

# STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN VIA FERRATA BROCHURE



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ENGELBERG-TITLIS TOURISMUS

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## INTRODUCTION

Engelberg – the Swiss Eldorado for climbing and via ferrata freaks! Engelberg and the surrounding area offer climbing enthusiasts 6 exciting via ferratas reaching 5 different peaks. It is no secret that Engelberg is the place for sensational climbing. Our via ferratas and climbing routes are not only for experts—beginners will also find suitable routes.

The origins of the via ferrata date back to World War I. In the Dolomites (a mountain range in South Tyrol) soldiers made impossibly steep mountain terrain accessible for troop crossing with cable, iron pegs, and ladders. Over time, these climbing routes grew so popular with climbing tourists that organized via ferrata vacations came into being.

Via ferratas provide people with the chance to try their hand at climbing and to explore the fantastic mountain regions of and around Engelberg in a different way.

### Wide Support

Commissioned by three local cableway companies (TITLIS Bergbahnen, Luftseilbahn Engelberg-Brunni AG and Fürenalpbahn AG), mountain guides from the Engelberg Valley created several via ferratas of varying degrees of difficulty. Generous financial support for the project was appropriated by the municipal council (Gemeinde Engelberg) and provided by Engelberg-Titlis Tourismus AG. Continued maintenance such as winter preparation and periodic inspections has been contractually guaranteed by mountain guides.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the involved Engelberg cableway companies and investors for their generosity.



## MOUNTAIN GUIDES

We highly advise inexperienced climbers to be accompanied by someone knowledgeable, such as a mountain guide who has the required know-how and experience. The guide can assess the abilities of the climber and, if need be, determine whether the climber requires extra assistance or securing. (See last page for contact addresses)

## UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION

[www.engelberg.ch/summerreport](http://www.engelberg.ch/summerreport)

[www.bergfuehrer-engelberg.ch](http://www.bergfuehrer-engelberg.ch)

App iEngelberg-Titlis

Starting at 8:00 a.m., the above sources provide the most current information concerning which via ferrata routes in Engelberg are open or closed. It is essential to be properly informed before you set out on your climb.

## DEGREES OF DIFFICULTY

The via ferratas in the brochure are rated according to the "Hüsler-Schwierigkeitsskala" (Hüsler Scale of Difficulty), which spans 6 grades: from easy (K1) to extremely difficult (K6).

**K1 - easy:** Easy, suitable for initiation into the sport. Simple secured hiking paths, natural stretches that have been set with ladders, iron pegs and bridges. Short exposed, but well-secured passages.

**K2 - slightly difficult:** Partial stretches over steep rock walls, routes are secured. Vertical passages, very well-secured. Short stretches of vertical passages set with iron footholds or ladders; cable security also in the slightly difficult areas.

**K3 - moderately difficult:** Suitable for accompanied beginners. More steep rock face areas, longer steep passages, open exposed crossings - all well-secured. No overhangs.

**K4 – difficult:** Difficult, for those accustomed to the sport. The routes are steeper, including more difficult areas, with smaller footholds and hand grips. Anchor points set farther apart. In exposed areas only cables are used. Man-made resting points (hooks, crampons) found only in the most difficult stretches.

**K5 - very difficult:** Very difficult, physically demanding, and suitable for experienced climbers. Via ferratas in an extreme cliff landscape, with vertical to light overhanging passages. Physical and mental fitness (strength and endurance) required.

**K6 – extremely difficult:** Highly demanding with limited foot- and handholds. The routes are in an extreme cliff landscape, with vertical, mostly overhanging passages, which are only secured by rope (some unsecured passages). Very good physical fitness (strength and endurance) and mental strength are required.

## TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS



### Mountain trails

Required: sure-footedness, good physical condition, ability to cover rough or partially unmapped terrain



### Alpine trails & Via Ferrata

Required: sure-footedness, good physical condition, no fear of heights, familiar with using rope and equipment

## IMPORTANT TIPS

### General

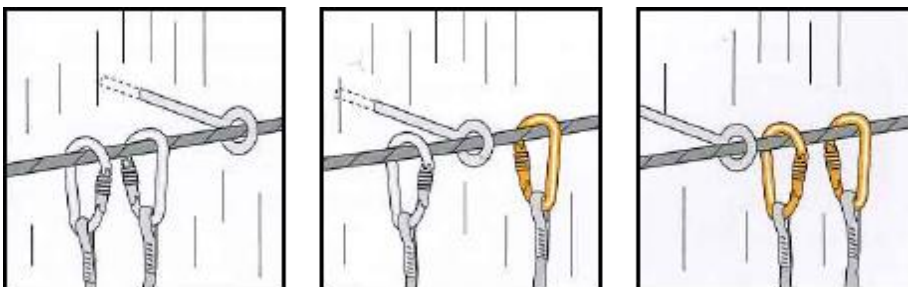
- Use of the via ferratas is at your own risk. The installers of the via ferratas refuse liability for the climbing routes.
- Via ferrata climbs should only be attempted by hikers who do not suffer from vertigo, who are sure-footed and physically fit for mountaineering.
- Children should be at least 8 years old.
- It is imperative to pay close attention to weather conditions. In case of rain, snow, fog, thunderstorms and strong winds, the route should not be used.
- To avoid any damage, the security ropes are removed for the winter season.
- Use of the via ferratas is at your own risk. The installers of the via ferratas refuse liability for the climbing routes.

