

## Dragon Mountain - Mt Pilatus

Mount Pilatus is situated near Lucerne and Lake of 4 cantons, about one hour from Zürich. You can reach the Dragon Mountain – as Pilatus is also called, from two sides. Once by the cable car near Lucerne and once by world's steepest cogwheel railway from Alpnachstad on Lake of 4 cantons. From Kriens, a small city near Lucerne, is the panoramic cable car leaving. At the middle station you can go out and visit the big children's playground called PILU-Land as well as the new renovated self-service Restaurant Krienseregg. There is also the Dragon Moor Path starting. To reach the Dragon Mountain you have to change at the station Fräkmüntegg to the big cableway called Dragon Ride. At the station Fräkmüntegg you will find the Rope Park, new attractions Dragon Glider, Tree Top Path, during the summer time you can stay overnight in the tree tents under the rope park and at the Dragon Alp (wooden chalet with barbecue possibilities) under the station you can do some barbecue. You can also enjoy some local meal in the self-service Restaurant Fräkmüntegg.

The world's steepest cogwheel railway (with maximal gradient of 48%) is leaving from Alpnachstad and this year will open on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The engineer Eduard Locher had the pioneer idea to built this unique cogwheel railway which is the only one of its kind. The opening was on June 4th in 1889. It has a special cogwheel system with two horizontally rotating cogwheels in a toothed bar and a normal wheel under the two cogwheels. The trains are from 1937 when the cogwheel railway was electrified (before they were running with steam), and running on a wall – 4.6 km long - to be safe regarding the steepness.

## Adventure on Mt Pilatus

At the station Fräkmüntegg, where you change from the cable car into the new cableway Dragon Ride going to Pilatus, is situated the biggest rope park of Central Switzerland with 10 different courses. Adults and children from 8 years can try their skills on zip lines, attractions for climbing and balancing. After some instructions you can start with the easy level to get through to the really difficult courses. The rope park is located in the trees underneath of the station and restaurant Fräkmüntegg. On the monkey trees there you can climb up and try your courage during jumping down. The freeks can take the Dragon Jump course that is leading to the Powerfan – free fall from 20 metres. You will jump or even fly from a platform between the trees and you will be stopped automatically. Children from 4 years can enjoy the PILU rope park. On seven platforms can children learn the mascot PILU.

Beside the entry into the rope park there is also the entry to the Dragon Glider as well as to Tree Top Path. The Dragon Glider is a fly-line, you sit like in a paraglider seat and just fly with the speed of 12km/h slowly between the treetops down, fixed on a guide rail. On the Tree Top Path you will learn more about the flora and fauna on Mount Pilatus. On the platforms up at the trees you will find this informations. You will reach them on the rope in the air, secured through rope network. This path is for free.

Under the rope park you have also the possibility to stay overnight in the tree tents – tents between the trees on a slack line, environ one metre above the ground. This is possible from June till August on Friday and Saturday and bookable as a package including return ticket to Fräkmüntegg, exclusive entry into the rope park in the evening, barbecue and breakfast buffet. The only thing, please bring your own sleeping bag with you. There are 15 tree tents and in one tent can stay overnight one adult with two childrens or two adults with one child. Enjoy the campfire and the night with the stars above your head in the Swiss Alps.

## Hiking paradise

Mount Pilatus is a real hiking paradise. You will find there from easy to really difficult hikes, from hikes on the alpine meadows with cowing cows to hikes through the steep rocks. Some easy hiking tours are at the middle station of the cable car. There you will find f.e. the Dragon moor path with some explications about the glacier, flora and fauna on Mount Pilatus. You will walk around the natural moor there. Some middle easy hikes are between the middle station of the cable car and the station Fräkmüntegg. You will also find another easy hikes at the top of Pilatus, to the three peaks. The views from all three peaks are different and you can admire Swiss Alps, Lake of 4 cantons and in good weather conditions you will see Black Forest in Germany as well as Jura in France. Along the hike to the highest peak on 2'132 m there is a Flower trail with 100 different flowers and herbs that are mentioned on signs in Latin, German and Englisch. The top of Pilatus is a starting point of many another hikes. The really difficult hikes are both

from the bottom (from the lake or from Kriens near Lucerne) to the Dragon Mountain. You need about 4 or 5 hours to hike up.

