

Engelberg

Canton of Obwalden · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Engelberg sits in a high alpine valley in central Switzerland, ringed by peaks and topped by the glaciated summit of Mount Titlis. The village has two identities that coexist easily: a Benedictine monastery has anchored the valley since the 12th century, and cable cars have carried skiers and sightseers toward the summit since the 1960s. Winter here means skiing and freeride terrain that draws visitors from as far as Scandinavia; summer means hiking trails, alpine lakes, and glacier views reached by the same lifts.

Most day-trippers come from Lucerne just to ride up the mountain and back. Staying longer pays off: quiet village streets, a working monastery open to visitors, and mountain trails that stay busy well after the last cable car has gone down for the day.

When to visit

Summer (June to September) is mild and the best season for hiking, though afternoon storms are common at altitude. Winter (December to March) is cold and snowy and is Engelberg's main ski season. Spring and autumn are quieter, with less predictable weather higher up the mountain.

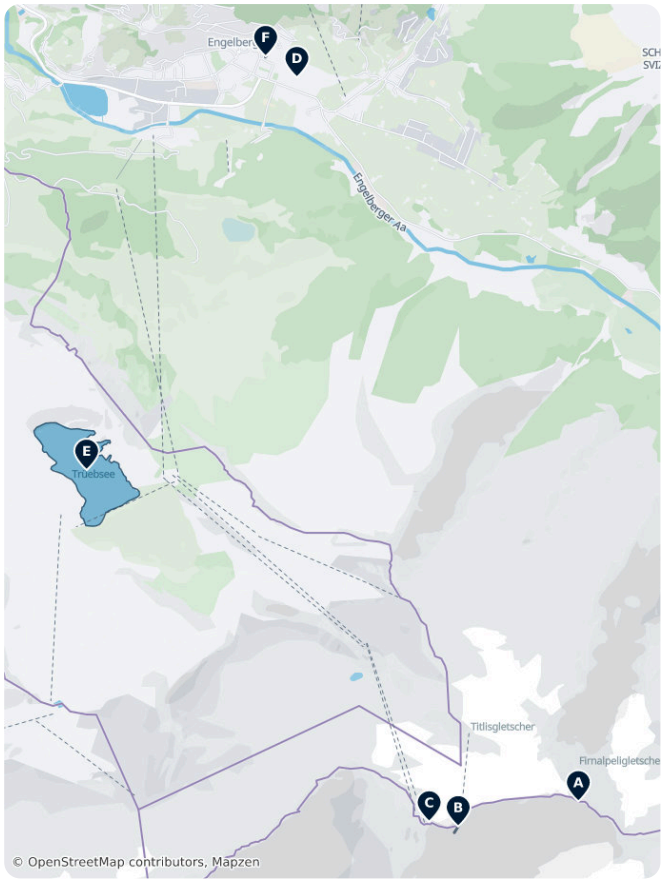
Plan around **Freeride Days Engelberg**, a winter freeride festival held on the slopes above the village most years, if steep-terrain skiing and snowboarding interest you.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	1° / 7° Feels like -3°	-6° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	3° / 10° Feels like -2°	-5° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	-2° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18° Feels like 8°	2° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	6° / 1°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	11° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	12° / 7°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	12° / 7°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 20°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 14° Feels like 3°	-1° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	2° / 8° Feels like -2°	-4° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Conditions on the summit are far colder than in the village year-round, so pack warm layers for the cable car ride even in summer.

Top sights



A Mount Titlis, at 3,238 metres, is one of the highest points in Switzerland reachable by cable car, and the reason most visitors come to Engelberg. The ride up is the attraction in itself: the final stretch uses the Rotair, a gondola cabin that slowly rotates on the way up so everyone gets a turn at the glacier views.

At the top, B Titlis Cliff Walk is a pedestrian suspension bridge strung across a mountain chasm at just over 3,000 metres, among the highest in Europe. Nearby, C Titlis Glacier Cave is a lit tunnel cut into blue glacial ice thousands of years old, reachable straight from the cable car station.

