

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

- A - Constance - Einsiedeln („Way of Svabia“)
- 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 way)

Verein Jakobsweg.ch  
Postfach 151,  
CH-3700 Spiez  
Tel 0041 (0)33 655 04 00  
Mail: [admin@jakobsweg.ch](mailto:admin@jakobsweg.ch)  
Accommodation see: [www.jakobsweg.ch](http://www.jakobsweg.ch)

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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.

Texts : Winfried Erbach, Joe Weber and Klaus Augustiny (manuscript reader).  
Translated from German by Hans Bamert  
Pictures: Wolfgang Hörer / Winfried Erbach, and several others

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# On the Way of St. James in Switzerland



## **(3) Einsiedeln - Brünig** **„Way of central Switzerland“**

Itinerary and directions for pilgrims

## Signalisation - Via Jacobi

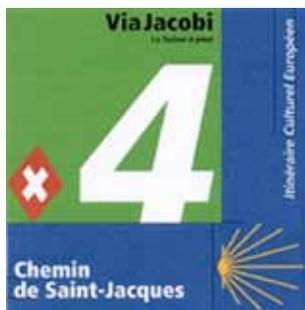
Sign in the direction of Santiago de Compostela  
National Way of St-James No. 4 - Via Jacobi



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

## „Travelling on foot – ample time for reflecton“

Today's restless and hectic life leaves its marks. Ever more people suffer from not being masters of their time. They even allow themselves to be pressed by tight schedules set by themselves. A feeling of insecurity and uneasiness make themselves felt. The consequence of excessive demands made on people, is exhaustion. Many are about to lose sight of their own good and need a stop in order to come to grips with life again.

Travelling on the Way of St James gives us precisely what we are looking for, namely inner rest and peace. Since the early middle ages, a great many people have gone on a pilgrimage on the old pilgrim route from Scandinavia through Switzerland to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the end of the world (finis terrae) as known then. Pilgrims who were beset by fears and pressures. Even if the pressures of earlier times were different from ours, the important thing was then, and is again now, to take time for oneself, to put things in perspective and on the long and strenuous way to find one's inner self, to let the way itself be the real goal of the journey..

Thousands of pilgrims have travelled on the route described here. It leads from hilly Eastern Switzerland via Einsiedeln to the Lake of Lucerne, and from there via Flüeli-Ranft to the mountainous Bernese Oberland, then through the gentler topography of the Ganttrisch region to Fribourg and the inviting, pleasant scenery of Western Switzerland.

One of the reasons for many pilgrims from Southern Germany to take this route was the beautiful scenery of lakes and mountains where they could experience god's creation and love in a special measure. In monasteries and churches along the route, they found not only board and lodging, but also consolation and spiritual support. On the way, they experienced hospitality marked by simplicity and christian charity. Also today, many of these historical churches and monasteries along the Way of St James invite pilgrims to a stopover, and also today, one meets many nice and like-minded people along the way.

In this article, we describe the Way of St James and show pictures of some interesting sights. We would like to invite you to „be on the way“ together with other people. In the tradition of the pilgrims, the way itself shall become the most important goal of your journey. Take your time and experience this wonderful stretch of land – a present of god in the opinion of many - at a walking pace. You will find your inner peace, we vouch for this.

Tue listed hiking routes roughly correspond with those of the „Schweizer Wanderwege SAW“. In the attachment we show you where to find accommodation and board. The listed inns, hotels and guesthouses, but also farmsteads offering accommodation on straw stacks, are directly situated along the Way of St James. They are specially bound to honour the pilgrim tradition, and, with the so-called „Pilgerbatzen“, they furthermore have contributed financially to the creation of this site.

