

## Touring Northeast and Central Switzerland (340 miles/544 km)


---

### The Tour

This self-supporting tour will take you through 10-days of riding and sightseeing Northeastern and Central Switzerland. You will ride through scenic valleys, along rivers, creeks and many beautiful lakes. You will visit several old towns nestled in the valleys and along the lakes shores. From the enchanting medieval town of Rapperswil, the cultural center Luzern, to the banking capital of the world and the largest city in Switzerland - Zurich, you will find plenty to see and experience.

The total distance of the tour is 340 miles (544 km) and most of it is through flat terrain riding in altitude of 1,000-1,300 feet (300-430 m) above sea level. There is one day of 43 miles (69 km) of riding with total altitude gain of 2,500 feet (844 m) which is the hardest day of the tour. The tour is rated as easy to moderate (see the tour rating guide for details).

The tour begins and ends at Rorschach. It follows several of the nine Swiss national bicycle routes, which are well documented in [Veloland Schweiz](#) booklets designed specifically for cyclist. Although the marking of cycling routes throughout Switzerland is impeccable (like the Swiss watch), the [Veloland Schweiz](#) booklets are recommended because they contain very useful information such as distances between towns, detailed maps, riding profile of the entire route, total altitude gain/loss profile, recommended sightseeing and points of interest, and most importantly the list of overnight accommodations (and prices) which cater specifically to cyclist's needs (bike storage, showers, baths, etc). Additionally the booklets also list long-term parking places for cars along the route and point out (and on occasion recommend) transfer points for you and your bike via bus, train, ski lift, or ship. The booklets transfer points are coordinated with specially designed train/bus/ship schedules which are available free of charge at any train station.

Duration: 10 Days  
Riding: 8 Days  
Difficulty:  Moderate  
Depart: Rorschach  
Arrive: Rorschach  
Total Distance: 340 miles/544 km  
Total Ascent: 6,235 ft/1900 m  
Total Descent: 6,235 ft/1900 m



### When to Ride It

The best time to ride this tour is from May through early October. However, if you want to avoid the crowds, and be sure of availability of accommodations in smaller towns, we recommend you avoid July and August, which are some of the busiest months of the summer season.

### How to Get There

This tour begins in Rorschach. If you are traveling by air, the closest large international airports are Zurich, Switzerland and Munich, Germany. From either airport your best transportation options are train or rental car. Traveling with bicycle by train throughout Switzerland and Germany is easy. In Switzerland the train cars are marked with special bicycle signs to identify cars which you can board with bicycle. The extra fare you pay for your bicycle is well worth it. If you decide to rent a car (and you live in the US) it is more cost effective to reserve and prepay it prior to arriving to Europe.

If you are traveling by train, your final destination is the Rorschach train station by Bodensee (Lake Konstanz) where the tour begins.

If you are arriving by car you can park at one of the two large long-term parking areas located directly outside of the Rorschach train station. The parking areas have marked parking spaces which you must prepay at the parking lot meter for the number of days you plan on parking there. To obtain your parking ticket you drop coins into the parking meter (usually one or two or more parking meters available for each parking area) and enter the parking space number. The meter will dispense a ticket that you place on your dashboard. Long term parking fee (as of September 2005) is CH 4.00 per day and the parking meter takes only CH coins.

### Accommodations

There are plentiful accommodations on this tour. You will be able to choose from the most economical such as camping or "sleeping on hay" in the local farmer's barn (popular with cyclist), small hotels and B&Bs to luxurious hotels. Check the [Veloland Schweiz](#) booklet for accommodations that cater specifically to cyclists.

### The Roads

The quality of roads on this tour is excellent. Some segments of the tour may require that you ride on unpaved roads, but these are generally in good shape and can be traveled with kevlar-reinforced 700x26C tires. Be aware that many mountain roads are narrow and should be navigated with great care during adverse weather conditions.

### Recommended Maps

For this tour we recommend the excellent [Veloland Schweiz](#) booklets which are available for sale in bookstores throughout Switzerland and at the time of this writing (October 2005) they are available in German or French and cost CH 24.90 (about US\$ 20.00). They can be also ordered online directly from [Veloland Schweiz](#) web site and shipped to your home address. However, [Veloland Schweiz](#) does not accept credit cards and when you receive the [Veloland Schweiz](#) booklet it will include a voucher for CH 34.00 (as of May 2005 the total amount including shipping was CH 34.00 or about US\$ 27.00). Although this is somewhat inconvenient you can pay for it after you arrive in Switzerland by going to a post office and paying the voucher with cash (of course you must remember to bring the voucher with you).

## Recommended Gear

Besides the [standard touring gear & spare parts](#), it is recommended that you bring at least two extra foldable tires with strong Kevlar casing, as you will encounter few stretches of gravel-surfaced roads which will very quickly cut your tires making them prone to a blowout. We went through two new 700x28C Continental Grand Prix 3000 foldable Kevlar tires in just two days! After that we switched to tires with more aggressive tread, which provided better protection from the sharp crushed rock of gravel-surfaced roads.

---

## List of Daily Rides

---

### The Daily Rides

Day 1 of 10: [Ride from Rorschach to Sargans](#) (58 miles/93 km)



Day 2 of 10: [Ride from Sargans to Rapperswil](#) (42 miles/67 km)



Day 3 of 10: [Ride from Rapperswil to Zug](#) (43 miles/69 km)



Day 4 of 10: [Ride from Zug to Luzern](#) (20 miles/32 km)



Day 5 of 10: Rest day in Luzern

Day 6 of 10: [Ride from Luzern to Aarau](#) (40 miles/64 km)



Day 7 of 10: [Ride from Aarau to Zürich](#) (46 miles/74 km)



Day 8 of 10: Rest day in Zürich

Day 9 of 10: [Ride from Zürich to Wil](#) (45 miles/72 km)



Day 10 of 10: [Ride from Wil to Rorschach](#) (46 miles/74 km)

