

Europaweg closures 2019

This note affects The Chamonix-Zermatt Walkers Haute Route, The Tour of Monte Rosa and Cicerone's Tour of the Matterhorn.

The Europaweg between Grächen and Zermatt is a spectacular high mountain trail and has been subject to rockfall and closures almost continually since its creation nearly 25 years ago. This has led to the development of the quite amazing 500m long, 100m high Charles Kuonen bridge, which seems to have solved issues after the Europahütte, crossing the Dorfbach stream which was subject to continuous rockfall.

In 2019 the first part of the Europaweg has been closed between Grat and Galenberg, so the route cannot be completed this way. It may stay this way for some time, and the revisions will continue whilst a new path is created, but may be long-term.

The options for C-Z and TMR walkers are as follows reversing this for the Tour of the Matterhorn stage 1: Zermatt to St Niklaus

- (1) A revised Europaweg route has been recommended by the valley authorities. From Grächen/Gasenried, it climbs the notch in the ridge near the Grathorn and then descends to Herbriggen. From Herbriggen it climbs to rejoin the trail at Galenberg, and then follows the trail to the Europahütte. It's a big undertaking, 22k or more and around 2500m of ascent. Allow 9 hours **walking time**. GPX files are available. This can be reduced by over an hour if a path via Dorfwald below the Grathorn is taken at the start of the stage, saving over 600m of ascent and descent.
- (2) An easier variation on this is to take this route as far as Herbriggen, then follow the valley path to Randa before climbing to the Europahütte, on the paths either side of the Dorfbach stream. This is a c7 hour walking day, around 20km and about 1750m of ascent.
- (3) Take the valley route from St Niklaus as far as Randa, and then take the path to the Europahütte. Continue over the Charles Kuonen bridge to Taschalp and Zermatt the following day. A c5 hour route from St Niklaus to Randa. This route is probably best from CZ trekkers who arrive in the Mattertal at St Niklaus.
- (4) Take the valley route from St Niklaus to Zermatt. It's a pleasant walk and a fairly short day, but it definitely isn't the Europaweg. This is described as Stage13a/14a of the CZ guide or TMR stage 8a.

Online resources:

<https://www.zermatt.ch/en/Media/Planning-hikes-tours/Europaweg>
<https://www.europaweg.ch/en/>

Day 2

From the Europahütte, take the Europaweg to Zermatt. But do check the route in advance; in early season 2019 there have been closures here, involving dropping down to the valley before climbing up to Taschalp, which is a stiff climb back to the trail before continuing into Zermatt.

Here are GPX files of the revised route recommendation, the hard one.

Also copies of Zermatt tourist information.

