

## HB/FR-008 Kaiseregg

*Paul HB9DST / AA1MI, 10 Sept 2018, perfect late summer day*

*If you want to experience Swiss hiking going up to an impressive summit with spectacular views BUT on a trail that's not really dangerous for anyone with any experience in hiking and is even suitable for children, this is for you! Being so readily accessible also has its downside -- you'll run into lots of people on the summit, sometimes making it tricky to set up an antenna without bothering them. Thus, avoid weekends if at all possible.*



*Kaiseregg HB/FR-008 as seen from the lake next to the bus stop and cable car station.*

Most people start their hike to Kaiseregg from the top of the Riggisalp cable car, whose bottom station is in Schwarzsee/Gypsera. There is a quite large parking lot, and for those taking public transportation, there is an hourly bus connection from Freiburg.



The hike as shown on the sign at the cable car station (purple trail going left from the center through Salzmatt) says the hike takes 3 hours; I needed just over 2.5 hours including several pauses to catch my breath and take a drink. The route is 5.5 km long and ascends 750 vertical meters. The trail is mostly T2 (quite easy) with a few spots an easy T3, but nowhere do you need your hands and nowhere are you really exposed to a dropoff at any great degree (except at the summit itself, of course). The summit is at an elevation of 2185 meters, which is good for 8 points. Although the hike is technically not difficult, you have to be in reasonably good shape, and be sure to wear good hiking boots.



From the cable car station you descend into the bottom of the nearby valley and pass directly by a farm, seen here at the bottom right of the photo:



Now there's an easy trail going left from the farm, mostly on a mountain road, leading to Salzmatt, where there is also a place to get refreshments (look to see if the Swiss flag is flying and the sun umbrellas are open -- a good indication that there is service that day). In addition, I spotted a small parking lot with several cars (GPS 46.6643 / 7.3188), and photos from Google Earth show almost a dozen cars at one time -- which seems to indicate it is permitted to drive up to this point, but I can give no guarantees.

From this saddle at Salzmatt, you make a right-hand turn to start the actual ascent to Kaiseregg. Note, however, that if you turn left and go up the smaller hill, in about 30 minutes you will be on the summit of HB/FR-027 Hohmattli. Some activators who are fast hikers can do both summits in one day; however, because of the constraints of public transportation and the fact that I wanted to do a leisurely activation on Kaiseregg (no 4 QSOs and out to the next summit), I did not have enough time for that second activation (actually, I had already activated that summit, but during winter on a snowshoe hike).



*View of Salzmatt, the small parking area, and the short trail up to HB/FR-027 Hohmattli.*

As noted, from Salzmatt you turn right follow a very clear trail:





At the top of this rise, you might think the trail follows the ridge going left, but no, instead it continues roughly straight, slowly but steadily gaining altitude:



This brings you to the zig-zag portion of the trail you can clearly see in the map at the start of this report. For the next somewhat 100 vertical meters, you climb a long series of wooden stairs set into the trail (as noted, this trail is quite safe and is intended for the general public). There is often also barbed wire on both sides of the trail to keep grazing sheep away, and thus the trail is clear of sheep droppings. Here is a photo looking down at the zig-zag trail:





Once you reach the top of the stairway, you can't yet see the actual summit, which is still just a bit more than 100 meters of ascent away. You first hike up a section to a crest:



And at the top of this section you have another equally long hike up to the actual summit (with the summit cross just visible just to the right of the center of this photo). The trail is easy to find and is not nearly as difficult as it looks in the photo:



There is a summit cross to which you can lash an antenna mast (and there is also an information display a few meters below the actual summit which provides another spot to lash a mast). There are also a number of benches you can sit on comfortably while you are operating -- if they are not already occupied by the many other visitors to the summit.



View from the summit back down to the cable car station and the lake:





And the view looking into the Alps:

