

## **Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe 3'454 metres above sea level**

**For more than 100 years, the Jungfrauoch has been considered one of the most spectacular destinations in Europe, right in the middle of the Alps, surrounded by the famous Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains. In 2001, this region became the first in the Alps to receive “UNESCO World Heritage” status.**

The Jungfrau railway is one of the most impressive achievements of Switzerland's mountain railways. It was opened in 1912 after 16 years of construction. It leads from the Kleine Scheidegg mountain up to the Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe at an altitude of 3,454 m, to the highest train station in Europe.

Many visitors view the journey to the “Top of Europe” as the highlight of their Swiss holiday. The train covers the distance of 9.34 km to its destination largely through a seven kilometre-long tunnel hewn out of the mountain. It traverses the mountains of Eiger and Mönch and surmounts 1,400 metres in altitude.

The Jungfrauoch opens up a world of ice and snow for visitors with a view to the Aletsch Glacier which, at 22 km, is the longest in the Alps. On a clear day, it is possible to see beyond the Swiss border into the Vosges Mountains in France and the Black Forest in Germany. Popular attractions on the Jungfrauoch include the Sphinx viewing terrace, the ice palace, the Alpine Sensation opened for its 100th anniversary, the Snow Fun Park, various restaurants, the Lindt chocolate shop (the highest of its kind) and the highest post office in Europe.

### **Journey time to the Jungfrauoch slashed by 47 minutes**

Since 5 December 2020, the Eiger Express, the heaviest and most modern tricable aerial cableway, has been taking guests from the Grindelwald terminal to the Eiger Glacier station in just 15 minutes. The impressive ride in 26-seat cabins passes by the world-famous north face of the Eiger.

At the new Eiger Glacier mountain station, guests can transfer directly to the Jungfrau Railway towards Jungfrauoch. Thanks to the direct transfer options and the direct connection to the public transport system in the terminal, visitors can now reach the Jungfrauoch - Top of Europe 47 minutes faster than before.

### **Alpine Sensation adventure tunnel**

The Alpine Sensation is a new attraction on the Jungfrauoch, opened on 30 March 2012 to mark the hundredth anniversary of the Jungfrau railways. In a 250 metre-long adventure tunnel, it brings to life the story of the Jungfrau railway and the development of tourism in the Alps. A 360-degree cinema has been built in the Sphinx Hall. A film takes visitors on a magical journey into the Alpine world surrounding the Jungfrauoch. Switzerland is presented as a wonderland. In a hall decorated with Edelweiss lights, visitors can see an oversized snow globe used to tell the story of the Jungfrau region and Switzerland. Visitors are taken by conveyor belt past a 90 metre-long wall painting. The romantic painting features motifs depicting the longing for the Alps and the development of tourism. The founder of the Jungfrau railway, Adolf Guyer-Zeller, and his trailblazing vision are also a feature of the Alpine Sensation. Historic photos remind visitors of the construction workers, largely of Italian origin, who worked on the Jungfrau railway tunnel.

A memorial immortalises the names of all 30 workers who lost their lives during the construction of the Jungfrau railway. To conclude the tour, visitors cross a bridge over the highest karst cave in Europe. The tunnel tour was conceived with the aim of offering the best all-weather programme in the Alps.

### **Ice Palace**

In the middle of the Jungfrau firn, 20 metres below the viewing platform, on the watershed of Europe, the ice is piling up to move slowly northwards and, once it melts, it will eventually flow into the North Sea. In the 1930s, two mountain guides started to carve this vast hall out of the glacier ice. Working by hand using ice picks and saws, they created the 1,000 square metre space. The cave-like corridors lead to various ice sculptures. The work is never finished; the ceiling and the vaulting in the corridors needing to be renewed on a regular basis. The grotto is artificially kept at minus three degrees.

On the 40th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's death, the ice statue "Chaplin and the kid" was unveiled on 07 December 2017. The work of art was sculpted by British artist John Doubleday and will be on display in the ice palace for a good 2 years.

### **Sphinx**

Arriving at the rooftop of Europe is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for every visitor. From the Sphinx Hall, the building is reached in 25 seconds with one of the fastest lift systems in Switzerland. The glazed sphinx viewing hall gives a view of the glacier landscape in all weathers. In sunny weather, the terrace surrounding the building invites you to linger. The terrace is at an altitude of 3,571 m and offers a view of the Aletsch Glacier and into the neighbouring countries of France, Germany and Italy.

