

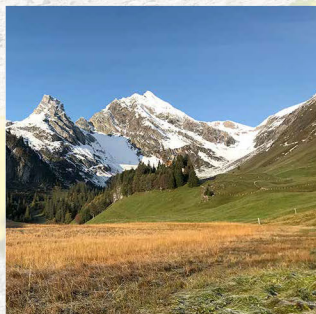
Isenthal

living traditions – cultivated handicrafts



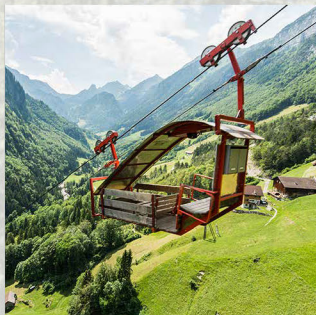
HELLO IN *Ienthal*

Welcome to the mountain village of Ienthal in the canton of Uri! Enjoy some time away from the noise and bustle. Our idyllic village, with around 500 inhabitants, has always welcomed visitors. Stop for a bite to eat here and discover our listed buildings, cosy restaurants, attractive picnic sites, play areas and numerous cable cars that will quickly take you up to the heights – on a guided tour (Tel. 079 510 49 58) or on your own. Untouched landscapes, dense mountain forests and lovingly tended mountain meadows can be discovered during a hike or by mountain bike. Uplifting places in nature or at churches and chapels promise a special peace and new energy. And anyone who is athletically inclined will find rewarding destinations in the form of the Uri Rotstock, the Brisen or many other peaks. From the lowest point by the Lake Lucerne (436 m above sea level) to the highest point on the Brunnistock (2952 m above sea level), every guest will find their own personal favourite place here.



LIVING *Traditions*

The people of Isenthal are proud of their traditions, many of which are connected directly to the local flora and fauna. The lives of the locals have been defined by the forest, as a hunting and forestry area, since time immemorial. More than 20 alps around the village provide pasture for cattle in the summer. Visitors are welcome there and can enjoy alpine cheese or other alpine products in many places. Wild hay is harvested from the species-rich dry grasslands of the steep mountainsides. In 2016, Isenthal's wild haymaking landscapes received the Landscape of the Year award from the Swiss Foundation for Landscape Conservation – a sign of appreciation for the conservation work done by the farmers. Living traditions delight all the senses in Isenthal: for example at Swiss folk music evenings or brass band concerts, at the parish fair, at Carnival or at the village theatre. Numerous associations play their part. And the culinary traditions are also enjoyed all year round.

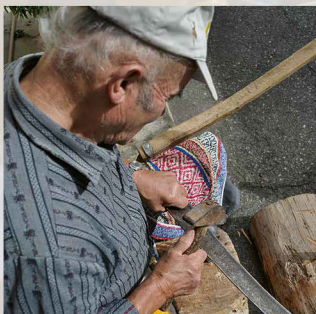


LANDSCHAFT
DES JAHRES

2016

CULTIVATED *handicrafts*

Isenthal has made a name for itself beyond the borders of the canton for its handicrafts market, which takes place every year at the end of September – in conjunction with the tradition-steeped cattle drive down from the mountain pastures. There, you can get a completely authentic experience of crafts which are now rare: bell making, shingle production, basket and rope weaving and many other crafts are lovingly cultivated in the small village. Peter Bissig's Isenthal wood carvings and sculptures are famous throughout Switzerland, especially the likeable "rote Mannli", or "red man", with his distinctive pointed hat. He welcomes visitors from near and far as a miniature figure or as a large sculpture. You can also see handmade items everyday on the farms in the village and on the hills. Younger and older guests are welcome to lend a hand during holidays on a farm. And a lot of things are also done at the slow pace of manual work in the numerous alpine and mountain huts.





URCHIGS HANDWÄRCH

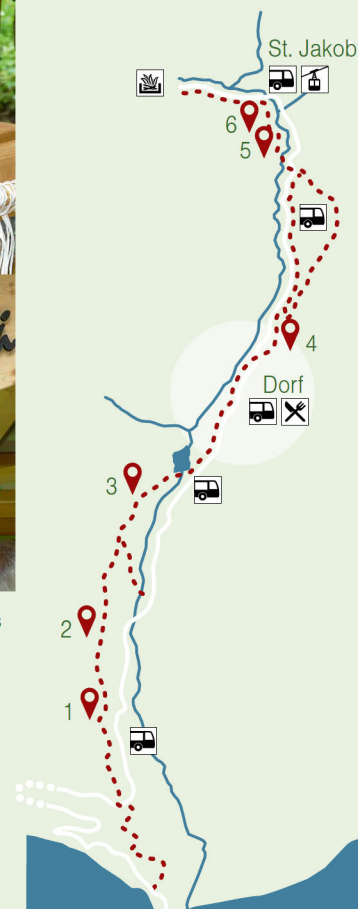
MADE BY HAND IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY

Skilled craftsmanship is in demand! Along the old overland route through the attractive Isenthal valley, you will get to know traditional local crafts. At six stations, you can see, learn and do as they did in our grandparents' day. At the first station, you will find "Saagi", "Stüüdäschäri" and "Stüüdäbock" for bundling thicker and thinner branches (1). Then the route continues to the "Schnätzeesel" (2). Here, you can let your creativity run free, using the drawknife on a piece of wood. But wood is not the only traditional crafting material: the "Häiwgarä" is a hay net that is woven from string (3). Purses and toy bags are made of leather (4). At the next station, you will need muscles – the "Holzruugel" are to be made into handy logs (5). And finally "Schindläyysä", "Schindlämässer" and "Schindläbock" await you to make the tried-and-tested shingles for the façades or roofs of Isenthal's mountain huts (6).



- 1 Making bundles of branches
- 2 Working at the carving bench
- 3 Weaving hay nets
- 4 Working with leather
- 5 Sawing wood – splitting wood
- 6 Making wood shingles

The excursion can also be booked as a guided hike (Tel. 079 510 49 58 or tourismus@isenthal.ch). The six stations between Chäppeli and St. Jakob can easily be reached by PostBus. The hike itself takes around 2 hours.



GITSCHENEN NATURE TRAIL

ALPINE SPLENDOUR BROUGHT NEARER

Gitschenen, at 1600 m above sea level, is the sunny panoramic terrace high above Isenthal and attracts visitors with its magnificent cultivated landscape. Farming families live here all year round and engage in cattle and dairy farming adapted to the different habitats. On the three mountain alps of Kneiwies, Gitschenen and Geissboden, the trail shows how the animals benefit from the variety of species in the mountain pastures. Nearby, wetlands at Glitschen's little lake provide a habitat for grass frogs, common toads and dragonflies. Towards the Sulz valley, there are two larger fens, surrounded by a shady forest. The geology is also rich in variety: around the fire pit at Geissboden, the wind has formed an extraordinary limestone landscape. To conclude the circular trail, it is worth visiting the impressive Betruf chapel.



1 Wetlands, bogs, tarns

2 Alpine farming and alpine pastures

3 Limestone rocks and geology

4 Forest and tall forbs

5 Wetlands, bogs, tarns

6 Agriculture



The circular trail can be reached by cable car or by an energetic walk from St. Jakob. The nature trail includes the themes of agriculture, alpine farming, wetlands, forest and geology. The hike itself takes approximately 1½ hours.

Two cable cars shorten the walking time to the first Swiss dialect trail. A ride in the Wissig-Furggelen cable car must be booked in advance by telephone (041 878 10 82). A ride in the open cabins is a fantastic experience. The dialect trail requires sturdy footwear, surefootedness and a good 4 hours of time.



URI DIALECT TRAIL

MANY PUZZLES RELATING TO THE “ÜRNER TIITSCH”



The authentic earthy dialect is just as much part of Isenthal as the surrounding mountain massifs or the winding road leading to the village. Starting on foot or by cable car from the Wissig-Furggelen valley station, the Uri dialect trail leads to 13 stones with inscribed pairs of Uri dialect words, which tell of typical place names, traditional activities and local traditions. Hikers will encounter puzzling words such as “Wildi – Zähmi”, “Grüawä – Träumä” or “Heinzi – Tischtä”. Fortunately, a dialect guide is available with QR codes that inform the hikers of the meaning and the pronunciation. As well as insights into the linguistic peculiarities, the hiking trail via the Scheidegg to the Obere Bärchi impresses people with its breathtaking views of the varied mountain landscape, Uri’s Reuss valley far below, and the fantastic Lake Lucerne.

ISENTHAL BEAR TRAIL

ON THE TRAIL OF THE BEAR

The six stations of this thematic trail are all about bears. It begins in the centre of the village with a bear poem by a native of Isenthal (1). At the next station, animal lovers find out more about the European brown bear (2). The cuddly teddy bear image has not always applied. The third station provides information about the long hunt for the bear (3). The station above Hofstatt with a view of the village is dedicated to the enduring idea of the bear in Uri (4). The Isenthal valley was home to the large predator into the 19th century: at another information point, today's hikers will find out how the bear came to the remote valley (5). The trail finally leads to the "Mättelistei" picnic site and ends with the description of the dramatic fate of the last bear in the Isenthal valley (6). Incidentally, the "bear trail for children" on the same route offers special visual, sensory and touching games.



Long-feared by the people of Isenthal: in 1820, Uri's last bear in the Isenthal valley was shot. The bear paws from the hunting triumph can still be seen on the Infanger House opposite the PostBus stop. The walking time for the bear trail is approximately 1 hour.



FURTHER INFORMATION

GOOD TO KNOW

UNFORGETTABLEY BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY

The village of Isenthal in the canton of Uri is located high above Lake Lucerne, at 780 m above sea level, and can be reached in 25 minutes by car from Altdorf. You can also get to Isenthal quickly by the PostBus line 405. The well-developed road with spectacular hairpin bends provides wonderful views. Other routes – into the Gossalp from St. Jakob and into the Kleintal valley from Klosterberg – require a driving permit, which is available from the local authority, in the village shop and in the restaurants.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Uri Tourismus

Tel. 041 874 80 00
uri.swiss

Verein Tourismus Isenthal

Tel. 079 510 49 58
tourismus@isenthal.ch

REGA

Tel. 1414

Municipal administration Isenthal

Tel. 041 878 11 31
isenthal.ch

PostBus: Auto AG Uri

Tel. 041 874 72 72
aagu.ch

Course ship

Tel. 041 367 67 67
lakelucerne.ch

Cash machine

Raiffeisen Isenthal

Village shop with postal agency

Tel. 041 878 14 22

Region Klewenalp- Vierwaldstättersee

Tel. 041 624 66 00
klewenalp.ch

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Hotel Urirotstock

Tel. 041 878 11 52
urirotstock.ch

Bergrestaurant Alpstubli Gitschenen

Tel. 041 878 00 92

Gasthaus Tourist

Tel. 041 878 11 51
gasthaustourist.ch

Berggasthaus Gitschenen

Tel. 041 878 11 58
gitschenen.ch

Berggasthaus Musenalp

Tel. 041 878 11 22
Tel. 041 870 03 83 (Winter)
bergrestaurant-musenalp.com

Berggasthaus Bywald

Tel. 041 878 11 62
Tel. 041 878 14 30

Restaurant Seegarten

Tel. 041 878 11 05
seegarten-isleten.ch

Schulhaus Isenthal

Tel. 079 482 03 00
Tel. 041 878 11 31

Gitschenhörelühütte

Tel. 041 880 28 62
Tel. 079 612 90 25

Naturfreundehaus St. Jakob

Tel. 031 306 67 67
naturfreunde.ch

z'Holzschuenis Alpbeizli

Tel. 041 878 13 43

HOLIDAY HOMES (ISENTHAL.CH)

