

Various ways of St. James (with brochures available in PDF-format)

- A - Constance - Einsiedeln („Way of Svabia“)
- B - Rorschach - Einsiedeln („Way of St. Gallen“)
- C - Einsiedeln-Flüeli-Ranft - Brünig („Way of Central Switzerland“)
- D - Brünig-Amsoldingen („Way of the Bernese Oberland“)
- E - Amsoldingen-Romont („Way of Berne/Fribourg“)
- F - Romont-Lausanne-Genève („Way of Western Switzerland“)
- G - Lucerne-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg („Lucerne Way“)
- H - Rankweil - Einsiedeln („Vorarlberg-Appenzell Way“)
- K - Schaffhausen - Tobel („Monastery way“)

Contact address:

Verein Jakobsweg.ch

Postfach 151,

CH-3700 Spiez

Tel 0041 (0)33 655 04 00

Mail: admin@jakobsweg.ch

Accommodation see: www.jakobsweg.ch

Important pointer

Helpers and association members walked the route themselves to inspect it. As volunteers, they edited the brief route descriptions based on the state as encountered. The accuracy of the contents and specially the correspondence with the official Way of St. James way-posting cannot be guaranteed by the association „jakobsweg.ch » and the authors, also in the sense of a product guarantee. Pilgrims are therefore asked to follow the official Way of St. James way-posts if discrepancies occur, and to notify us.

Many thanks.

Texts : Winfried Erbach, Joe Weber and Klaus Augustiny (manuscript reader).

Translated from German by Hans Bamert

Pictures: Wolfgang Hörer / Winfried Erbach, and several others

Copyright: Verein „jakobsweg.ch“

On the Way of St. James in Switzerland



(8) Rankweil- St. Peterzell - Einsiedeln „Transnational way of Appenzell“

Itinerary and directions for pilgrims

Signalisation - Via Jacobi

Sign in the direction of Santiago de Compostela
National Way of St-James No. 4 - Via Jacobi



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the right direction



Signpost - Via Jacobi sign on yellow background



Via Jacobi - french sign
Shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi Nr. 44
shell shows in the right direction



Returning way

This is the route to St. Peterzell, used by pilgrims from Vorarlberg or Tirol. There, they join the Swiss section of the Way of St. James ("St. Gallen Route – Via Jacobi Nr. 4) coming from Rorschach and heading for Einsiedeln.

The Appenzell can be characterized as a hilly country with much pastureland, with scattered villages, and lying at an altitude of 800m on the average. This sparsely populated but well cultivated land, far from the hustle of life and of mass tourism is especially suitable for pilgrims looking for quietness and inner peace. The small rural villages along the route with the colourfully painted wooden houses typical for that region invite the pilgrim to make a stop and to meet with the industrious and tradition-conscious people. The Way of St. James through the Appenzell country with its uniqueness is not only apt to give the pilgrim a contemplative mood, but makes her or him wish to go barefoot.

This route is described by Winfried Erbach from Thun. In May 2007, he and his wife went on a pilgrimage on this section and collected much information material. A choice of photos is contained in the picture gallery. Dr. Witschi from Herisau has kindly checked the correctness of the routing and has acted as manuscript reader.



Rankweil - Eggerstanden



Pilgrim church of Rankweil



St-Ann chapel

Like a castle, the pilgrimage church is enthroned on the Liebfrauenberg (515m) above Rankweil (463m), and is visible from a great distance. Since the 14th century, the Liebfrauen (St. Mary's) church has been an important pilgrimage destination. From the Holy Year 1300 onwards, the pilgrims have been gathering here before starting their journeys to Rome and Santiago de Compostela. In 1986, the Liebfrauen church was officially recognized as basilica. The chapel of Grace with its statue of St. Mary, carved in 1460, was renovated in 2006. Below the Liebfrauenberg, the roman church St. Peter has been standing since the 12th century. We follow the yellow-white marking, and thus our pilgrimage takes us on the paved municipal road past the railway station of Rankweil to the edge of the town. Through an underpass below the motorway, we come to the town-part Brederis, and after about 45 minutes, we reach the St. Ann chapel. From there, we proceed on a field road until we come to the road, cross it with due precaution, continue through the Rhine plain past the dredger-excavated lakes of Paspels to Meiningen-Zollamt. The church St. Agathe in Meiningen was built in 1609. We cross the national border

