

Bäderhore (HB/BE-122)

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Summary: A straightforward summit, 500m climb, with great views of many famous summits in the area. On this day, I saw people of all ages, from 8 to 80, who made the climb. A nice alternative to the familiar places you've heard of (and which most Swiss have already activated).

On the train ride from Spiez (on Lake Thun) to Zweisimmen, it seems that every time you turn your head you see another SOTA. Some of them are very familiar to the Swiss: Niesen, Stockhorn, Gantrisch... In fact, although the train was very crowded when we left Spiez, half of the people got off at Erlenbach so they could take the cable car up into the Stockhorn area. I instead opted to activate a summit that is not nearly so popular (but still had plenty of people on this summer solstice).



A view of Bäderhore from the train station in Boltigen.

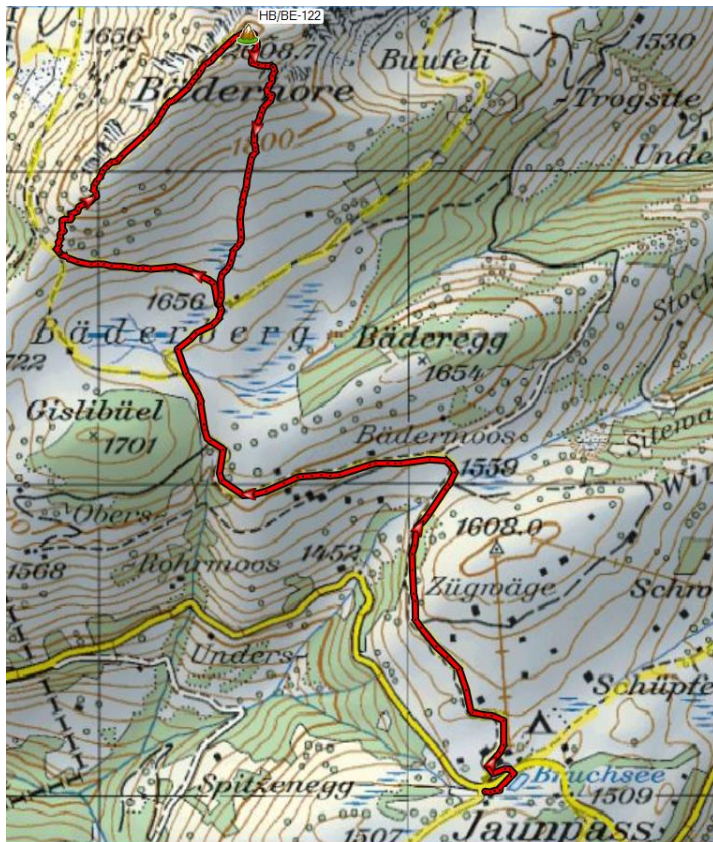


The Jaunpass bus stop -- there are several restaurants and down the street plenty of parking.

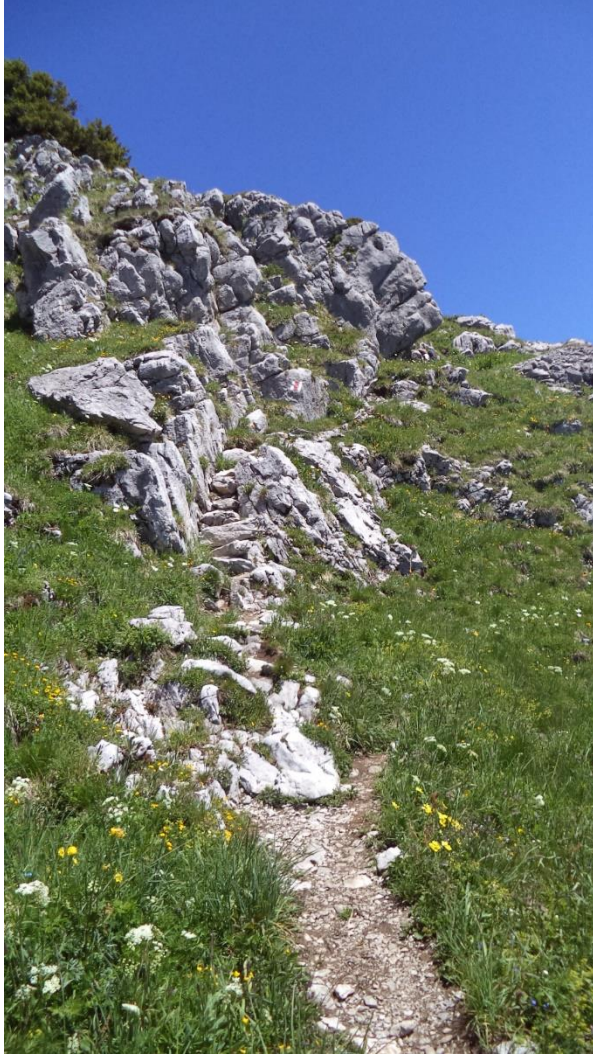


View of Bäderhore from just above the Jaunpass bus stop, and from this side the summit doesn't look nearly as intimidating. If you like to camp, Jaunpass has several places for RVs and tents.

The jumping off point for Bäderhore is Jaunpass. The bus leaves from the train station in Boltigen and travels to a bus stop called "Jaunpass Restaurant" -- and note that the bus runs only in the summer season from late June (I was on the second day it ran this year) through mid October. If you travel by car, there are a number of restaurants at the pass and plenty of parking.



GPS trail showing the alternate descent from the summit (the right part of the loop).



This is perhaps the most difficult section of the trail to the summit; for the most part the trail is relatively easy -- rocky, but not any more difficult than the average SOTA.

The hike to the summit took just over 1.5 hours, 568 meters climb total, and covered 5.6 km. There is nothing especially dangerous about the hike, just a few somewhat exposed spots. The first half is relatively flat, but at Point 1656 it starts getting steeper, and the final 1/3 of the hike yet a bit steeper. Even so, people of all ages, from 8 to 80, made the hike on this day.



My mast attached to the summit cross, which is the only physical support available on the summit.

The summit / activation area is somewhat small. There is a summit cross to support a mast but there are no other options for lashing a mast (i.e. no fence posts -- the farmers don't expect cattle to get up here). I am uncomfortable lashing my mast to a summit cross on a crowded summit, but today I got lucky; when I got up, there was only one small group. But when I started activating, a number of other hikers made their way up, as well, and the summit was relatively "full".



Although it is not marked on the Swiss Topo maps, this well-worn trail from the summit takes a shortcut directly towards the Bergbeiz.

The Swiss Topo map shows only one trail to the summit, across the ridge from the southwest to the northeast. However, I noticed a large number of hikers -- more than half, including some elderly people -- take an alternate path back down. It is relatively steep (not recommended for the ascent), but there is a well-worn trail that is unmistakable. I decided to take this route, and it did save me some time.

Also, at Point 1656 there is a "Bergbeiz" -- an informal place where you can get cold drinks and a plate of homemade cheese. I stopped there for a beer, and a number of people were leaving with bags of cheese. The beer is likely a bit more expensive than at the Jaunpass restaurants, but I like to help the local farmers who run these bergbeiz places financially.