Working group „jakobsweg.ch“

## „Way of Central Switzerland“ (Einsiedeln - Brünig)

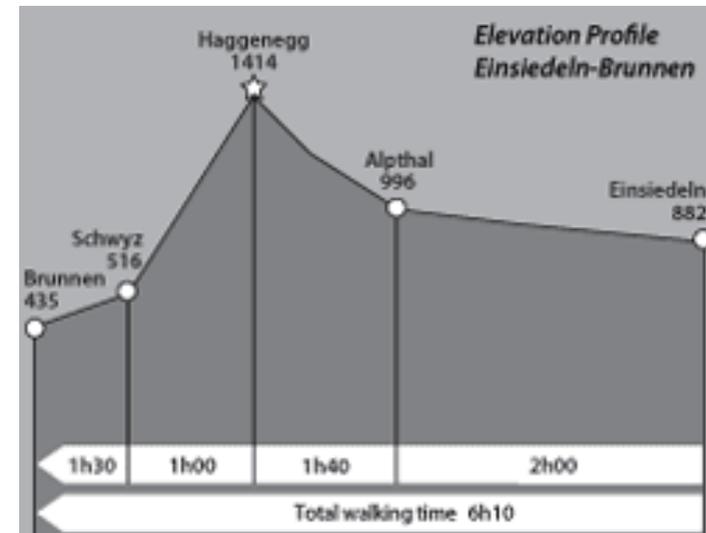
87 km, walking time around 20 hrs



The Way of St. James through the founding cantons of Switzerland connects the two places of pilgrimage Einsiedeln and Flüeli-Ranft. The route is steeped in Christian pilgrimage tradition. Pilgrims will see many churches, chapels and wayside shrines along the route. These are an expression of a living Christian faith and invite to linger and meditate. First, the route leads over the Haggenegg pass to Schwyz and then to Brunnen on Lake Lucerne, then across the lake by ferryboat to Treib. From Treib, there are two optional routes along the left-hand banks of Lake Lucerne via Beckenried to Stans, and up to Flüeli-Ranft. To pilgrims who experience the Way of St. James as a Way of Conciliation, Flüeli-Ranft means a lot since Holy Brother Klaus (Nicolas) is known, not only in Switzerland, as promoter of peace and reconciliation. The last section leads along the banks of the lakes of Sarnen and of Lungern up to the Brünig pass, the boundary between Central Switzerland and the Bernese Oberland. The route runs through a pre-alpine setting, along rushing rivers, wild mountain torrents and quiet lakes, through pastureland in wide valleys, but also narrow defiles with steep slopes and rugged rocks, through woods and wooded precipices until up to alpine meadows and mountain passes giving access to other valleys. Pilgrims will be a bit challenged physically, but will gradually learn to take things more leisurely and will perceive nature in this spectacular scenery of mountains and lakes with all their senses. Along the route, they will meet with an industrious population moulded by alpine agriculture, a population that has maintained its independent nature cherishing own values and traditions, despite the influences from a strong tourism.

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## Section Einsiedeln - Schwyz - Brunnen



Topographic maps of the section:

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1132, 1152, and 1171

Scale 1:50'000 numbers 236 and 245

**Einsiedeln – Schwyz**

19 km, walking time 4 hrs 40 min.

Demanding mountain route: Alpthal 996m, Haggenegg 1414m, Ried 668m

*St. Mary fountain**Monastery Au**Alpthal with Mythen*

From the monastery church, the route first leads westwards to the Ilgenweidstrasse, then turns off southwards to the Luegetenstrasse. At the factory compound further south, the route turns away and leads over fields and meadows to the south of the village, past the Joseph chapel to the bridge over the rivulet "Alp". We continue in a southern direction, first along the "Alp", then over to the monastery "Au" of the Benedictine nuns. From here on a field road past a pond to the "Trachslauer Moos" (marshland) to the south, where we turn off to the left, pass the "Furenmoos" at its northern edge, and come to the Alpthal road at Trachslau, and to the brook "Alp". We follow the Alp until shortly before the brook "Eigenbach" discharges into it. From here we follow the Alpthal road until the "Schnüerlismatt" bridge. Here we leave the road, cross the bridge to the left and follow the course of the Alp again. Changing to the other side of the rivulet, we pass the village Alpthal (with the parish church Apollonia) to the "Malosen" bridge (1018 m.a.s.l.). We cross both the bridge and the Alpthalstrasse and take to a mountain path leading to Haggenegg, 400 m higher. It is quite a demanding mountain path that should be used only by people with some experience with walking in the mountains, and with the proper equipment, specially mountaineering boots. The path leads into the "Malosentobel" (ravine) and further in a western direction through the "Langwald" (wood) and across the pastures of the alpine dairy farm "Bruust" (with the small chapel, built 1795), up to "Bogenfang"

(1392m). Shortly before Bogenfang, the path turns to the right and we climb due south over mountain meadows to Haggenegg at 1414 m.a.s.l.

The mountain inn was mentioned in documents as pilgrim hostel already in 1483. Also Goethe (German dramatist and poet) was here twice (1775 and 1797). From Haggenegg 200 m to the west, stands a wooden, shingle-roofed church, a daughter chapel of Maria Einsiedeln. When Napoleon approached with his troops, the revered picture of Holy St.

*Mythen*

Mary of Einsiedeln was hidden in the ground here. A replica is in the chapel. On the terrace of the inn, we enjoy a unique panoramic view. From the summit of the pass, a steep mountain path leads down through the "Schuzenwald" to Stock (1246m). Then it winds through the steep wood down to the mountain road which we follow (except a shortcut near "Würzli") through some wooded sectors and over mountain meadows down to the farmstead "Stoffels". Here, the mountain path turns off to the right, taking us westwards across the "Büelbach" (brook) to "Büel" and to the Riedstrasse there. We follow that road through the village Ried (with its beautiful Fridolin chapel) and across the "Feldli", past the "Kollegium Schwyz", until, along the Herrenstrasse, we arrive at the town centre of Schwyz.

