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WALKING THE LINE - A PEDESTRIAN ISSUE

Some suggestions on walking in Switzerland with a railway slant. It is important to note that these walks are only suggestions, they are not, repeat not, detailed instructions for the walks concerned. If you give them a go make absolutely sure that you have a map, the proper equipment and that you are up to it. The higher altitude will have an effect and you should take this into account.

Pete Dyson WALKS AND EXCURSIONS BASED ON DAVOS



What can one say? The stunningly beautiful village of Sertig-Dörfli, the subject of a walking suggestion by Pete Dyson who took the picture on 1/7/1991.

Most of our self-catering holidays make full use of Utoring apartments which offer good facilities at cheap prices outside the main seasons. Our base here is the Guardaval situated above the Parsennbahn which passes in a tunnel beneath it. This is superb walking country and the following are recommended. By the way Utoring apartments are marketed through Interhomes in the UK (tel: 020 8891 1294, usual disclaimer).

1. SERTIG-DÖRFLI

Using the Jakobshornbahn in Davos to the summit, it is a 2 hr downhill walk past Witihürelä to the charming hamlet of Sertig-Dörfli. The path leaves from the top station and roughly follows the contours until under Witihürelä when the descent really starts. Turn to the left for the village when you reach the road. To make a full day you can extend the walk on the other side of the valley with a further 2 hrs. steady but easy climb up to Jatzmeder

at the top of the Rinerhornbahn which usually has its last run at 1700 hrs. down to Davos-Glaris. Once again the path roughly follows the contours round the Rinerhorn. It leaves the road to the left just past where the Jakobshorn path leaves to the right. Watch the time as it is a long walk down to Davos-Glaris.

3. STRELA - LANGWIES

The other path from the Strelapass heads towards Langwies Station. The difficulty on this one lies in the initial descent over loose scree from the Pass. Other than that it's an easy stroll downhill all the way via Dörfli and takes just over 2 hrs. On return to Chur one has the



The Parsennbahn can be seen in the background from the path enroute to the Strelapass. Photograph taken by Pete Dyson in 1989.

2. PANORAMAWEG AND AROSA

The Panoramaweg runs from Gotschnagrat to the Strelapass. Using the Parsennbahn the Panoramaweg crosses its path a short way up on the 2nd section. It takes about 75 mins. to reach the Strelapass to the south which is where the fun begins, especially if there is snow around. Two highly demanding paths head towards the Arosa district. The most difficult heads direct to Arosa via Latschuelfurgha and the hair-raising Tritt Stepladder before continuing on a gradual descent to the Plessur River below Arosa. The last 30 mins. of this 4 hr. hike from the Strelapass is a killer, as with tired legs it's a steep climb up into Arosa. It's a marvellous walk. You must have a map and proper walking boots/shoes for this stroll!

option of the RhB via Landquart or Filisur, or the spectacular Post bus ride direct to Davos via Lenzerheide. The latter gives a different perspective of the RhB especially between Alvaneu and Wiesen. Choose your stop right and it's a short walk from Schmitten to a viewpoint overlooking the Landwasser Viaduct.

4. THE WIESEN VIADUCT

Many times has the walk from Preda to Bergün been written about, but after doing it we caught the train back via Filisur to Wiesen where we alighted and walked back to Filisur over the Wiesen viaduct. It takes about an hour and affords dizzy views into the gorge below. If you want to make it an even longer walk (3 hrs.) alight at Davos-Monstein.



Bird's-eye view towards the north. In the foreground Davos-Platz with its sports and high altitude centre and (centre) Davos-Dorf with the lake. In the distance, the Wolfgang Pass and the alpine landscape around Klosters.

Photo:Swiss-Image Copyright by: Davos Tourismus

5. DAVOS - KLOSTERS

From Davos-Dorf and skirting its lake to the east it is an easy ramble via Drussetchawald under Alp Drussetcha down into Klosters although the Vereina tunnel has somewhat altered the course of this 90 min. walk. After the lake keep the road on your left as you descend. From Klosters catch the cable car to Gotschnagrät from where the Panoramaweg can be reached in 45 min. at the Parsennhütte. Höhenweg halt on the Parsennbahn is easily walkable in a further 75min. from here on an almost level path. Alternatively take the DPB cable car from Parsennhütte to Weissfluhjoch and the Parsennbahn down to Davos.

6. THE PRÄTTIGAUHOHENWEG

From Klosters Dorf a gondelbahn whisks you up to Madrisa on the northern slopes where the Prättigauhohenweg starts. Heading west towards Landquart in the most beautiful

part of the Prättigau you can make the walk as long or short as you like. Küblis has a better train service than Fideris or Jenaz in this greener-than-green valley so you buy your ticket and make the best of the weather and your feet's condition.