Down in the village, D Engelberg Abbey was founded in 1120 and still houses a working Benedictine community. Its church holds one of the largest organs in Switzerland, and parts of the abbey can be visited on a guided tour.

On the way up the mountain, the cable car stops at E Trübsee, an alpine lake ringed by peaks that is worth a break on the way to or from the summit, whether for the view or a walk around the shore.

For a quieter, more local stop, the F Talmuseum Engelberg is a small folk museum set in a historic house in the village centre, with exhibits on Engelberg's farming and monastic past.

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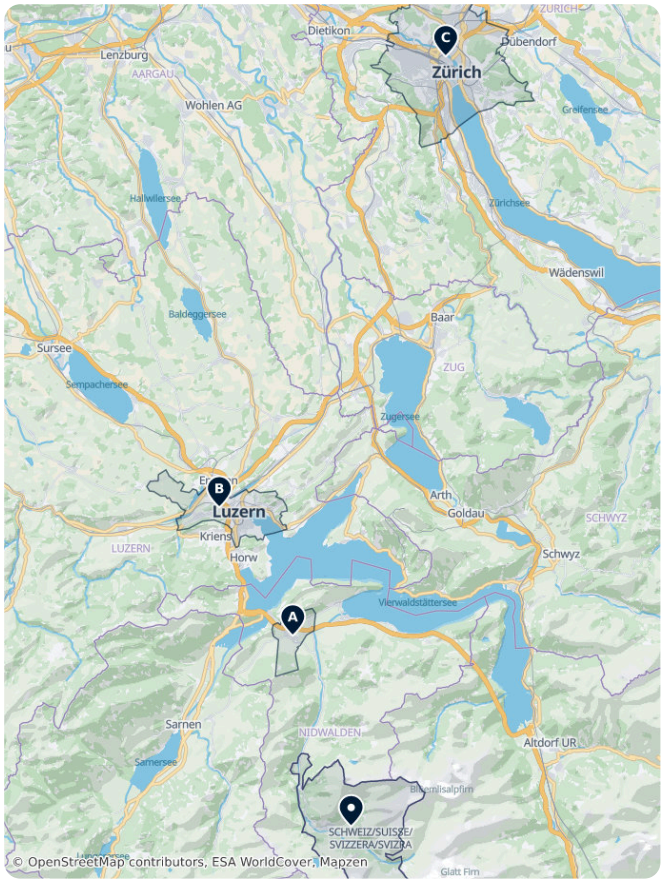
What to experience

- **Hear the abbey organ**: attending a service at the monastery church lets you hear one of the largest pipe organs in Switzerland in the space it was built for, something a daytime visit alone will not give you.
- **Ride the summer toboggan run at Ristis**: a metal-rail toboggan track that lets you sled down the mountainside on wheels, popular with families once the snow has melted.
- **Freeride the backcountry**: in winter, Engelberg's steep, ungroomed terrain is one of the reasons freeride skiers travel here from as far as Scandinavia — hire a mountain guide if you are heading off marked pistes.

Day trips

Engelberg's own mountain keeps most visitors busy, but a few good trips lie within easy reach.

- **A Stans** — about 30 minutes by train, this small town has its own open-air cable car up the Stanserhorn, a quieter and cheaper alternative to Titlis with similarly wide panoramic views.
- **B Lucerne** — about 45 minutes by direct train, Lucerne's lakeside old town, covered bridges, and lake cruises make it the natural base for anyone splitting time between the mountains and a city.
- **Mount Pilatus** — reachable via Lucerne in around 1.5 hours total, this is one of Switzerland's classic panoramic mountains, with the world's steepest cogwheel railway and a summit ridge walk.
- **C Zurich** — about 1.5 to 2 hours by train with a change in Lucerne, worth the trip if you want a full day of city sightseeing, museums, and shopping.