### Equipment

- Alpine equipment is essential. This includes helmet, sturdy shoes/boots, safety straps and karabiner. The complete equipment kit can be rented from several local sport shops.
- Important: Only equipment specifically meant for via ferrata climbing (self belay set) with a KISA (Kinetic Impact Shock Absorber) may be used.
- Gloves are recommended.

### On the climb

- To avoid falling rock use caution, walk carefully.
- Keep proper distance to the above climber: between two climbers on extended rope there should be an empty section of cable.
- Securely clip both self-locking karabiners to the security cable.



## VIA FERRATA BRUNNISTÖCKLI/ZITTERGRAT 2'030 M (TWO ROUTES)

### Beginner's via ferrata "Brunnistöckli"

#### Description and

#### Special features:

The via ferrata going over the Brunnistöckli can be used for a trial run or as an introduction to the sport. The short approach, barely 200 meters difference in altitude, is a quick climb. Two hanging bridges will prove fun for climbers all ages. It is a worthwhile climb in combination with the Rigidalstock via ferrata. You will want to do more after completing this one. A suitable route for families and beginners.

#### Difficulty:

K2

#### Duration:

Ascent: 45 minutes (approach 15 minutes)  
Descent: 20 minutes (white-blue-white marked trail)

#### Altitude difference:

200 meters

#### Departure Point:

Top station of the Brunni chair lift (1'860 m)

#### Trailhead:

Starting from the top chairlift station (Brunnihütte SAC Lodge), follow the marked trail (Bunni-Pfad) in a south easterly direction toward Rugghubel. At the information board turn left and you will find the starting point of the climb.

#### Descent:

From Schonegg via the white-blue-white marked trail back to the Brunnihütte Lodge.

#### Overnight

#### accommodation:

Brunnihütte SAC Lodge 1'860 m, Tel. +41 41 637 37 32  
Berglodge Ristis, 1'606 m, Tel. +41 41 639 60 62

#### Season:

Mid-June to mid-October; accessible in winter upon request



## Difficult-grade Via Ferrata „Zittergrat“

### Description and Special features:

Climbing fans will find the Zittergrat exposed, steep and short. The entry point of the via ferrata is first vertical and then leads into overhanging passages – this will require upper arm strength. The final steep passage, before reaching the top, ends with another short overhanging stretch.

Zittergrat complements the Brunnistöckli. Both via ferratas merge at the top into the same route. Zittergrat is good preparation for other routes such as Fürenwand and Graustock. Strong upper arms are a plus!

### Difficulty:

K4

### Duration:

Ascent: 35 minutes (approach 5 minutes.)  
 Descent: 20 minutes (white-blue-white marked trail)

### Altitude difference:

200 meters

### Departure Point:

Top station of the Brunni chair lift (1'860 m)

### Trailhead:

Starting from the top chairlift station (Brunnihütte SAC Lodge), follow the marked trail in the direction of the Rughubelhütte. After a few minutes' walk (Information Board) go left, uphill along steep winding trails to the trailhead.

