



AARE ROUTE

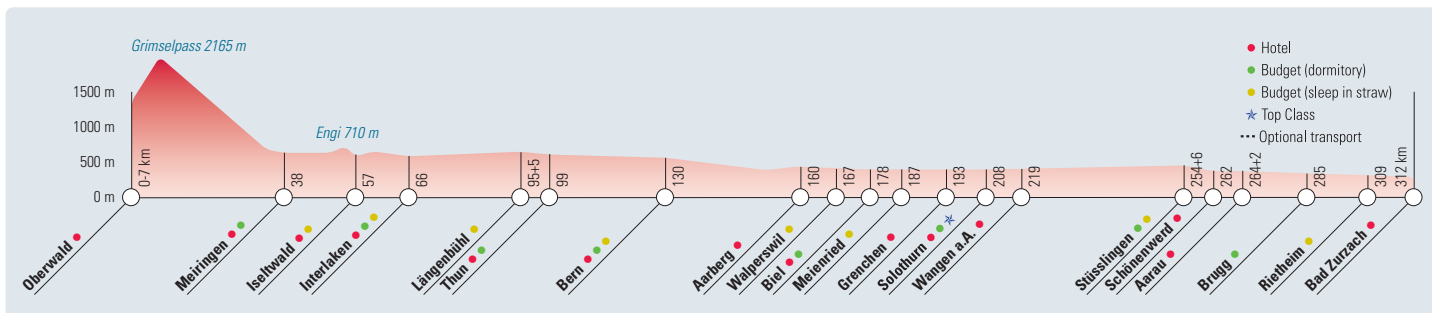


Lake of Biel



- ★ **THE GRIMSELPASS**
AS AN APPETIZER FOR POWER BIKERS
- ★ **MEIRINGEN**
THE AARE GORGE AND SHERLOCK HOLMES
- ★ **THE BERNESE OBERLAND**
WITH ITS ADVENTURE CAPITAL OF INTERLAKEN
- ★ **A SHORT SIDE TRIP UP TO BEATENBERG**
WITH A PANORAMIC DOWNHILL RIDE
- ★ **BERNE**
THE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL WITH LOTS ON OFFER BOTH DAY AND NIGHT
- ★ **INVITATIONS TO DIP INTO LAKES BRIENZ, THUN AND BIEL**
- ★ **THE RIVER AARE**
YOUR FAITHFUL COMPANION FROM START TO FINISH

ELEVATION PROFILE AND ROUTE STAGES



CHARACTER

The classic tour in Veloland Switzerland. Ride along the banks of the River Aare and you will encounter a chunk of Switzerland that has maintained its provincial charm, nostalgic farm life and unadulterated nature up to the present day. In addition it offers the full range of lodgings in hotels, youth hostels, in the hay or camp sites grounds with both Power and Relax options. Bike and Electrobike (NEW!) rental.

Gletsch in the midst of high mountains is actually the official start of the Aare Route, but the river has levelled the terrain over millions of years and from Meiringen on there are no steep climbs worth mentioning – this makes it a joy for cyclists to cross the Bernese Oberland, the Mittelland, the Three Lakes region and the southern foot of the Jura Mountains. Thanks to Sleep in the Hay, Budget, and Bike & Camp overnighting options it's an ideal route for families with children.

ROUTE

OBERWALD - MEIRINGEN 45 km
(only Option C/Power)

This is the official start of the Aare Route: On the south side of the Bernese Alps, at Oberwald in the upper Rhone Valley the Grimsel Pass (2165m) is the most spectacular obstacle on the entire route to Aarau and Zurzach.

MEIRINGEN - INTERLAKEN 30 km

The Aare Gorge near Meiringen is a spectacular visit before you start today's tour – and the green, green lake of Brienz will be a charming companion today..