Europaweg

27 Swiss Tour Monte Rosa, Etappe 2

Provisorische Wegführung



TOP Europaweg

↔ 39.3km

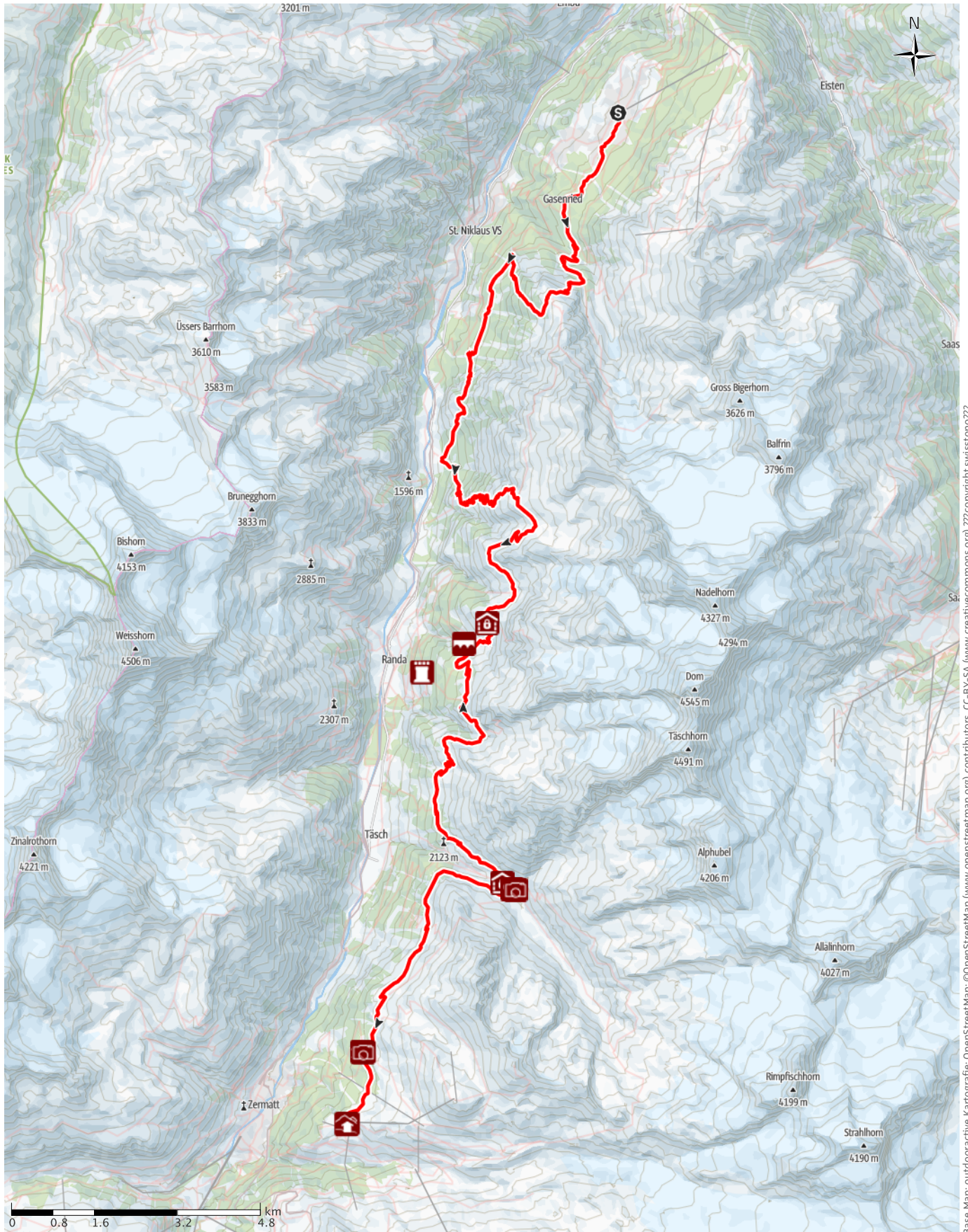
🕒 16:00h

⬆️ 3218m

⬆️ 2561m

Difficulty

difficult



TOP Europaweg

↔ 39.3km

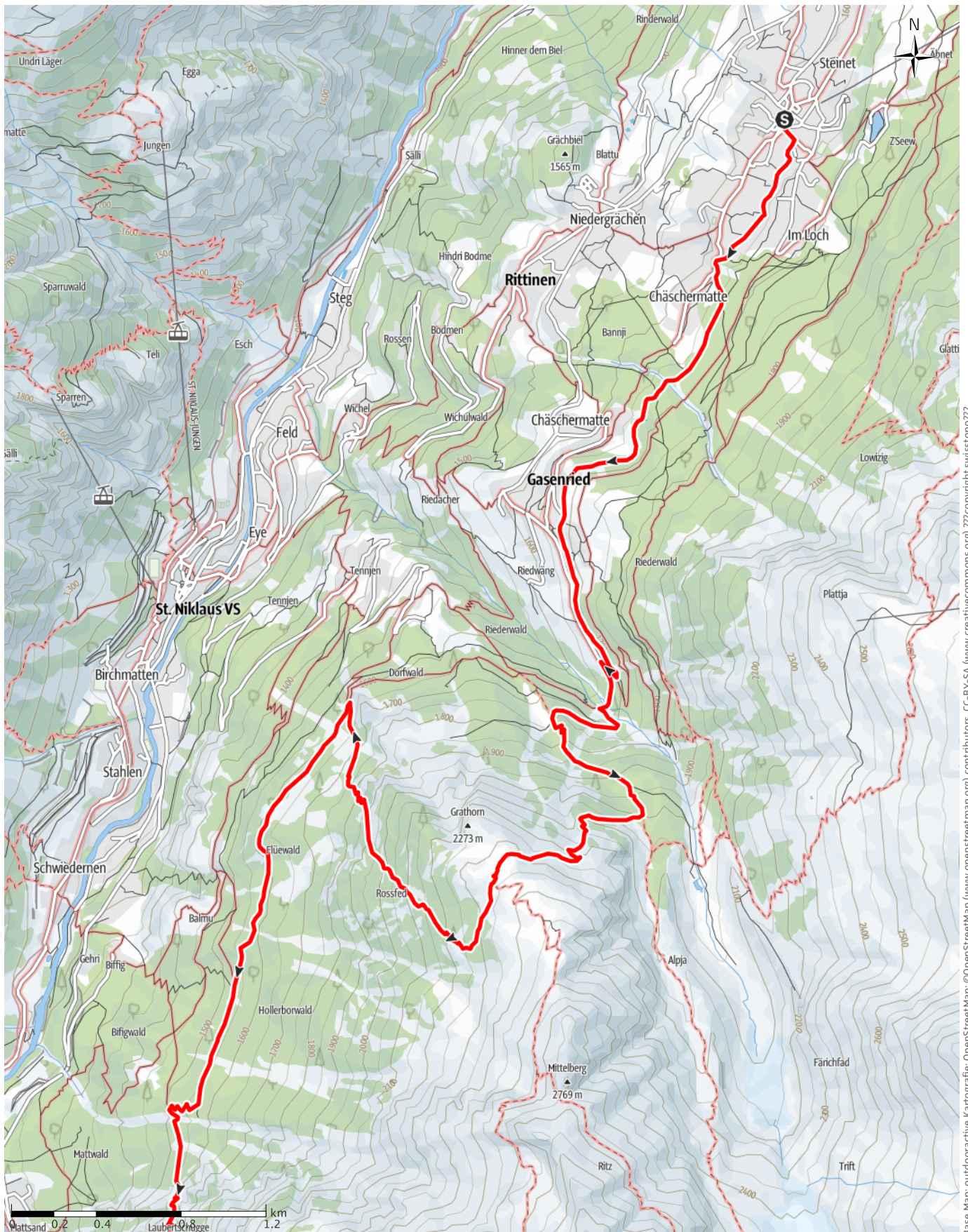
🕒 16:00h

⬆️ 3218m

⬆️ 2561m

Difficulty

difficult



Base Map: outdooractive Kartografie; OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org) contributors, CC-BY-SA (www.creativecommons.org) ??? copyright swisstopo???

