Meiringen

Canton of Berne · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Meiringen is a village in the Haslital valley in the Bernese Oberland. It lies where the river Aare flows out of a deep gorge. High mountains and waterfalls surround it.

The village is linked to the writer *Arthur Conan Doyle*, who set the final fight between *Sherlock Holmes* and *Moriarty* at the nearby Reichenbach Falls. It is also known as the home of the meringue, according to local legend.

When to visit

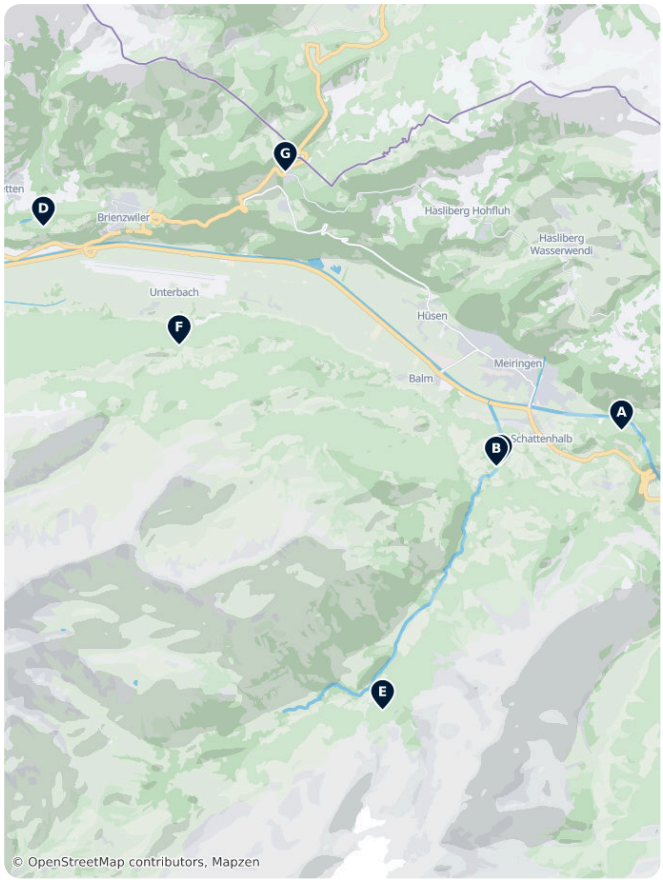
May to October is the best time for the gorges, falls and the open-air museum. Summer is warm. Autumn has clear light and quiet trails. Winter is snowy, and the ski areas on Hasliberg are open. Some gorges and funiculars close in winter.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for hiking	5° / 9° Feels like 1°	-3° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for hiking	6° / 11° Feels like 2°	-3° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 14° Feels like 5°	1° / -8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 19°	5° / -3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 25°	10° / 4°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	14° / 8°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 30°	16° / 10°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 30°	16° / 10°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 23°	9° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17°	3° / -7°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for hiking	6° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -10°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Aareschlucht is a narrow limestone gorge with a walkway cut into the rock. It is about 1.4 kilometres long.
- B Reichenbachfall is a tall waterfall above the village, reached by a funicular. This is where the writer set the fight of Holmes and Moriarty.
- C Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty is an artwork at the falls.
- D Freilichtmuseum Ballenberg is a large open-air museum of historic Swiss houses and farms, a short bus ride from the village.
- E Gletscherschlucht Rosenlaui is a gorge cut by a glacier stream, near Rosenlaui.
- F Oltschibachfall is a waterfall near the village.
- G Brünigpass is a mountain pass on the road to Lucerne.