Worth seeing in this cantonal capital are the parish church St.Martin with its baroque altars and the luxurious pulpit, the organ ornamented with gold, the ceiling paintings, the St. Michel chapel behind the church, built 1612-18 with a pieta in the winged altar-piece, the town-hall built 1642-45 on the southern side of the market square with its superbly painted facade (battle of Morgarten), and the archive tower nearby, housing a museum with the Federal Charter among the exhibits.

**Schwyz - Brunnen**

6 km, waling time 1hr 30 min.

*Schwyz City hall**Schwyz with Mythen*

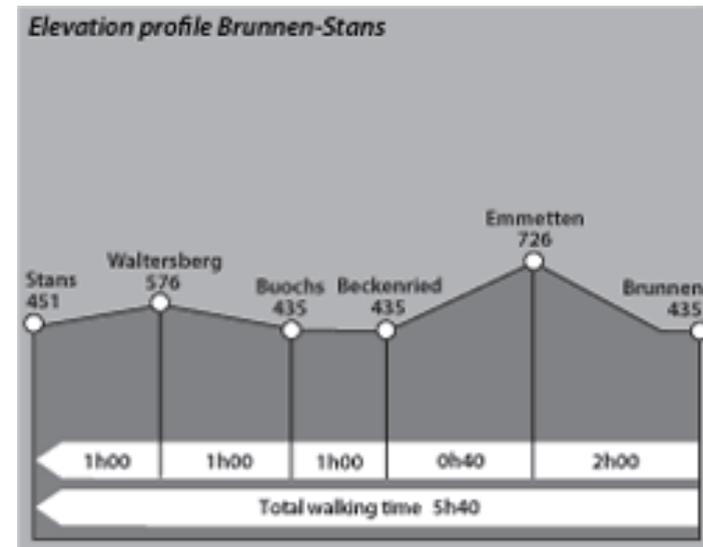
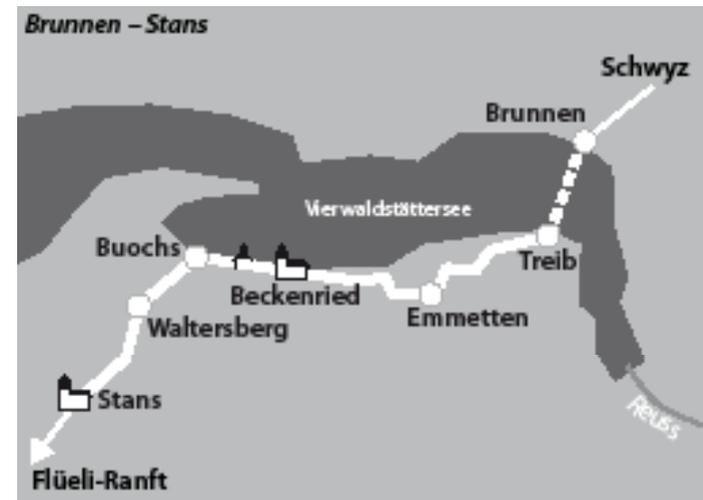
From the parish church we proceed through the Schmiedgasse southwards past the "Büeler" chapel, built 1683 and dedicated to Mater Dolorosa, Our Lady of Sorrows, and the "Franzen" chapel, as far as Ibach (bus stop Post). Further southwards we come across the bridge over the Muota (river) with the small "Erlen" chapel. Shortly afterwards, after the crossroads, we follow the field path that leads in a southern direction over open grassland (crossing the Ingenbohl road) to Unterschönenbuch. Now we turn off to the right to the main road, and westwards, and crossing the motorway, we reach the convent of the Sisters of Ingenbohl, enthroned on a hill, with church and Theresianum. Skirting the convent on its southern side, we reach the eastern edge of the village of Brunnen. The catholic parish church St.Leonhard is well visible. It was built in 1656-61, with baroque altars and crucifixion group. Through residential quarters in the ea-

stern part of the small town of Brunnen, we reach its centre with the stately patrician houses and inns. After a visit to the "Bundeskapelle" or "Dorfkapelle" with the statue of Charlemagne, we come to the shore of Lake Lucerne. On the terrace of the "Waldstätterhof", we wait for the ferryboat to take us across the lake. We let our eyes wander over the mountain peaks, the "Fronalpstock" to the left, the "Uri-Rotstock" above the southern end of the lake, and to Seelisberg. Already in the Middle Ages, the pilgrims had to cross the lake here. Very likely they had to wait much longer for their crossing, as for us, our liner already approaches the landing pier.



*Ingenbohl with Mythen*

## Section Brunnen-Beckenried-Stans



Topographic maps of the section:  
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1170 and 1171  
 Scale 1:50'000 number 245

**Brunnen/Treib – Beckenried 12 km**

12 km, walking time 2 hrs 40 min, plus lake crossing

Mountain section with steep climbs and descents: Volligen 510m, Emmetten 774m, Beckenried 436m.