TOP Europaweg

↔ 39.3km

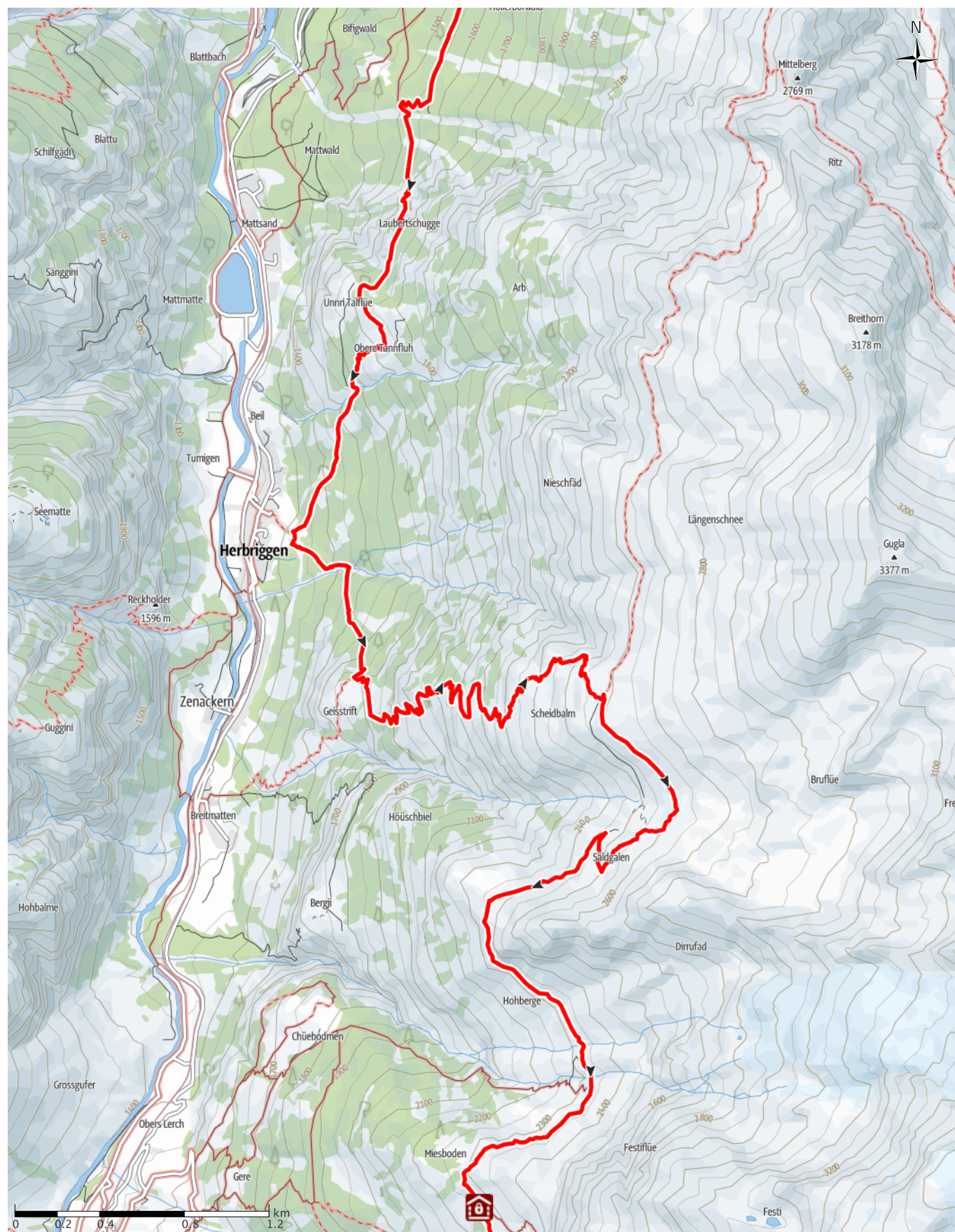
🕒 16:00h

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TOP