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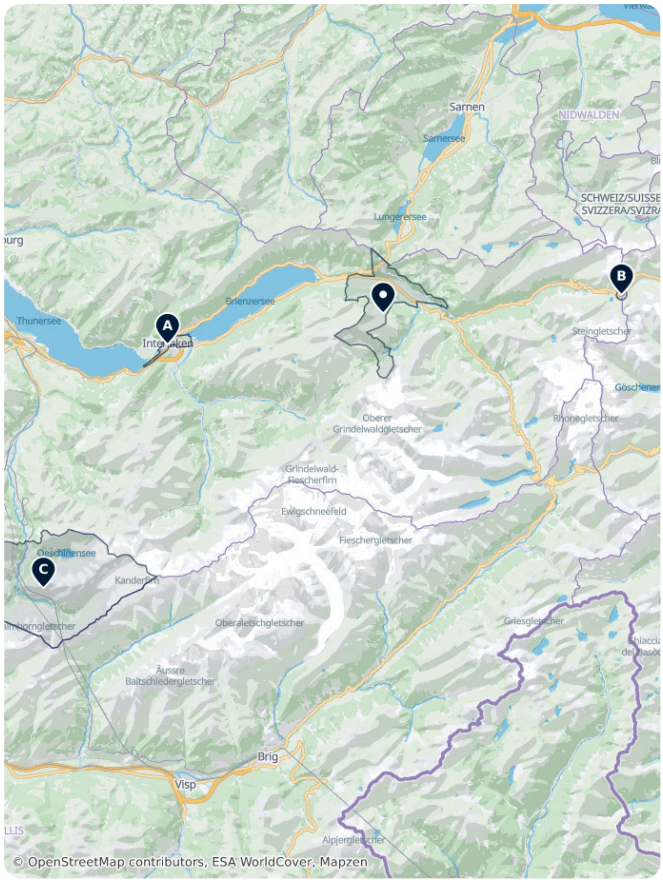
What to experience

- Walk through the Aare Gorge.
- Ride the old funicular up to the Reichenbach Falls.
- Visit the Ballenberg open-air museum.
- Take a trip over the Susten Pass.
- Taste meringue with double cream in the village.
- Ski on Hasliberg in winter.

Day trips

- A Interlaken is about 1 hour away by train along the lake.
- B Susten Pass is a high mountain pass with views of glaciers. It is open in summer.
- C Kandersteg is a mountain village with a lake, about 2 hours away.
- Lucerne is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by train over the Brünig pass.
- Grimsel Pass and Gelmer funicular are also close.



Where to explore

- Susten Pass is a mountain pass road from the valley.
- Interlaken is the nearest larger town.
- Spiez is a rail junction on Lake Thun.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich is the nearest main airport, about 2.5 hours away.
- By train: Meiringen is on the scenic line between Lucerne and Interlaken. Check times on SBB.
- The station is in the centre of the village.

Getting around

- The village centre is easy to walk.
- Walk or ride a short bus to the Aare Gorge and the Reichenbach funicular.
- Local buses link the village with Ballenberg and Hasliberg.
- Postal buses go over the Susten and Grimsel passes in summer.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The village centre is flat and small. Gorge paths have steps and wet sections.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley is flat along the Aare. Roads up to the passes and to Hasliberg are steep.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the village.
- The Susten, Grimsel and Brünig passes are scenic. The high passes close in winter.
- Parking near the gorges is limited in summer.

Food & drink

The village claims the meringue. Local cafés serve it with thick cream. Try cheese from local alpine farms and hearty mountain dishes such as rösti and cheese fondue.

People speak German with a local dialect. English is widely understood.

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

- Meiringen is very safe.
- Gorge walkways are wet and slippery. Wear shoes with grip.
- Mountain weather changes fast, so check the forecast.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Meiringen grew as a village on the route over the Grimsel and Susten passes. A large fire destroyed much of the village in 1879. It was rebuilt in a more modern style.

The Aare Gorge opened to walkers in 1888. *Arthur Conan Doyle* visited the Reichenbach Falls in 1893 and made them famous in his story.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