From the boat’s deck, we look back to Brunnen and the receding twin “Mythen” peaks. As the saga of Tell’s Leap shows, the boat crossing was not without its dangers in earlier times. Already our boat puts into the safe port of Treib. Formerly, the port of Treib offered shelter to the seamen in distress in a violent Föhn storm. The inn, mentioned as early as 1482, was an officially recognised place of refuge for pursued criminal offenders. The house as it stands today, with rural-style parlour, tiled stove and crown glass windows, was built in 1659.

Treib - Beckenried, **easy variant** (marked on way-posts as “Jakobsweg – Variante”)

Not far from Treib, we take the funicular to its summit station Seelisberg, situated at 800 m.a.s.l. From here, we follow the radiated-shell way-posts “VARIANTE” and walk upwards to Oberdorf and, keeping to the right, to the bus stop “Geissweg” above the “Seeli” (small lake). Now we turn off to the right to “Ober Schwand” and then westwards through a wooded area to the hamlets “Meinig” and “Weidli”. Here, we join the “difficult variant” of the Way of St. James. For a short stretch until Emmetten, both variants share the same route. To avoid the steep descent to Beckenried, in Emmetten, about 150 m after the post office, we take the Ischenstrasse, and now again on the variant route, continue until the bifurcation shortly after the houses of “Ischenberg”. Here we turn off to the right and descend to “Ambeissler”. Now on a mountain path to the right through the mountain forest down to the centre of Beckenried, where we join again the official Way of St. James near the valley station of the cableway to “Klewenalp”.

Treib - Beckenried, **difficult variant** (official way-post marking as Way of St. James)

From Treib, we go on a gently rising path up to Volligen. We are now on the “Waldstätterweg”, also called “Nidwaldnerweg”. In Volligen, we enjoy a splendid outlook to Brunnen, Schwyz and the “Mythen” peaks. At the side of the inn stands the St. Anna chapel. Fol-



Crossing the lake



Treib



Emmetten Holy Cross chapel

Following the Way of St. James way-posts, the route follows the direction of the hill-crest to Emmetten. At first due west along sloping meadows, crossing the Spreitenbach (brook) to “Triglis” (666 m.a.s.l.). From here, at first on a level path along the wooded slopes of the “Stützberg”, until the path gradually becomes steeper, bringing us through the wood, first to “Haselholzboden”, and then to the “Sunnwiler” route. To make travellers safe, the mountain path is equipped with a firm wooden fence, and along several short passages along rocks, with wire cable fences.

This steep uphill climb requires solid boots, and can be recommended only to experienced hikers not suffering from dizziness. After leaving the forest, we come past the “Weidli” to Sagendorf, a part of the village of Emmetten, and then to the centre of that village. The Holy Cross chapel has an altar picture showing the crucifixion, has also votive tablets and a death dance round. The parish church, dedicated to St. James and St. Theresa, has a beautiful wing altar and a pietà. The crest of Emmetten shows three St. James shells. Leaving the church of Emmette, we descend to Schöneck using the road and steeper shortcuts between bends. The pretty St. Anna chapel in Schöneck invites to a rest whereby we enjoy the stunning outlook over the Lake of Lucerne.

The steep path leads us through the forest down to the lake where we cross the noisy motorway. An opportunity to ponder over how it could be possible to curb the ever increasing mobility, the hectic style of life, and the noise. On a small, macadamised road, we reach Beckenried. Not to be overlooked is the parish church St. Henry, built in the 18th century by Niklaus Purtschert of Lucerne. In the vestibule lies the burial slab of a pilgrim to Jerusalem and to Santiago, saved from the former church. The interior of the church contains pictures of old-time pilgrims to Jerusalem and Santiago.

**Beckenried - Stans**

11 km, walking time around 3 hrs

At the big guidepost to the right of the valley station of the cableway to Klewenalp, we find the well-marked Way of St. James, again identical to the “Waldstätterweg”. Following it due west, we come to Oberdorf and to the pilgrim chapel “Maria im Ridli”, built around 1605. The



Beckenried



Church of St. Henry in Beckenried



Ridli-chapel

pilgrimage place of the boatmen was built in the year 1700 on a rise above Lake Lucerne so as to be well visible from the lake. It is well-known that in the 19th century, this place was much appreciated by the people of the region who were then very poor. From Ridli, we go down to the main road and shortly afterwards turn to the right to the lakeshore. We follow the shore as far as Buochs.