Europaweg

↔ 39.3km

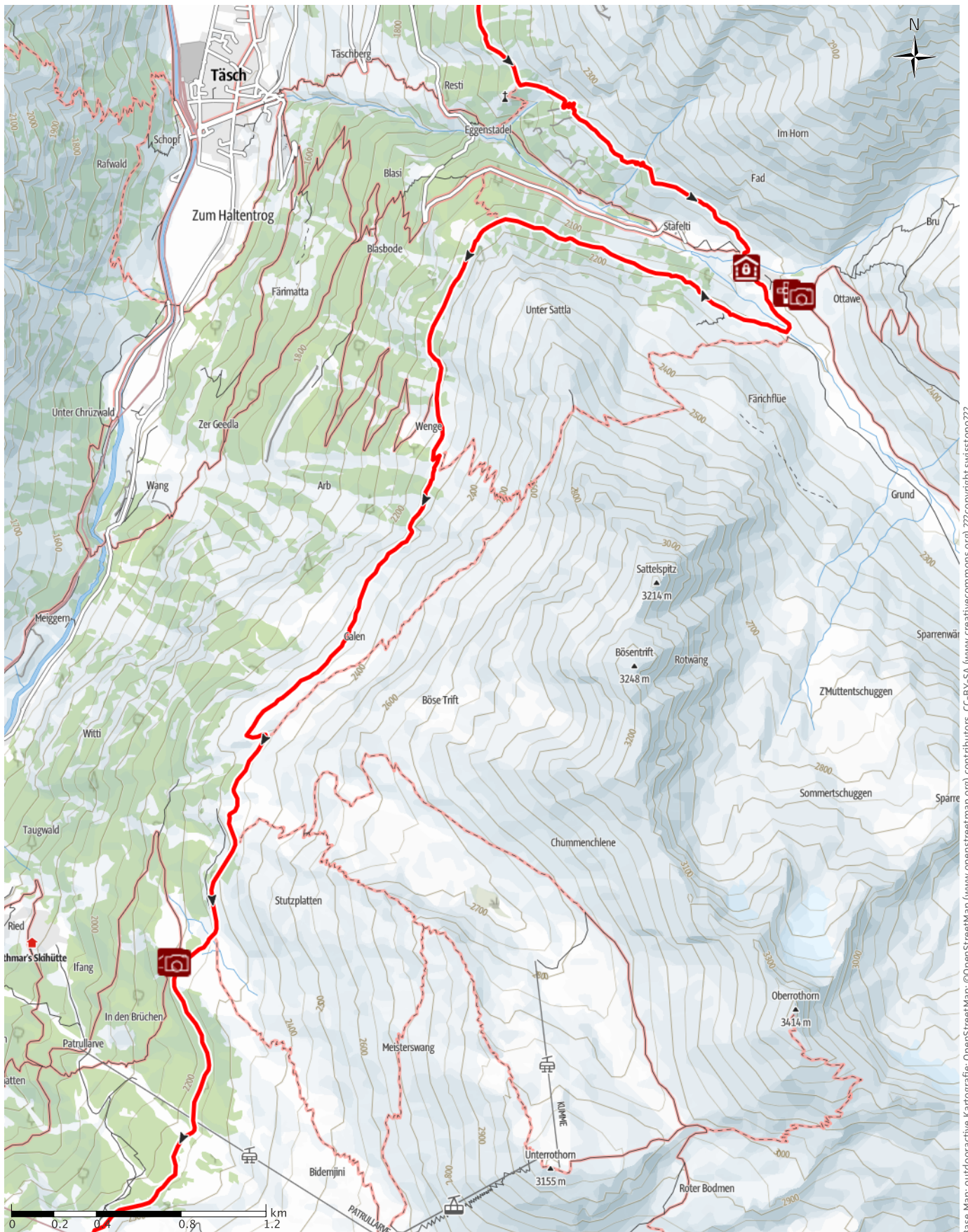
⌚ 16:00h

▲ 3218m

▴ 2561m

Difficulty

