

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/Friboug“)
- F - Romont-Lausanne-Genève („Way of Western Switserland“)
- G - Lucerne-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg („Lucerne Way“)
- H - Rankweil - Einsiedeln („Vorarlberg-Appenzell Way“)
- K - Schaffhausen-Tobel (Monastery way)

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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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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



(2) Rorschach - Einsiedeln

„„Rorschach Branch“ “

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 Gantersch 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“

„Rorschach Branch“ (Rorschach – Einsiedeln)
(102 km, walking time around 25 hours)

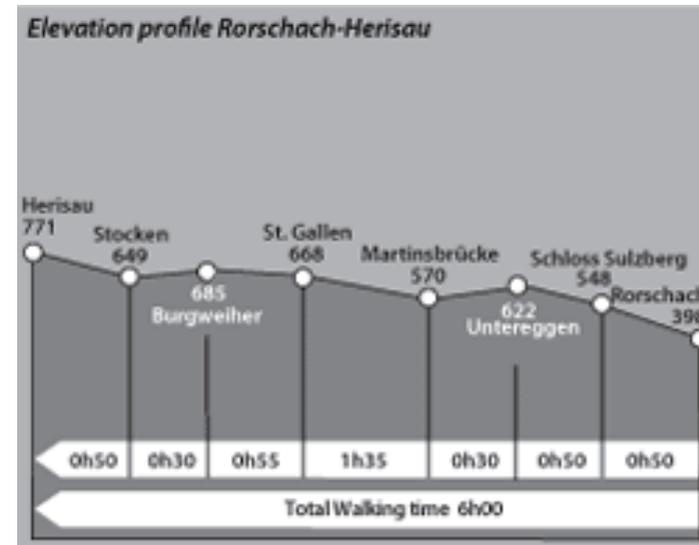


As in earlier times, pilgrims today start their pilgrimage through Switzerland at the lakeport of Rorschach, arriving there by boat from Friedrichshafen. They come from Germany, but also from the more distant countries of Eastern Europe. They are joined by pilgrims from Switzerland who want to start their pilgrimage from here. The route takes them from Lake Constance to the town of St.Gallen, then to Herisau in the

Canton of Appenzell, and through its typical hill-country to the Toggenburg region. Further on to Lake Zürich, either to the town of Rapperswil, or to Schmerikon on the banks of the Upper Lake Zürich. Those who go to Rapperswil will cross the lake on the wooden pilgrim’s footbridge to reach Einsiedeln on a mountain path via St.Meinrad at the Etzel pass. Those who turn off at Schmerikon bypass the lake through the plain of the Linth river, come to Lachen on Lake Zürich, then follow the route that pilgrims to Einsiedeln normally use, and go up to St.Meinrad at the Etzel pass where they join the route Rapperswil – Einsiedeln of the Way of St. James.

The Way of St. James takes the pilgrims through towns and bigger communities along quiet lanes in residential quarters, and lanes in town centres, many of the places having a long pilgrim tradition, past beautiful cathedrals and town churches and many noteworthy sites of cultural and historical interest. Outside these strongly populated and in part industrialised places, the pilgrims come through a countryside characterized by agriculture and fruit cultivation, on quiet field and forest paths through meadows, woods and wooded brook ravines. They walk through narrow and wide valleys with either still or flowing water, along the slopes of the gentle hilly landscape until up to mountain chains and passes where the physical exertion is rewarded with a wonderful outlook. Along the route, you will pass well-groomed farmsteads and old inns, also former pilgrim’s hostels. You come to hamlets and villages with well cared-for houses and gardens, and you will also meet with industrious and amiable residents with whom you can strike up a conversation, often over a refreshing drink.

Section Rorschach-Herisau



Topographic maps of the region
Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1075, 1094 and 1095
Scale 1:50'000: numbers 217 and 227

Rorschach -- St. Gallen

14 km, walking time around 3 hrs 45 min.



Rorschach-Jakobsbrunnen



Schloss Sulzberg

While many pilgrims from southern Germany arrive by boat at the lake-port of Rorschach, pilgrims from Switzerland will arrive at the railway station "Stadtbahnhof" and walk past the quayside to the port. A side-trip to the "Jakobsbrunnen" at the "Kronenplatz" is a fitting way to start the pilgrimage. The little bell on the fountain post reminds us of the St. James chapel that stood here until 1834. From the port we walk southwards, following the St. James fingerposts through the narrow lanes of the small town to the level crossing of the railway. After the crossing we turn right, walk past the railway station "Rorschach-Stadt", and then in a south-western direction through an industrial quarter to the Appenzellerstrasse. Following this road, we leave the town and walk upwards to "Müliberg", a crossroads of old country lanes where we cross the motorway. After a short ascent, we reach the Sulzberg castle, also called "Möttelischloss", with its imposing tower. We pass the tower and the castle pond on a small road and come up to the farmstead "Bettleren". There, the road turns to the right, and above the ponds, leads over to the main road (Bus stop "Vogelherd"). Then, the route follows well-marked paths, partly bypassing the road on its right-hand side, partly on the road itself through the stretched-out vil-

lage of Untereggen, past the baroque parish church St. Mary Magdalen until up to the village exit (Untereggen-Hinterhof). From the castle pond lying in a hollow, and during the ascent to Untereggen, we enjoy a magnificent view to Lake Constance. At the last houses of Untereggen, we leave the road and turn left onto a roadway that brings us past the farmstead "Schiben" in an increasingly steeper climb to the farmstead on the crest of the hill. Now we descend the sloping meadow down to the "Martinsbrücke", steeped in legends. This bridge leads over the Goldach (brook) and the wooded "Martinstobel" (ravine).



Kirche Untereggen



Spisergasse St. Gallen

After the bridge, and to the left, we take the access roadway to the "Schaugenbädli" (bathing pool). Shortly after, however, we turn off to the left onto a forest road that leads us out of the ravine onto flat grass-land. We continue past the first houses of St.Gallen-Neuhof to the bus stop St.Gallen-Wilen. (Note: Pilgrims wanting to avoid walking through the city can take the bus here). The route takes us westwards until the Martinsbruggstrasse which we leave after



Stiftskirche St. Gallen

a short stretch. We pass by the sports ground and traverse the Rehobelstrasse and arrive at the Bruggwiesenweg. This street at the southern fringe of the town near St.Fiden and along the Hagenbuch forest takes us to the Goldbrunnenweg (with the marvellous "Goldbrünneli"). This takes us to the Flurhofstrasse, which we follow in a western direction to the Linsebühlstrasse with its church of St. Mary Magdalen, the spire of which indicated the direction so far. Linsebühlstrasse 61 is the address of the pilgrim's hostel of St.Gallen, operated by the association www.pilgerherberge-sg.ch, phone 0041 71 220 00 62. Continuing westwards, we arrive at the "Spisertor" (gate) and then to the world-famous monastery compound, counting among the heritage sites of world culture. A visit to the baroque cathedral and its library, and a stroll through the lanes of the old city with the numerous old half-timber and oriel window houses, is a must in the journey's programme.

St. Gallen - Herisau

10.5 km, walking time around 2 hrs 30 min.



Herisau Lauritius-Kirche

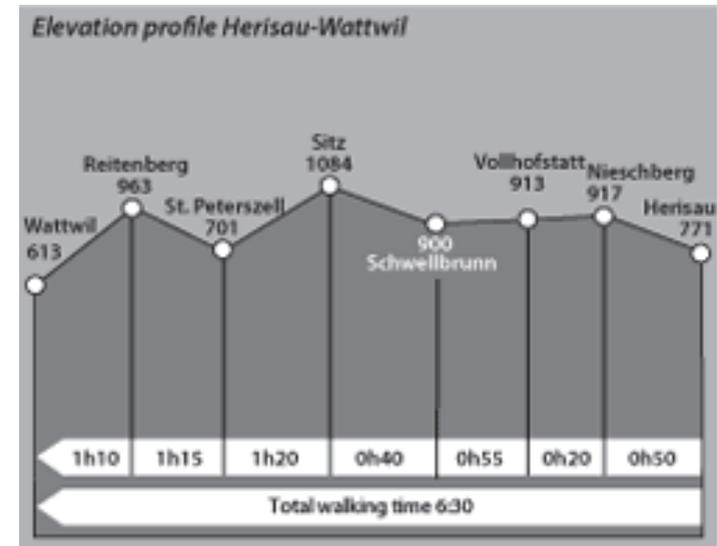
We leave the old city of St.Gallen in a western direction, and on the St.Leonhardstrasse, we come to the railway overpass and the neo-gothic St.Leonhard church there (to the west of the railway station of St.Gallen). After the railway overpass, we turn left onto the Burgstrasse that brings us past "Chrüzbleichi" and the shortcut Turner-/Schillerstrasse to the two castle ponds.



