – Axalp/Kurhaus 1 hour 50 Min.
- Kienholz – Widerberg – Bramisegg – Giessbach Valley – Axalp 4 hours
- *Gäldried – Planalp – Brienz Rothorn 5.5 hours
- *Planalp/station – Rotschalp – Läger – Ämmeriboden 4 hours 45 Min.

From Brienz (valley)

- Bei den Toren – Wellenberg Bridge 45 Min.
- Wellen Bridge – Oberhusen – Sitschenen 1 hour 15 Min.

From Brienz (village)

→ Steiner Bridge – Mühlebach Waterfall – Gäldried 1.5 hour

From Restaurant Bramisegg

→ Giessbach Valley 25 Min.

→ Schweibenalp – Iseltwald 2 hours

From Axalp/Kurhaus

→ Schweibenalp – Iseltwald 2 hours

→ Schyber – Chrutmettli – Urserli 1 hour 20 Min.

→ *Lake Hinterburg – Urserli – Arvengarten – Zaun – Meiringen 4 hours 45 Min.

→ *Lütschental – Grätli – Axalphorn 1.5 hour

→ *Lütschental – Oberberg – Faulhorn 4.5 hours

→ *Oberberg – Ochsenläger – Wildgerst 3 hours 10 Min.

From Rothorn summit

→ *Schönbühl 2 hours 15 Min.

→ *Eisee Saddle – Chäseren – Brünig / station 3 hours 45 Min.

→ *Eisee Saddle – Irtschelen – Unterschwanden 3 hours 20 Min.

* Mountain trail

Hiking map "Brienz 1:25,000" and the hiking guide
"Brienz – Cross and Crosswise" are available at the Brienz Axalp Tourist Office.

Guided hikes for groups can be organized at any time.
Please make reservations via the Brienz Axalp Tourist Office
Phone +41 33 952 80 80

Barbecue / Picnic Areas

Brienz

- Aaregg / Forsthaus by the lake (2 barbecue sites)
- Giessbach
- Gäldried (junction of the Brienz–Rothorn Railway)

Schwanden

- Schonegg, between Oberschwanden and Hofstetten
- Schwanderbedli, between Schwanden and Oberschwanden

Axalp ob Brienz

- Hinterburgseeli (open fire pit)
- Axalp, above Alpengasthof Axalp

Brienzwiler

- Doggelerwald

Hofstetten

- Ballenberg Open-Air Museum (2 barbecue sites)
- Above the village
- Children's playground

Giessbach-Iseltwald

- Lakeside path, 2 km towards Giessbach station
- Lakeside path, 500 m before Iseltwald near the sailing club
- Upper path, 2 km towards Giessbach Falls

Oberried

- Platzli, lakeside promenade
- Forest house (covered barbecue site)
- Haberen, direction Niederried

Meiringen

- Paradiesli, Hohfluhstrasse
- Aare Gorge, before the restaurant
- Funtenenseeli, Hausen
- Reichenbach Valley, Broch

Hasliberg

- Muggenstutz Adventure Trail (2 barbecue sites), Bidmiseeli
- Käserstatt–Gibel (REKA picnic area)
- Griniwald, Hasliberg Reuti
- Beuteflüh, Panorama Trail Twing–Hohflüh
- Alpbrücke (hiking trail Käserstatt/Hohflüh)

Innertkirchen

- Near the entrance to the Aare Gorge
- Urbachtal, Sandei

Guttanen

- Old mule track / GRIMS Crystal Adventure Trail (above Hotel Handegg)

Gadmen

- On the mule track below the restaurant
- Steingletscher
- Sageli, below Feldmoos
- Kreuzplatti, towards Staldi, Nesselal

Pushchair-Friendly Walks

Brienz – Meiringen – Hasliberg

in the Bernese Oberland



Brienz

| | |
|--|----------|
| Lakeside promenade Aaregg – Restaurant Brienzerburli | 1.5 hour |
| Brienz – Wildlife Park – Brienz | 40 Min. |
| Brienz – West Station – Wildbach | 1 hour |
| Brienz – Giessbach by boat – Engi – Lakeside promenade – Brienz Station – Aaregg – Brienz Station | 1 hour |

Meiringen

| | |
|--|---------|
| Meiringen – Funtenen | 1 hour |
| Meiringen – Aare Gorge (to the middle) – Meiringen | 2 hours |
| Meiringen – Willigen – Balm | 1 hour |