difficult



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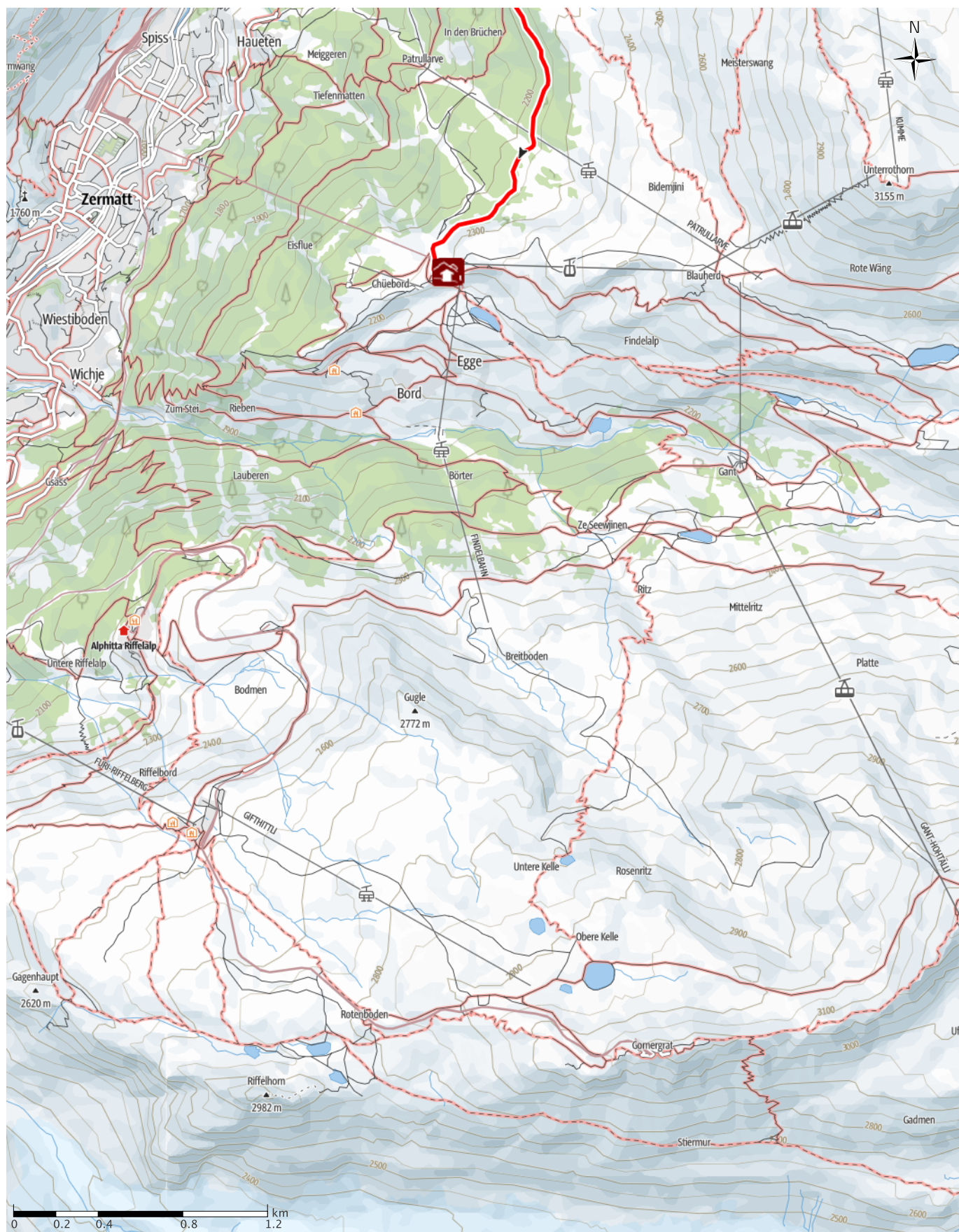
🕒 16:00h