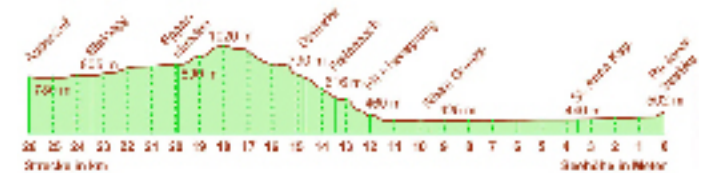


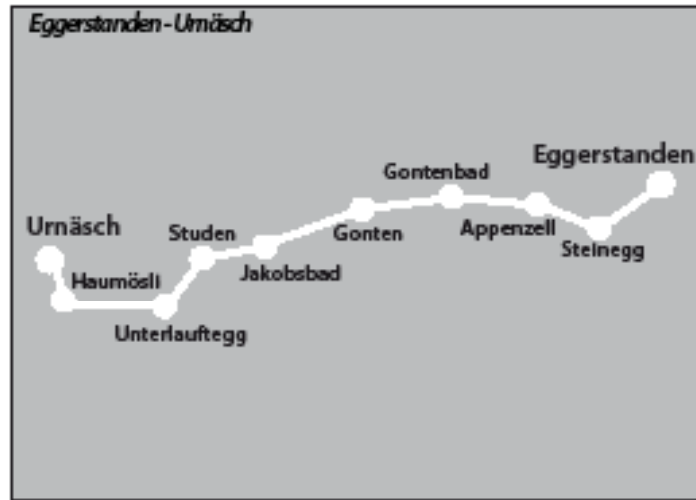
Oberrieter Strüssler



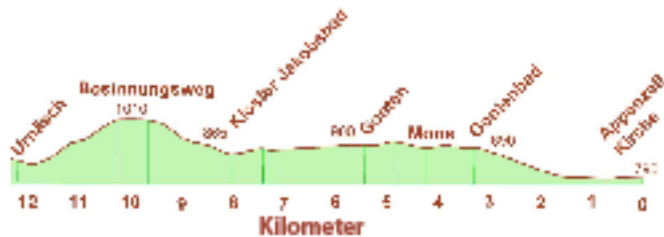
Parish church of Eggerstanden

(near Oberriet), the Rhine and the motorway. Then, the Way of St. James turns off to the left and leads past the ruin of Blatten. Near "Güetli" (423m), the traffic-free little road leads away from the railway line in an arc to the right, skirting the Blattenberg, and after a further 45 minutes, we reach the hamlet of Hirschsprung. A short distance before the Hirschsprung, we come to a small chapel. There, we turn right, and on a busy road (with due care) we go up an incline at first, through the rock defile of the Hirschsprung and then further in the direction of Freienbach. Partly on pilgrim's footpaths, partly on the road, and past the hamlet of Rehag, we reach the former place of pilgrimage Freienbach (616m) with the modern church The Visitation of Mary. At first, we follow the mountain road towards Chienberg until we come to a right-hand curve (647m) where we turn off to the mountain path marked in red-and-white on the waypost and leading straight ahead along the Freienbach (brook) in the direction of Eggerstanden. After a steep climb through the mountain forest, we reach the alpine dairy farm "Oberrieter Strüssler" (800m). From there, we continue over pastures and through small woods to Wogalp (880m) and further up to Neuenalp (959m), where we pass the border between the cantons of St. Gallen and Appenzell Innerrhoden. On a comfortable, partly paved forest road, we come to the pilgrimage chapel Maria Hilf zum Bildstein (approx.: figure stone shrine Mary We Implore Your Help) (1016m). From there, the route leads in a moderate descent down to Eggerstanden (892m). The modern church at Eggerstanden replaced a chapel built in the 18th century. The names of the two inns, Neues Bild, Altes Bild, recall a former centuries-old wayside shrine.