### Descent:

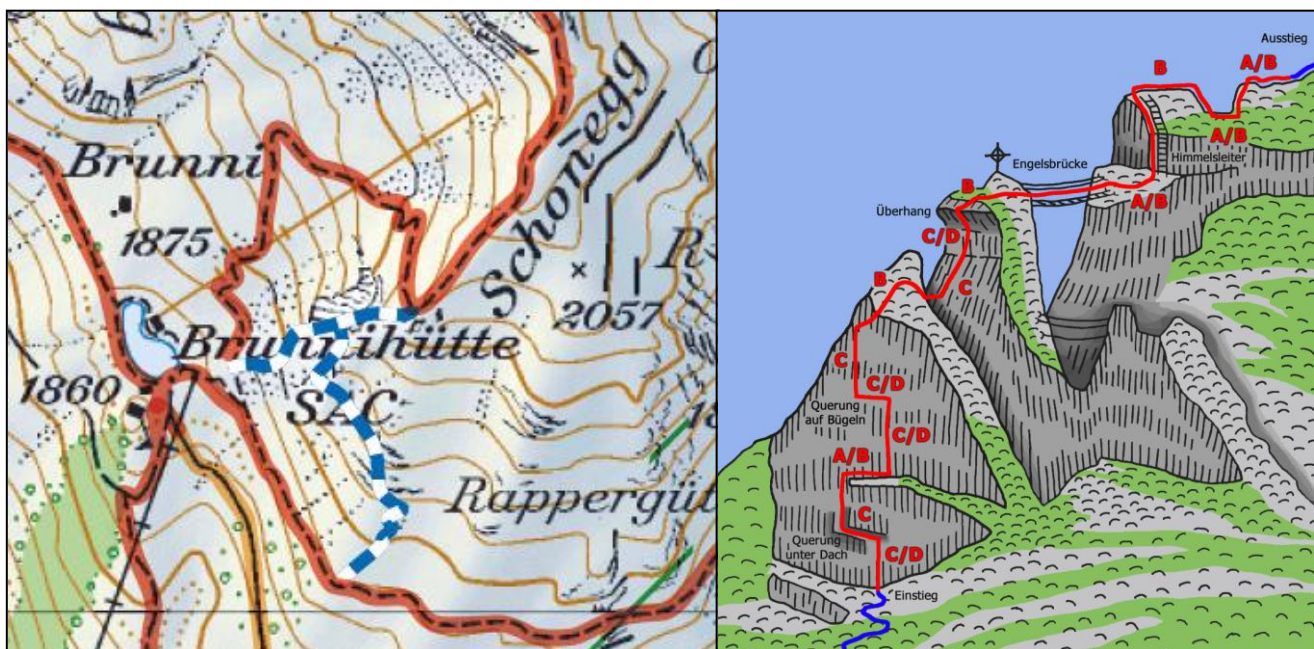
From Schonegg via the white-blue-white marked trail back to the Brunnihütte Lodge.

### Overnight accommodation:

Brunnihütte SAC Lodge 1'860 m, Tel. +41 41 637 37 32  
 Berglodge Ristis, 1'606 m, Tel. +41 41 639 60 62

### Season:

Mid-June to mid-October; accessible in winter upon request



## VIA FERRATAS RIGIDALSTOCK 2'593 M

### Description and Special features:

The Rigidalstock has already become a well-known favourite among climbers. The summit provides magnificent scenery over Engelberg. There are two different routes reaching the summit, both equally interesting with a sensational mountain landscape and formations along the way. Route A Rigidalstockwand even includes a small cave ("Adleraugeloch").

The Rigidalstock via ferratas can be done in combination with the via ferrata at Brunnistöckli or Zittergrat.

Only the via ferrata Rigidalstockgrat (east) is suitable for novice climbers. Beginners must follow this route for both the ascent and descent.

### Difficulty:

A: Via ferrata Rigidalstockwand (west) K3 - K4 – Ascent only  
B: Via ferrata Rigidalstockgrat (east) K3– Ascent and Descent

### Duration:

Ascent: 3 - 3½ hours from Brunnihütte Lodge incl. approach via mountain path.  
Descent: 1½ hours to Brunnihütte Lodge (over via ferrata and mountain path)

### Altitude difference:

730 meters

### Departure Point:

Top station of the Brunni chair lift (1'860 m)

### Trailhead:

Starting from the top station of the chairlift next to the Brunnihütte SAC Lodge, follow the blue-white trail markers: "Rigidal-Klettersteig", then at 1'860m take the blue-white-blue trail or over one of the via ferratas (Zittergrat, Brunnistöckli) to Schonegg.

Go left, and then along the meadow, continue uphill and over the area called "Uf den Stucklenen"(2'180m). The markers will lead you past boulders, at which point the path splits into two paths. The path to the left leads to the more difficult via ferrata Rigidalstockwand, the one to the right leads to the easier via ferrata Rigidalstockgrat. Both via ferratas begin after a steep slope (ca. 2'380m). At this point, the use of climbing equipment is necessary.

### Descent:

Descent must be approached via the eastern, less difficult via ferrata Rigidalstockgrat. Please do not use the western via ferrata Rigidalstockwand for the descent. The final stretch leads back over the same mountain path to the Brunnihütte Lodge.