⬆️ 3218m

⬆️ 2561m

Difficulty

difficult



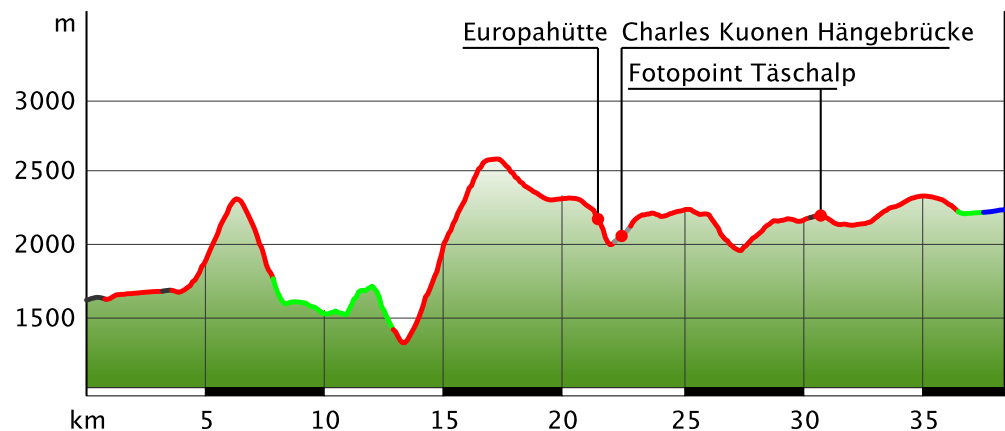
Base Map: outdooractive Kartografie; OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org) contributors, CC-BY-SA (www.creativecommons.org) ??? copyright swisstopo???

TOP Europaweg

Road surface

Asphalt	1.5km
Dirt road	0.8km
Way	6.2km
Path	30.1km
Unknown	0.5km

Elevation profile



Tour data

Long Distance Hiking

Distance ↔ 39.3 km

Duration ⌚ 16:00 h

Ascent ▲ 3218 m

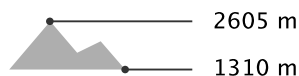
Descent ▼ 2561 m

Difficulty difficult

Stamina ●●●●●●

Technique ●●●●●●

Altitude



Best time of year

JAN | FEB | MAR
APR | MAY | JUN
JUL | AUG | SEP
OCT | NOV | DEC

Ratings

Authors

Experience ●●●●●●

Landscape ●●●●●●

More tour data

Properties

Multi-stage tour	Scenic
Faunistic highlights	Botanical highlights
Mountain railway ascent/descent	

Awards

 With refreshment stops

Zermatt Tourismus

Updated: July 05, 2019



Source
Zermatt Tourismus
Bahnhofplatz 5
3920 Zermatt
Phone +41 27 966 81 00
Fax
info@zermatt.ch
https://www.zermatt.ch

The Europaweg between Grächen and Zermatt is considered by many to be the most beautiful 2-day hike in the Alps. The views along this mountain panorama including the Matterhorn are famous around the world.

The Europaweg between Grächen and Zermatt is considered by many to be the most beautiful 2-day hike in the Alps. The views along this mountain panorama including the Matterhorn have made it famous around the world. These breathtakingly stunning views of nature were used as orientation points by those responsible for mapping out the path in the villages of St. Niklaus, Grächen, Randa, Täsch and Zermatt to create the Europaweg in 1997. It goes from Grächen via Gasenried to Grat. From there, it continues southwards high above the Mattertal to the Europa Hut above Randa. After a stay there, it goes over the world-record suspension bridge – the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world, which traverses the Grabengufer. The bridge is 494 m long and 85 m above the chasm below at its highest point. The path then continues in the direction of Täschalp and finally to Zermatt.

TOP Europaweg

- Täschalp: cheese and Ziger soft cheese for sale

Author's recommendation

The pedestrian suspension bridge (Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge) opened in the summer of 2017. It is the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world (world record holder).

- *Since there is a grated walkway underfoot along the half-kilometre suspension bridge, it is best if one is not afraid of heights (also applies to children and dogs).*
- *Possible trial tour to test for a fear of heights: at Furi above Zermatt. This suspension footbridge is 100 m long and 90 m above the Gorner Gorge.*

Additional information and recommendations are available from the guest information centre on Bahnhofplatz (by the railway station).

