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OUTING TO SULWALD

We go off the beaten track with Robin Sherwood

SO SCHÖN
UND EINFACH
IST MEIN LEBEN
GEBEN
IMMER NUR GEBEN

There are many who still don't know where Isenflüh and Sulwald are, but we, who do, all ten of us, had a beautiful and rewarding outing. We enjoyed peaceful and even lonely surroundings at around 1600-1800m, in full August sunshine with a light mountain breeze. Down in the valleys and on the trains it was more crowded; a hot sunny Saturday had brought people out.

By train to Interlaken, then Lauterbrunnen, where we wisely first stopped for coffee. Following refreshment we took the small PostAuto to Isenflüh, a Weiler (hamlet) high above the Lauterbrunnen valley, with a long tunnel to get up there. The bus dropped us a few metres below the station of the little private cable car, which takes just six. It is a Cantonal concession and cost CHF12 as GAs and Swiss Passes are not valid. From Isenflüh its sole operator sends you on your way. The return trip is worked by the passengers. You ring the bell, the car is sent up, and in its simplicity apparently raises some thoughts amongst the British! Seven minutes later, 436m higher at 1700m, we were met by Frau Wyss with her brisk lunch arrangements, while we sat round our table and shared ideas. It is a commanding location, and the view of the big Berner Mountains is one of the best I know. To such a mountain location belongs a bowl of hot Aelplermacaroni, with cheese, bacon and applesauce. It clearly worked, for some of us later walked a long way and high up, while others thoughtfully stayed nearer base. Even the *'Patrouille Suisse'* aerobatics team turned out for us, well almost. They had a display at Thun, down the valley.

Meeting up again we finally had to leave the unforgettable panorama, now with typical afternoon clouds, descend by cable car (some walked) to await the

PostAuto, where Driver Frutiger had already recovered one member's walking stick, and make quick connections on rather crowded and busy trains. So on our return journey we were a little dispersed, but we were tired and contented. We had enjoyed a Swiss secret. 