### Overnight accommodation:

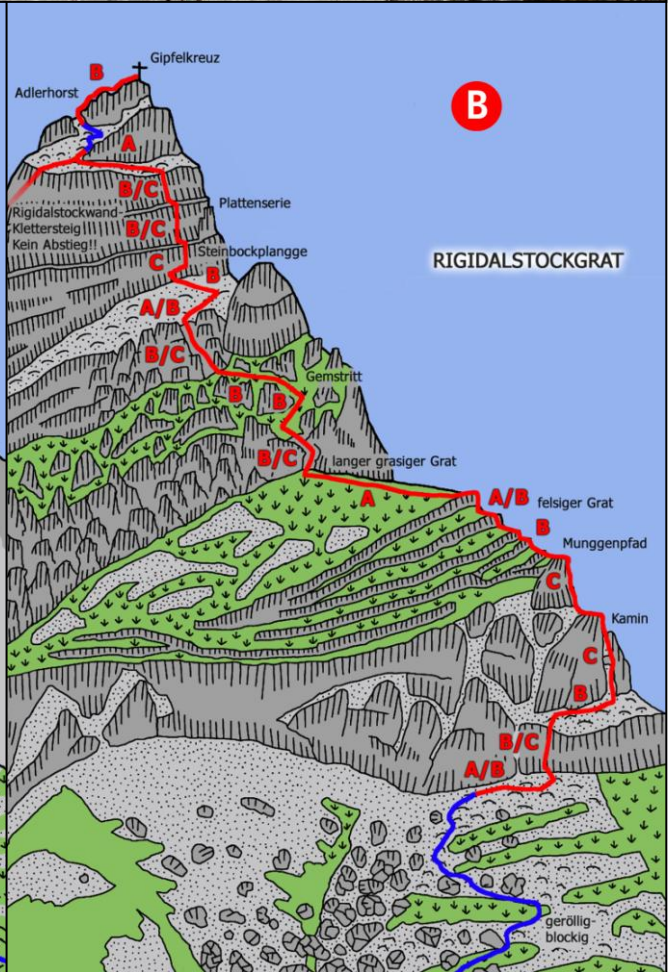
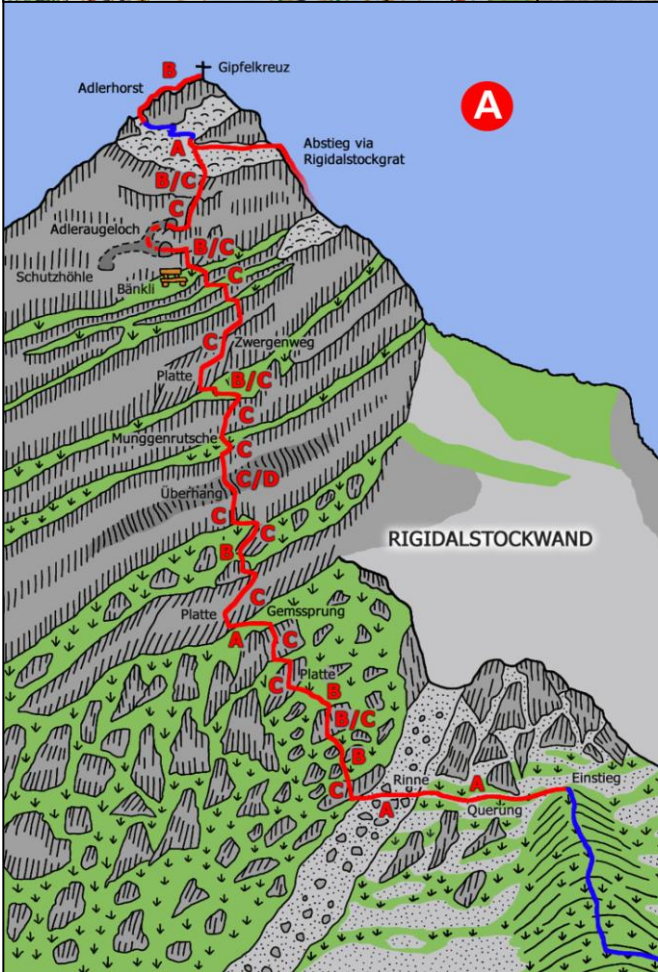
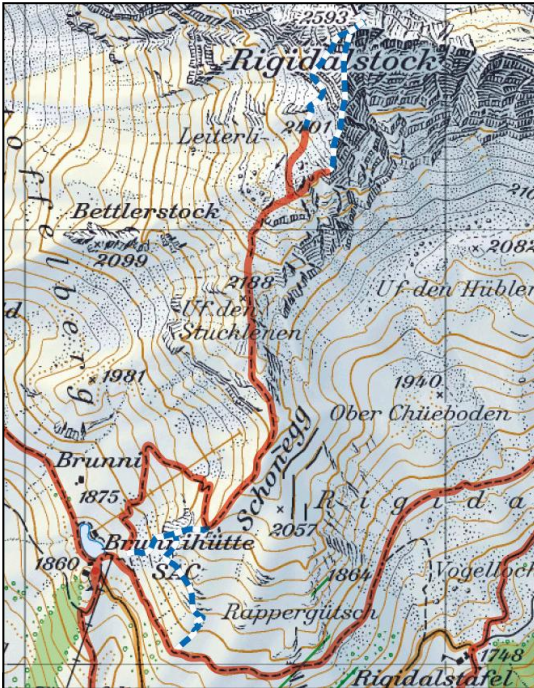
Brunnihütte SAC Lodge 1'860 m, Tel. +41 41 637 37 32  
Berglodge Ristis, 1'606 m, Tel. +41 41 639 60 62