Croquis du chemin



Eggerstanden - Urnäsch



St. Magdalena chapel



colourfully painted wooden houses



„barefoot path

Leaving Eggerstanden, we walk on field roads down to Steinegg (810m). At the Kapellenweg beside an old linden tree stands the small St. James chapel from 1660. In the village, there is a bigger one, the St. Magdalen chapel, built 1590. The road leads parallel to the railway line Wasserauen –Appenzell, along the river Sitter. Beside a bridge stands the St. Anna chapel, dating from the 18th century. On a footpath beside the Sitter, we come to Appenzell, the capital of the canton of Appenzell-Innerrhoden. The name of the place is derived from “Abbacella”, an estate of the abbot of the monastery of St. Gallen and becoming a parish of its own right in the 11th century. The parish church St. Mauritius with choir, spire and crypt (from the late 15th century), the ceiling frescoes and wall paintings, is worth seeing, as are the town hall and the colourfully painted wooden houses with the curved gables, typical for the place. Past the Capuchin monastery, we arrive at the western town exit of Appenzell.

There, we follow the bypass road a short distance, then walk on the old imperial road past meadows to Gontenbad (883m). Near the old-age home, we cross the street, and behind the “Natur-Moorbad”, we cross the railway line. The “Barfussweg” (barefoot path) then leads us towards Gonten (902m) which we reach on the field path near the railway station. In the pilgrimage church St. Verena, we find the Gnadenbild (picture of a saint with the power to work miracles) Maria Trost (Mary of the Consolation) from the 17th century, and a glass painting showing St. James as the patron saint of the alpine herders. We continue on our

way, again on the barefoot path towards Jakobsbad. Here we enjoy the unique outlook towards the mountains Säntis and Kronberg. On the way we are told that in the Middle Ages, a hermit lived near the summit of the Kronberg (1662m), and that a chapel dedicated to St. James and St. Bartholomew has been there since the 15th century. Below the summit, there is a source, the “Jakobsquelle”, and its waters were said to have healing powers. The comfortable and well-marked path is often walked-on barefoot. In the restaurant “Skilift” between Gonten and Jakobsbad, guests are served also in summer. Near the camping site, we then come to the small St. Anna chapel, built in 1771 and renovated in 2002. Not far from Jakobsbad, we cross the Wissbach (brook) where we can take a pleasant footbath

near the bridge, also thanks to a handrail there. Then, crossing below the railway line, we come to the valley station of the gondola lift and further on to the spa hotel Jakobsbad (869m). The barefoot path ends here. Barely some minutes away, the monastery Leiden Christi (The Sufferings of Christ) with its church invites us to take a rest and to meditate. The Capuchin monastery is known for its pharmacy of herbs. Behind the monastery begins the way of meditation. We follow it up the incline until via mountain meadows, through small woods and past farmsteads, we come to the alpine dairy farms Studen (950m), and somewhat higher up, Unter-Luftegg (1000m). Then we descend past the farm Chräghof (923m) and Heumösli (888m) down to Urnäsch, at first on mountain meadows, then on a small rural road. We leave the road in order to climb on a field path down to the railway line. We cross it in front of the new Widen bridge (816m), pass the railway station and come into the village of Urnäsch. In the Middle Ages, the present reformed church was dedicated to the apostles Philippus and Jacobus. Of particular appeal are the village centre with the colourful wooden houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the museum of Appenzell traditions and customs.