Gasse in Herisau

We bypass these on the Burgweierweg to the north of the ponds, and the Burgweierweg also leads us to the western town fringe. Conspicuous buildings are the chapel Maria Einsiedeln, and the "Tröckneturm" (tower). Using the Ahornstrasse and the Eisenbahnweg, we come to the EMPA building further to the west, where we traverse to the right onto the Zürcherstrasse. We follow this street through Bruggen, and at the exit of this place, the Fürstenlandstrasse joins the Zürcherstrasse. Before reaching the Fürstenlandbrücke (bridge, shortly after the bus-stop), we turn off to the left to the Kräzenstrasse that leads us past the Stocken brewery down to the sandstone bridge over the Sitter river, on the opposite side up to the bus-stop Kräzern. There, we turn off southwards to the left, and across the railway line and past the little castle Sturzenegg up to the natural reserve at Gübsensee (lake) 60m higher up. A hiking path leads us westwards along the former line of the Appenzellerbahn (railway), through a short stretch of wood, up to the Kasernenstrasse which we cross to reach the St.Gallerstrasse. We follow this street until the Schützenstrasse joins it, on which we cross the railway line. Not far away, we turn off into the "Kreckelquartier". On the Kreuzstrasse, past the cemetery (773m.a.s.l.), we reach the town centre of Herisau. At the pilgrim fountain near the inn "Adler", we treat ourselves with a well-earned cup of water and terminate the day's march in the over 1000 years old St.Laurentius church.

Herisau-St. Peterzell-Wattwil



Topographic maps of the region
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1094 and 1114
 Scale 1:50'000: numbers 226 and 227

Herisau-Wattwil

24.5 km, walking time around 6 hrs 30 min.

Herisau - St. Peterzell

14.5 km, walking time around 4 hrs.

Mountain section with medium difficulty: Herisau 744m, Nieschberg 917m, Sitz 1084m, St. Peterzell 701m.



Parish church of Herisau



Risi way

Before we continue in earnest on our way, we take a stroll through Herisau, looking at the splendid mansions, the town hall, the cosy inns, and eventually come to the bus-stop "Obstmarkt". In a south-western direction, we come to the Schmiedgasse, turn off to the right and take the "Alter Steig" down to the "Alti Müli" quarter. Crossing the main road, we come to the Schlossstrasse which we leave to the left in order to ascend to the farmstead "Böhl". Over gently rising alpine pastures, we climb up to the hamlet of Nieschberg, some 200 m higher up. Under the linden tree on the summit, we enjoy the outlook to Lake Constance in the distance. Continuing southwards, the mountain path takes us across the "Hörnlipass" to the farm "Vollhofstatt". We remain on the mountain path which, while gently rising, turns west-

wards and leads us over pastures, hay meadows, past farmhouses and edges of woods to "Säntisblick" where we cross the access road to Schwellbrunn. We continue in the same direction to the lookout point "Sitz" 100 m higher. Passing Schwellbrunn on its southern side, we continue on alpine pastures and through the "Risiwald" up to the "Risi-Hirschen" crossing. Then on the mountain road up to a plateau, and further to the west over the chain of hills to the mountain inn "Sitz". While taking a refreshing drink, we enjoy the gorgeous panoramic view over the gentle hills of the Appenzell region and down into the "Tüfenbachtal". From "Sitz", a footpath leads over the descending meadow to the road near the inn "Landscheidi". This path is also part of the "Rätselweg" (mystery trail) of Schwellbrunn. We cross the road and climb in a southern direction up to "Hö-

chi" and further along the chain of hills past "Arnig" and "Lindschwendi" down to the inn "Chäseren". Now begins the descent (250m difference in elevation) over hilly terrain into the valley of the Necker river, first on the mountain road and then on the footpath turning off to the left down to "Aemisegg". We take the road down to the farmstead "Berg" and take the old mountain path there to come down to St. Peterzell which offers some noteworthy sights, such as the baroque parish church, the "Rotes Haus" with the picturesque wooden facade, and the former provostry.

St. Peterzell - Wattwil

10 km, walking time 2 hrs 30 min.

Mountain section: St. Peterzell 701m, Scherrer 984m, Wattwil 613m.