Getting there

- **By air**: Zurich Airport (ZRH) is the main international gateway. From there, take the train to Lucerne and change onto the direct line to Engelberg; the whole trip takes roughly 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **By train**: Engelberg has its own station at the end of a direct line from Lucerne, with trains roughly every hour and a journey time of about 45 minutes. There are no changes needed from Lucerne. Book and check timetables through SBB, the Swiss national rail operator.
- **By car**: a single valley road connects Engelberg to the motorway network near Stans; the drive from Lucerne takes about 45 minutes. The village sits at a dead end, so there is no through traffic.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the village centre is small and flat, and most hotels, shops, and the abbey are within a 10-minute walk of the train station.
- **Cable cars**: getting up the mountain, not around the village, is the main transport decision here — the Titlis cable car and separate lifts toward Trübsee, Brunni, and Fürenalp all leave from stations near the village centre.
- **Local buses**: PostBus routes connect outlying hamlets and the cable car stations to the centre; buy tickets from the driver or via the SBB app.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The village centre is compact and flat, with the station, shops, and the abbey all within a short walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

The valley is steep-sided and served mainly by cable cars, so cycling is not a practical way to get around.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for the village itself — everything is walkable and cable cars, not roads, take you up the mountain. A car helps for exploring the wider Obwalden and Nidwalden countryside at your own pace.
- **Parking**: large pay parking lots sit near the Titlis cable car station and at the village edge; expect to pay by the day during ski season and in summer.
- **Restrictions**: none beyond normal village-centre traffic calming — there is no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Engelberg's kitchens lean heavily on cheese and mountain produce, and many restaurants change their menus with the season, heartier in winter, lighter in summer. A small dairy beside the abbey lets you watch cheese being made before you buy some to take home.

Restaurants cluster along the main village street and around the train station; look for places built around Alpine cooking rather than international menus aimed purely at day-trippers.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Birchermüesli
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

LUNCH

Rösti
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

DINNER

Cheese Fondue · Fondue
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

Raclette
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

Zürcher Geschnetzeltes
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

Älplermagronen
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Cervelat
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

Basler Läckerli
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

DRINKS

Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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Safety & health

Engelberg is a safe destination with very little crime beyond the usual advice to watch belongings in busy cable car queues. The bigger risks are mountain-related rather than criminal: weather on the summit changes fast, temperatures drop well below those in the village, and trails above the treeline should not be underestimated even in summer. Check conditions before hiking or skiing off marked routes, and dress for winter conditions on the mountain regardless of the season.

History

Engelberg's story starts with Engelberg Abbey, founded in 1120 and named for the "mountain of angels" a local legend describes appearing to its founders. The abbey drew the valley's first permanent settlement, and for centuries Engelberg was essentially a monastic estate, with the abbot governing the surrounding land.

Tourism arrived in the 19th century, as travelers discovered the valley's mountain air and views. The turning point came in the 20th century with the first cable cars up Mount Titlis, which by the 1990s reached the summit via the Rotair, and turned a farming and pilgrimage valley into one of Switzerland's best-known ski resorts — all while the abbey kept its monastic community intact just down the road from the lift stations.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

