

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 5 (1997-1999)
Heft: 3

Artikel: 66 days of steam in Luzern - trains and boats
Autor: Heath, Les
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854495>

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66 Days of Steam in Luzern - Trains and Boats

by Les Heath

Between August 22 and October 26, 1997, Luzern has a special highlight: 66 days of steam driven means of transportation in full action.

A specially constructed railway station next to the house of transportation at the Verkershäus, Luzern, is the starting place for a 30 minute ride on a steam train: it will be either the legendary "Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn" or another genuine historic steam train from the pioneering days of the 19th century rolling through the marvellous countryside following the shoreline of the lake of Luzern. The train ride ends in Küssnacht am Rigi.

The meticulously preserved steamboats of the Luzern Boat Company will take you from the boat station at Küssnacht am Rigi to Luzern. The round trip can also be taken in the other direction.

This the first, and perhaps once in a lifetime that these pioneer steam engines from all over Europe meet for a rendezvous in the house of

transportation: names such as "Rocket", "Marc Seguin", "Adler", "Saxonia", and others are among the "visitors". Also in attendance are "Zephir", "Limmat", and "Unterwalden". Most of these veterans will be steamed up, some of them will even pull trains for enthusiasts to Küssnacht am Rigi and back.

The museum now also has the ride through the Gotthard tunnel workings, you can see the conditions under which the construction was carried out, how the workers used primitive equipment to build this amazing piece of engineering all those years ago.

There is enough to keep you occupied all day in the Verkershäus. Not only the railway halls but halls covering tourism, post, automobiles, space and air transport, as well as the planetarium.

If you have never visited the museum be sure to add it to your list of places to visit, if you have been in years gone by, return and have another look it is always changing new exhibits are added constantly.



Bex-Villars-Bretaye (BVB)

Above: A brightly painted panoramic Bt of the BVB seen here on its way to Bretaye.

Photo: Peter Brett

Aigle-Sepey-Diableret (ASD)

Below: Another brightly painted Bt this time of the ASD seen here at the depot in Aigle.

Photo: Les Heath