In terms of architectural history, and compared to neighbouring villages, this place is very young. Not many buildings are older than 200 years, the same as the parish church St. Martin which is worth seeing. However, this church is a successor to a chapel dating back to 1157. From here, we follow the St. James' way westwards through the Obergass (lane), where soon, and not far from the motorway, we see to the left the Obergass chapel "Seven Pains of St. Mary". The chapel from 1662 was built in the rural baroque style. Crossing the motorway through an underpass, we turn to the right, and over meadows, we climb up to Ennerberg where we come to the Loreto chapel. The big picture over the portal, showing a scene from the Villmergen war (Swiss history), is worth seeing. Also of interest is the picture of Virgin Mary, peculiar to Loreto chapels. Today's Way of St. James leads from the Loreto chapel gently rising to the left to "Waltersberg" with its St. Anna chapel, also called "Chäppelisitz". From here, the outlook to the valley basin of Stans is breathtaking. Now down via "Hostetten" to the river "Engelberger Aa". We cross it and come in a western direction through "Oberdorf" to the St. Henry chapel. Over a field path, we reach the cantonal school "Fidelis" and the first houses of Stans.

The historic cantonal capital hails back to the 10th century. Particularly worth seeing are the imposing parish church St. Peter and Paul from the 13th century, the "Unteres Beinhaus" (ossuary) close by, with a wall of skulls, and the Winkelried monument. From the Middle Ages, Stans was an important traffic junction along the old trade routes from Lake Lucerne to the alpine passes to Italy. In the early 18th century, a devastating fire destroyed big parts of the town. Nevertheless, numerous historical buildings could be preserved.



Buochs - Parish church St. Martin



Buochs Obergass chapel

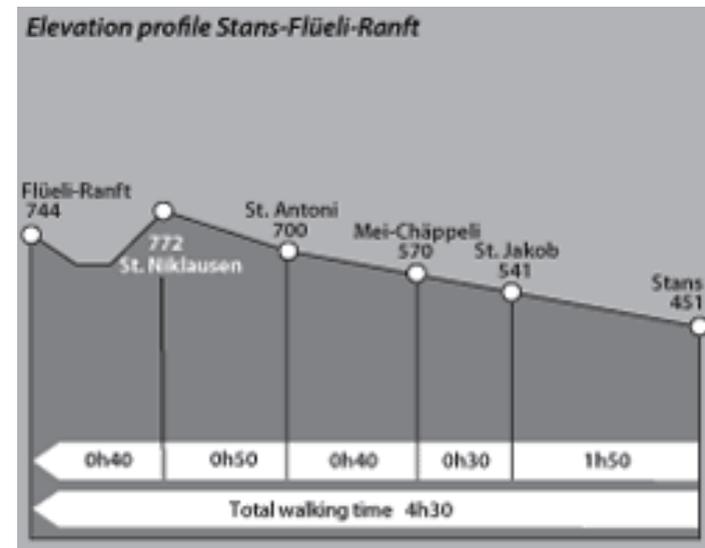
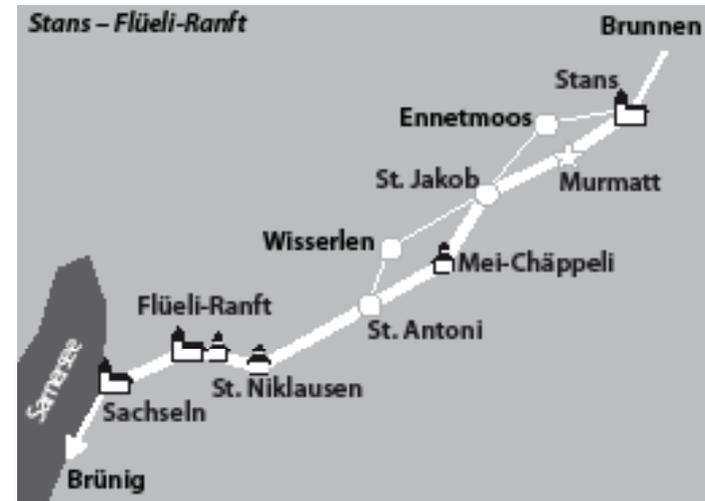


Chapel St. Ann - Chäppelisitz



Stans village center

Section Stans - Flüeli-Ranft



Topographic maps of the section:  
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1170 and 1190  
 Scale 1:50'000 number 245

**Stans - Flüeli Ranft**

16.5 km, walking time around 4 hrs 40 min.

Medium-difficulty climb: St.Jakob 540m, St.Antoni 706m, St.Niklausen 772m, Melchaa 640m, Flüeli-Ranft 738m.



*Winkelried monument*

We set out from the town square of Stans in front of the Winkelried monument which reminds us the battle of Sempach in 1386. It was hewn out of Carrara marble in 1865 by Ferdinand Schläth. We climb the Knirigasse (lane). The route is marked as Way of St. James and "Bruder-Klausen-Weg". We reach the "Kniri" chapel "Maria zum Schnee". The chapel was built in 1698, and consecrated in 1717. With the vow to build a chapel, the people hoped to be better protected from the danger of avalanches. We continue westwards without having to climb sharply along gentle slopes with lush meadows to "Murmatt" where the mountain road from Ennetmoos joins our route. Looking back, we are pleased by the magnificent outlook to Stans, the peaks Stanserhorn, Pilatus and Rigi. From the farmstead "Hubel", we can see the municipality of

Ennetmoos with its "Allweg" chapel. The many wayside shrines that were erected from thankfulness or with a special request catch our attention.