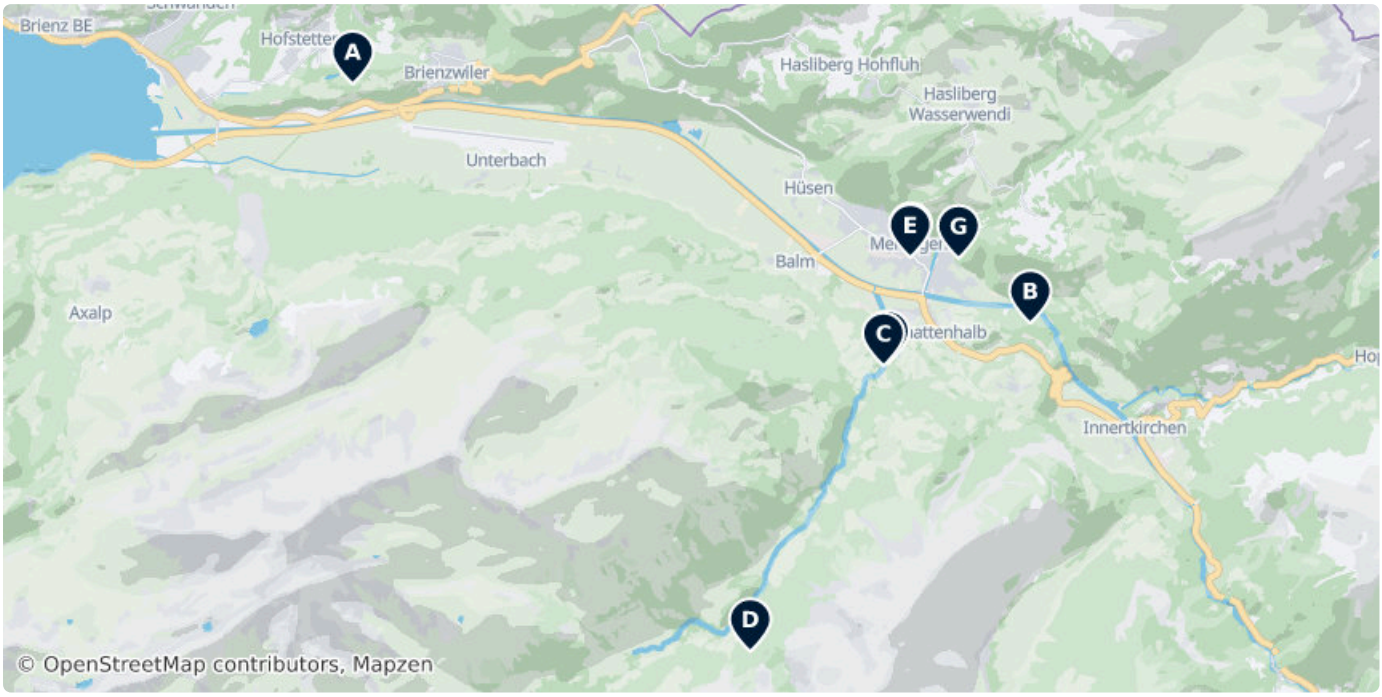
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Meiringen Essentials

Meiringen is defined by its connection to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and its dramatic Alpine geology. The town hosts the Sherlock Holmes Museum and the Reichenbach Falls, the fictional site of the detective's final confrontation. Nearby, the Aare Gorge and Rosenlaui Glacier Gorge showcase deep limestone carvings and glacial erosion. Regional history is further represented by the Ballenberg Open-Air Museum's traditional Swiss buildings and the 13th-century Restiturm castle ruins.





A Freilichtmuseum Ballenberg

Ballenberg is an open-air museum in Switzerland that displays traditional buildings and architecture from all over the country.

Museumsstrasse 131, 3858 Hofstetten bei Brienz, CH (46.74876, 8.08487)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

ballenberg.ch



B Aare Gorge

The Aare Gorge is a section of the river Aare that carves through a limestone ridge near the town of Meiringen, in the Bernese Oberland...

3860, Switzerland (46.71864, 8.20941)

aareschlucht.ch



C Reichenbach Falls

The Reichenbach Falls are a waterfall cascade of seven steps on the stream called Rychenbach in the Bernese Oberland region of Switzerland.

(Unnamed Road), 3860, Switzerland (46.71329, 8.18244)



D Gletscherschlucht Rosenlaui

A narrow glacial gorge shaped by powerful water erosion, featuring polished limestone walls and waterfalls fed by the Rosenlaui Glacier.