7. VAL DAL BOTSCH

By using the bus over the Flüelapass en-route to the Stelvio Pass just across the border in Italy (skiing all year up here and a superb excursion in its own right especially if the route has just reopened for business after the winter closure) it is possible to go for a bracing walk of 3 hrs. or so in the Swiss National Park. Get off the bus past Il Fuorn at Car Park 8. The feeling of isolation as the bus disappears into infinity up a straight road leaves you with no option but to cross the road and head into a different world. With forest all around it was over an hour before we saw another human, but even-

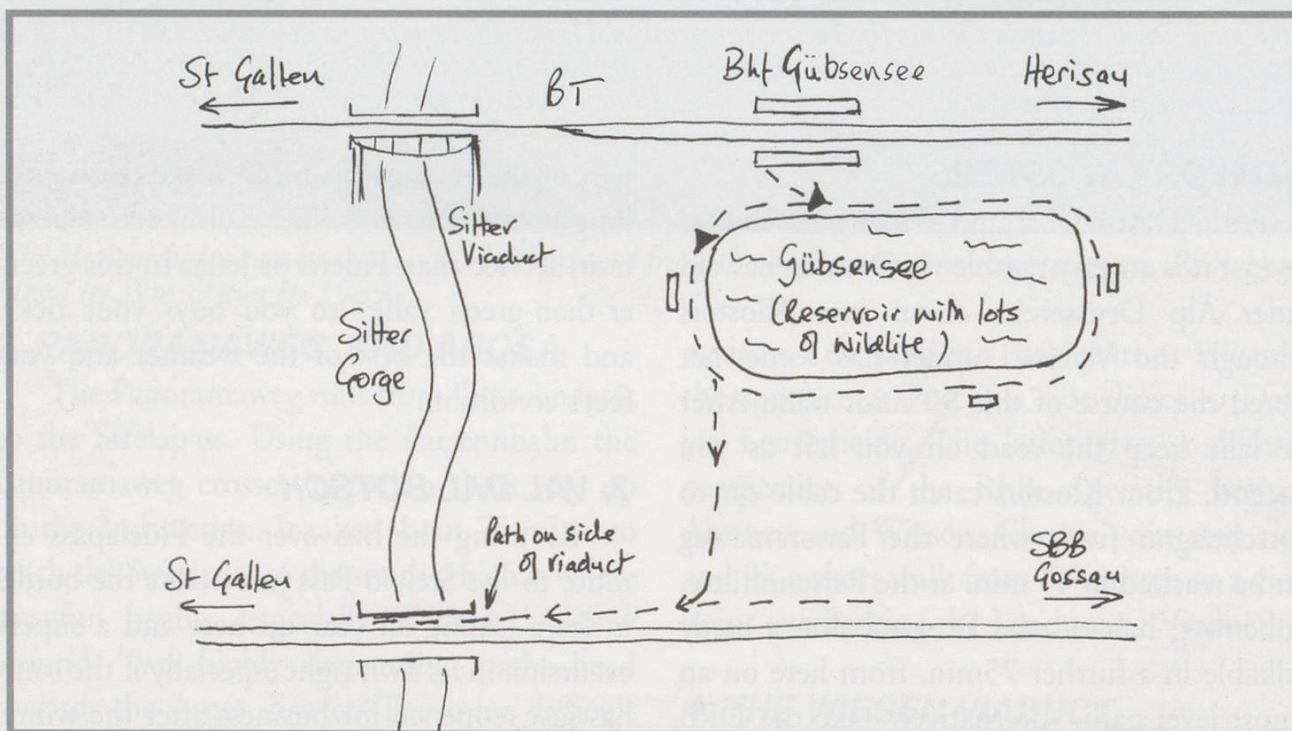
tually one starts a stiff climb to Margunet (400m above bus stop level) and can view herds of chamois and red deer in the not too far distance (do not forget your binoculars and/or long telephoto). From this viewpoint it's a descent (steep at first) into Val dal Botsch and eventually one emerges at Car Park 7. Then, if you cross the road immediately and turn right, you join a nature trail which after 20 min. or so takes you as far as Il Fuorn for the bus home. We got off at Zernez and caught the train to Bever where we changed onto the shuttle to Spinas at the southern portal of the Albula tunnel from where we walked back to Bever on a flat meadowland and forest path. It was a rewarding day.

8. AN EXCURSION FROM DAVOS

For a change, travelling well outside the Davos region, we made a most delightful excursion using all forms of transport. By rail via Landquart to Flums. Then catch the bus up to Tannenbodenalp and onward by cable car to Maschgenkamm. From here both the Säntis and Titlis can be seen on a clear day as well as several lakes. When you return to Tannenbodenalp, take the cable car to Unterterzen from where it's a short hop by rail to Weesen. Head for the Walensee which you have just sped along and catch the mini-ferry to Walenstadt on this very pleasant small lake (it can get very hot in places-the lakes a sun-trap). It's about 1200 m to its station from where you return to Landquart and finally back to base.

Trevor Sutcliffe

THE SITTER VIADUCT



A short excursion from St Gallen provides views of the highest viaduct in Switzerland, the Sitter between St Gallen-Haggen and Gübsensee. Make sure you get the right train as although there are lots between St Gallen and Herisau only one per hour stops and then only by request. As a rule it is the S4 to Uznach. Follow the arrows on the map onto the pathway at the side of the viaduct. This is an excellent position for a photograph. It is well worthwhile walking round the reservoir. The path is gravel and level except for the short section up to the station, mind you will probably be walking down this part!