We leave the Murmatt and descend a gentle incline to the south-west along the slopes of the "Rohrnerberg" through meadows and copses past the hamlets Obwil and Wilti to the resting place Rohrnerberg (with wayside shrine and cross). Our path joins the access road to Rohren, and on this we come to Rohren with the "Rohrechappeli" (chapel), lying south of the "Ried" (marshland) of Ennetmoos.

**Way to the "Rohrechappeli" and to St. Jakob**

Pilgrims wanting to go to the Rohrechappeli and St.Jakob descend the path turning off to the right, down to Rohren and thus reach the cantonal road to St.Jakob. At the entrance to the old parish church in St.Jakob, there is a statue of St. James. The return to the Way of St. James is as follows: They cross the main road in St.Jakob and straight on, come to the next crossroads where they turn off to the right to take a path leading across the "Rübibach" and the "Melbach" (brooks), and thus



*Stanser Kapelle*



*Pfarrkirche St. Jakob*



*„Maichäppeli“*



*St. Niklausen chapel*



*Mösli-chapel*



*Flüeli-Ranft chapel way*

also crossing the cantonal border, back to the official route of the Way of St. James.

We bypass the Rohrechappeli and the place of St.Jakob, sticking to the official Way-of-St. James route on which, going in a southern direction, we pass the hamlets of Halten and Hostet and continue through the alder wood where we cross the "Rübibach" in order to reach the hamlet of Ifängi.

From here we proceed, and across the Melbach (brook) and across the "Acheri" wood, we come to "Maichäppeli". We walk on the main road for around 200m, then turn off to the left onto a hiking path that leads us past the place "Wisserlen" (hamlet of Sand) a little higher than the place itself, and on its eastern side. On a gently rising incline and crossing a little ravine, we pass the hamlet of Gisigen, cross the Rufibach (brook) and then the access road to Kerns, and come to St.Antoni and nits nice chapel. We turn off to the right, and shortly after, turn left to the hiking path leading us up to the vantage point Egg with its marvellous panoramic view. The field path takes us from Egg across pasture land past the convent of the Dominican nuns ("Bethanienheim") until the road bifurcation in St.Niklausen to the south. Pilgrims are welcome visitors in the Bethanienheim. A visit to the modern chapel is worth our while. At the road bifurcation of St.Niklausen, we take the marked field road that takes us past "Grüebi" down into the wooded "Melchaa" ravine to Ranft, and up to Flüeli. Halfway, and to the left, a path leads to the "Mösli" chapel. Due to a mudslide in 2005, this path can be used as far as the "Mösli" chapel only, and not, as it was possible formerly, until into the Ranft. Either we remain on the field road and continue to Flüeli-Ranft, or we make a short side-trip to the "Mösli" chapel and back.

**Route via the chapel of St.Niklausen**

If we opt for the slightly longer route, we turn off to the Bethanienheim and take the road to "Türli" and to the St.Niklausen chapel to the east of St.Niklausen.

The chapel is one of the oldest ecclesiastical buildings worth seeing, with a series of frescoes in the choir dating from the 14th century, as well as baroque ceiling paintings. The detached spire "Römerturm" is a landmark.

We continue from the chapel to the right through the wood down to the Melchtal road, which we cross. Over the down-sloping meadows, we reach the "old" way to Ranft, passable today only as far as the "Mösli" chapel. Turning away to the right, and in a northern direction, we come to the present-day Way of St. James leading directly to Flüeli-Ranft. Pilgrims who want to visit the "Mösli" chapel, turn off to the left here, and return to this place again. A side-trip to the "Mösli" chapel is worthwhile, even now that the way from there to Ranft is not feasible any more. The chapel of Brother Ulrich in "Mösli" was erected in 1484. The stone in the side-room is said to have served Brother Ulrich as sleeping place. Thanks to the written testimonies recorded by Brother Ulrich, we have today access to the thoughts and deeds of Brother Nicolas who could neither read nor write.

