

Summits on the Air (SOTA) – Summit report

HB/LU-029 – Bireggwald – 602 m.a.s.l. – 1 point

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Switzerland can be seen in an atlas as a country sliced up in three parts:

- the Swiss Alps, covering the southern 50 %, with higher mountains,
- the Swiss Jura, covering the northern 10 %, with lower mountains resp. higher hills, and
- the Swiss Mittelland, a hilly plateau in between with the major cities.

Lucerne in Central Switzerland is one of the gates from the Mittelland to the Alps, located centrally and at a good distance from all directions. The region has been shaped by glaciers in the glacial periods. There are several hills around the city and the end of the Lake of Lucerne. One of them is Bireggwald.

My home hill is Sonnenberg, HB/LU-028, west of Lucerne. But Bireggwald is also not far from home. It offers a beautiful view to the first chains of the Alps, a large activation zone with two benches and a mast support in between – or even at the border of the forest, to prevent a sunburn in midsummer.

If you have some spare time after your activation and don't have to hurry back to your car and the next activation, the hike back to city of Lucerne along the borders of Bireggwald forest is a nice finish with marvelous outlooks on Lake of Lucerne and its surroundings – sunny weather provided. Follow the yellow dotted line down to Matthof (a hike of 30 minutes), where you can take bus #6 or #21 back to the central railway station.



Data source: Swisstopo, map.geo.admin.ch.

How to get to the summit

The hill Bireggwald is covered by a large forest, except for the southern part. This hillside is a neighborhood for affluent people enjoying silence and marvelous outlooks. Be careful therefore to respect private property, especially when parking your car. Your target is named Oberrüti on the maps. There was a hotel with a well-known swimming pool at the top, but the building is now abandoned.

There are several options, and all involve some easy hiking. It's helpful to know that Bireggwald is located not in Lucerne, but in Horw.

By car: Parking lot/trail head: [47.020938, 8.325897](#)

There is a parking lot near the tennis center at Felmis, located in Horw. This parking is recommended by the municipality for a hike to Bireggwald. It's not recommended to drive to the summit by car, although you might be lucky to catch a place for your car in one of the side roads to the main road to the summit, but be aware that all roads except for the main road are private property. Additionally, there is a general ban on driving at the second last turn, so the access road Oberrütistrasse is a dead end street.

Follow Oberrütistrasse by foot to the North to reach the activation zone at Oberrüti (1400 m, 20 minutes, sky blue path on the map).

By public transports:

My recommendation is to take bus #7 at the central railway station of Lucerne in the direction of "Biregghof" and to drive until bus stop "Rodtegg" (15 minutes, CHF 4.10 full fare or CHF 3.10 at reduced rate, one way). Cross the main street and follow the side road to the forest border. Follow the yellow sign-posts to Oberrüti (25 minutes, southwards through the forest, orange path on the map).

There is a second possibility to take bus #21 at the central railway station of Lucerne in the direction of "Horw > Kriens-Busschleife" and to drive until bus stop "Felmis" which is located just at the mentioned car park nearby the tennis center (25 minutes, CHF 4.10 full fare or CHF 3.10 at reduced rate, one way). Continue to the North on Oberrütistrasse by foot to reach the activation zone at Oberrüti (1400 m, 20 minutes, sky blue path on the map). Be aware indeed that bus #21 is not a main line, you should therefore check the timetable.

By foot:

There are several possibilities to hike from the valley already. Please check the common tools for hiking in Switzerland:

- The official maps from the federal office Swisstopo: <https://map.geo.admin.ch/?lang=en> (a zoom level of 1:10'000 and a switch to satellite images are available, and an additional layer for hiking trails can be activated)
- Switzerland Mobility, a touristic application with layers for hikers, based on the federal map: <https://map.wanderland.ch/?lang=en&bgLayer=pk&resolution=100&E=2663606&N=1197011&layers=Wanderland>

