

Basic Copy Hiking

Where Migratory Birds Enjoy The Very Best Views

Hiking is a trendy activity. In the Appenzellerland, this is nothing new and definitely not a fashionable trend. After all, the region has always been a famous hikers' paradise. Those who embark on a tour along the hiking trails will be able to enjoy lovely hilly landscapes, an intact view of nature and lived hospitality. And one thing is very clear: hiking is a long standing tradition in the Appenzellerland.

Hiking from the Lake of Constance all the Way to the Säntis

The landscape of the Appenzellerland is characterized by lushly green meadows and Alpine grasslands, dense forests, wild creeks and the Alpine rock massive – the Alpstein. The king of the Alpstein is the Säntis, boasting an elevation of 2502 meters. It is the landmark of Eastern Switzerland. Those who aim to climb it while hiking must have a firm step, resilience and must be free of motion sickness. The climbs on paths that are mostly narrow and lead through rocky terrain are very steep.

From the summit, the views are vast. Six countries can be seen from here, along with the Lake of Constance and some of highest mountain tops of Switzerland. Boasting a panoramic restaurant and a mountain guesthouse, gourmet moments are also available. And the adventure worlds reveal fascinating sights no matter what the weather is like and how strong the wind blows, in snow and ice and also the history of the Säntis funicular.

The hiking routes in the pre-Alpine terrain of Alpstein may be less spectacular, but still as interesting and adventurous. A hiking network totaling 817 kilometers (status 2022) allows visitors to see the lovely tops of the hills, the deep canyonlands as well as the mystical swamps – all on foot. Boasting 3.4 kilometers of hiking trails for every square kilometer, Appenzell Ausserrhoden has the densest hiking trail network of Switzerland. On the well-structured and carefully maintained hiking trails, the hiker gains deeper insights into the agriculture and cattle keeping activities of the Appenzellerland – and the distinct customs are ever present. The villages and settlements of typical timber houses in Appenzell style are distributed charmingly across the gentle slopes. About 20 topic-focused hiking trails are waiting for guests who are hiking enthusiasts.

The Glorious Four

Witzweg

The people of Appenzell have always been considered jokesters. So it is hardly surprising that Appenzell fun is on the list of «living traditions of Switzerland» and that it was

simultaneously honored with its inclusion in the UNESCO cultural heritage ranking. When conversing with each other, the people of Appenzell love to make special witty statements and show their humor, while commenting with a twinkle in the eyes on current events. On the Witzwanderweg (witty hiking trail) from Heiden via Wolfhalden to Walzenhausen, such jokes are presented on markers. The path, which continues for 8.5 kilometers and has audio stations gives the feet as well as the muscles needed for laughing a rigorous workout. In the summer of 2024, the trail will receive a new element – the wooden figure of Witzli (joker) as a travel companion.

The Witzweg is part of the adventure tour that combines the funicular, a ride on a boat and hiking with each other. It is definitely a highlight for every visitor of the Appenzellerland.

[Images of the Adventure Tour](#)

[More information and a brief video of the Adventure Tour](#)

Eggen-Höhenweg

The «Eggen» is a range of hills between Teufen and Speicher. It offers an adventure in nature that is very special. For hikers, it is a secret insight. The hike, which offers a wealth of views, takes visitors past the garden of natural practitioner Dr. A. Vogel and provides facts worth knowing about the healing powers of plants. Moreover, hikers can be taken back to the «good old times». «Adventure Waldegg» offers the best of yesterday; ranging from a bakery and a classroom from way back when all the way to the dining room called «Schnuggebock», where rugged dishes are served.

[Images and video Eggen-Höhenweg](#)

[More information regarding the Eggen-Höhenweg](#)

Gäbris-Tour – Discover Laura's Favorite Spots

The Gäbris is considered the «home mountain» of the village of Gais. Those who take the climb up to an elevation of 1245 meters in their hiking shoes will be rewarded with magnificent views. The companion on the trail up from Gais to the summit of the Gäbris and back down will be Laura, the «goat from Gais». This bold four-legged creature wearing a white dress is a beloved figure and the mascot of Gais' tourism promotions. In six cabins that are distributed along the route, Laura presents interesting insights on culture, customs and landscapes. The cabins are small imitated goat stalls. The tour is a beautiful hike with great views with two optional restaurant choices that are very cozy. Maybe they will serve the famous Appenzell Chäshörnli (cheese horns) made with goat cheese? We will not reveal that for a fact. Fun and games are definitely guaranteed. Among other things, guests are challenged to hunt goats with bows and arrows. The one who needs the least amount of tries will win.

[Images Laura's Favorite Spots](#)

[More information about and a video on Laura's Favorite Spots](#)

Appenzell Alpine Route

Hiking guests on the alpine route have the option to discover the Appenzellerland and all of its facets in two days. They walk through the Alps and spend the night at the foot of the Säntis, from where they will see the imposing summit. This round tour takes hikers from Urnäsch, the center of customs in Appenzell, all the way up to the High Alp. They have to cover approximately 700 elevation meters. On the High Alp the fantastic views of the Alpstein, the Churfirst, the Glarner Alps and the hills of the Appenzellerland catch the eye. On the section all the way to the Schwägalp they will hike through the unique, almost untouched and largely protected forest and swamp landscape. Those who do not want to spend the night at the hotel on the Schwägalp, conveniently take the Postauto back down to Urnäsch.

On the second day, the route takes visitors from the Schwägalp past Alpine cabins to the Chamthalde. From there, they go on in the direction of Kronberg, first on a downhill climb and then steeply upwards. Hiking the Krete between Kronberg and Petersalp, they take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and hills. The downhill climb to the Blattendürren is followed by a brief climb up to the Osteregg. Back to the point of departure – Urnäsch – they climb steadily down into the valley – first through the woods and later across meadows.

[More information and video concerning the Appenzell Alpine Path](#)

Other tour proposals with maps and elevation profiles:

www.appenzellerland.ch/de/erleben/wandern-bewegen/sommer/wanderrouten.html

<https://appenzellerland.ch/de/erleben/wandern-bewegen/winter/winterwandern.html>

www.appenzellerwanderwege.ch

Public Transportation / Funiculars

Appenzeller Bahnen

appenzellerbahnen.ch

Postauto

postauto.ch/ostschweiz

Säntis-Schwebebahn AG

saentisbahn.ch

Other funiculars in the Canton Appenzell Innerrhoden

[Appenzeller Luftseilbahnen](#)

Good to know

Current daily [conditions](#) of the hiking trails

Webcams

www.appenzellerland.ch/de/informieren/aktuelles/webcams-wetter.html

For more information please contact:

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Information on options available in the Canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden (Interior Land):

Appenzellerland Tourism AI

appenzell.ch