

Various ways of St. James (with brochures available in PDF-format)

- A - Constance - Einsiedeln („Way of Swabia“)
- B - Rorschach - Einsiedeln („Way of St. Gallen“)
- C - Einsiedeln-Flüeli-Ranft - Brünig („Way of Central Switzerland“)
- D - Brünig-Amsoldingen („Way of the Bernese Oberland“)
- E - Amsoldingen-Romont („Way of Berne/Fribourg“)
- F - Romont-Lausanne-Genève („Way of Western Switzerland“)
- G - Lucerne-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg („Lucerne Way“)
- H - Rankweil - Einsiedeln („Vorarlberg-Appenzell Way“)
- K - Schaffhausen-Tobel (Monastery route)

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Important pointer

Helpers and association members walked the route themselves to inspect it. As volunteers, they edited the brief route descriptions based on the state as encountered. The accuracy of the contents and specially the correspondence with the official Way of St. James way-posting cannot be guaranteed by the association „jakobsweg.ch » and the authors, also in the sense of a product guarantee. Pilgrims are therefore asked to follow the official Way of St. James way-posts if discrepancies occur, and to notify us.

Many thanks.

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Pictures: Wolfgang Hörer / Winfried Erbach, and several others

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On the Way of St. James in Switzerland



Constance-Rapperswil-Einsiedeln „Swabian way“

Itinerary and directions for pilgrims

Signalisation - Via Jacobi

Sign in the direction of Santiago de Compostela
National Way of St-James No. 4 - Via Jacobi



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the right direction



Via Jacobi - french sign
Shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi Nr. 44
shell shows in the right direction



Signpost - Via Jacobi sign
on yellow background

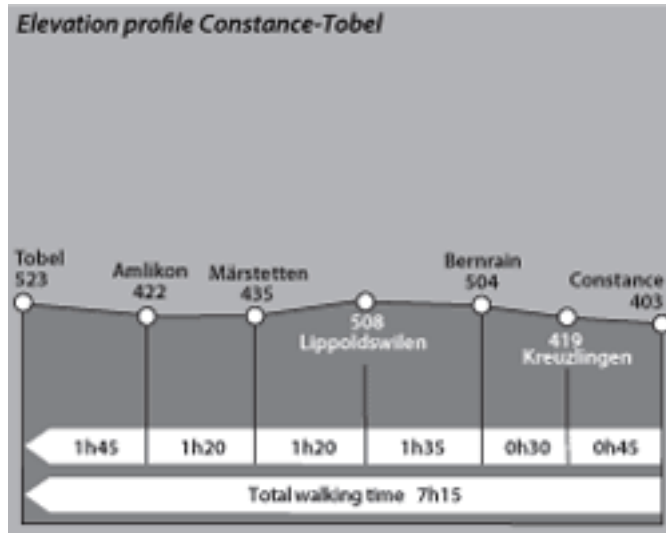


Returning way

„Swabian Way“ (Constance – Einsiedeln)
(93 km, walking time about 25 hours)

The Way of St. James from Constance (Konstanz) to Rapperswil is also called „Schwabenweg“. As in earlier times, the cathedral of Constance is the meeting place for pilgrims from Southern Germany and Switzerland who want to set out on the Way of St. James through Switzerland to Santiago de Compostela. The route leads through the Thurgau and Zürich's Oberland to the lake of Zürich, then across the Etzel pass to Einsiedeln. The pilgrims use well-marked paths and roads, away from busy and noisy motor roads, across cultivated fields and meadows, through forests, alongside smaller and bigger brooks and rivers, crossing valleys and following hill crests until reaching the lake of Zürich. They cross it on a wooden pilgrims' causeway. Then, they reach Einsiedeln on a path also used by the pilgrims to the sanctuary of that place. Along the route, monasteries, churches and chapels, and many quiet spots beside watercourses and on hilltops invite to a contemplative rest. Pilgrims also come across hamlets and villages with decorative houses and farmsteads. They meet a very industrious rural population not averse to a friendly chat. It is to note that on part of this route, the Way of St. James still is marked with the original white-blue « Schwabenweg » fingerposts.