St. Peterzell

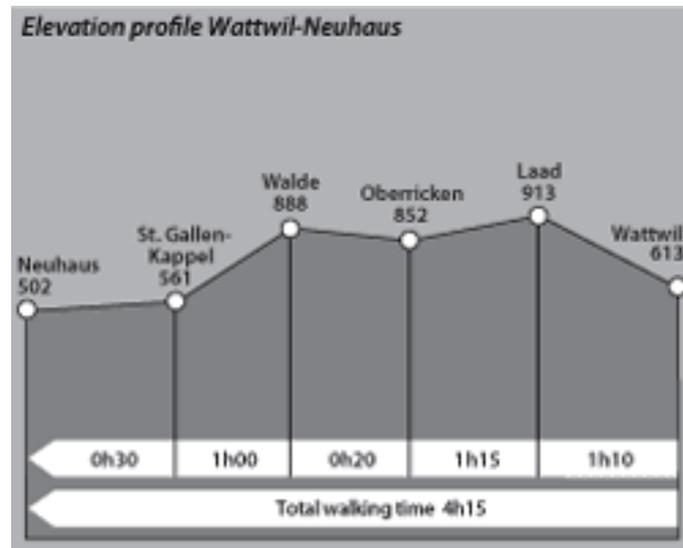


Guesthouse Churfirten

After taking a refreshment in the restaurant "Schäfle", an old pilgrim's hostel in the Appenzell style, we continue on the Hembergstrasse which crosses the river Necker and then take the mountain path to the right up to "Bädli". An old shield depicts a wooden bathtub with pilgrim and the caption "Allhier zum Bad". Up through the hollow way we reach the hamlet of Hofstetten with its traditional chalets. Then westwards to the wooded, about 70m deep "Schlifen" ravine which we traverse, then in a south-western direction upwards to the scattered settlement Niederwil. On we go due west over pastures and through a small wood until shortly before Heiterswil. There, we turn sharply to the right and climb up to the mountain road and further to the vantage point "Scherrer" with the restaurant "Churfirten". With the mountains Säntis, Churfirten and Speer in our range of vision, we

start the descent via "Schwantlereg" and "Hütten" into the Toggenburg valley, about 400m lower. The mountain path is quite steep at places and leads along the north slope of the Eschenberg and through hilly meadows, past lonely farms down to the main road in Wattwil. We cross the main road, and skirting the factory area on its western side, we come to the Thur bridge, after which we turn off to the right to the Auweg that takes us along the Thur river to the Bahnhofstrasse and the destination of this stage, the railway station of Wattwil.

Wattwil-Neuhaus-Rapperswil



Topographic maps of the region
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1113
 Scale 1:50'000: number 226,

Wattwil-Neuhaus

16.5 km, walking time 4 hrs 15 min.

Mountain section: Wattwil 613m, Laad 900m, Oberricken 900m, St.Gallenkappel 593m.



Burg Iberg



Bergstrasse nach Walde



Walde



Ursula Kapelle Rüeterswil

After a short, optional side trip to the monastery of the Capuchin nuns "Maria Engel", where hospitable nuns show us their convent, our stage begins at the station of Wattwil, where we come to the Rickenstrasse after using the railway station's underpass. We follow said road in a south-western direction until shortly before the Feldbach bridge where we turn off to the left onto the Burghaldenweg, which we follow. Where some distance further up the Laadstrasse joins the Burghaldenweg, we take now to the Laadstrasse, past the castle ruin Iberg up to Schlosswies and, using a shortcut, we arrive at Schlossweid. Now again on the moderately inclined Laadstrasse, along pastures and past old Toggenburg-style farmsteads up to Laad, around 300 m higher than Wattwil. After a short stretch, the Laadstrasse ends. We continue on a mountain path westwards past the farm "Heid" (990m) to the houses of "Hinderlaad". Here we descend to the high moor "Bodenwis", a nature reserve. From there, it is a short climb westwards to Oberricken, which is also the summit of the pass.