### Saison:

June until October



# VIA FERRATA EL Dorado ENGELBERG



## VIA FERRATA FÜRENWAND 1'840 M

- Description and Special features:** In the past, the very steep and high Fürenwand could only be conquered through very technical and difficult climbing. The steep, exposed via ferrata now offers an entirely new vertical experience. A route that has become a classic for advanced climbers
- Difficulty:** K4 - K5
- Duration:** Ascent: 3 hours  
Descent: with the Fürenalp cable car
- Altitude difference:** 765 meters
- Departure Point:** Valley station of Fürenalp cableway or hike
- Trailhead:** Starting at the valley station of the Fürenalp cableway follow the road in the direction of Herrenrüti. At approximately 1'140 m a signpost points left (Klettersteig-Fürenwand); continue on the blue-white-blue marked trail. The trail markings lead you on a zigzag route to the trailhead at the foot of the mighty Fürenhochflue (1'240 m sign).  
Following a cable, the climb leads to the right under a steep cleft. More steep climbs over smooth ridges provide the high, as the view downwards becomes more and more majestic and the hikers on the Herrenrüti appear smaller and smaller. After the first rock face (250m high), you arrive at a grassy hunters' ledge. Following the cables, you get a majestic view of the upper part of the rock wall. At the end of the hunters' ledge iron footholds lead you back to the rock face. Exiting the Fürenwand requires some effort! Trail markers lead you via Hundschuft meadow (1'840 m) to the Fürenalp mountain restaurant.
- Descent:** Via Fürenalp cable car. Various marked hiking paths take you via Äbnet (cable car), Stäuber-Stäfeli-Alpenrösli or via Dagenstal back to the valley station of the Fürenalp cableway.
- Overnight accommodation:** Fürenalp mountain restaurant 1'840 m, Tel. +41 41 637 39 49
- Season:** End of May to mid-October

# VIA FERRATA ELDORADO ENGELBERG



## VIA FERRATA GRAUSTOCK 2'662 M

### Description and Special features:

Stretches of mountain path and of steep, exposed rock comprise the challenging direct climb up Graustock. It is a worthwhile climb, owing to breathtaking views alternating between the 700m high north face of the Graustock, Lake Trübsee and the Engelberg valley. Next to the summit cross there is a wonderful panorama view of Titlis-Spannort-Rigi-Midland-Pilatus and the Bernese Alps, Wetterhörner, Schreckhorn and Finsteraarhorn.

A worthwhile climb of medium difficulty for sure-footed via ferrata freaks. Warning: The third rock step is a real challenge!

### Difficulty:

K3, at one stretch: K4 - K5

### Duration:

Ascent: 3 hours  
Descent: 1½ hours by the direct route to Jochpass

### Altitude difference:

460 meters

### Departure Point:

Jochpass

### Trailhead:

Via the Engelberg-Trübsee cableway, with the chairlift from Trübsee to Jochpass. At Jochpass a signpost points to the white-blue-white trail markings. The hike continues along the southeast ridge of the Graustock to the first rise (approx. 20m high). Follow the cable to the Rot Nollen (2'309 m). Then continue following the trail markers up the second rocky rise, (approx. 60 m high). Go along the trail leading over grass and rock, follow the cable to the Schafberg (2'522 m). Further trail markings lead over stone slabs and scree to the steepest rise yet. Slightly to the left of the main ridge (approx. 80m) an exposed pillar of rock stands out. The route continues over steps and iron rungs to the next high saddle and then the path leads to the end of a rock ridge. Go over the ridge, again secured with cable, up to the cross on the summit (2'661 m).

### Descent:

From the summit follow the cable again over the ridge back to the marked fork. A bit to the right you will descend in a southerly direction to the steps, then to the Schaftal, following the white-blue-white trail markings. At the 2'324m point you will reach the white-red-white trail mark that leads back to Jochpass (2'207 m).

### Dangers:

Even in the early part of summer, large snow cornices may still form unstable ridge overhangs. Caution! These cornices could break off and fall. Snow bridges pose a danger as they too may cave in over rock cracks if you walk on them. Caution should be taken during thunderstorms with lightning. Foggy conditions can make the descent route difficult to find.