Constance-Tobel



Topographic maps of the region

1:25'000: numbers 1034, 1053, 1054 et 1073

1:50'000: numbers 207, 217 (short distance) et 216

Section Constance - Märstetten

15 km, (walking time around 4 hrs 10 min)



City hall of Constance

In the Middle Ages, the pilgrims from Swabia converged in Constance in order to start off from there for Santiago de Compostela. The cathedral, dating from the 10th century, was an important meeting point. Beside the Silvester chapel with its frescos stands the Mauritius rotunda, built around 900 AD, with a replica of the Holy Sepulchre (13th century). James the Elder as one of the twelve apostles stands in this rotunda. He can easily be identified by the seven pilgrim's staffs and bags adorned with shells that he holds ready for the pilgrims setting off.

On the cathedral square, beside the pillar of St. Mary, stands a beautiful way-post indicating that the distance to Santiago is 2340 km, and that Märstetten can be reached on foot in 4 hours and 10 minutes.

We traverse the old town in a southern direction. On the right-hand side is the church of St. Stephen, the oldest parish church of Constance. During the Council of 1414-18, the Papal law-court held its sessions here. In those days, it is here that the reformer Hus was condemned to death at the stake. We pass by his house before we leave the old town through the „Schnetztor“ gate (14th century). Further to the south,

at the road bifurcation, we turn right and after a short stretch, we reach the Swiss border and neighbouring town of Kreuzlingen. Its former pilgrim's hostel „Grödeli“, a beautiful half-timber house dating from 1610, still entertains guests today. We continue straight on through the railway underpass, turn right and after a short way, we turn left to continue in a southern direction. The route leads through the quarter of Emmishofen, crosses the main road and later the railway track to the west of the station of Kreuzlingen-Bernrain and brings us along the « Saubach » brook through the wooded Saubach valley to Schlossbühl where we turn left. Crossing the forest, we arrive at the road bifurcation with the baroque Holy Cross chapel of Bernrain (built 1388). From the pilgrim's chapel, we enjoy a magnificent view towards Constance and its lake. We cross the road and walk on the forest path, first towards the east, and shortly after, we turn to the left to take the quiet forest path, leading in a southern direction through two separate woods to the country road which we follow until a short stretch before the village of Schwaderloh. Here, we turn off, skirting Schwaderloh on its eastern side, we descend to the hamlet of Gäbelschhuuse. Now we keep to the right across open fields to the main road near the Fortibach ponds. We follow the road in a southern direction until Ellighausen where we leave it, turning west. Over the fields of „Leewiese“, and continuing for a short way along the edge of the wood, we come to Lippoldswilen. From here, the route takes us in a



Holy Cross chapel in Bernrain



Parish church in Märstetten

southern direction to the edge of the wood, where the path turns off to the west. We traverse the wood on its right side, cross the brooks Laubbach and Chemebach, reach the Entemos farm, and continue to the south to the hamlet of Riet. An access roadway across meadows takes us in a south-western direction to the hamlet of Wald. We continue due south, and along the sloping meadows and the edge of the wood, we come to „Hinderen Rueberbomm“. Then along the edge of the wood, across the access road to Märstetten down to the plain of the river Thur. Past the farmsteads „Pilger-

wäg“ and in a southern direction, we come to the second access road to Märstetten which we cross too and continuing straight on, we reach the Weinfelderstrasse. This road leads along the railway line to the station of Märstetten.

Pilgrims who want to make a stop at an inn or at the pilgrim's hostel in Märstetten reach the village via one of its access roads or via the Weinfelderstrasse parallel to the railway line. Also the church of St. James is worth a visit, with its frescos and the baptismal font, and its imposing spire has a sundial that can be seen from a long distance.

Märstetten -Tobel

13km (walking time a good 3 hours)



Restaurant Biene



Chapel St. James in Kaltbrunnen

We turn off from the Weinfelderstrasse towards the left, cross the railway line and the Frauenfelderstrasse, and along a path through the small wood „Oberau“, we arrive at the „Amlikoner-Landstrasse“, which we follow. After crossing the river Thur, we arrive at the village of Amlikon with its row of old half-timber houses and the inn „Adler“ that formerly lodged pilgrims. Shortly after the bridge over the Lättebach brook, we turn off to the left and proceed in a southern direction. The route takes us through the wooded Lättebach valley, crossing the main road, and until about 500 m after the hamlet of Hünikon, where we branch off to the right onto a field path. This leads us westwards along the edge of the wood and through the wood „Buechwald“ to Holzhäusern. Shortly after this village, we turn off to the right onto a field path, leading over meadows and along the Lättebach to the village of Maltbach to the west with its restaurant „Zur Biene“, a beautiful half-timber house, where we take a rest. We continue on the main road southwards to Kaltenbrunnen with

