

ALPINE ROUTE

Weesen →

Distance: 62 kilometers

Appenzell

Climbing: 1,150 meters

DAY

9

Towns: Glarus, Ziegelbruke,
Gommiswald, Wattwil, Hemberg,
Urnasch, Appenzell

Highlights

Ascent to Appenzell Region

Pie stop in Hemberg

Mount Santis in the distance

Get up early to watch the sun burn the fog off the lake.

We'll then bike north 15 kilometers or so on rolling hills up the valley until we reach the mountains of Appenzell. Once you start climbing, look back (near Gommiswald) and you will make Lake Zurich out over your shoulder.

At our first summit in Wattwil, you'll enter a manicured area of Switzerland: small neat houses perched on alps, men cutting grass with scythes, blooming flowers decorating tidy villages. Ask about how the fields and farmhouses are kept so immaculate and even the Swiss will concede that the Appenzellers are a tad obsessive. Nevermind, it's a cyclists paradise and so we've decided to take some extra time to explore.

We'll make our way through Appenzell's most beautiful valleys with the Santis mountain always in the foreground. It's an Appenzell icon.

We'll stop for a bite in Hemberg. There is a church with benches and shade and from there you can see a small local bakery that sells fresh bread and fruit pies.

You'll pass through lots of small towns like this one until you reach our overnight destination: the city of Appenzell. If you haven't had enough cycling, our guides would be happy to suggest a stunning 20 km loop from here.

You're certain to see lots of tourists from all over the world in Appenzell. They come for the pristine surroundings and alpine traditions. If you have time and have not yet bought your Swiss souvenirs, now is your chance.

We'll be staying at the Hotel Hecht in the center of town.