

HIKING IN SWISS ALPS – OCTOBER 9 – 15, 2010

Please consider joining members of the Outward Bound International (OBI) Board for a hike on the central section of the [Alpine Pass Route](http://activityworkshop.net/hiking/alpinepassroute) (<http://activityworkshop.net/hiking/alpinepassroute>). Our intention is to hike from Engelberg to Murren over a 5 day period.



Each day can be customized to make it easier, if desired, by taking trains or lifts. Accommodation will be in comfortable hotels in the villages we pass through. Internet connections are usually available in the hotel and mobile phone coverage for most of the hiking route.



This expedition is not operated by OBI. It will be run on an expense sharing basis with no formal leadership from OBI. Those invited are supporters of OBI and their colleagues.



For detailed day-by day description of the hiking visit [Alpine Pass Route](#).

We will meet in Engelberg the afternoon of Saturday October 9th



October 10th- Engelberg to Engstlenalp

Our hike of the Alpine Pass Route starts from Engelberg, in central Switzerland, and crosses the Jochpass over to Meiringen in the Eastern Berner Oberland. The variety of scenery the first day is impressive, climbing up through a ski resort and traversing a beautiful U-shaped valley towards craggy snow-capped peaks. It passes two small idyllic lakes, the Trübsee and the Engstlensee, and views the Brienersee from a distance, with just a glimpse of the Eiger towards the end.

Hike time:	5.5 to 7 hours
Approx dist:	11 km
Start:	Engelberg station
Finish:	Hotel Engstlenalp
Profile:	from 1000m up to 2210m, then drop to 1840m up:1350m, down:150m
Rating:	easy to medium



October 11 - Engstlenalp to Meiringen

Immediately from Engstlenalp, the dramatic convoluted form of the Engelhörner range draws the eyes ahead down the valley of the Gental.

The path continues on an easy track through the fiery Autumnal trees, as a second valley joins our

Hike time:	5 to 5.5 hours
Approx dist:	19 km
Start:	Engstlenalp
Finish:	Meiringen
Profile:	from 1800m down to 600m Up:0m, down:1750m
Rating:	easy to medium

Genetal from the left. This second valley leads eventually up to the Sustenpass, another of the many important passes in the area.

The views open out to a massive panorama including Grosse Scheidegg (the next pass on this route) and the distant Brienzensee. You can briefly glimpse the Eiger beyond the Grosse Scheidegg as it sidles past.

As the resort town of Reuti comes into view a signposted track cuts down to the left towards Meiringen, or make a cable car descent.



October 12- Meiringen to Grindelwald

This stage involves a fair amount of climbing (almost 1400m), but it is gradual and not tricky. If you want to shorten this, you can easily take a bus from Meiringen as far as you like before starting the walk.

Although this pass is crossed by a road, it is closed to private traffic, so there are just occasional buses and bicycles when the footpath does follow the road. The scenery builds dramatically up to the pass itself, with the impressive Wetterhorn forming the main focus. From the Grosse Scheidegg itself, the views down to Grindelwald, the Eiger, and the Männlichen ridge are superb.

Hike time:	6.5 to 7 hours
Approx dist:	23 km
Start:	Meiringen station
Finish:	Grindelwald station
Profile:	from 600m up to 1960m, then down to 1030m. Up:1360m, down:930m
Rating:	easy



October 13 - Grindelwald to Wengen

Grindelwald to Murren. This day we climb up towards Kleine Schleidigg (3-hours), or take the cog railway all or part way! There is then a 3 hour spectacular walk under the north face of the Eiger and this on a fine day is one of the world's finest alpine walks. It is hoped Ian Wade will be able to show us the path he took on the Eigerwand. Then we can take the cog railway up the Jungfrau with its stops to look down the north face of the Eiger. This is a must for those who have not done it. Finally there is an easy path walk down to Wengen with an optional train all the way there if desired.

Hike time: 7.5 to 8 hours
Approx dist: 18 km
Start: Grindelwald station
Finish: Wengen
Profile: from 950m up to 2060m, then down to 830m. Up: 1150m, down: 1360m
Rating: easy



October 14 – Wengen to Murren

An easy descent down a sealed path to the town of Lauterbraunan and then a 2 - 3 hour walk up to Murren. The cable train can also whisk you up from Lauterbrunnen to Grütschalp giving you an easy traverse across to Murren.

The trail passes the occasional waterfall, and traverses open grassy slopes. The views over the valley provide encouragement during the climb. Murren is a picturesque and lively village, with ski-resort trappings - cable car stations, cable trains and souvenir shops. And also great views across to the famous trio of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau.

For those suitably inclined there is then a spectacular return walk from Murren, to the bottom of the pass to Gieselp which is the first of the high alpine passes on the Alpine Pass Route.