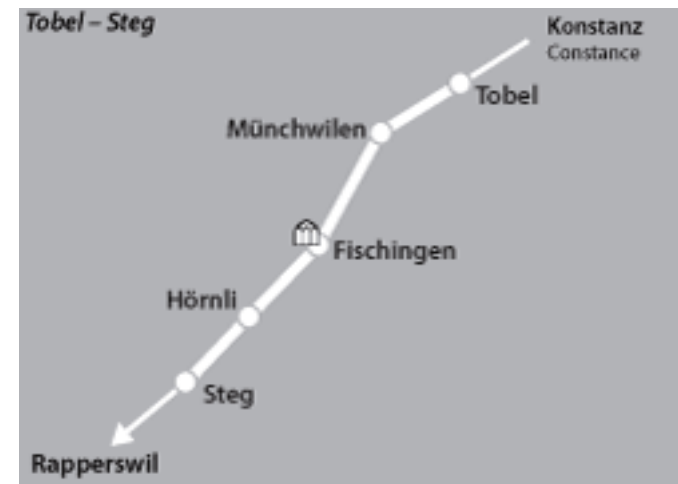


Tobel „Johanniter Kompturei“

its St. James chapel at the left side of the road. Here, we branch off to the right, and in a southern direction past the schoolhouse and across fields, we come to the main road at the northern entrance of the village of Affeltrangen („Bollstäg“). We bypass the village and going westwards along the brook „Lauche“ and then southwards across open fields (crossing the Affeltrangen road), we come to „Chrüzegg“, a former pilgrim's hostel. From here, we walk across fields and meadows until we reach the road at the western edge of the village Tobel (at „Flüügenegg“). Very noteworthy

here is the striking Way of St. James fingerpost, telling us that on foot, it is still 2315 km to Santiago. Pilgrims wanting to visit the place branch off to the left and take the access road into Tobel. The commandery of the order of the Knights of St John, founded in 1226 and rebuilt in 1744, and its church, transferred to the old peel tower are especially noteworthy. The task of the knightly order was to provide sick-care and generally to look after pilgrims weakened by the journey and heading for Einsiedeln.

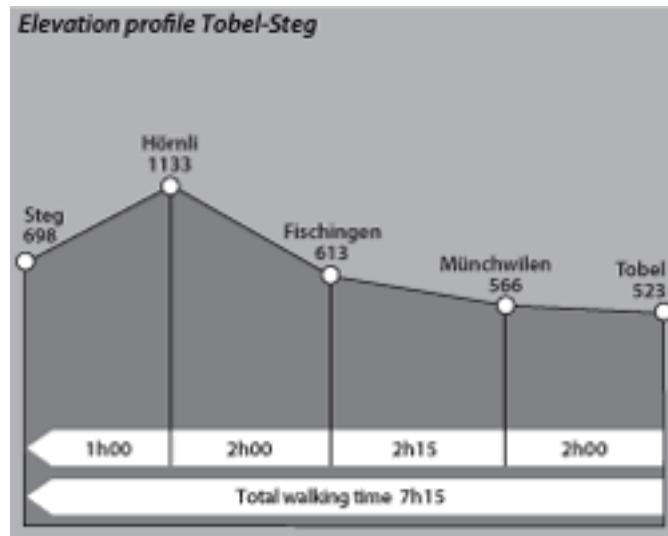
Tobel - Steg



Topographic maps of the section

1:25'000: numéros 1073 et 1093

1:50'000: numéros 216 et 226 (short distance)



Tobel -- Fischingen

km (walking time around 4 hrs 15 min)



Tobel St..John church

From the farmstead Flügenegg, we again go southwards on a field path across open meadows, past the farm "Loch" to the wood "Kaa" where the path leads into the wood, then branches off to the left and takes us along the wood's edge to Türn. Here, we cross the main road Tobel – Tägertschen, and after a short stretch, we turn off to the right onto a field path. This leads us southwards along the flanks of the hills and past the hamlet of "Stocke" to St.Margarethen. At first, the path leads along the eastern edge of the village, then in an arc to the main road. Shortly before we reach it, we pass the pleasant-looking chapel "St.Margaretha" (1641). What catches the eye are its red spire and the wooden stairs at the outer wall leading to the gallery where formerly, pilgrims passed the night. Going northwards, we come to middle of the village, cross the main road and the "Chräbsbach" brook nearby, and in a westerly direction, we come to the rivulet Murg. We cross it and follow its course

