

## HB/GR-107 Vilan

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*Activation date: October 3, 2015*

*Summary: A pleasant 8-pointer whose 600 meter ascent has absolutely no dangers. But make sure you have reservations for the cable car!!*

Vilan is about as easy as a 600 meter ascent gets, which explains why there were so many people on the summit even on a foggy weekday. I would rate it as a T2.



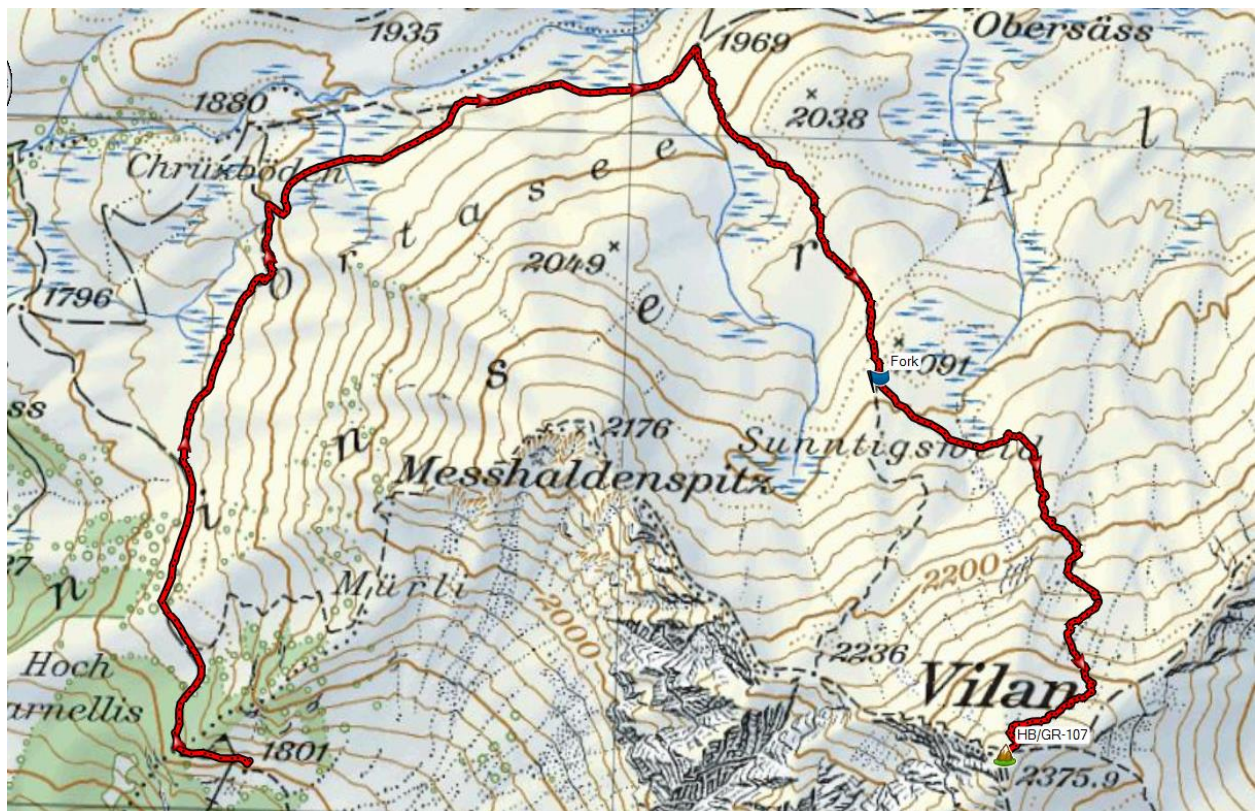
*Cablecar valley station on the outskirts of Malans. Maximum capacity is 8 persons (4 in each car).*

First drive to the valley station just outside Malans and then ride up to the Älplibahn cablecar's summit station and save yourself 1200 meters of elevation. However, the cablecar accommodates only eight people max (backpacks ride on the luggage deck) and runs only 4x per hour. This limited capacity means that you must make reservations to ride up and down. Otherwise in the worst case you will not get a seat at all, or else you'll take your luck with any leftover free seats and will have to wait until your time comes along. In my case, I waited an hour to go up and 90 minutes to ride down. There is a pleasant restaurant at the summit station to help you kill the time, but there is nothing at the valley station except a parking lot (parking is free for those who use the cablecar). You can make reservations for the Älplibahn by calling +41 (0)81 322 47 64, and a roundtrip for adults costs CHF 18.00. Note also that the cablecar runs only in summer; for 2015 the operating dates are May 23 to November 15. The 14-minute cablecar ride takes you up 1194 meters.



Cablecar summit station. This is where you wait until your scheduled seat leaves.

A large number of people who ride the cablecar also hike up to Vilan, so expect a crowd on the trail and the summit. If you want solitude, this is not the hike for you.



The first section takes you along a road and then over a meadow to another road. At Point 1969 you leave the road for good and hike up to the fork at Point 2091. Here you will see a sign pointing out the two routes -- approaching the summit from the west or from the east. The eastern route is by far the easiest and is quite safe. There is not an exposed spot on the entire trail. It might be somewhat steep at



times, but nothing that a seasoned activator hasn't already seen many times before. The posted time for the hike is 2 hours, but I made it in just over 90 minutes. The overall ascent was 621 meters, and the length of the route is 3.4 km. Note that in early October there was already a tiny bit of snow on the ground, and it made the hiking path muddy and very slippery on the steeper parts.



*The middle section of the hike along the Ortasee. The wooden walkways tell me that this area can be quite muddy if there has been rain recently.*



*The sign at the fork at Point 2091. The blue sign pointing to the western approach says "Vilan (steep)" and is a blue/white Alpine route. The red/white eastern approach to Vilan is marked "less steep". Note that what you see here is not the final peak, which is hidden from sight by this secondary peak.*



*This is as steep as it gets -- so you can see there is nothing dangerous at all about this hike -- except mud when there has recently been rain or snow.*



The activation zone is relatively large, but as noted before you will inevitably find a large number of people on the summit. There are ample opportunities for lashing a mast.



*The activation zone is relatively large...*



*...with a convenient bench to sit on if there are not too many other people there (here is Peter HB9TVK working a pileup). This is also where you get the best views of the Landquart River Valley leading to Klosters (see following photo):*