### **Overnight on Mt Pilatus**

You can also stay overnight on Dragon Mountain. There are two hotels and restaurants with snack bars as well. The oldest hotel is the Hotel Bellevue, opened in 1860. In 1868 the Queen Victoria stayed there for 2 or 3 nights overnight, she was carried there up. In 1960 the Hotel Bellevue burned down and 3 years later the round hotel was opened. Now it's a 3-star-hotel and you will find 20 rooms there. The historic Hotel Pilatus Kulm was opened in 1890, one year after the world's steepest cogwheel railway was opened. The hotel was renovated many times and now it's 3-star-hotel superior with 30 rooms, 3 of them are junior suits. If you are staying overnight, you will have the return ticket to Pilatus, aperitif with cheese from Pilatus as well as 4-course dinner (for individual guests) or 3-course-dinner (for groups) and a breakfast buffet included. The guests from both hotels are eating together in the served restaurants, one of them was also inaugurated after Queen Victoria. In the hotel Bellevue there is a self-service-restaurant located that is closed in the evening, because the served restaurant in Hotel Pilatus Kulm are opened.

If you will stay overnight, you can admire the unforgettable views from the top during the evening or night as well as the sunset or sunrise which are really breathtaking. In the evening or early morning you might be lucky and see some of the 100 ibexes living on Pilatus. There is also a special overnight offer with a guide called « Ibex safari » to observe them and get more information about them.

If you prefer the stars, you can also buy an overnight package called « Astronomy evenings », where an expert will explain you all about the stars and galaxies that you will observe with a telescope.

### **The dragon and Pontius Pilatus**

At the beginning the government of Lucerne prohibited to climb to the top of Pilatus. They've believed bad dragons were living there. According the legends the dragons were good dragons. One of the legend sais, once a dragon flew to Pilatus and crashed to the ground so close to a farmer that he fainted. When he came to, he found a lump of clotted blood and the dragon stone, which had healing powers. Another legend sais, once in the fall a man on Pilatus fell into a deep cavern and found himself lying between two dragons. But they didn't do nothing to him. When the spring came, one of the two dragons left its winter ground and flew off. The other extended its tail toward the man and flew him out of the cavern.

Actually the name Pilatus comes from Pontius Pilatus. After his act he did, he was surching for a calm place. This found he in Lake Pilatus, about 2 hours from the top by foot. But you have to know, where the lake is situated, because when people came to the lake, there was a thunderstorm everytime. It was why they tried to dry the lake. But his soul is lying in this small lake that you can explore during your hiking tours on Mt Pilatus.

### **Sustainability**

Mt. Pilatus is famous for the untouched nature, where 100 ibexes, snow grouses, golden eagles, bearded vulture, red deer, red fox, chamois and other interesting animals and birds. Also the plants and flowers – there is a Flower trail along the way to the highest viewing point of Pilatus – are many to find on Mt. Pilatus.

Regarding energy :

It's not possible to produce the electricity on Mt. Pilatus – the building of Hotel Pilatus Kulm is protected and it's not possible to realize other source of energy on 2132 m a.s.l. The recuperation of the electricity of the train of the world's steepest cogwheel railway will be realize with the new panoramic trains from spring 2023.

85% of the electric energy on Mt. Pilatus is from water energy from the valley.

From 2008 till 2011 took the reconstruction of the Hotel Pilatus Kulm place and the gallery between the both hotels were build. After the renovation were the rooms better isolated (3 times), the heating is with sulfur-free oil and all lamps are saving energy.

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Water – there are two springs: above Ämsigen, where the trains are crossing and at the station Fräkmüntegg. On the top of the restaurant of Fräkmüntegg there are solar pannels to heat the water. We need in total 11000 cubic meter water per year. For the wastewater there is sewerage.

Photos & videos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lq5qsdzohj0o9fb/AAAI9m1qI928t7wifcxSTvk9a?dl=0>

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