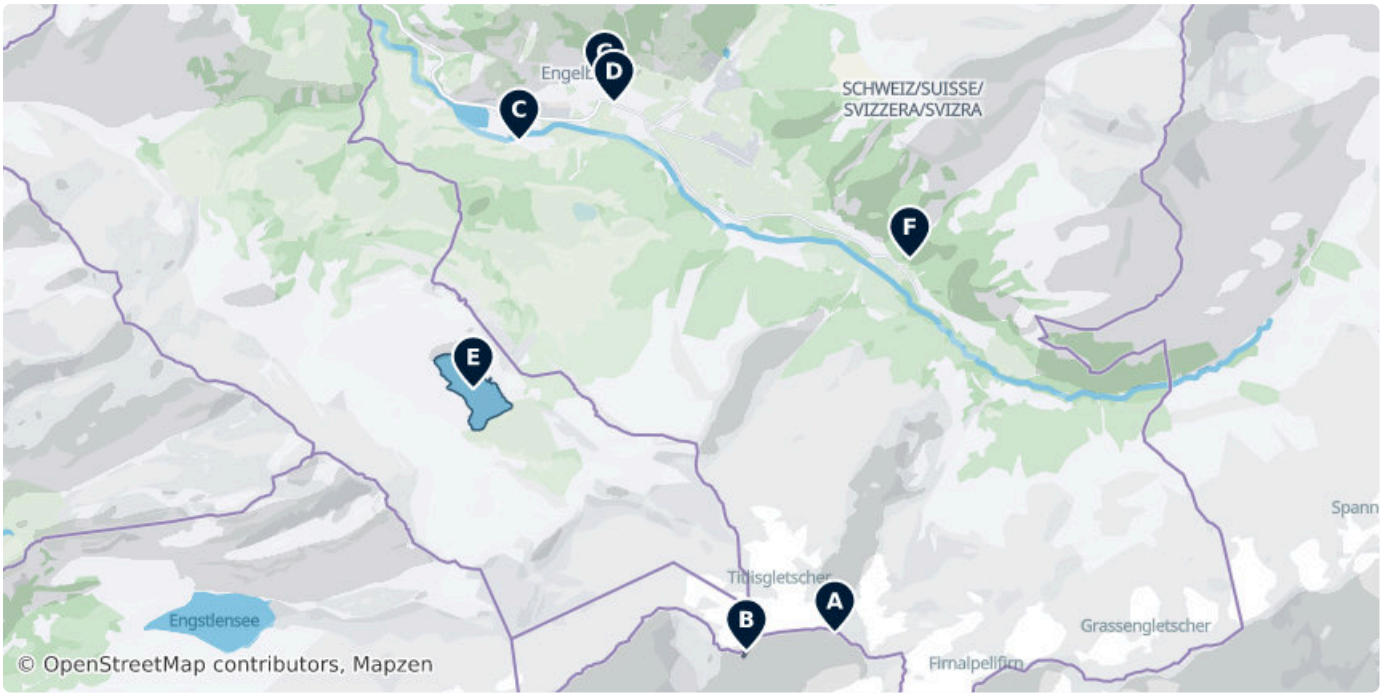
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Engelberg's Crown Jewels

Engelberg is defined by the 3,238-meter Mount Titlis, home to the world's first revolving cable car and the Titlis Cliff Walk suspension bridge. The region features the Trübsee alpine lake and the Tätschbachfall waterfall. Cultural history is preserved at the Benedictine monastery's show dairy, which produces traditional cheeses, and the Talmuseum, located in a protected 1786 farmhouse showcasing local 18th-century heritage.





A Mount Titlis

Titlis is a mountain of the Uri Alps, located on the border between the cantons of Obwalden and Bern.

3863, Switzerland (46.77204, 8.43778)

titlis.ch, +41416395050



B Titlis Cliff Walk

Europe's highest suspension bridge, situated 3,041 meters above sea level and spanning 100 meters across a 500-meter drop.

3863, Switzerland (46.77038, 8.42616)



C Engelberg (TITLIS-Xpress)

The valley base station for the 8-seater gondola transport system leading to the Trübsee and Stand intermediate stations.

12 Gerschnistrasse, Engelberg 6390, Switzerland
(46.81630, 8.39624)

D Schaukäserei Kloster Engelberg

A show dairy located within the monastery courtyard where visitors can observe the production of Engelberger Klosterglocke, a local bell-shaped cheese.

5 Klosterhof, Engelberg 6390, Switzerland
(46.81974, 8.40874)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00, 09:00–17:00

schaukaeserei-engelberg.ch

E Trübsee

Trübsee is an intermediate cable car station by the Titlis Bergbahnen, Trüebsee is an Alpine lake on the Ober Trüebsee Alpine pasture in...

Trübsee-Rundgang, 6390 Wolfenschiessen, Switzerland
(46.79402, 8.39022)

F Tätschbachfall

A high-volume waterfall located at the end of the valley, accessible via a short hiking trail from the village.

(46.80571, 8.44764)



G Engelberg Valley Museum

Local history museum housed in the protected 1786 Wappenhaus, featuring exhibits on 18th-century rural life and traditional Alpine culture.

Dorfstrasse 6, 6390 Engelberg (46.82145, 8.40753)

We–Su 14:00–17:00

talmuseum.ch

DATA SOURCES

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