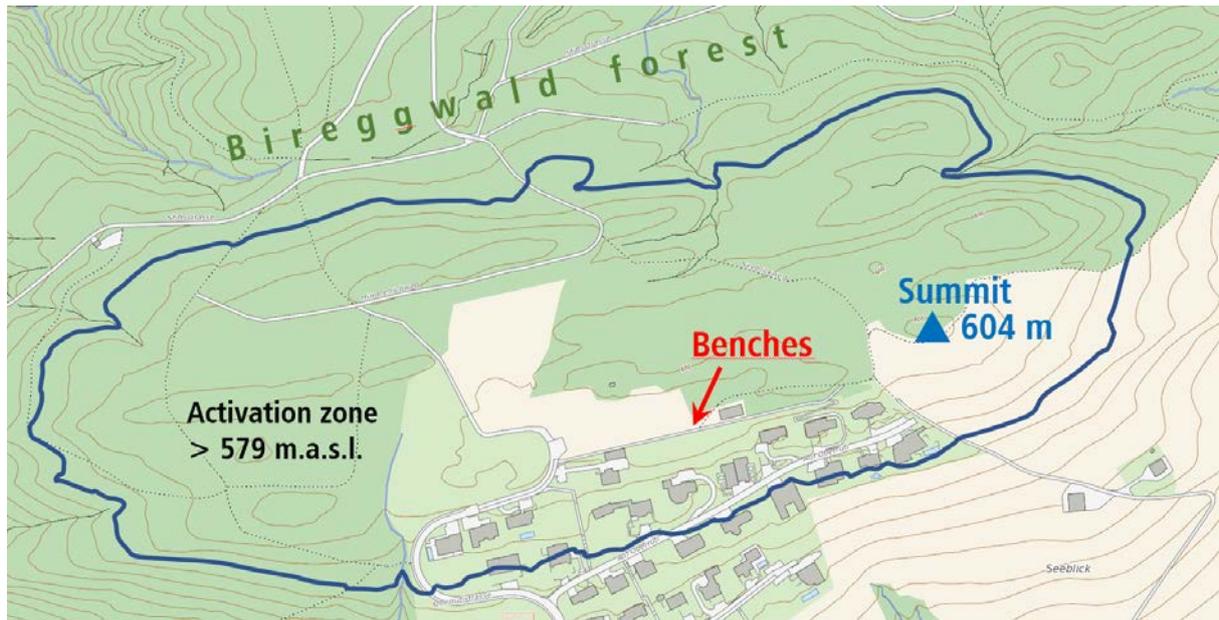
Official hiking trails in this height segment are marked with yellow sign posts and yellow marks.

How to get to the activation zone

It's easy here: the benches with the nice outlook are marked on the map by a red arrow. Take a seat and enjoy that you're already there! Be aware indeed that others enjoy the outlook, too, so be prepared to share the benches and to explain SOTA to other walkers.

The activation zone is really large and allows you to stay even in the forest in case of summer temperatures.

Check this map to see the border of the activation zone:



Useful internet resources

- Timetable for all public transports in Switzerland: www.sbb.ch/en/
- HB9SOTA, the Swiss Chapter of the SOTA programme: www.hb9sota.ch
- Summit page of HB/LU-029, Bireggwald, in the SOTA database: www.sota.org.uk/Summit/HB/LU-029
- Map with the most precise contour lines (1 meter!) for the LU region (Canton of Lucerne): <http://www.geo.lu.ch/map/grundbuchplan/> (cadastral map, choose "Basisplan" in the "Hintergrund" menu in the upper right corner of the map to display the contour lines)

Important Disclaimer: In no case will the author of this report be liable for any direct or indirect damage resulting from the use of information of this report.



These are the mentioned benches with a possible setup for a SOTA activation of HB/LU-029.

Hiking back to Lucerne



Mount Rigi (HB/SZ-021) in the centre and Lake of Lucerne in front.



Lake of Lucerne with Bürgenstock (HB/NW-019) behind the tree. Bürgenstock summit is b.t.w. an exclave of the city of Lucerne in the canton of Nidwalden.