16



Oberwangen Chapel St. Martin



Oberwangen Chapel St. Martin

southwards until Münchwilen with the inn "Zum Engel", a former pilgrim's hostel. In the village centre, we cross the railway line Frauenfeld-Wil, and again follow the Murg until the village exit where we bypass the swimming pool, then cross the motorway. After the motorway, we again follow the Murg, first through the village of Sirnach, then to the railway line which we cross. After the railway line, we continue along the Murg to the ponds and to the bridge over which we come to the main road at the edge of the village Wiezikon. We follow the road southwards through its quarter "Gupfe" and the hamlet "Wis", where we branch off to the left to Aawil. Here, we turn off to the right and in a southern direction, and away from the road, on access roads, on forest paths, across fields and small woods, we come to Oberwangen. The route skirts the "Martinsbärgli" and leads to the eastern side of Oberwangen. The

baroque chapel of St. Martin sits on the hill crest. Its beautiful interior and altarpieces with scenes from the life of St. Martin, and the bench in front of the chapel, make the short climb worthwhile.

Shortly after the Martinsbärgli, we turn off to the left into the wood and climb via the "Rutschhalde" up to the houses at the sloping wood clearing above Fischingen, from where we descend over fields to the main road of Fischingen. Following it, we come to the old inn and former pilgrim's hostel "Zum Sternen". We approach the imposing Benedictine monastery on a rise at the southern edge of the village. The monastery of St. John was rebuilt in 1410 after Zürich's forces had destroyed it. The baroque buildings date from the 18th century, the heydays of the convent. The baroque monastery church has a magnificent organ, and also houses the Idda chapel with the sepulchre of St. Idda, dated 1496. The altar has a foot-hole into which weary pilgrims could stick their aching feet, hoping for relief. St. Idda was pushed down a gorge by her irate husband, the count of Toggenburg. She survived and for a long time, she lived in a retreat, venerated by the people.



Monastery church in Fischingen

Fischingen -- Steg

10.5 km (walking time around 3 hrs)

Mountain section with medium difficulty: Fischingen 613 m.a.s.l., Hörnli 1033 m, Steg 699 m



Au - St. Ann

At the south-western corner of the monastery, we cross the Toggenburgstrasse and the Murg, and turn off from the Tösstalstrasse to the left. We cross the Aubach (brook), and ascending across meadows and along the edge of the wood, we come to the farmstead "Neuschüür". The route takes us southwards through the wood and along the Aubach to the main road, on which we reach the village Au. The parish church St. Ann was first mentioned in 1275. The right-hand side altar of

the baroque church shows a picture of Idda. Opposite the church, we see the old inn "Au". While the road curves to the right between church and inn, our route follows a narrow road straight-on, and after 100 m, we take the alpine herder's road to the left, leading into the wood. We pass a wayside shrine, and southwards over the alpine pastures, we come to the steep "Eggholz", and after the mountain forest across the clearing to the hamlet "Alewinde" (914m). The inn "Gasthaus zum Kreuz auf Allewinden" is an old pilgrim's hostel in the "Tannenzapfenland" (fir cone country). We enjoy the warmth of the cosy tiled stove. We follow the road for about 300 m southwards to the farm "Chaltebrune". Here, we leave the pass road towards the left, passing "Silberbüel" (cantonal boundary), over mountain paths, forest paths and meadows to the "Dreiländerstein", the boundary stone of the cantons of St.Gallen, Thurgau and Zürich. Through the mountain forest

that gradually gets steeper, we come to the mountain inn on the Hörnli (1133m). From the summit, we enjoy a magnificent view to the Säntis (mountain peak), the Toggenburg (valley), to Central Switzerland, and to Zürich's Oberland. Pilgrims wanting to stop overnight can use the cosy dormitory and enjoy the spectacular sunset and sunrise. We are walking in a southern direction, partly on the mountain road, and partly on shortcutting mountain paths along the grassy

