

Hochfinsler HB/SG-013

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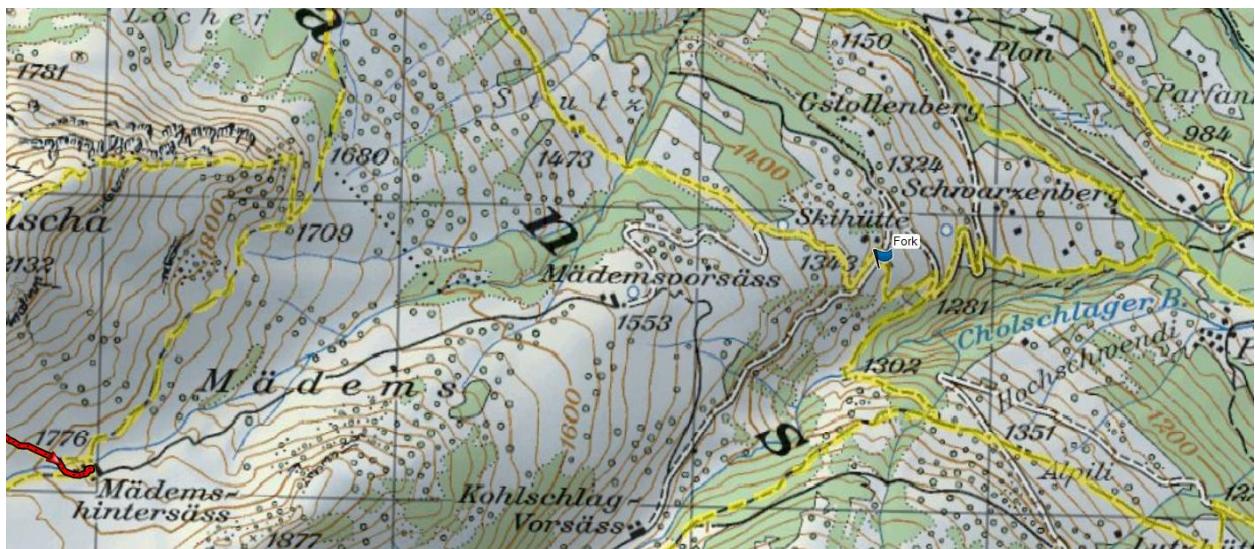
Summary: Hochfinsler is a straightforward activation -- IF you know the right roads to drive up, where to park and learn some tips about the trail. Here's what we learned during our activation.

Hochfinsler (2423 meters) is another of those summits that is hard to access via public transportation, so I rode up with Hugo HB9AFH for today's activation. We ended up parking in the wrong spot and the hike was longer than we expected, but we did learn where and how future activators should go.

Your ultimate goal with the car is Mädemshintersäss (far left on the map below). You start the drive up from Mels Dorf (just outside Sargans). When in the village, look for the road sign pointing to Mädris-Vermol Chapfensee.



This takes you up a winding 1-lane road (be observant of oncoming traffic). The critical thing now is to make the proper turn. This is indicated at the waypoint marked "Fork" on this map:

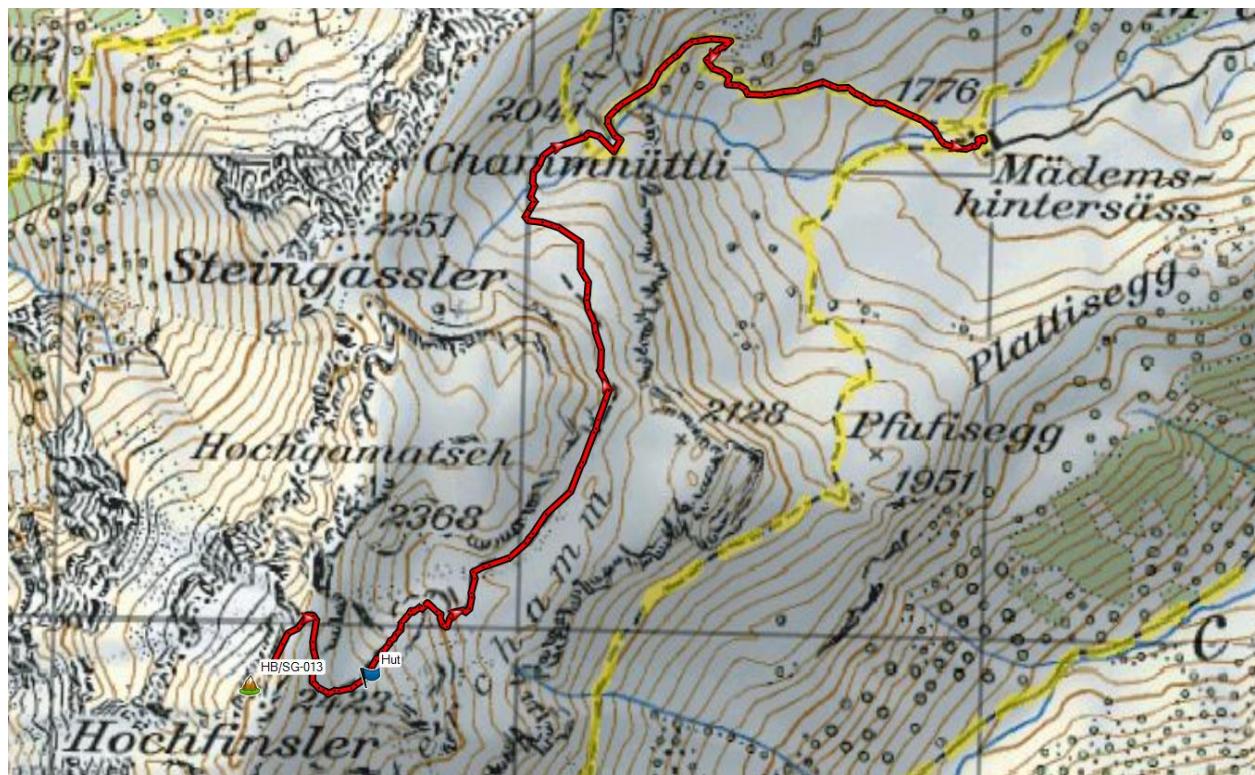




The critical fork on the way up -- be sure to take the road to the right (Mädemserstr.)!

At this spot you will see the sign post pictured above -- be sure to take the *right turn* onto Mädemserstr. (If you instead continue straight, you will end up in the Kohlschlag Valley, and following this road as far as you can -- until you get to the red circle "prohibited for all vehicles" sign near Point 1660 -- you are in a good spot to start hiking to HB/GR-015 Guli.) Mädemserstr winds around, and you wil first reach Mädemsvorsäss. Continue driving -- there is a good road that leads to Mädemshintersäss, where there is limited parking at a farm. (I found it amusing that there was an old, fading sign offering milk for CHF 1.00 per liter and alpine cheese for CHF 16.00 per wheel -- perhaps those prices are still current?)

This is your departure point for the hike. From here, the total climb is just short of 700 meters with a distance of 3.5 km one way. The trail is very good for the most part (we did have isolated spots where we had to go across some small areas of snow). It is not steep except for the stretch starting at the waypoint "Hut" on the map, and there are no real exposed spots that present any serious danger.



GPS trail of the suggested best route up to Hochfinsler.



On the trail from Mädemshintersäss to the Chammüttli (the small cross in the foreground). Hochfinsler is immediately behind the summits visible in the background of this photo.

Important note: at the bottom of the final ascent to the summit there is a mountain hut (Ziegerhalden Hut, altitude 2171 -- see the waypoint "Hut" on the map). The trail to the summit is just to the left of the hut. *This trail is not marked at all, and it is not visible from the hut -- but this is the best trail going up!!*



The trail for the final ascent to Hochfinsler is on the left side of this hut.



View from the Zigerhalden hut to Hochfinsler, the peak on the right of the isolated rock formation in the center of this photograph.



Once you get behind the rock formation in the previous photo, you take a semi-circular route to Hochfinsler (summit cross barely visible).



Hugo HB9AFH operating at the summit cross. There are no other opportunities for a mast support.



The author, Paul HB9DST, next to the "Steinmännli" (cairn) immediately adjacent to the summit cross. Although I am sitting in the sun, note the dark clouds building in the background; when we heard thunder, we cut our activation short and hiked down as quickly as possible. We did encounter rain for about half an hour as we descended -- and then the sun came out again, and then it started raining again...