Hasliberg

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Reuti – Weissenfluh – Reuti | 1 hour |
| Mägisalp – Bidmi – Wasserwendi or Reuti | 2 hours |
| Hohfluh village – Lower village – School | 45 Min. |
| Käserstatt – Balisalp – Alpbrücke picnic site – Lischen | 1.5 hour |
| Reuti – Winterlücken – Wagenkehr | 2.5 hours |
| (return by post bus and train via Meiringen) | |

Innertkirchen

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Hof – Bottigen – Grund – Hof | 45 Min. |
| Hof – Grund – Wychel – Hof | 45 Min. |

Guttannen / Gadmen / Brienzwiler

Various walking paths in and around the village
Brienzwiler – West entrance Ballenberg

30 Min.

Schwanden

Schwanden – Hofstetten

30 Min.

Oberried

Lakeside path

20 Min

Playgrounds

Brienz

- Various play stations along the lakeside promenade
- At the Max Buri House
- Brienz secondary school

Schwanden

- At the Schwanden sports field

Axalp

- Alpengasthof Axalp
- Hotel Chemihüttli

Hofstetten

- Ballenberg Open-Air Museum
- Between Schried and Hofstetten

Oberried

- Platzli, lakeside promenade

Meiringen

- Haslizwärg, at the railway station
- Alpbachwald, valley station of the MHB gondola lift
- Restaurant Aare Gorge
- Schwarzwaldalp

Meiringen, Pfrundmatten sports complex

- Basketball

- Streetball
- Mini Ramp
- Half Pipe

Hasliberg

- Hohfluh, school and Hotel Bellevue
- Goldern, Restaurant zur Post
- Rufenen, near Gasthof Weber
- Wasserwendi, Gasthof Berghaus
- Bidmi, Restaurant Bärgeizli
- Käserstatt, Berghaus Käserstatt
- Mägisalp, near the Mägisalp kiosk
- Bidmi, with petting zoo, Restaurant Bärgeizli

Innertkirchen

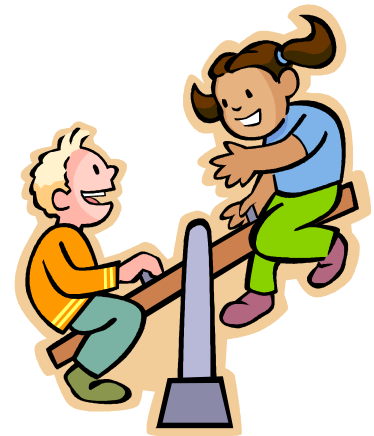
- Restaurant Urweid
- Kindergarten, Hof
- School, Grund

Guttannen

- Hotel Bären
- School playground
- Hotel Handeck

Gadmen

- School playground
- Truft group accommodation



Activities – Sports to Enjoy

Horse riding – Experience the Bernese Oberland on horseback

- [Equestrian Centre Bifing, Brienzwiler](#) 079/434 43 70
- [Voegeli Riding School, Interlaken](#) 079/354 52 89

Tennis – How about a match?

- [Outdoor courts in Brienz](#)
- [Indoor tennis hall in Meiringen](#) 033/971 39 00

Climbing – Want to reach new heights?

- [Haslital climbing hall](#)
- [Rope Park Interlaken](#)



033/971 39 00

Paragliding – See the Bernese Oberland from a bird's-eye view!

- [Birdwing Paragliding, Meiringen](#) 079/353 23 23
- [AlpinAir Interlaken, Interlaken](#) 079/583 83 83

Vita-Parcours - [Fitness trail, starting at the Schwanden sports field](#)

**We wish you lots of fun discovering our region
and a wonderful stay with us.**

If you have any further questions,
our reception team will be happy to assist you.

The Huggler Family and team



Bei Brandausbruch

Ruhe und Übersicht bewahren.
Telefonische oder persönliche Alarmmeldung an Telefonzentrale, Concierge oder Reception: klare Angaben über Zimmernummer und Wahrnehmungen.

Türen und Fenster schliessen: Durchzug und Rauchentwicklung wird so vermindert.

Nur allerwichtigste Papiere und Wertgegenstände zusammenpacken, ruhig das Zimmer verlassen.

Keinen Lift benutzen.

Wenn Korridore, Ausgänge oder Fluchtwege nicht erreicht werden können: im Zimmer bleiben, Türen und Fenster schliessen, Ritzen mit nassen Tüchern verstopfen.

