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Autor: Emond, Phil
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Walking the Gemmi Pass


Phil Emond



MAIN PICTURE: Looking back down on Leukerbad.
LEFT: The cablecar up from Leukerbad.

Photos: Phil Emond

On Page 9 of the March *Swiss Express* Paul Jenkins states that he has always fancied the walk to Kandersteg along the Gemmi Pass from Leukerbad. I recommend anyone to do it. My friend Mike Rourke and I did it in 2013 on a very grand Alpine summer day with T-shirts and shorts as the dress code. We started from Montreux in the morning taking the train to Leuk, then by bus to Leukerbad. This is the easy way with very little climbing in this direction, as we first took the cable car from Leukerbad (1432m) up to the Pass at 2348m. There is a Hotel Bar half way along the route, followed by a fantastic ride down into the Kandertal on the Sonnabull Cable Car. From its base station it is an approx. 45 to 60min walk to Kandersteg station and en-route there are small bars either side of the rail bridge for some deserved refreshment. There is a bus every hour to Kandersteg from the Sonnabull base station, but at the time Swiss Passes were not valid. At the rail bridge you have two ways to the station. On one you pass the Crystal Bar (if you call-in say hello to Doris for me!) and follow the road into town turning left at the famous Church. Turning left before the Bridge you pass the World

International Scout Centre that I have written about in an earlier edition of *Swiss Express*. Here the new building on your right is the one from the Lötschberg Base Tunnel work site and over the river the first part of the main building is all that is left from the original tunnel work site. You can follow the river and path all the way to Kandersteg station. It was a great day out, and we returned to Montreux by train back from Kandersteg to Brig, then down the Rhone valley. 

“Where’s Heidi?”

How well do you know Switzerland? Heidi Marriott’s father and husband (not called Peter!!) are both SRS members and she visits Switzerland regularly. On her travels she takes lots of photos and has suggested a possible short series of photo tests to see if you can recognise where some of her pictures were taken.

Do you know where this statue is? I’m sure most of you will have been there. *The answer is on Page 41.* 