Brunnblick

Tel. 041 878 14 07
Tel. 079 938 72 26

Flüehblüemli

Tel. 041 448 24 01

im Schrindi

Tel. 041 870 71 43
Tel. 076 508 85 45

Isenthal am Urnersee

Tel. 041 878 12 67
Tel. 079 627 88 75

Kneiwies

Tel. 041 878 11 33

Hundwald

Tel. 079 616 37 77

Rophaienblick

Tel. 041 878 00 11
Tel. 079 793 15 25

Schweigsmatt

Tel. 055 412 44 77
Tel. 079 364 89 90

Weid

Tel. 041 878 14 17
Tel. 079 607 09 20

Wiler

Tel. 041 878 12 05
Tel. 079 666 32 06

CABLE CARS AND SKI LIFT

St. Jakob–Gitschenen

Tel. 041 878 01 80
skiliftgitschenen.ch

Gossalp–Oberalp

Tel. 041 878 13 43
Tel. 041 878 13 68
Tel. 041 878 13 58

Kleintal–Musenalp

Tel. 079 546 74 42

Grosstal–Horlachen

Tel. 041 878 11 63

Wissig–Furggelen

Tel. 041 878 10 82
Tel. 041 878 10 16

Vorder Bärchi–Ober Bärchi

Tel. 041 878 00 78

Kleintal–Gietisflue

Tel. 041 878 10 17

Skilift Gitschenen

skiliftgitschenen.ch

FROM SPRING TO AUTUMN

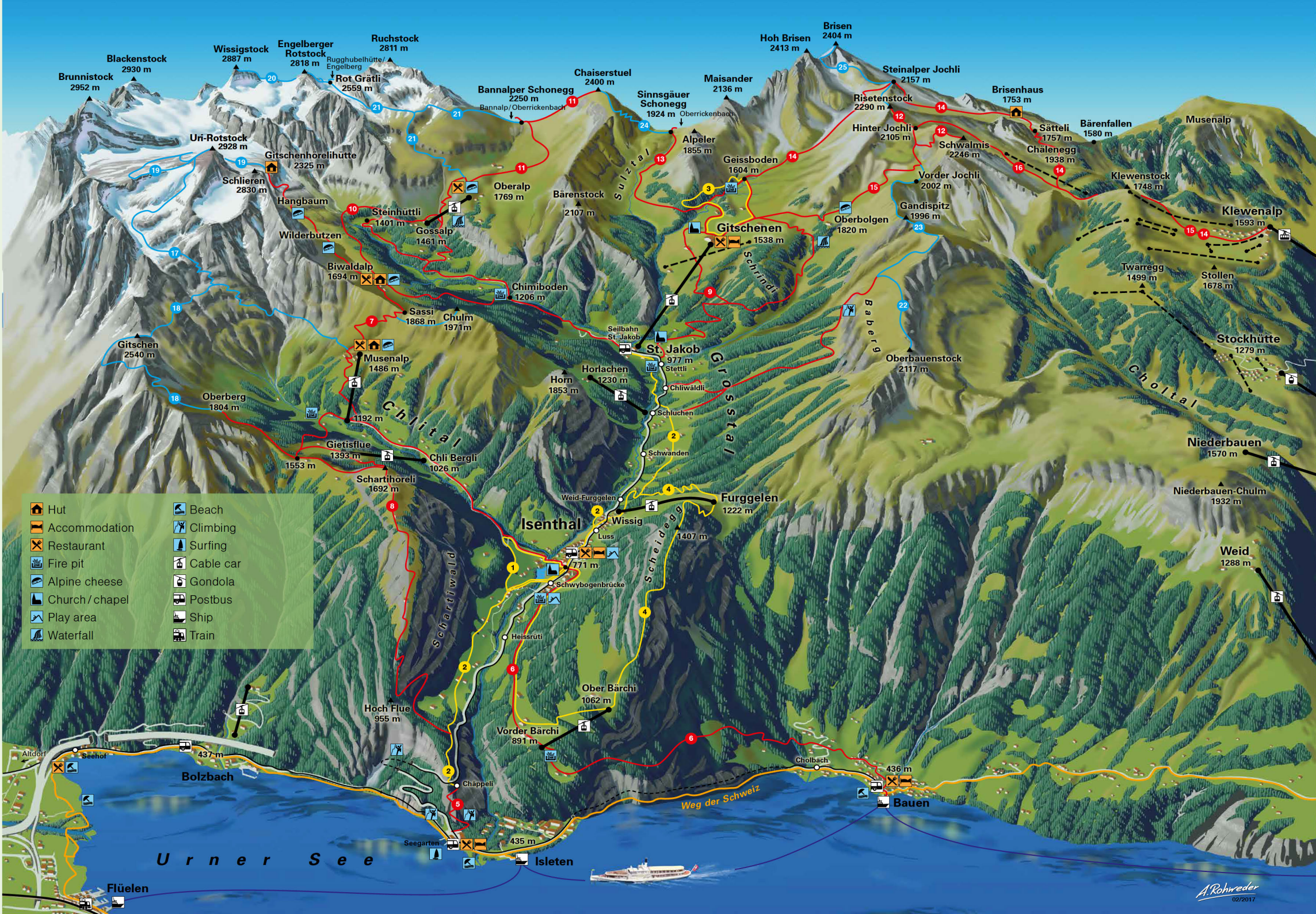
GRAND MOUNTAIN SCENERY

Spring in Isenthal delights people with its sumptuous flowers, summer with the summer grazing and haymaking season, and autumn with its good visibility and its game dishes. Thus, every season has its own charm. From April to October, Isenthal is a hiking paradise with routes for all requirements – from a stroll to an alpine tour, for example up the famous Uri Rotstock. Mountain bikers are drawn to the Bärchi, and the lake in Isleten invites people to windsurf and swim.