Hinter dem geschlossenen Fenster Rettungsmannschaft auf sich aufmerksam machen: Winken mit grossen, hellen Gegenständen.

Daran denken: Panik ist gefährlicher als Feuer.

Brandverhütung

Im Bett nicht rauchen.

Keine elektrischen Strahler verwenden.
Offene Flammen (Kerzen, Benzin-, Gas-, Spirit-, Meta-Brenner) vermeiden.

Bei elektrischen Wärmeapparaten (Bügeleisen, Heizkissen, Tauchsieder, Kocher) sofort nach Gebrauch Stecker ziehen. Wärmekissen vor dem Einschlafen abstellen.

Keine Reparaturen an elektrischen Anlagen ausführen. Defekte an Concierge oder Reception melden.

Instructions en cas d'incendie

Gardez votre calme et agissez avec sang-froid.

Donnez l'alarme par téléphone à la centrale, au concierge ou à la réception. Indiquez avec précision le numéro de votre chambre et l'étendue du sinistre.

Fermez portes et fenêtres pour éviter les courants d'air et la propagation du feu.
N'emportez que les papiers et objets de valeur les plus importants. Quittez calmement votre chambre.

Ne prenez pas l'ascenseur.

Si vous ne pouvez pas atteindre les couloirs, les sorties de secours et les voies d'évacuation, restez dans votre chambre, fermez portes et fenêtres et bouchez les interstices avec du linge mouillé (autour des portes et des fenêtres).

Signalez votre présence à l'équipe de secours en agitant des objets volumineux, si possible de couleur claire, derrière la fenêtre fermée.

N'oubliez pas l'essentiel: la panique tue plus que le feu!

Prévention des incendies

Ne pas fumer au lit.

Ne pas utiliser de radiateur électrique.
Eviter les flammes nues (bougies, brûleurs à gaz, essence, alcool, etc.).

Débrancher les appareils électriques (fer à repasser, coussin chauffant, chauffe-lit, bouilloire électrique, etc.) immédiatement après usage. Débrancher également les couvertures électriques avant de s'endormir.

Ne pas réparer soi-même l'installation électrique. Annoncer les défauts au concierge ou à la réception.

In caso d'incendio

Mantenere la calma.

Avvertire telefonicamente o di persona il centralino, la portineria o la reception. Specificare il numero di camera e le osservazioni.

Chiudere porte e finestre onde evitare correnti d'aria e sviluppo di fumo.

Raccogliere solo documenti ed oggetti di stretta necessità, lasciare la camera con calma.

Non usare l'ascensore.

In caso di corridoi, uscite, vie di scampo bloccati: rimanere in camera, chiudere porte e finestre e turare fessure con cenci umidi.

Attirare l'attenzione della squadra di soccorso dietro le finestre chiuse (con oggetti chiari, luminosi, riflettenti).

Attenzione: il panico è più pericoloso del fuoco.

Prevenzioni contro gli incendi

Non fumare a letto.

Non usare stufette elettriche. Evitare fiamme di qualsiasi genere (candele, bruciatori a gas, a benzina, a spirito e a metano).

Dopo l'uso di apparecchi elettrici (ferri da stiro, termofori, bollitori d'acqua, fornelletti) togliere la spina. Spegnerne i termofori prima di addormentarsi.

Non effettuare riparazioni alle installazioni elettriche. In caso di guasti avvisare la portineria o la reception.

In case of fire

Do not panic.

Inform hotel telephone exchange, concierge or reception immediately, either by telephone or in person. State clearly your room number and give details of fire.

Close doors and windows to prevent air currents and spread of fire.

Collect only your most important belongings and calmly leave room.

Do not use lift.

If unable to reach corridors, exits or emergency exits; stay in room, close doors and windows. Prevent air currents by blocking any gaps with wet towels.

Attract attention of rescue workers through closed windows by waving large, light-coloured objects.

Please remember - panic is more dangerous than fire!

Fire prevention

Never smoke in bed.

Never use electric ray equipment or open-flame devices (candles, fuel, gas and spirit burners, etc.).

Electrical equipment such as irons, cookers, water heaters, should always be unplugged immediately after use. Electric bedding appliances should be disconnected before you sleep.

Inform the concierge or reception of any faulty electrical installations; never try to repair them yourself.