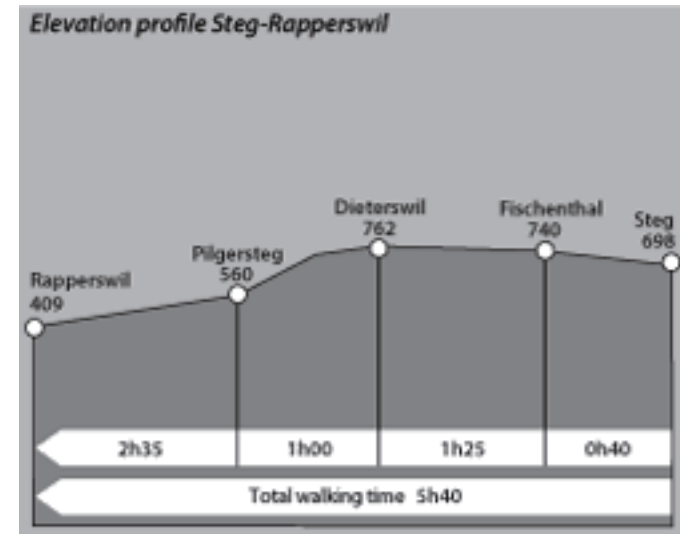


Steg old guesthouse

mountain shoulder, then along the edge of the wood down to "Tanzplatz" (968m), and further down over mountain meadows and through woods to Steg in the Töss valley (699m). On the side of the road, we come to the former pilgrim's hostel "Zum

Steg", documented for the first time in 1599. After it had been destroyed by fire, it was rebuilt in 1688. A good place to rest, either in the cosy guestroom or the shade of the garden. Behind the building, we find the "Doktorhaus", built in 1690, and serving as pharmacy and medical practice until 1890.

Steg-Rapperswil



Topographic maps of the section

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1093, 1112 and 1113

Scale 1:50'000: number 226

Steg -- Rapperswil

22 km (walking time around 5hrs 40 min)

*Parish church Fischenthal**Old Guesthouse „Rotes Schwert“**Dieterswiler Way*

Except for a short bypass near Schmittenbach, we take to the main road parallel to the railway line. At the exit of the village of Fischenthal, near the reformed church, we turn off to the left onto a less-travelled road, walk first across the valley brook, then always due south past "Fischtel", beside moorland and along the railway line that we cross three times, and come to Gibswil. We continue along the main road to Ried where we find the former inn "Zum Weissen Kreuz". We turn off to the right and climb a grassy slope in a southern direction past the hamlet of Tanneregg up to Büel. From here, we take a small country road with scant traffic, leading gently downhill. Along slopes we descend southwards past Hueb, Dieterswil and Tänler to Blattenbach, thereby enjoying the view into the valley of the Jona and further to Lake Zürich. Among the houses of Blattenbach is the former inn "Zum roten Schwert", built 1621. Below Blattenbach lies Wald, the chief town of the region and former textile industry centre, made accessible to industrial transport by the Töss valley railway. From Blattenbach, a field path leads in a southern direction across the meadows of Grund, and above Grundtal, it turns in a wide arc into a wood, crosses the brook there, and de-

scends to the hamlet of Töbeli. From here, keeping to the right and between two woods, we come to the hamlet of Breitenmatt. On a field path southwards, we walk down into the forest, turn off to the "Pilgersteg" road and meet the railway line further down. We take a shortcut past buildings and come to the Walderstrasse. After having crossed the Jona brook, we leave this road, continue southwards, bypass Rüti-Fägiswil on its eastern side and come up to the hamlet of "Platten". From here we continue southwards past "Grossacher-Wis", through the wood "Föriholzwald" to the hamlet of Weier. Here, we cross the road that leads to Rüti, turn

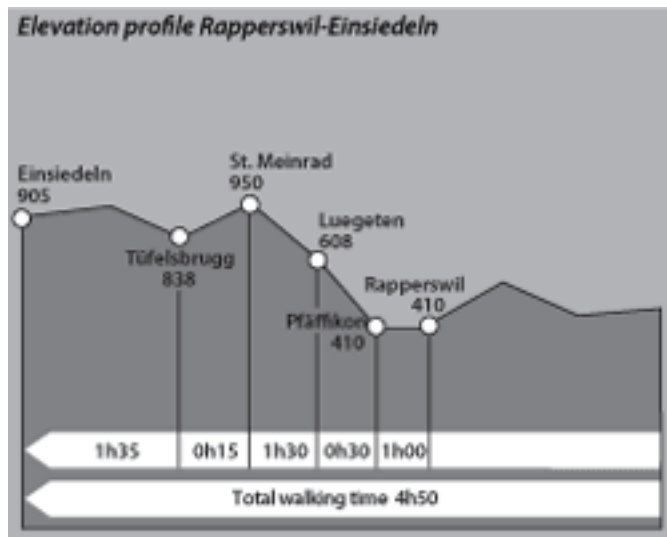
*Rapperswil port and castle**Rapperswil market square*