### **Research station**

The Jungfraujoch has Europe's highest research station, and the highest in the world that can be reached by train. This enables the transportation of highly advanced equipment required for the sophisticated research. The research station was established in 1931 in cooperation with the Jungfrau railway. Physiology and astronomy were originally the main focus. Today, the research station is of enormous significance for environmental scientists, astrophysicists, meteorologists, glaciologists and materials scientists.

### **Snow Fun Park**

It is also possible to enjoy winter sports in summer at the Snow Fun Park on the Jungfraujoch. In good weather, various winter sports can be practised from the beginning of May to mid-October. Whether zooming down the piste on skis or a snowboard, gliding down the sledding piste in comfort or hovering over the crevasses on the steel cable, endless snow can be enjoyed to the full. The right equipment is available for rental on site.

<https://www.jungfrau.ch/en-gb/jungfraujoch-top-of-europe/snow-fun-park/>

### **Mönchsloch hut**

The Mönchsloch hut is the highest manned hut in Switzerland. It serves as a starting point for mountain tours, glacier treks and ski tours in the Jungfrau area. An excursion onto the Jungfraujoch can be easily combined with a winter walk to the Mönchsloch hut. The trail goes over glaciers but, weather permitting, is prepared daily using a snow groomer. The hut, which is at an altitude of 3,657 m, can be reached in around an hour. With the heated hut providing a large selection of food and drink, your every need is catered for.



## Shopping

On 16 July 2014, Roger Federer opened the “Lindt Swiss Chocolate Heaven”. The highest-lying Lindt experience store in the world offers an extensive assortment of the finest Lindt chocolates. Exciting insights into chocolate manufacture delight visitors to the Maîtres Chocolatiers parlour.

In the Top of Europe shops, the Jungfrau railways offer a wide selection of souvenirs, hand-cut wooden figurines, Victorinox knives, watches and clothes.

## Dining

The Jungfraujoch offers various restaurants with a total cover of 1,000. In the a la carte restaurant Crystal, guests are spoiled with a choice of Swiss specialities and international menus. The self-service restaurant Aletsch offers an extensive range for every taste and is best for quick and simple meals.

The Jungfraujoch has been a popular destination among Indian visitors for years. This is mainly explained by the famous Bollywood films which Yash Chopra, one of the biggest producers in the Indian film industry, filmed in the Jungfrau region.

To this day, many guests travel from India to visit film locations like the Top of Europe and to touch snow. It is for this reason that the Indian restaurant “Bollywood” was opened. But in addition to Indian guests, it’s also popular with vegetarians.

From September 2013 until April 2014, the Bollywood Restaurant was completely renovated in a CHF 11 million project as part of the “Eiger” group restaurant. The new glass facade gives guests an uninterrupted view of the glacier and the mountains.

<https://www.jungfrau.ch/en-gb/jungfraujoch-top-of-europe/restaurant-crystal/>

## Seat reservations

The Jungfraujoch is one of the most popular excursion destinations in the world. In the high season when the number of guests is high, a seat reservation is recommended. To improve quality, a new guest management system was put into operation at the Kleine Scheidegg train station in 2016. Since then, it has also been possible for single travellers to make a seat reservation. The Kleine Scheidegg – Jungfraujoch return seat reservation costs CHF 10.00 and can be booked at <https://www.jungfrau.ch/shop/en/bergbahn/reservation>

The Jungfrau railway is a 100% subsidiary of the Jungfraubahn Group.

## Events

Regular sporting events are carried out on the Jungfraujoch with globally renowned athletes. The following events have already been organised by the railway on the Jungfraujoch:

- 06/06/2007 Euro 2008 Kick-off, Austria - Switzerland football match
- 15/08/2009 Kapil Dev, India's cricketer of the century and other legends from India and England play against one another
- 07/05/2012 Wladimir Klitschko vs. Tony Thompson, preparation for the World Cup boxing match in Bern
- 04/07/2013 Wenger and Abderhalden slalom on the Jungfraujoch
- 20/09/2013 Swiss celebs play golf on the Jungfraujoch
- 16/07/2014 Roger Federer competes against ski racing star Lindsey Vonn for a tennis show match
- 10/07/2015 Asafa Powell sprints against Dario Cologna
- 14/09/2016 NBA star Tony Parker competes against renowned Swiss basketball players
- 07/12/2017 Charlie Chaplin's son Eugene unveils the "Charlie Chaplin and the kid" ice sculpture by John Doubleday
- 04/10/2018 Golf star Rory McIlroy plays golf on the Jungfraujoch
- 26/07/2019 Andy Schmid launches the handball match between BSV Bern and South Korea on the Jungfraujoch