HIKING SUGGESTIONS

Hikes (red and white marking)		
1 Bear trail / Bear trail for kids (cf. page 14)	1 ½ hrs.	
2 Theme trail Urchigs Händwärch (cf. page 8)	2 hrs.	
3 Gitschenen nature trail (cf. page 10)	1 ½ hrs.	
4 Uri dialect trail (cf. page 12)	4 hrs.	
5 Isenthal–Alter Landweg–Isleten	1 hr.	
6 Isenthal–Bärchi–Bauen	1 ½ hrs.	
7 Isenthal–Musenalp–Sassigrat–Biwaldalp–St. Jakob	5 hrs.	
8 Isenthal–Schartiwald–Schartihörel–Kleintal–Isenthal	5 ½ hrs.	
9 St. Jakob–Gitschenen	1 ½ hrs.	
10 St. Jakob–Steinhüttli–Wilderbutzen–Biwaldalp–St. Jakob	4 hrs.	
11 St. Jakob–Oberalp–Bannalper Schonegg–(Chaiserstuel)–Bannalp–Oberrickenbach	5 ½ hrs.	
12 Gitschenen–Schwalmis oder Risetenstock	3 hrs.	
13 Gitschenen–Sinsgäuer Schonegg–Oberrickenbach	4 hrs.	
14 Gitschenen–Steinalper Jochli–Brisenhaus SAC–Klewenalp	4 hrs.	
15 Gitschenen–Geissboden–Brisen	3 ½ hrs.	
16 Gitschenen–Hinter Jochli–Klewenalp (Beckenried)	4 hrs.	

Mountain tours (blue and white marking)		
17 Isenthal–Kleintal–Musenalp–Urirotstock	6 hrs.	
18 Isenthal–Kleintal–Oberberg–Gitschen–Musenalp	7 hrs.	
19 St. Jakob–Biwaldalp–Gitschenhörelihütte–Urirotstock	6 hrs.	
20 St. Jakob–Oberalp–Rot Grätli–Engelberger Rotstock oder Wissigstock	6 ½ hrs.	
21 St. Jakob–Rot Grätli–Rugghubelhütte SAC–Engelberg	7 ½ hrs.	
22 Grosstal–Baberg–Oberbauenstock	4 hrs.	
23 Gitschenen–Vorder Jochli–Gandispitz–Baberg–Grosstal	5 hrs.	
24 Gitschenen–Sinsgäuer Schonegg–Chaiserstuel–Oberalp–St. Jakob	5 ½ hrs.	
25 Gitschenen–Geissboden–Brisen	3 ½ hrs.	





ISENTHAL IN WINTER

A WINTER FAIRY TALE

Covered in snow, Isenthal has a particularly magical charm. On the sun terrace of Gitschenen, a peaceful, family-friendly ski resort attracts visitors with inexpensive day and season tickets for the ski lift (skiliftgitschenen.ch). In the immediate vicinity is the popular snowshoe trail and a short, but very

challenging cross-country skiing trail. Isenthal and Gitschenen are also ideal starting points for various impressive one-day or multiple-day ski tours. In the winter, Isenthal delights its guests – from the ambitiously athletic to those more leisurely – with a fairytale tranquillity and sunny days in the snow.

© Isenthal Tourismus, 2021

Concept, text und design: tinto ag, Grafik & Text

Photos: Markus Aschwanden, Heinz Baumann, Ruedi Bissig, Romano Cotti, Dölf Ehrler, Antonia Furrer Bissig, Isenthal Tourismus, Valentin Luthiger, Remo Nägeli, Marlies Planzer, Angel Sanchez

TOUR SUGGESTIONS

Snowshoe trail (marked)

1 Gitschenen–Schrindi–Gitschenen	1 ½ hrs.
----------------------------------	----------

Ski tours

2 Gitschenen–Schwalmis oder Risetenstock	2 ½ hrs.
3 Gitschenen–Brisen	3 hrs.
4 Gitschenen–Sinnsgäuer Schonegg–Oberrickenbach–Bannalp–Bannalper Schonegg–St. Jakob	5 hrs.
5 St. Jakob–Gossalp–Oberalp–Chaiserstuel	4 hrs.
6 St. Jakob–Gitschenhörelihütte–Brunnistock	6 ½ hrs.
7 St. Jakob–Gitschenhörelihütte–Urirotstock	6 ½ hrs.
8 St. Jakob–Rot Grätli–Wissigstock	7 hrs.