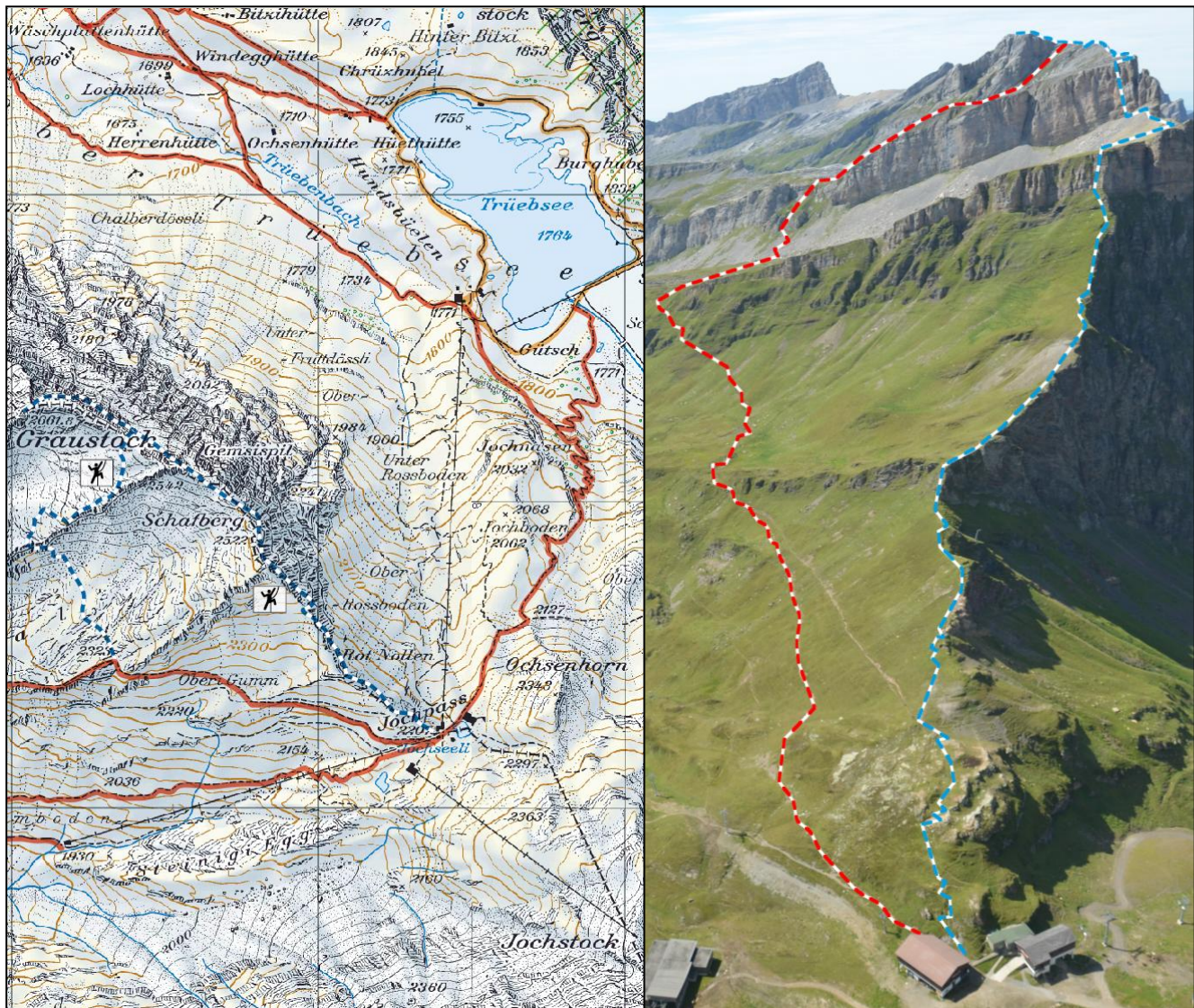
### Overnight accommodation:

Berghaus Jochpass lodge 2'207 m, Tel. +41 41 637 11 87

### Saison:

End of June to the beginning of October

# VIA FERRATA ELDERADO ENGELBERG



## KLETTERSTEIG TÄLLISTOCK 2,580 M

### Description and Special features:

The first via ferrata of Switzerland leads through Gadmerfluh, a rock face gallery. This formation is about 600m long, and is one of the longest and most spectacular via ferratas in Switzerland. The starting point of the route is the Tälli Restaurant & Lodge - easy to reach. 78m of ladders, 550 pegs set in cement and numerous cables guarantee safety along the route. This one leads you over rock steps, grassy hangs, and narrow ledges.