**Brother Nicolas**

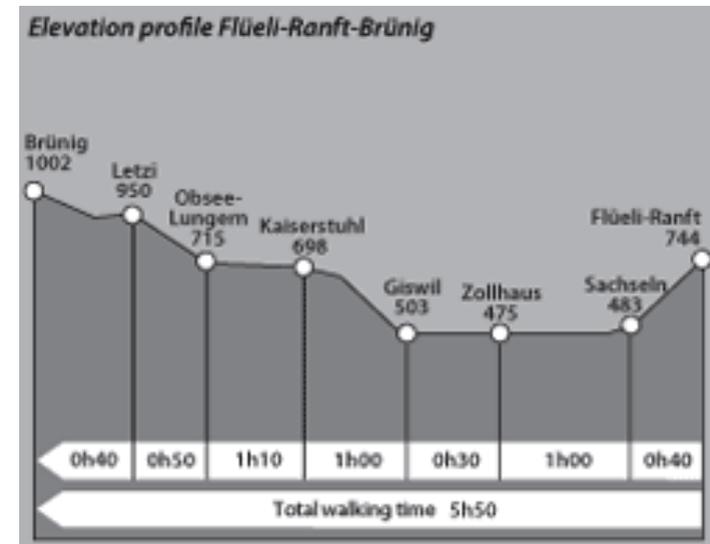


Birth house of Brother Nicolas

Until his 50th birthday, Brother Nicolas ("Niklaus von Flüe") led a layman's life. He was a respected man in the community and held important public offices, such as judge and councillor. With his wife Dorothee, he had ten children. When he was 50, he left house and farm and travelled abroad as a pilgrim. But he returned soon and settled down as a hermit in Ranft. Brother Nicolas or "Bruder Klaus", as he was called henceforth, was visited by people from all social strata and asked for advice. He also made important contributions to the consolidation of the Confederacy that threatened to fall asunder in civil war. He died on 21st March 1487 and was canonized by pope Pius XII in 1947.

In Flüeli-Ranft, there exists the lower Ranft chapel ("Untere Ranftkapelle"), built 1501. On the right-hand wall of the nave, the life of Brother Nicolas is depicted in a series of frescoes dating from the 16th century. Some distance higher up stands the upper Ranft chapel with the little house of the hermit. Chapel and hermitage were built in 1468, but completely refurbished in 1693. Also the hermitage which is connected with the chapel is a very special place of pilgrimage.

**Section Flüeli-Ranft - Kaiserstuhl - Brünig**



Topographic maps of the section:

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1189 1190 and 1209

Scale 1:50'000 number 245 and 254

**Flüeli-Ranft – Kaiserstuhl**

13 km, walking time 3 hrs 30 min.

Difference in altitude: Giswil 485m, Kaiserstuhl 689m

**Flüeli-Ranft - Sachseln**

3.5 km, walking time 1 hour

Flüeli-Ranft, the home of the Swiss National Saint Niklaus von Flüe (1417 – 1487), offers famous things worth seeing. The house where he was born, and the house he built himself, but also the Ranft where he spent the last 20 years of his life, are much-visited places. In the Ranft gorge which we can reach from Flüeli in a few minutes, pilgrims of St. James sought and found counsel from Brother Nicolas, already more than 500 years ago. Today, many people appreciate Ranft as a place of peace and meditation. Especially the idyllic surroundings of the upper and lower Ranft chapels by the Melchaa brook have their unique atmosphere. From Flüeli-Ranft to Sachseln, pilgrims can use either the marked Way of St. James, or the "Way of Visions".

*Borromäus chapel (interior)**House of brother Nicolas***Marked Way of St. James**

At Flüeli, the route turns off to the left and leads down in a south-western direction – past the southern foot of the hill on which stands the Karl Borromäus chapel and which is visible from afar – into a forest. From there, always in a south-western direction downwards, across fields and through woods, past "Gross Leh" and "Endi" until Steinen which is part of the village of Sachseln, and down to the parish church of Sachseln.

**Way of Visions**

We can take the "Visionenweg", the Way of Visions, from Flüeli-Ranft to Sachseln through a wonderfully scenic landscape. Away from busy roads, we can enjoy the sculptures on the theme of visions, and a magnificent outlook on the lake of Sarnen. The Way of Visions leads from the house of birth of Holy Brother Nicolas through a beech wood containing six vision stations on the themes "Vision in the Womb", "Tower Vision of the 16-Years-Old", "The Decision of the Young

*Visionen way*

Man", "He Himself was the Tabernacle", "The Father, Mary and The Son Thank Him", and "Easter Time Experience of Mrs. Dorothee". The artist André Bucher created six noteworthy way-side shrines on these topics. The way takes us then down to the parish church of Sachseln.

**Sachseln - Kaiserstuhl**

9.5 km, walking time 2 hrs 30 min.

A climb of medium difficulty: Giswil 483m, Kaiserstuhl 689m.

*Parish church in Sachseln**Lake of Sarnen*

The catholic parish church St.Theodul was built between 1672 and 1684. A painting in the vestibule depicts how Brother Nicolas gives advice to politicians and thus prevents a civil war. The tomb of Brother Nicolas, canonized in 1947, has been in the main altar since 1672. The name of Sachseln derives from the diminutive form of the late-roman word "saxum", meaning rock or stone. The upper part of the village therefore is called "Steinen" (from "Stein", meaning "stone"). Apart from other sights, Sachseln has something very special: In the celebration altar of the parish and pilgrim church are the bones of Brother Nicolas.

