

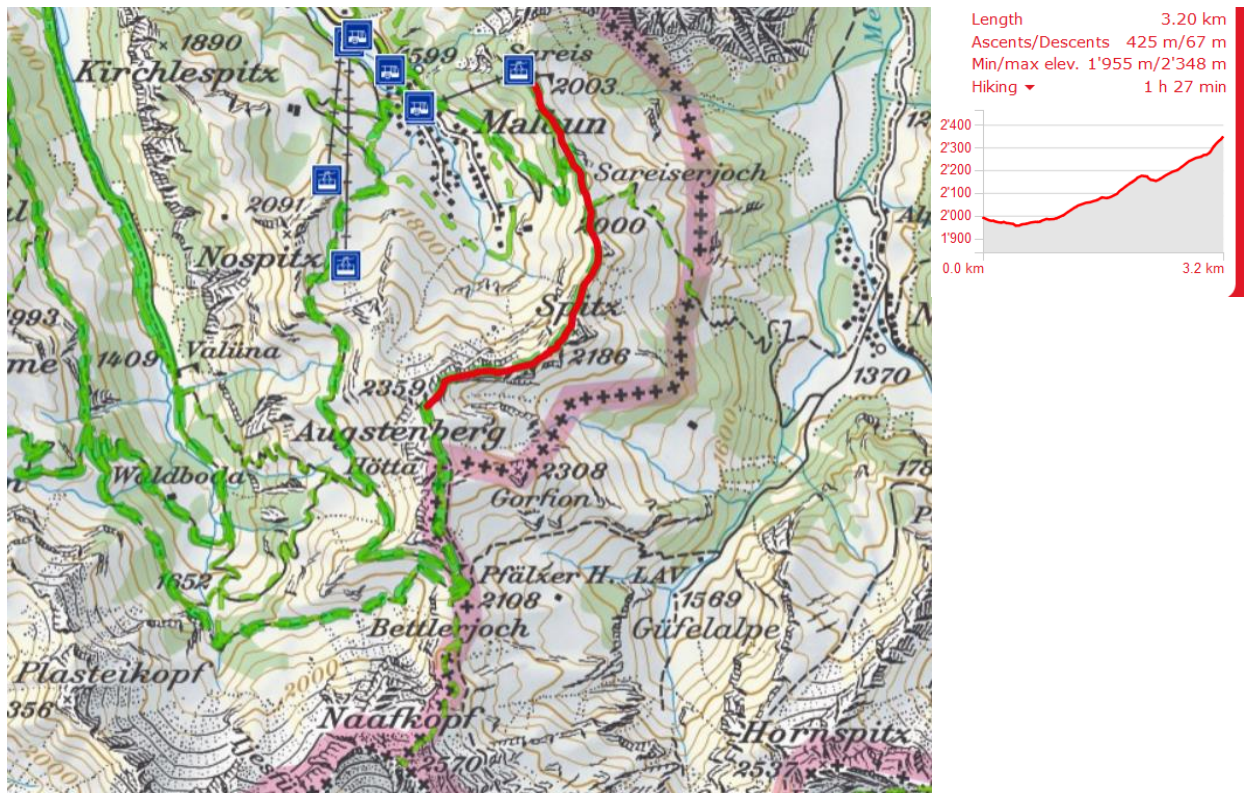
Augstenberg HB0/LI-004

People generally don't realize that Lichtenstein isn't very far at all from Switzerland. If you're looking to add the HB0 Association, the summits there are all generally very accessible. Here's one of the most attractive and appealing to a wide audience.

by Paul HB9DST / AA1MI

When I get visitors who express an interest in putting an HB0 summit in their log, the first one I think of, and the one I've taken a number of visitors to, is Augstenberg HB0/LI-004. It's suited even for casual hikers, the views are fantastic and the hike is rewarding but not really difficult.

The point of departure is the cablecar summit station in Malbun, a ski resort town that is served by public buses (and is part of the Swiss transport system). The trip from Zurich takes only roughly 2 hours. From the cablecar summit station it's a ridge walk that has only one or two spots where you might briefly need your hands. But as far as alpine hikes, this is relatively simple and safe. You'll find plenty of families and tourists along the route. It's an ascent of 425 meters over 3.2 km and takes roughly 90 minutes one way.



Route from Malbun to Augstenberg. The ambitious can add Naafkopf (HB0/LI-002), which holds the distinction of at one time being the world's only triple SOTA (HB/HB0/OE) good for 30 points. Sadly that's no longer the case. You can also stay overnight at the Pfälzerhütte (Alpine hut).



A view of the ridge hike from the cablecar summit station. Augstenberg is in the background to the right, and you get there in approx. 90 minutes.



Probably the trickiest part of the entire hike, and it's not really that tricky for anyone with any mountain hiking experience at all. You're not exposed and there's really no danger if you watch your step (as you always should).



The summit cross would normally serve as a support for a radio mast. However, this summit is so popular that there will inevitably be a large group of people here and it gets difficult to avoid them with antenna wires and supports. However...



...literally just a few steps away is a flat area well within the activation zone where you have plenty of room to set up antennas without disturbing people or being disturbed.