Zeitschrift: Swiss express: the Swiss Railways Society journal

Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society

Band: - (2008)

Heft: 94

Artikel: Switzerland's busiest boats

Autor: Jäger, Jakob

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854621

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

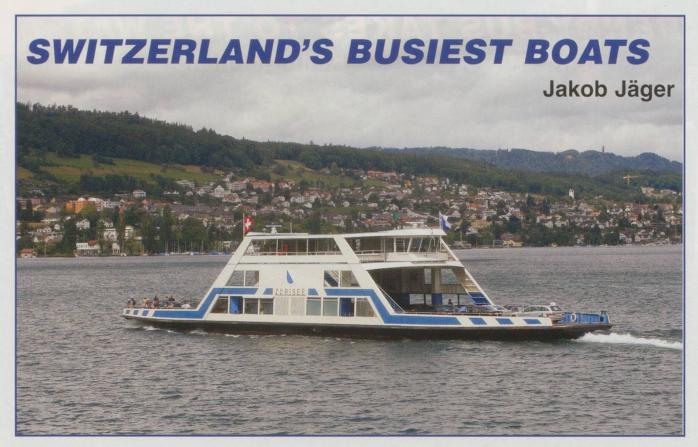
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 09.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch



Horgen to Meilen Ferry 'Zürisee'.

PHOTOS: Jakob Jäger

The well known fleet of ships on the Vierwaldstättersee carried some 2,376,000 passengers in 2007 but this was on a network of routes that criss-crossed this multi-armed lake serving a large number of destinations. The busiest single shipping route in Switzerland is not however on any of the major tourist routes, it is across the Zürichsee between the communities of Horgen and Meilen.

In 2007 this essential link in the local transport infrastructure carried 2,247,000 passengers and 1,277,000 vehicles on its five ferries as they shuttled on their 10 minute trips across the lake. Operated by Zürichsee-Fähre Horgen-Meilen AG this service reaches its 75th anniversary this year following its opening on the 23rd May 1933. There are a number of local celebrations planned to commemorate this operational milestone. All the ships are similar being a double-ended design with a drive through vehicle deck running underneath a central block of accommodation for

passengers that includes the navigation bridge. They are practical work-a-day vessels rather than the elegant steam and motor ships that cruise the other lakes, as well as the Zürichsee, but I find them attractive.

Of the five ships the Schwan is the oldest having been built in 1969, although it was refurbished in 1999. The Meilen was built in 1979, the Horgen in 1991, the Zürisee in 1999 with the Burg being the youngest having only joined the fleet in 2003. Each can carry some 300 passengers and up to 44 cars and all the ships were built by Bodan-Werft at Kressbronn in Germany. The ferry company has its own small maintenance base at Horgen on the west shore of the lake where the ships are normally moored when not in use. Sailings take place at a 7 minute frequency during peak periods, although three ships operating at a 10 minute headway is more common, whilst the service normally runs from around 6am to almost 10pm each day.

4 SWISS EXPRESS

Details are in Kursbuch Table 3735. The passenger fare is just SFr2 one-way and the Swiss Pass is valid.

Horgen is a busy commercial and commuter town that is served by trains from Zürich Huptbahnhof on lines S2 and S8 to its main station from where it is a short walk alongside the lake to the ferry terminal. There are also services from Zürich to Horgen Oberdorf (S21 and S24) but this station is high up at the back of the town some distance away from the lake. Meilen is a smaller community, which is now another dormitory suburb of Zürich with an attractive lakefront. It too has frequent trains into the city from its centrally located station on lines S6, 7 and 16. When in Zürich why not take time out for a short excursion to experience Switzerland's busiest boats?







TOP: Ferry leaving Horgen.

MIDDLE: Ferry leaving Meilen.

BOTTOM: Horgen to Meilen Ferry 'Burg'.