We remain on the mountain road, and further down, we turn off to the left onto a hiking path that leads to a small wood with picnic area, and further to Walde. In the small church, we see a nice picture of the crucifixion of Jesus. We continue on the mountain road until we turn off further south to the hamlet of "Höfli". From here we take a hiking path southwards across open pastureland down to Rüeterswil where its St.Ursula chapel with the colourful pictures from the life of St.Ursula, a village fountain and an inn await us. The outlook to Lake Zürich and the causeway remind us of the destination of this stage. The path continues over gently inclined meadows and through a short wooded section southwards to Bezikon. We continue in a southern direction to the houses of "Im Bifang". There, the path turns west and takes us along the edge of the wood and past Eichholz to St.Gallenkappel. We visit the baroque parish



Grubenmann-Kirche

church, dedicated to the Saints Laurentius and Gallus. It has a wonderful high altar, an ornamented organ, a gilded pulpit, as well as rare ceiling paintings. From the church, a bypass road takes us westwards via Geretingen past houses and fields and along the edge of a wood to the Rickenstrasse shortly before Neuhaus. We cross the Ricken road and reach the houses down in the wooded Aatal. There, the path turns sharply right, crosses the Aabach and the motorway feeder and turns left in a southern direction. Not far from the St. James chapel there (with gilded St. James statue)

and the fountain, we come to the bifurcation where the two St. James routes separate. One of them continues straight-on, on a field path towards Schmerikon, while the other leads westwards to Neuhaus, then via Eschenbach to Rapperswil, where it joins the Way of St. James Constance - Einsiedeln "Swabian Way".

Neuhaus-Rapperswil

11 km, walking time 3 hrs.



Eschenbach way

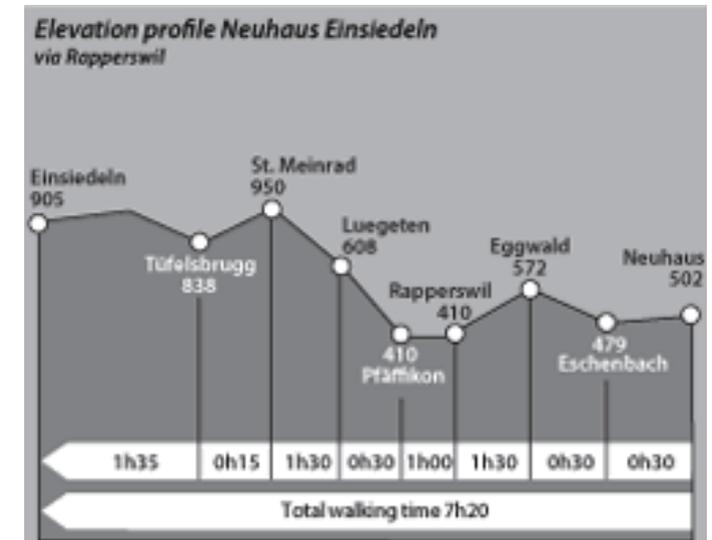
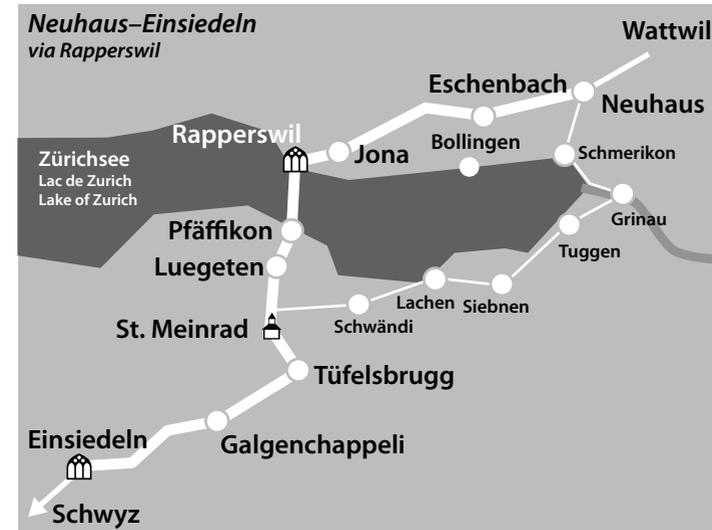
From the bifurcation of Neuhaus sharply right to the Rickenstrasse which we cross some distance to the west in order to reach the Lettenstrasse. We follow this street a short stretch, then take a field-path on which we return to the Rickenstrasse further west, shortly before Eschenbach. We remain on the Rickenstrasse through and out of Eschenbach, and further west near "Massholderen", we turn to the right onto the footpath across open fields and along the edge of a wood, then into the wood "Eggwald" and to "Chälentich". There, we turn

to the left and, always following a south-western direction on an unpaved road via the hamlets Egg, Hohweg and through the Jonerwald (wod) to the entrance of Jona. We follow the town streets due west to the crossroads (bus stop Neuhof). Then westwards across the roundabout, over the Jona brook and the railway line to the Hanfländerstrasse near the bus stop "EW". That is where our route joins the leg from Constance. We follow the Hanfländerstrasse and turn off to the left to the Attenhoferstrasse, and due south across the railway line to the Zürcherstrasse. We follow the latter until the next crossroads and through the lanes of the old town, we come to the lake-
port of Rapperswil.