3860, Switzerland (46.67728, 8.15793)

rosenlauischlucht.ch

E Sherlock Holmes Museum

A Mecca for the Holmes' situated not far from Reichenbach Falls. A large number of objects related to Holmes on display.

Bahnhofstrasse 26, 3860 Meiringen (46.72694, 8.18735)

Mo–Fr 13:00–17:30

sherlockholmes.ch/en/Info/Museum, +41 33 972 50 00



F Homage to Sherlock Holmes

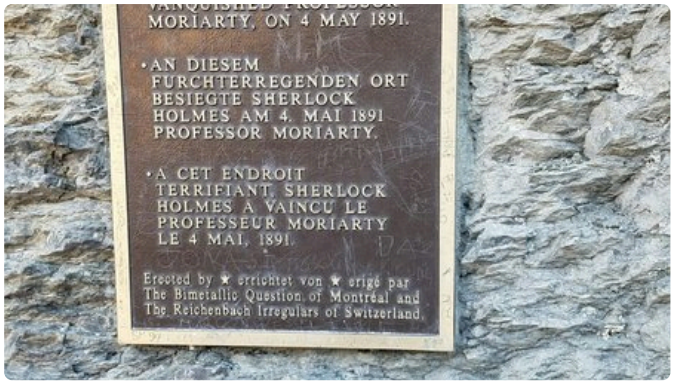
A life-sized bronze statue created by sculptor John Doubleday, depicting Sherlock Holmes in a contemplative pose near the museum.

Bahnhofstrasse, 3860 Meiringen, Switzerland (46.72717, 8.18748)

G Restiturm

The Restiturm, or Burgruine Resti, is a ruined castle in the municipality of Meiringen in the Swiss canton of Bern.

10 Restiweg, Meiringen 3860, Switzerland (46.72682, 8.19623)



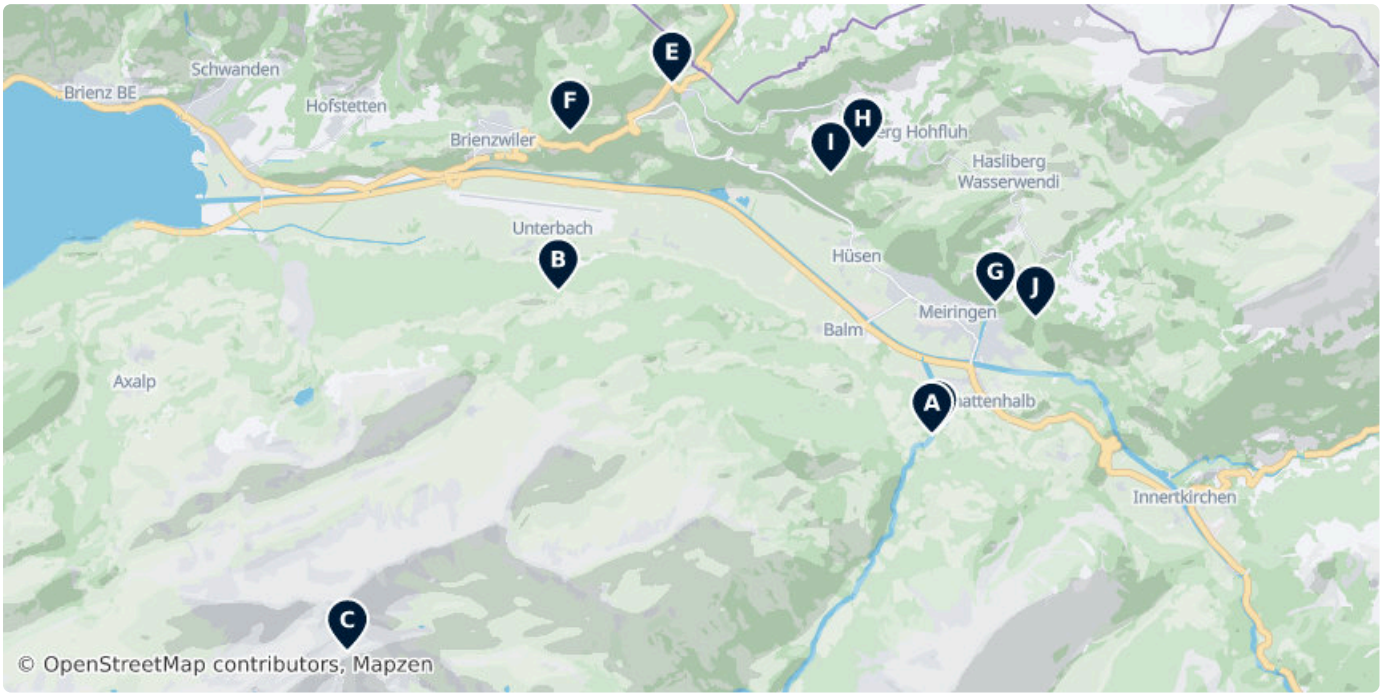
H Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty

A viewpoint and memorial plaque marking the fictional site of the final struggle between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty.

(Unnamed Road), 3860, Switzerland (46.71358, 8.18335)

Alpine Landscapes

Meiringen serves as a central gateway to the Bernese Oberland's most dramatic geological features. This collection includes the seven-tiered Reichenbach Falls, famously known as the site of Sherlock Holmes' final confrontation, and the 2,928-meter Schwarzhorn peak. The list also features the Brünig Pass, an essential mountain crossing connecting the Bernese Oberland with Central Switzerland, alongside several panoramic viewpoints such as Tschuggen and Mühlefluh that overlook the Aare valley and surrounding limestone massifs.





A Reichenbach Falls

The Reichenbach Falls are a waterfall cascade of seven steps on the stream called Rychenbach in the Bernese Oberland region of Switzerland.

(Unnamed Road), 3860, Switzerland (46.71329, 8.18244)



B Oltschibachfall

A waterfall plunging down the steep cliffs near Unterbach into the Haslital valley, most active during the spring snowmelt.

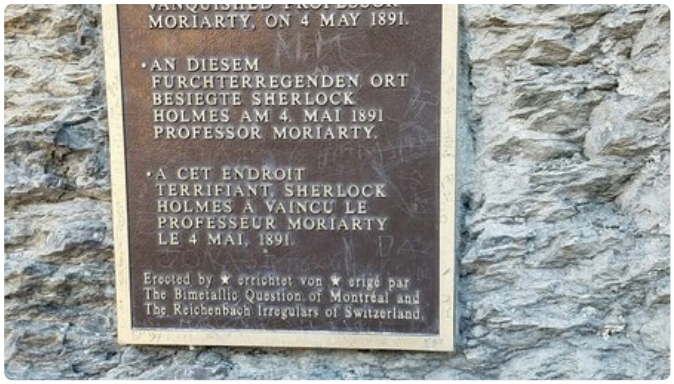
3860, Switzerland (46.73125, 8.11412)



C Schwarzhorn

The Schwarzhorn is a mountain of the Bernese Alps, located between Brienz and Grindelwald in the Bernese Oberland.

3855, Switzerland (46.68611, 8.07556)



D Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty

Memorial site at Reichenbach Falls commemorating the fictional final struggle between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story, The Final Problem.

(Unnamed Road), 3860, Switzerland (46.71358, 8.18335)

E Brünigpass

Mountain pass at an elevation of 1,008 meters, serving as the primary link between the Bernese Oberland and Central Switzerland.

(46.75721, 8.13490)

F Tschuggen

Elevated viewpoint overlooking the Haslital and the surrounding Bernese Alps.

3856, Switzerland (46.75116, 8.11629)

G Kaverne

Viewpoint overlooking the Meiringen region and the Aare valley.

(46.72972, 8.19402)

H Burg

Viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the Meiringen valley floor and the Aare river.

(46.74892, 8.16979)

I Bsangtenfluh

Mountain viewpoint overlooking the town of Meiringen and the entrance to the Reichenbach valley.

(46.74593, 8.16393)

J Mühlefluh

Viewpoint providing views of the Aare valley and the alpine landscape of the Bernese Oberland.

(46.72789, 8.20138)

DATA SOURCES

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