

Excursion to the Rigi Mountain (easy walking)

Wednesday, August 20, 2003, 12.45h – ca. 19.00h or 22.30h

The Rigi is a quite well-known 1800m mountain in the pre-Alps, occupying a spectacular location above the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne) and offering on a clear day splendid views south to the Alps as well as north back to the area around Zurich. The Rigi featured in a book by Mark Twain and in a number of paintings by J.M.W. Turner. Swiss Railways offer a special round-trip excursion, the “Rigi-Rundfahrt”, covering multiple segments by train, cog-railway, gondola (optional) and lake steamer.

The round-trip excursion ticket (and a CHF 10 food voucher) is offered to participants by the organizers, but any participants undertaking this excursion do so entirely at their own risk.

In undertaking the round-trip, you are welcome to travel with two local astronomers, Hans-Martin Schmid and Marcel Zemp or Peder Norberg. They will follow the itinerary outlined below but will not be responsible for you.

You can also implement your own variations on this escorted itinerary. With reference to the map, variations that should be possible with this same ticket that would allow a little more exercise include:

- Get off the cog-train at Krabel (second stop) and take the gondola up to Rigi Scheidegg. Then walk along, via the Seeweg and/or Felsenweg, to Rigi Klosterli and rejoin the train, or to Rigi Kaltbad and take the other train up to the summit. These pleasant and approximately horizontal walks take about 2 hours. Note however that the gondola takes a maximum of about 15 people and goes only every half hour or so.
- Walk down from Rigi Kulm to Rigi Kaltbad (which is probably about 40 minutes)

If you do go off on your own, please consult the timetables to ensure you can get back to Zurich. Probably the latest you can practically leave Rigi Kulm is at 19.45 (20.00 from Rigi Kaltbad) to get you back to Zurich at 22.57. Also, if you have been travelling with Hans-Martin and/or Marcel/Peder, please inform them that you are going off on your own, so they don't worry about you.

Pls. turn page over

Escorted Itinerary:

Zurich – Arth-Goldau – Rigi Kulm – Rigi Kaltbad – Vitznau – Luzern - Zurich

- 12.45 h. Meet in front of Audi Max, after having collected the lunch bag at the conference office, F 33.5
- 13.07 h. departure from Zurich Main Train Station to Arth-Goldau, **train platform 13**
- 13.48 h. arrival at Arth-Goldau
- 14.10 h. departure on **cogwheel train** to Rigi-Kulm (slightly separated but clearly signed station)
- 14.47 h. arrival at Rigi-Kulm

****Short walk to the top and enjoy the panorama of the Alps

- 15.55 h. departure on **cogwheel train** from Rigi-Kulm
- 16.08 h. arrival at Rigi Kaltbad
- 16.10 h. departure from Rigi Kaltbad
- 16.35 h. arrival at Vitznau
- 16.40 h. departure from Vitznau by **lake steamer**
- 17.40 h. arrival at Lucerne
- **Dinner in Lucerne individually (see City Guide Lucerne)
- 20.10 h. departure at Lucerne to Zurich
- 20.57 h. arrival at Zurich
- **or take the next possible train back to Zurich and have dinner in Zurich

******ALTERNATIVE:** 1 ½ h. easy walking from Rigi-Kulm to Rigi Kaltbad (via Känzeli) with many fascinating views

- 17.00 h. departure from Rigi Kaltbad
- 17.25 h. arrival at Vitznau
- 17.30 h. departure from Vitznau by **lake steamer**
- 18.34 h. arrival at Lucerne
- **Dinner in Lucerne individually (see City Guide Lucerne)
- 21.10 h. departure from Lucerne to Zurich
- 21.57 h. arrival at Zurich
- **or take the next possible train back to Zurich and have dinner in Zurich

Advice:

- Wear good shoes or hiking boots, take a rain protection and sweater, fast weather changes are always possible in the mountains

Attachments:

- time tables of trains, and boats for individual travellers
- tourist information about the Rigi Mountains
- City Guide Lucerne

Emergency numbers: 079 208 26 37, handy
01 632 48 83 conference office (8-12h 13-18h)