Rapperswil

Rapperswil- Einsiedeln



Topographic maps of the region
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1112, 1113 and 1132
 Scale 1:50'000: number 226 ad 236

Rapperswil -- Einsiedeln

16km (walking time 4 hrs 50 min)

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



Rapperswil - wooden boardwalk



Lake of Sihl



St. Meinrad

South of the railway station of Rapperswil, we come to the wooden "boardwalk" causeway across Lake Zürich, 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 a 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

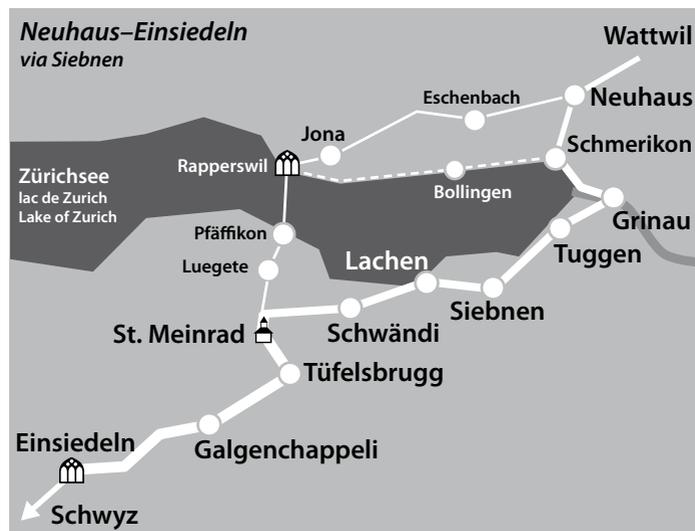
far from the Meinradsbrunnen (well). Keeping to the right, we come to the head of the pass St.Meinrad with its pilgrim's inn and chapel (950m). We continue, first along the Etzelstrasse down to "Tüfelsbrugg" (built 1699). There stands the house where the famous physician Paracelsus (1493 to 1541) was 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 road-



Monastery church Einsiedeln

way 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.

Neuhaus - Schmerikon . Einsiedeln



Topographic maps of the region

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1112, 1113, 1132 and 1133

Scale 1:50'000: number 226 and 236

Neuhaus-Schmerikon

2.5 km, walking time 40 min.



Parish church in Schmerikon

After the bifurcation at Neuhaus, the field path leads straight to "Risifeld". There, the path at first turns to the right, and shortly after southwards to the motorway. We walk parallel to it for about 200m until we can cross it. Then the path leads southwards through the "Sumpfige Bürstli" to the hillock "Goldberg". Here, we enjoy a breathtaking outlook over Lake Zürich, the hilly "Buechberg" and the Glarus Alps in the distance. Taking the church spire as a lead, we follow the descending path through "Lanzenmoos" to the church of St.Jost with its beautiful altars, gilded pulpit and organ, and ceiling paintings.

Now there are only a few steps to the railway station and lake-port of Schmerikon. In the vicinity, the "Haus zum Hirzen", built 1610-20, also named "Schlössli", as well as some old inns can be seen.

Schmerikon - Lachen

18 km, walking time 3 hrs 15 min.



Castle Grinau



Old Lindt



Lindtbord chapel

From the station of Schmerikon, we walk eastwards on the lakeshore path (on the right-hand side of the railway line) as far as the feeder road, from which we soon turn off to the left in the direction of the lakeshore bathing place, and arrive at the canalised Aabach (brook). We follow it eastwards as far as the covered bridge. There, we follow the road due south through the "Grosse Allmeind" to the side canal of the Lindt river. We turn east and follow the canal path to the Grinau road bridge. We cross it and arrive at the squat Grinau peel tower built in the 13th century. The 17th century castle on the left-hand roadside is now a popular restaurant and houses in its basement a chapel whose altar is dedicated to the Auxiliary Saints. Now in a south-western direction, we come to the pumping station, where we turn to the right to the motorway which we cross. From here, we follow at first the "Alte Lindt" river, and then the drainage canal until we turn off to the left to the "ARA" (water purification plant). Here, we cross the Alte Lindt and turn off to the feeder road. We follow it a short stretch, then turn off to the right to visit the "Lindtbord" chapel "Anneli-Kapelle". Now we continue on a field path, the church spire of Tuggen serving as beacon, through the "Tuggener Ried" and then through residential quarters to the Zürcherstrasse in the village centre.