INTERLAKEN - THUN 28km

Embarking on the journey along Lake Thun can easily be postponed until the afternoon hours since Thun is only half a day's ride away. Once on the road, you can admire the intoxicating panorama of snow-covered mountain peaks, deep blue waters, vineyards flourishing in the mild climate, imposing castles and the dark-brown chalets.

THUN - BERN 30 km

The snow-covered peaks begin to retreat after Thun and you enjoy an unobstructed view over the wide plains of the Aare Valley. The Aare route, well marked and usually without excessive car traffic, passes right through Berne, the Swiss capital, as does the river.

BERN - BIEL 50 km

After Berne the Wohlensee extends a warm welcome – and now you will witness the merry interplay between the dazzling beauty of nature and the industrial world of energy production. The vegetable-growing region in the Grosse Moos and later on the Lake of Biel mark the scenery of today's route.

BIEL - SOLOTHURN (WANGEN) 34 km

After Biel the Aare returns as your faithful companion. The storks of Altreu circling in the sky provide a very special adventure. And soon the towers of the Solothurn Cathedral greet you from afar. Solothurn – roam the picturesque lanes of the old centre with its outdoor cafes, perhaps venture on an excursion to the «local» Weissenstein mountain.

SOLOTHURN - AARAU (SCHÖNENWERD) 53 km

Continue to the medieval town of Wangen on the Aare. Ride on leisurely through an enchanting river landscape between Berken, Aarwangen and Wolfwil. Visit the pedestrian zone in Olten's old centre. Overnight in Aarau.

AARAU - BAD ZURZACH 53 km
(only option C/Power)

Follow the river Aare and arrive near Brugg at the «water castle» of Switzerland where the 3 rivers Aare, Reuss and Limmat unite and 16 km later reach the River Rhine.

SEASON 2009

Option «Relax»: 01.04.-15.10.2009
Option «Power»: 01.06.-15.10.2009
Option «Bike & Camp»: 01.05.-15.10.2009

(Daily service)



Aare near Altreu



SwissTrails

Take a break

Why not spend a rest day and stay for 2 nights at the same place?

We recommend:

Meiringen

Hotel Sherlock Holmes (***)

Interlaken

Hotel Derby (**)

Biel

Best Western Continental (***)

Aarau

Hotel Aarauerhof (***)

À la Carte

Plan your own individual bike tour: the entire route from Oberwald to Bad Zurzach as well as all the stage destinations listed in the «elevation profile» are available to you with SwissTrails à la carte. You can choose the duration of the trip as well as the start and end destinations and accommodation (hotel and budget).

Pricelist see pages 48 / 49.

RATES 2009 (in CHF / Euro, per Person, incl. VAT.)

OPTIONS	START AND FINISH	DAYS / N.	OVERNIGHTS	DIST.	BASIC RATES HOTEL	BASIC RATES BUDGET	RENT A BIKE	FLYER
A Relax	Meiringen - Aarau	6 / 5	Interlaken - Thun - Bern - Biel - Solothurn	228	CHF 785 / € 503	CHF 550 / € 352	CHF 130 / € 84	CHF 224 / € 144
B Relax	Meiringen - Bern	3 / 2	Interlaken - Thun	92	CHF 356 / € 228	CHF 262 / € 168	CHF 89 / € 57	CHF 128 / € 82
C Power	Oberwald - Zurzach	5 / 4	Meiringen - Thun - Biel - Aarau	319	CHF 647 / € 415	CHF 459 / € 294	CHF 116 / € 75	CHF 192 / € 123
D Bike & Camp	Meiringen - Aarau	6 / 5	Interlaken - Thun / Gwatt - Bern - Gampelen - Solothurn	226		CHF 372 / € 239	CHF 130 / € 84	CHF 224 / € 144

* Included in the price: supplements / reductions see page 5. All other options see SwissTrails à la Carte, pages 48 / 49.

Additional night possible at start and end destination and all stage destinations / Top Class: top class hotel (usually *****) at selected stage destinations (see Elevation Profile)