

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2019)
Heft: 139

Artikel: Swiss winter wonderland
Autor: Greer, Geoffrey
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853828>

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: 24.01.2026

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

Swiss Winter Wonderland

Geoffrey Greer



The Grütschalp to Mürren line is even more scenic in winter as can be seen in this picture of BLM 21 near Winteregg (29.3.2008). Photos: Geoffrey Greer

Having enjoyed reading the Carpenters' experiences on a visit to Switzerland in the severe winter of 1999 (see *Swiss Express* 135 – September 2018), our experiences of a visit that year might be of interest. Having been overwhelmed by the drama of the snow, and the beauty of the snow-covered mountains, plus our delight in walking the wide, 'prepared', snow-covered footpaths and marked snowshoe trails, means we have returned most winters since. Our February 1999 trip took us from Genève Airport to Brig and then up the south ramp of the Lötschberg where snow depths increased until we reached Kandersteg where a snow blanket engulfed everything. On arrival the owner of our apartment noted that he had never known such snow in all his time there. Little did he know that there was much more to come, and soon Kandersteg was to be only accessible by rail.

Our first day we revelled in this new experience, the children enjoying rolling in the deep snow as we explored walking in it. Snow was still falling during the children's first ski lessons, but the following morning the intensity of snow forced an announcement at Oeschinensee, the top of the "nostalgic" chair-lift (since replaced with a gondola), that

everyone should ride down as "We are closing the mountain!" Our children and their instructor duly appeared in a snowmobile for us to do as we had been instructed. In Wengen matters were worse as a fatal avalanche had destroyed the lower station of the Männlichen Cable Car. Eventually the snow eased, but there was only cross-country skiing to be had in Kandersteg the following day, although the road did reopen around then. The next two days provided very positive experiences leading us to become regular winter visitors to Switzerland. Our children really got into their skiing, and then on a day trip to Mürren we saw the very best of the Alpine winter on a glorious blue-sky day that was also full of railway interest. Setting-off on a Hamburg-bound train hauled by a brown BLS Re4/4, then changing at Spiez to an old BLS railcar, we reached Interlaken Ost. From there, a BOB railcar to Lauterbrunnen, then the Grütschalp funicular, the BLM railcar, and the Allmendhubel funicular. After enjoying the sunshine and clear views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau we retraced our steps with the railway highlight being BLS Ae6/8 loco No.205 heading us back from Spiez to Kandersteg.

We would recommend winter holidays in Switzerland to anyone even if you do not 'do' winter sports. The obvious locations are the Jungfrau and Zermatt areas along with Villars and of course, Kandersteg. Personally we love Riederalp/Bettmeralp above the Rhône valley accessed by cable cars from the MGB stations at Mörel or Betten Talstation. MGB trains run as frequently as every 15 minutes between Brig and Betten Talstation on peak winter Saturdays. Alpine Switzerland in winter is a wonderful experience. Go. 



BLS car train in deep snow at Kandersteg.