We turn off to the right and past the baroque parish church St.Erhard to the edge of the village and up an incline. Following a field road in a south-western direction, we descend to the houses "Im Paradies" and the Zürcherstrasse with its heavy traffic. We follow it westwards until we can turn off to the south at the hamlet "Bol". We cross the motorway on an overpass and arrive at the Loretto Chapel. Always due south, we continue to the railway line which we cross through an underpass. Now westwards along the railway line to the Bahnhofstrasse



Galgenen chapel

se which leads us in a southern direction past the parish church and the St.Niklaus chapel to the Zürcherstrasse and the bridge over the river "Wäggitaler Aa", in the village centre of Siebnen. We cross the bridge and the street, continue straight on, and after about 200 m, we turn off to the right to a bypass road due west and parallel to the Zürcherstrasse, first through a residential area, then across meadows past the hamlet "Chrüzstatt" to "Chapellhof" at the

southern edge of Galgenen. There, we find the St.Jost chapel with its impressive paintings on the exterior walls (Christophorus, the Three Swiss, and over the portal Borromäus, Jodokus and Niklaus von der Flüe). We continue, mostly on a macadam road and again parallel to the cantonal road to the Spreitenbach (brook) which we cross to arrive at the outskirts "Steinegg" of Lachen. Straight on and then in an arc through the motorway underpass and to the centre of Lachen. With its inns on the lakeshore, the baroque parish church "Holy Cross" and the pilgrim chapel "Im Ried", this is a good place to stay overnight.

Lachen - Einsiedeln

15 km, walking time around 3 hrs 45 min.

Differences in altitude: Lachen 410m, Schwändi 694m, St.Meinrad 950m, Einsiedeln 906m)



Parish church in Lachen

From the village centre, we go back to the „Breiten“ quarter beyond the motorway underpass. We follow the Breitenstrasse and then turn off to the Burgweg. This is the beginning of the ascent to St.Meinrad, elevated 520m higher. First, we climb a short incline to the St.Johann chapel. Situated 100m higher than the lake, it offers a unique outlook over Lachen, the lake and the Alps of the cantons of St.Gallen and Glarus. We continue on the hill-crest past the

restaurant "Johannisburg" to the access road at "Im Schlipf". Bypassing the hairpin bend, our path leads over meadows and across the "Chessibach" (brook) up to the Bilstenstrasse. We take this road as far as the next hairpin bend and turn off to the right to a historic path that leads us, along the edge of the "Summer-



St. Meinrad



Monastery of Einsiedeln



St. Mary fountain

holz" wood back to the Bilstenstrasse. From Bilsten westwards, and along sloping meadows interspersed with small woods, and enjoying outlooks over Lake Zürich, we come to Schwändi. The latticed wayside chapel is proof of the many pilgrims who have passed here on their way to Etzel. After about 150m, we turn off to the left and take a steeply rising mountain path leading at first westwards up to "Oberschwändi", and then southwards to St.Meinrad at the Etzel pass. The path leads across hilly, cultivated pastureland, past swampy fields and groups of trees, through small woods, and past the last bends of the Etzelstrasse to the inn and the chapel St.Meinrad.

We continue, at first on the Etzelstrasse down to "Tüfelsbrugg" with the commemorative stone of the physician, alchemist and philosopher Paracelsus (1493 – 1541), and 250m further on to "Meieren". Here, we leave the Etzelstrasse, and on a path to the right, through humid sloping meadows above the Sihl ravine, we come to Hochmatt / Hinterhorben. On a roadway across the "Allmig" plateau southwards, we come to the Sihlstrasse (near the wayside cross), and further south to the "Galgenchappeli", offering a good outlook to Lake Sihl. Until 1799, convicts were hanged here, their last view directed to the monastery of Einsiedeln. We leave the Etzelstrasse and on a field path in a southern direction, we come to the bypass road which we cross. On the "Alte Etzelstrasse", we reach the village centre and the monastery of Einsiedeln.