Hike time: 3 hours
Approx dist: 6 km
Start: Wengen
Finish: Murren
Profile: from 800m up to 1610m
Rating: easy



Return on October 15th to Interlaken for onward travel to Munich or home

Weather (<http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/climate/Switzerland.htm>)

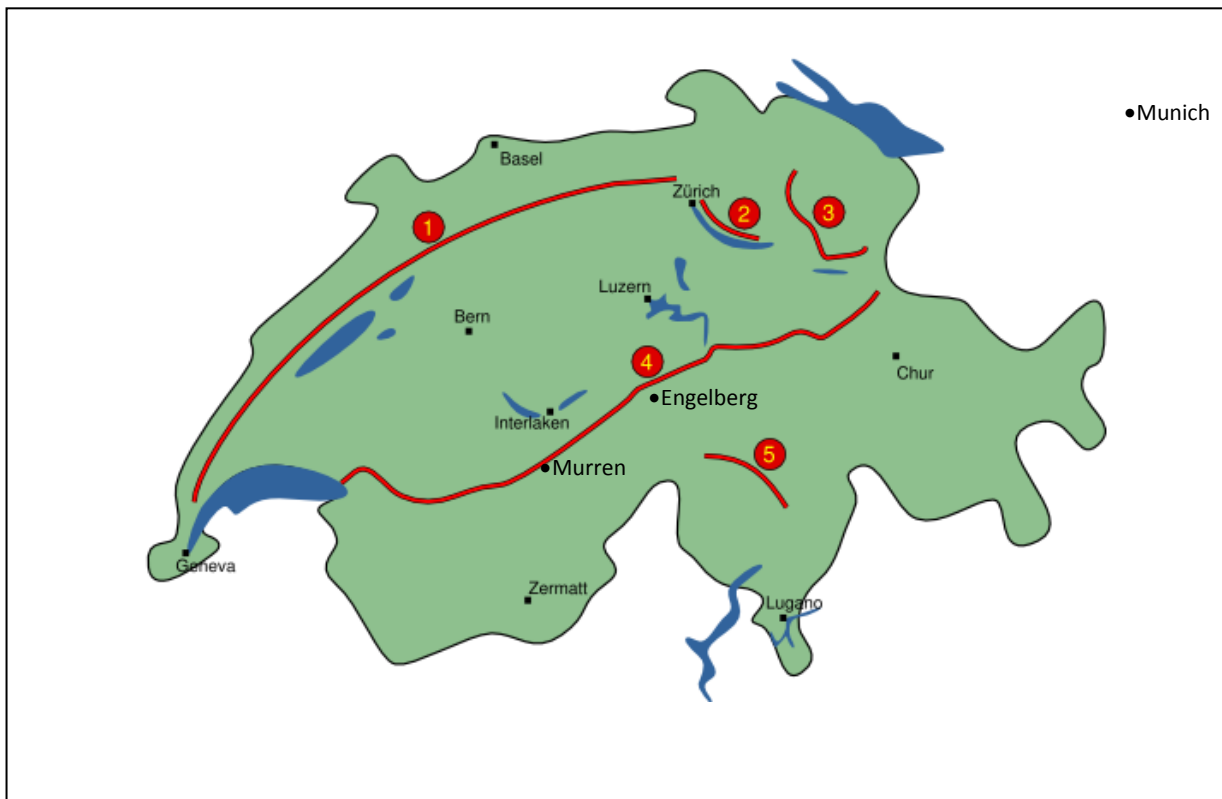
Precipitation in Switzerland is distributed over the entire year. May, September and the first half of October tend to be the driest, April and November are usually the wettest periods. High-level areas in the Alps may have a high average rainfall in excess of 2000 mm (80 in.) per year.

Accommodations

Accommodations will be in a variety of comfortable hotels with private bathrooms and breakfast provided. Payment for meals and accommodation is an individual responsibility. Dick Hubbard has hiked this route before and will select hotels where the group can be accommodated together.

Equipment

During the day you will need to carry only warm and weatherproof clothes, lunch, camera, etc. Arrangements can be made for heavier luggage to be transported to the following night's hotel by taxi, if desired.



Costs

Aside from hotels and transport to and from the area there will be some moderate costs for bus and train transport if not walking the whole way. Also expect to pay for your lunch and dinner.

Support of OBI

The common bond amongst the hikers is that they have all been on OBI expeditions and are supporters of OBI. The normal donation participants make is \$1,000

Estimated Costs for the Hike

Total Estimated Cost (hotel & meals @ CHF200/day) ~\$1,400

(Note 1CHF = 0.93USD in April)

Sign Up for the Hike

Please notify [Ian Wade](#) (+1 801 560 1287) if you would like to join the hike and have Dick Hubbard make hotel reservations. It would be appreciated if you could donate \$1,000 to OBI that can be used as deposits on the hotel, although each person will pay their own expenses in each location during the trek.