### Difficulty:

K3

### Duration:

Ascent: 3 hours (approach 1 hour)  
Descent: 2 - 3 hours (Berghaus Tälli lodge or Engstlenalp)

### Altitude difference:

600 meters

### Departure Point:

Berghaus Tälli lodge

### Trailhead:

The approach begins at Furen/Gadmen, using the cable car to Tällihütte cabin. The Valley Station is located on the Sustenpass Road. From the mountain station near the Tällihütte cabin it takes about 1 hour along the well-marked white-blue-white trail. The last stretch is steep and secured with cables.

### Descent:

The descent starts at the back side of Gadmerfluh, leading to Sätteli (2'119 m) then on to Berghaus Tälli lodge or directly to Engstlenalp. Overnight stays at Engstlenalp or Jochpass are possible. From there you can take the next via ferrata route, or climb the Graustock.

### Dangers:

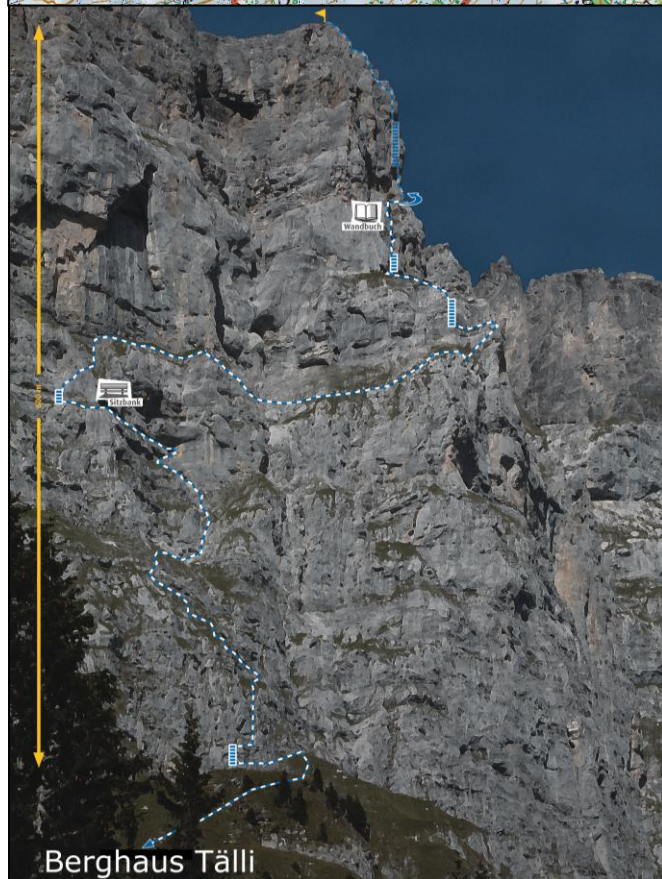
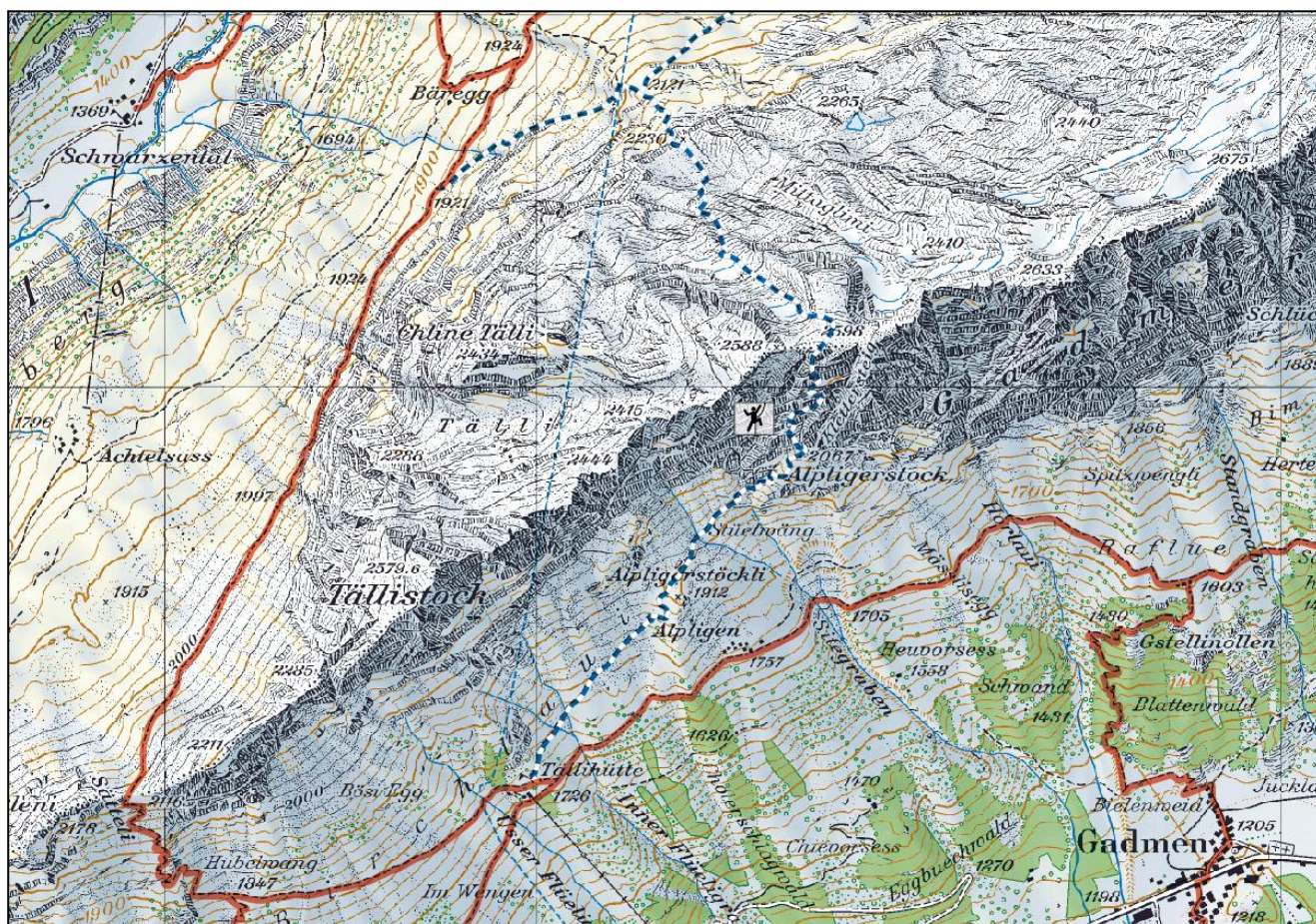
Thunderstorms and finding the descent route from summit to Engstlenalp!