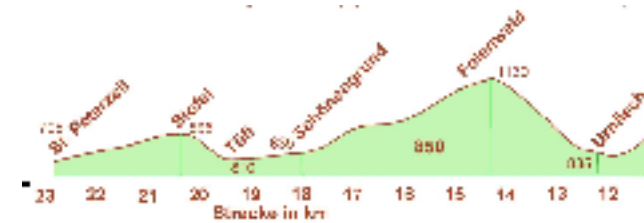
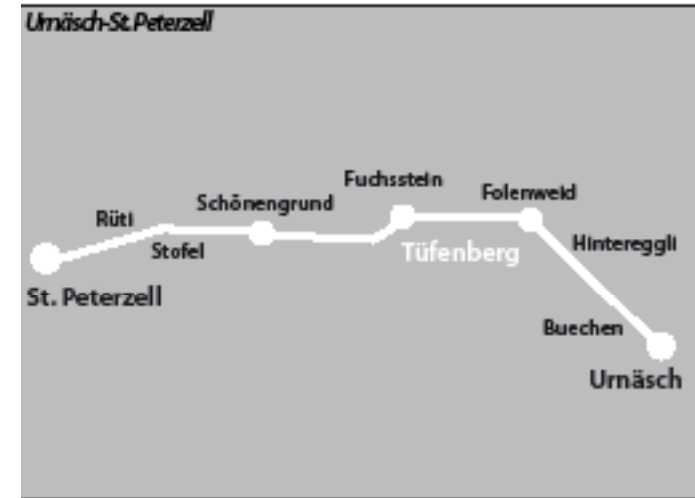


Alp Studen



View on Urnäsch

E



Urnäsch - St. Peterzell*„Silvesterklaus“ fountain**Alp Folenweid**Schönengrund**Typical house façade in St. Peterzell*

At the Kronenplatz with the Sylvesterklaus fountain (on the other side of the road Urnäsch – Herisau) begins the Tüfenbergstrasse which we use to come to the upper part of the village. There, we turn off and via Buechen and Hintereggi, we climb to the alpine dairy farm Folenweid (1113m). Fools are grazing here and we do not forget of course to close the lattice gate. We enjoy the wonderful view to the mountains of Eastern Switzerland and also see the Lake of Constance in the form of a silver lining. If we want to eat and drink something, the restaurant on the summit of the pass is only 3 minutes away. Thus strengthened, we walk slightly downhill over the flat mountain ridge of the Tüfenberg past the group of rocks of the “Fuchsstein” (1073m). For a short stretch, we follow the mountain road and then turn off to the right to reach the valley ground passing some farmsteads along the way. Thus we come to the village of Schönengrund (841m) where the Tüfenbach (brook) flows through the place. The houses to the north of the brook belong to the village of Wald which is part of the municipality of St. Peterzell. Behind Schönengrund, we cross the Tüfenbach towards Wald, and soon turn off from the road to the left, and come to Tüfi. Then we climb up to the inn “Kreuz” (829m) where we cross the road Herisau – St. Peterzell and then go slightly downhill on the old country road in the direction of Ämisegg as far as the hamlet of Stofel (862m). There, we change to a rural road leading past the hamlet of Rüti and again back to the main road. On the sidewalk, we come into the village of St. Peterzell. The name is derived from the former monastery “Cella Sancti Petri” which in 1555 became a provostry of the monastery of St. Gallen.

St. Peterzell - Wattwil

We leave St. Peterzell across the bridge over the Neckler (river), in the direction of “Altes Bädli” lying some

*Guesthouse Churfürsten*

distance above the village. The house worth seeing has a richly painted facade with a historical tavern sign. After the Altes Bädli, we proceed on a well-kept hollow way up to Hofstetten. This hamlet is characterized by stately wooden houses with richly formed and decorated facades. After crossing the “Schlifentobel” (ravine) and after a moderate climb, we reach the farm “Niderwil”, and then “Eichbüel” shortly after. At the crossroads, we turn off to the right, in the direction of “Scherrer”, to the rises and hills of the “Reitenberg” offering commanding views, and to the inn “Churfürsten” at 984m above sea level. After that, the route points westwards along a chain of farmsteads in the typical Toggenburg style, down to Wattwil with the “Kubli” church.

Wattwil to Einsiedeln by Rapperswil or by Sienen - Lachen

See brochure number 2: Rorschach-Einsiedeln - „Upper branche“