off to the left and due west and past "Moosholz", we come to the hamlet of Ober Moos. The route now leads over the railway level crossing and further-on in a south-western direction, past the hamlet "Unter Moos" into the wood where we cross the Jona and subsequently, the motorway. After the motorway, we go through the "Plattenwald", past the clearing "Moosriet, and again across the Jona and to the forest clearing "Gruenau". Then through the wood until we come to the brook-bank of the Jona, where we turn off to the left and cross the railway line. Along it, we come to the "Hanfländerstrasse" which we follow after turning right. We follow it in a western direction and turn off to the left onto the "Attenhoferstrasse". On this road southwards across the railway line to the "Zürcherstrasse", which we leave again at the next crossing, and through the narrow streets of the town of Rapperswil, we reach its lake-port.

Rapperswil

The town was founded around 1200 by the Lords of Rapperswil. The town hall was rebuilt around 1470. At the main square, there are also other, partly painted patrician houses. We climb past the hotel "Jakob" and using the double stairway, we come to the catholic parish church St. John, rebuilt 1883 after a fire. The two-storied cemetery chapel, situated behind the church, is worth a visit. To the west is the castle, built in the 12th century. And adjacent to its western side, there is a well-maintained game preserve. The terrace offers a beautiful outlook over the lake of Zürich, the lake causeway, and the mountain Etzel. Stairs are leading past the capuchin monastery, built 1606, and past a rose garden down to the lake. After 300 m to the east, we come again to the town hall, and on its south, to the railway station. Rapperswil has a beautiful pilgrim's hostel.

Section Rapperswil - Einsiedeln



Topographic maps of the section
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1112 and 1113
 Scale 1:50'000 : number. 226

Rapperswil -- Einsiedeln

16km (walking time 4 hrs 50 min)

Difference in altitude: Pfäffikon 412m, St.Meinrad 950m



Wooden boardwalk



View from Etzelroad



St. Meinrad

South of the railway station of Rapperswil, we come to the wooden "boardwalk" causeway across Lake Zurich, dating back to the year 1358. In the Holy Roman Year 2000, the causeway in today's length of 841m was rebuilt in oak wood. The wayside chapel "Heilighüsl" is beside this path which brings us to the northern tip of the Hurden peninsula. The route then leads along the right-hand side of the railway line, seen in the direction Rapperswil-Pfäffikon, skirting the fishing village of Hurden with its late-gothic chapel, built 1497. We keep to the west of the main road, cross the railway line and come to the railway station of Pfäffikon (on the side directed to the lake). On this last stretch, we can enjoy the view towards the two islands Ufenau and Lützelau.

About 200 m to the north-west of the station, there is the castle of Pfäffikon, a habitable tower from the 13th century belonging to the monastery of Einsiedeln, extended to water-surrounded castle. The free-standing castle chapel is worth a visit, it was refurbished 1780-85 in baroque style. We turn off to the left to the railway underpass and on well finger-posted village lanes and shortcuts in a southern direction, and across the meadows

of Oberwacht, we reach the motorway. We cross it on the Luegetenstrasse. After the motorway, we turn off to the left onto a hiking path with a sometimes steep upward gradient. The path mostly leads through woods, several times crossing the Etzelstrasse, past Luegeten and Erli up to the "Bannwald" (protection forest), not far from the Meinradsbrunnen (well). Keeping to the right,



Lake of Sihl



Einsiedeln monastery

we come to the head of the pass St.Meinrad with its pilgrim's inn and chapel (950m). We continue, first along the Etzelstrasse down to "Tüfelsbrugg" (built 1699). There stands the house where the famous physician Paracelsus (1493 to 1541) was born. We continue for 250 m to "Meieren". There, we leave the Etzelstrasse and on the field-path to the right, through moist, sloping meadows above the trough of the river Sihl, we reach Hochmatt / Hinterhorben. On a roadway southwards across the Allmig plateau, we come to the Sihlstrasse (near the wayside crucifix, and further south to the "Galgenchappeli" (chapel of the gallows), with wonderful outlook to Lake Sihl. Until 1799, those condemned to death were hanged here, so arranged that the last thing they saw was the monastery. Leaving the Etzelstrasse on a field path southwards, we come to the bypass road which we cross, and on the old Etzelstrasse, we come to the town centre of Einsiedeln and to its monastery.