### Übernachtungsmöglichkeit:

Berghaus Tälli Lodge 1'726 m, Tel. +41 33 982 36 11  
Hotel Engstlenalp 1'839 m, Tel. +41 33 975 11 61  
Berghaus Jochpass Lodge 2'207 m, Tel. +41 41 637 11 87

### Season:

June to October



Berghaus Tälli



## INFORMATION

### Engelberg-Titlis Tourismus

Tourist Center  
Klosterstrasse 3  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 639 77 77  
Fax +41 41 639 77 66  
welcome@engelberg.ch  
www.engelberg.ch

### Mountain Guide Office Engelberg

Bergführerbüro  
Dorfstrasse 34  
6391 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 638 02 57  
info@engelbergmountainguide.ch  
www.engelbergmountainguide.ch

### Amstutz Albin – Bini

Dipl. Bergführer  
6390 Engelberg  
+41 79 229 75 25  
bini@berg-fuehrer.ch  
www.berg-fuehrer.ch

### Titlis Rotair Cableway

Poststrasse 3  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 639 50 50  
Fax +41 41 639 50 60  
titlis@titlis.ch  
www.titlis.ch

### Engelberg-Brunni AG Cableway

Wydenstrasse 55  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 639 60 60  
Fax +41 41 639 60 61  
info@brunni.ch  
www.brunni.ch

### Fürenalp Cableway

Herrenrütiboden  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 637 20 94  
info@fuerenalp.ch  
www.fuerenalp.ch

## EQUIPMENT RENTAL

### Bike'n Roll

Mountain & Bike Sports  
Dorfstrasse 31  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 638 02 55  
info@bikenroll.ch  
www.bikenroll.ch

### Quattro Sport

Dorfstrasse 27  
6390 Engelberg  
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Fax +41 41 637 00 18  
quattro-sport@bluewin.ch  
www.quattrosport.ch

### Titlis Sport

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www.titlis-sport.ch

### Titlis Rent

Talstation Titlis  
6390 Engelberg  
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### Mountain Guide Office Engelberg

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Dorfstrasse 34  
6391 Engelberg  
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info@engelbergmountainguide.ch  
www.engelbergmountainguide.ch

### Stöckli – Outdoor Sports

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Residenz an der Aa  
6390 Engelberg  
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Fax +41 41 637 04 45  
engelberg@stoeckli.ch  
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### Fürenalp Cableway

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### Mammut Store Engelberg

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Telefon +41 41 637 01 41  
engelberg@mammutstore.ch  
www.mammut.ch/en/stores\_switzerlan  
d\_engelberg.html

### Engelberg-Brunni AG Cableway

Wydenstrasse 55  
6390 Engelberg  
Telefon +41 41 639 60 60  
info@brunni.ch  
www.brunni.ch  
(Rent at Kräuterhütte, Härzlisee)

Equipment kit is available from CHF 25.00.