In the burial chapel near the old church spire, we find his first tomb. In the museum beneath the church is a vast exposition on the life of the saint. Near the parish church of Sachseln, the marked Way of St. James, coming from Flüeli, turns off to the left and leads past the baroque Joseph chapel to Edisried to join the Brünig road shortly after, before Buoholz. We follow the road in a south-western direction to Ewil where we turn sharply right to the lakeshore hiking path. We keep to this path towards south-west as far as the historic country inn Zollhaus (or "Zollhus").

Alternative: An unmarked alternative route of the Way of St. James leads through the village of Sachseln down to Lake Sarnen and along the lake to the inn Zollhaus.

The route, on the last stretch skirting the railway line, turns away from it to the right and leads past the swampy "Hanenriet", then turns left to lead over "Diechtersmatt" to the railway station of Giswil. The village is a typical scattered settlement without histo-

*PParish church in Giswil*

ric village centre. The community is first mentioned in a document of the year 840. On account of its strategically favourable situation, it once had three fortified castles. Starting from the station, we use the sidewalk of the Brünig road. At the next roundabout, we go to the left and stand in front of the hotel "Krone". To the left we see the ruin "Rudenz". The parish church St. Laurentius (17th century) stands on the castle hill, the site of the former castle "Hunwil", built using building blocks of the former castle. The ossuary chapel St. Michel, dating from the middle of the 17th century, stands beside the church. Being pilgrims, we turn away from the "Krone" to the right and then take the little road that leads straight on across the Aa (river) to Buechholz. We continue in a moderate climb through the wood and cross the main road beneath its viaduct. We keep to this side and after a few bends of the path in the wood, we reach the unguarded level crossing of the railway line. We cross it and over pastureland, we reach Kaiserstuhl, the door to the valley terrace of the Lake of Lungern.



Lake of Lungern

### Kaiserstuhl - Brünigpass

9.5 km, walking time 2 hrs 45 min.



Bürglen chapel



Beatus-chapel in Obsee

Medium-difficulty climb: Lungern Obsee 694m, Brünig pass 1002m.

The beautiful outlook from the terrace of the inn at the northern end of the Lake of Lungern is the reward for the effort of the climb. Shortly after the inn on the lakeshore path to the right, we see a farmhouse in the typical style of the canton of Obwalden. We continue to Bürglen with the picturesque St. Antonius chapel, built 1686. The chapel was enlarged in 1830 and again consecrated to the Mother of God, to Antonius and Wendelin. The walk along the quiet lakeshore landscape to the southern end of the lake before Obsee is particularly pleasant. This village is characterised by many beautiful farmhouses that harmoniously blend with the landscape. A shady resting place offering an outlook over the lake is perfect for pilgrims. After that, we continue on the Obseestrasse to the chapel St. Beatus. This chapel was built in 1567 during the disturbances of the



„Chäpälstieg“

reformation as a welcome alternative place of pilgrimage to that of the Beatus Caves above Lake Thun. It contains pictures of scenes from the Beatus legend. From ancient times, people have used a western and an eastern route from Obwalden to the Brünig. The more frequented route leads from west of the parish church of Lungern via the "Chäppelstiege" to "Letzi" and further via "Sagers Chäppäli" and "Sewli" to Brünig. The other one uses the mule track, the "Chäppälstrasse" which is more to the east and somewhat less steep, to the "Burgkapelle" (castle chapel), and from there in parts along the railway line and over mountain meadows up to "Sagers Chäppäli" and onwards to the Brünig pass. We choose the former, which is marked on the map and on the way-post as Jakobsweg, and known as "Alter Brünigweg", beginning at the south-eastern edge of the village of Obsee. We are facing a climb of 386 m of difference in altitude. Near a big wood-working factory, the path turns off to the right and up into the in part thin forest "Sattelwald". Crossing a field road, the path leads through the forest up to the Brünig road. In the "Sattelwald", first traces of the ancient Roman track can be discerned. At several places, we can clearly see old stair steps hewn into the rock, flagged paths and ruts cut out by wagons in the time of the Romans. It is said that local people have also discovered



Chäpali - street



Sewli way

Celtic objects in this forest. After crossing the Brünig road the path turns off to the left into a specially rugged woodland. Below the rocks of the "Balmiflue" and past erratic blocks, the route leads up to "Letzi", a natural rock defile at the Brünig road which formerly served with its barrage wall as defence line of the people of Obwalden against the reformed Bernese. After a short stretch along the Brünig road, we turn left and the well-marked path leads first through the wood, and then over mountain meadows and along the edge of a wood, past "Sagers Chäppäli" to the "Sewli". There, we come to the railway track of the "Zentralbahn". Along the railway line, we then climb up to the summit of the pass. In one of the inns, we allow ourselves a rest and enjoy the beautiful panoramic view to the snow-capped peaks of the Bernese Oberland.