

# INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB OF GENEVA (SCIG)

## APPENZELL WEEKEND

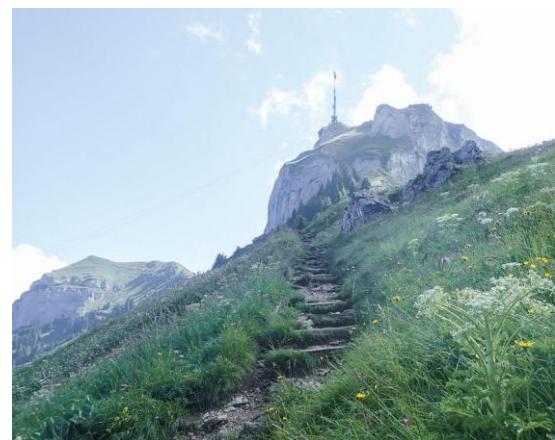
WEEKEND OF 12-13 JULY 2025 – DIFFICULT

***We spend two days in Appenzell, climbing the famous Säntis mountain and exploring the Alpstein range***

**Day 1- Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (16km, +586m/-922m, 5.5 hours) - Hoher Kasten - Brülisau**



We will meet at the Kastenbahn in Brülisau (AI) in the morning and take up the cable car to the Hoher Kasten to reach the top (1,800m) and to make our lives a bit easier on the first day. We will embark on a beautiful and well-built ridge walk overlooking the Rhine Valley and Appenzell, following the geological path of the Alpstein, where we can learn more about the fascinating geological formations in the area and the reasons why the Alpstein is such a unique landscape in Switzerland. We descend via two picturesque lakes back to Brülisau. We will spend the night in or around Brülisau.



**Day 2- Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (10km, +1400m/-526m, 6 hours) - Ebenalp-Säntis**

From our hotels we will have an early start and make our way to Wasserauen, where we will embark on the cable car up to Ebenalp. Off the cable car, we will pick up the hiking trail to the famous Gasthaus Aescher, which is built into the rock and overlooks the nearby valley and countryside. On our way there we will come through a neolithic cave, where excavations have found evidence of early human life. We will have a quick stop for a coffee to enjoy the beautiful location and take some pictures. From Aescher we will pick up a trail that stays high above the valley, overlooking the famous Seealpsee and various dairies producing the famous Appenzell cheese. After a few hours we will reach Alp Mesmer, which is another mountain alp which is only serviced in the summer months. We will have our lunch break here before we start our ascent to the peak of Säntis (via Wagenlücke) for the afternoon. Arriving at the top, Säntis offers spectacular vistas over the Germany, Switzerland and into Austria. From here, the cable car will take us down to Schwägalp, from where we will pick up the bus and start our journey home.



**Inscription and Deposit:** Inscription before Thursday 10 July at 6pm by email to [Matthias.rittmeier@live.com](mailto:Matthias.rittmeier@live.com).

**Please send with your email:**

- *Your full name*
- *Email/Mobile Phone number*
- *Confirmation that you are generally fit and can hike for around 6 hours per day without difficulty*
- *Confirmation that you can walk ridge walks and have sturdy hiking boots*

**Important to note:**

- Both days will involve some ridge walks and ascents and descents can be steep at times. We will generally walk on good trails but please inform yourselves about the area and make sure to bring good hiking boots that are above the ankles. Running shoes or trainers are not sufficient. Poles can be useful but are not essential.

**To bring:** Toiletries and essentials for overnight stay, sufficient layers, Jacket/Jumper for evenings, Picnic for day 1, snacks, hiking poles (if preferred), suncream, sunglasses, hat/cap, raincoat. If you have dietary requirements, please bring your own snacks in sufficient amounts. Our restaurant choices will be limited and mostly serve traditional Swiss food.

**Transport and Meeting Point:** Train from Geneva to Brülisau at your own convenience and back from Schwägalp by bus/train on Sunday afternoon. All participants are responsible for their own tickets for arrival and departure and tickets can be purchased in advance on [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch). **Meeting point** will be the base station of the Kastenbahn in Brülisau (AI) at 10.30 am on Saturday morning. The train journey from Geneva takes over 5 hours so I strongly recommend travelling up to St Gallen or elsewhere on the Friday evening before and stay overnight. I will join the group in Brülisau on Saturday morning.

**Return Journey:** We will aim to travel back from Schwägalp with the bus at 16.19 to Urnäsch and onwards. Depending on the progress we make on the day we may leave earlier or later than that. Please arrange your own travel ideally with some flexibility, e.g. by buying a super say daver pass or similar.

**Price and Deposit:** CHF 5 club tax per day (members), CHF 15 per day for non-members, train and cable car tickets (to be purchased individually) plus food and accommodation.

**Accommodation:** I will not organise accommodation centrally so please organise your hotel room or hostel at your own discretion. I will likely stay at Hotel Gasthaus in Brülisau, which is 5 mins walk from the finish on Day 1 and serves dinner. Please feel free to organise yourselves to fill double rooms etc. I will share a list of participants as soon as possible so you can coordinate.

**Lunches:** Please bring lunch for Day 1 and some snacks for the weekend. There will be limited shops on the way but various guesthouses offer lunch on route where we will stop.

**Maximum participation:** 7 persons + leader

**Leader:** Matthias Rittmeier

Phone: 076 288 2393

Email: [Matthias.rittmeier@live.com](mailto:Matthias.rittmeier@live.com)

**Rain/Bad Weather:** The weekend will be cancelled in case of heavy rain but it will go ahead in case of light showers or mixed weather as long as it is safe to do so. Matthias will send an email with a decision a few days before the weekend.