Safety information

- Plan every mountain tour carefully and adapt to participants' fitness level as well as the weather and season.
- Weather conditions can change quickly in the mountains. Appropriate clothing is therefore essential, along with adequate supplies of food and water. In uncertain weather, turn back in good time.
- Inform others of planned route, and whenever possible avoid going alone.
- Do not leave the marked routes; do not venture onto glaciers without a mountain guide.
- Please be considerate to other walkers and to plants and animals.
- Take note of the warning signs drawing attention to the constant danger in river beds and along watercourses below dams and reservoirs.
- Avoid the bridge during storms (thunder and lightning)
- Not having a fear of heights is an advantage. Find out whether children and or dogs would cross the

bridge (grated walkway); see the "Tip from the author" section.

Equipment

We recommend:

- Good, sturdy footwear
- Hiking poles (optional)
- Clothing suitable for the weather (always carry a waterproof)
- Food and water

Additional information

Tips, hints and links

www.europaweg.ch

Turn-by-turn directions

Starting point / trailhead

Grächen (1,620 m)

Coordinates:

Geogr. 46.195982, 7.839305

UTM 32T 410442 5116477

Point of arrival

Sunnegga (2,288 m)

Turn-by-turn directions

Stages::

First Stage:

Option 1: Grächen - Herbriggen - Randa - Europa Hut (7 h)

Option 2: Grächen - Herbriggen - Galenberg - Europa Hut (9 h)

Second Stage:

Europa Hut - Zermatt (6 -7h)

Europa Hut - Suspension Bridge - Täschalp - Tufteren - Sunnegga

Note: The crossing of the suspension bridge takes about 15 minutes. Please heed the safety instructions.

TOP Europaweg

North-south tour from Grächen: One sets off in the direction of the Matterhorn and sees the north wall of the Matterhorn as well as the Hörnligrat time and again.

South-north tour from Zermatt: One walks in the direction of the Bernese Alps and has the Bietschhorn in plain view, among other peaks.

Getting There

Public transport

By train to the Matterhorn village: 3½ hours from Zürich airport or 4 hours from Geneva airport. Change at Visp onto the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (Matterhorn Gotthard Railway). From Visp, the railway leads through the Mattertal valley past idyllic small villages to Zermatt.

Zermatt is also the start and finish point for the world-famous Glacier Express panoramic train journey (Zermatt to St. Moritz or Davos).

Getting there

Zermatt is car-free. Private vehicles are permitted only as far as Täsch (5 km before Zermatt). The Täsch–Zermatt road is closed to the public.

Onward travel to Zermatt is either by private taxi or shuttle train. Trains depart every 20 minutes; the journey takes about 12 minutes, and ends at the Bahnhofplatz in Zermatt.


Parking

Täsch has car parks with both covered and open-air parking – e.g. at the Matterhorn Terminal or privately operated facilities.

Onward travel: see “Getting there”.

Points of Interest (10)



-  Private Cabin
-  Europahütte

Wildi

3928 Randa

 +41 79 291 33 22

europahuetten@sunrise.ch


<http://www.europahuetten.ch>

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



“Author’s advice”

 Bridge

 The Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge

<https://www.europaweg.ch>

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Historical Site

 Randa wooden cross

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Private Cabin

 Europaweghütte

3929 Täsch

 +41 27 967 23 01

kontakt@europaweghuetten.com

<http://www.europaweghuetten.ch>

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Chapel

 Täschalp chapel

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Photo

 Photopoint Täschalp

Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Photo

 Photopoint Tufteren with “Gädi” buildings


Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Mountain Restaurant

 Tufertalalp

3920 Zermatt

 +41 79 323 93 47

Source: Zermatt Tourismus

 Gondola - Valley Station


 Sunnegga

TOP Europaweg



Postfach 378

3920 Zermatt

 +41 27 966 01 01

info@matterhornparadise.ch

<https://www.matterhornparadise.ch/de/Entdecken/Gipfel/Sunnegga>


Source: Zermatt Tourismus



 Mountain Restaurant

 Buffet Bar Sunnegga

3920 Zermatt

 +41 27 967 30 46

sunnegga@zermatt.ch

<http://www.mymatterhorn.com>

Source: Zermatt Tourismus

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