

<b>LITE ROUTE</b>	<b>To Follow:</b> Regional Routes 34 and 44
<b>Yverdon</b>	<b>Map:</b> Bike Switzerland Maps
<b>to Murten</b>	<b>GPS points:</b> 3.1 - 3.56
<b>DAY 04</b>	<b>Distance:</b> 60 KM
	<b>Watch out for:</b> You are on Route 5 as well as regional routes today. Lunch:Avenches, Rest stops: Estavayer, Murten

### Points of Interest:

**POI Estavayer** (GPS 3.12) Medieval center, castle, Frog Museum

**POI Payerne** (GPS 3.25) Abbey of Payerne

**POI Avenches:** (GPS 3.41 / Look for picnic table on GPS)

From Yverdon, you begin following Lake Neuchatel. You'll encounter some dirt paths from Yverdon to Estavayer. We hope it hasn't rained much, or you could be walking your bike through lots of mud.

After 20km you will turn away from the lake to be in Estavayer. The well-preserved medieval center and chateau make this small town a good coffee stop. Upon leaving, you'll see the alps ahead of you in the distance.

Payerne is the first large town that you hit. It has an interesting abbey and some nice streets and we suggest stopping to load up on picnic supplies. Your picnic is best taken at the outside amphitheater in Avenches, unless it is the first part of July (when the very large open air opera festival takes place). Avenches, as you'll certainly discover, is home to lots of roman ruins, including a large amphitheater that is still in use.

The real jewel of the day, however, is the town of Murten. Located on lake Murten, this small medieval town lies in the Swiss "Midlands". Numerous attractions remind us of Murten's rich history: the castle, the city walls, the street scenes and the arcades. You can also explore the long lake promenade. So, although small, there is a lot to see and so we'll be spending a few hours here before finding our hotel a few miles down the road. Our hotel is far away from civilization (by Swiss standards), so no reason to get there too early.

Murten is right in the middle of the Switzerland's linguistic divide resulting in a bilingual population, though the majority speaks Swiss German as their first language. Murten also has a special historical significance for the Swiss. On June 22, 1476, Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy, laid siege upon the town and this is known as the Battle of Murten. The town resisted for 13 days and was finally was saved by the Bernese army. The Burgundy army was destroyed completely — some 10,000 were killed. Since then, Murten celebrates the victory every year on June 22.

Our hotel is outside of Murten in the town of "Munchenwiler". The history of the grounds goes back to the 11th century when the land was given over to the church to found a Cluny monastery. It has only been a hotel since 2002.