CENTRAL SWITZERLAND – SOME HIGHLIGHTS

some excursions and hiking tips



Mount Pilatus – The Dragon Mountain of Lucerne

An excursion to Mount Pilatus (2,132 m/ 7,000 ft), the giant mountain looming near Lucerne, is an absolute must. There is hardly another mountain in Switzerland surrounded by so many legends; most notably the dragons, which have lived there from time immemorial, are a subject of tales and speculation. The best way to become acquainted with the Dragon Mountain is the "Golden Roundtrip" (½- or 1-day tour), with modern, soundless panoramic gondolas – a most spectacular aerial tramway and the **steepest railway in the world** (48 degrees). **Note:** as a "Swiss Pass" holder you get a **50% discount!**

Pilatus is also ideal for **walking** and **hiking.** And it's also a particularly popular **climbing** region, offering a range of routes in all degrees of difficulty. An additional highlight in the summer program is the "Pilatus Seilpark", Central Switzerland's largest rope park (daily open from May 1st until October 23rd, costs CHF 27.–). Here you'll find 10 exercise trails through forest, each with 6 to 11 stations in varying degrees of difficulty. And Pilatus also offers Switzerland's **longest summer toboggan run** – 1,350 metres (begins at Fräkmüntegg at 1,415 metres altitude; open in summer from May 1st until October 23rd, in dry weather only, costs CHF 8.–).

It's also possible to arrange a fascinating **tandem paragliding flight** from Mount Pilatus. Enjoy a bird's eye view of Lucerne and then land at the cable car station in Kriens. The altitude difference is 1,600 m, flying time is 30–60 minutes (depends on prevailing weather conditions), costs CHF 290.— and no flying experience is necessary! Call 041 820 54 31 or check out »www.paragliding.ch

How to get the there: Take bus no. 1 from the Lucerne train station to Kriens (bus stop: Linde/Pilatus; takes 16 minutes). Panoramic gondolas and an aerial tram will take you to the top. Get down to Alpnachstad by cog railway (open May – November). You can then either take the train (15 min.) or a boat (75 min.) to get back to Lucerne. This so-called "Golden Roundtrip" can also be done in the reverse direction! »»www. pilatus.ch, »www.luzern.org



The Swiss Path – The most famous hiking path of Switzerland

Visit the "Rütli" meadow, where Switzerland was founded on the 1st of August 1291 and have a short or long walk around the panoramic mountains in the very heart of Switzerland.

The long distance Swiss Path is almost 35 km, walkable in two days of roughly six hours each, or easily dividable into smaller chunks. Tourist offices around the region stock **English guides** of the route! This very Swiss hiking path is great fun for everyone! There's a special day trip ticket called "Weg der Schweiz day pass". This day trip ticket enables you to use the boat all day long. You can hike on the Swiss Path and whenever you feel like it you can enjoy a boat trip (costs CHF 41.– or 26.– if you hold a Swiss Half Fare card).

How to get there: As the path surrounds the Urnersee (the lake which belongs together with Lake Lucerne), you are able to enter it **by boat** from Lucerne, Brunnen, Morschach, Sisikon, Flüelen or any station adjoining the path. ...www.brunnentourismus.ch, ...www.lakelucerne.ch. (As well as by boat you can reach the hiking path by train on any previously mentioned station adjoining the path. Easy connections from Lucerne, Brunnen, Schwyz, Zurich).

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PILATUS-BAHNEN Schlossweg 1 - 6010 Kriens/Luzern · Switzerland Tel +41 (0)41 329 11 11 · Fax +41 (0)41 329 11 12 F-Mail: info@pilatus.ch · Internet: www.pilatus.ch

