

Hertenstein Cultur Trail



Historisches Archiv Weggis

«... damit das Gedächtnis unseres Dorfes nicht verloren geht»



From the Hertenstein Boat Station to Zinnen

1. Boat Station Hertenstein

Welcome to the Hertenstein Culture Trail. Enjoy some of the highlights we have chosen for you on this famous peninsula.

Campus Hotel Hertenstein is located in a wonderful position near the Hertenstein boat station. It used to be a rather small guesthouse, opened in 1864, which was already able to welcome renowned guests in its early years. In 1868, for example, the English Queen Victoria and the beauty-loving Bavarian King Ludwig II were guests at the hotel. What remained, however, was the smaller guesthouse at the boat station, which was gradually renovated and rejuvenated over the coming years and decades as the Hotel Hertenstein. Today, apart from hotel rooms, Campus Hertenstein offers studios and apartments. Part of the campus belongs to Cereneo, a centre for neurology and rehabilitation.

Hotel Hertenstein played an important role in the founding of European unity. A memorial stone at the boat station is a reminder of this. In 1946, 79 representatives from 14 European countries and the USA came to Hotel Hertenstein to work out how to create a federal Europe in a peaceful post-war world. The meeting resulted in 12 theses that went

down in history as the Hertenstein Programme. They were adopted on 21 September 1946 and on 22 September the participants sailed to the Rütli and presented the theses to the public. The inscription on the memorial stone reads: *"Europa-Union. Since September 1946, when European federalists met here in Hertenstein for the first time, this quiet location by the lake has been regarded as a place of reflection and hope for a peaceful federalist, cosmopolitan, social and united Europe. The idea of a Union of European Federalists (UEF) and the concept of a Swiss European policy (Hertenstein Programme) were born here. May every visitor to Hertenstein support the idea of a united Europe."*

2. The Bay and Hertenstein Pond

Thanks to the visit of Queen Victoria and the Bavarian king Ludwig II, the Bay of Hertenstein attained a certain notoriety. This prompted a banker from Lucerne to build the Schlosshotel Hertenstein on the other side of the bay. In 1921, the whole world looked to Hertenstein when the Austrian Emperor and Hungarian King Karl I stayed here in exile with his family and court of about 100 people. After that, it became quieter around the Schlosshotel and during the Second World War all tourism came to a standstill. In 1943, when the Schlosshotel was razed to the ground within seconds with over 200 kilograms of explosives, it was a media event

3. Open-air theatre Hertenstein

At the beginning of the 20th century, the owners of the Schlosshotel and the Hertenstein spa hotel had the idea of turning Hertenstein into a cultural centre of international standing. The first classical open-air theatre in Switzerland would emerge. On the Tanzenberg, a stage was created for plays such as Grillparzer's "Medea", Goethe's "Iphigenia of Tauris", Lessing's "Minna of Barnhelm", or Shakespeare's "As You Like It". Not least because of its architectural design, Hertenstein became one of the most important open-air theatres in Europe. The seating was modelled on an amphitheatre. The theatre backdrop of plays from antiquity included a two-story tower and a replica of a temple.

Famous actors from German and Austrian theatres were engaged. 17,000 guests attended 89 theatrical performances. However, rained-off performances put a heavy toll on the finances of those responsible. And even more than any weather, the First World War and a fire in the open-air theatre was the final straw. In 1915, the season had to be suspended for seven years. And even resuming performances in 1922 did not prove to be successful.

4. Postunen

There has been a mooring for boats from Meggen here since around 1500. The Postune estate is documented in the first half of the 16th century. However, it is not known exactly where the name comes from. Locals say that since there were no roads in the past, the post was brought from the opposite shore by boat. Therefore, the term "bi de Post une" (down by the Post) developed in local dialect, which resulted in today's name "Postunen".

Until well into the last century, Weggis was an important vegetable supplier for Lucerne. Postunen is one of the few large market gardens that still produce successfully today.

5. Stella Matutina

The former "Academy for Young Ladies", Stella Matutina, was opened by Franciscan Sisters in 1916. Here, home economics teachers and family helpers were trained, a lower secondary school was run, German courses were given and a commercial course was organised. Today, the house is open for courses, further education, retreats and other services. In addition, important cultural events take place, here such as the Galway Flute Festival with master classes by Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway.

6. Villa Senar

From 1931 to 1939, Rachmaninoff spent happy summers with his family in the Villa Senar (Serge Nathalie Rachmaninoff). Behind the high walls is an entire complex of great cultural and architectural value. Commissioned in 1931 by the composer Sergei Rachmaninoff himself, today one can admire united types of art: The villa, the gardener's house and the tool shed, built by the architects Alfred Miri and Karl-Friedrich Krebs. An important contemporary testimony to the



Serge Rachmaninoff's Villa Senar

New Building style. In the two-hectare park, Sergei Rachmaninoff resumed his former creativity and composed here the Paganini Rhapsody and the 3rd Symphony.


After the outbreak of the Second World War, the Rachmaninoff family was unable to return from a concert tour in the USA. After Rachmaninoff's death in 1943, his grandson, Alexander Rachmaninoff Conus, lived in the villa. Alexander founded the Rachmaninoff Foundation, which today shares the future use of the villa and estate with the Canton of Lucerne. The Foundation will be responsible for the comprehensive curation of cultural and educational activities. At any rate, the estate will be made accessible to the general public: "From kindergarten teacher to master pianist", according to the Rachmaninoff Foundation.

7. Zinnen

As peaceful and tranquil as this place seems today, it was not always so. In 1590, a lake toll was established at Zinnen so that the toll of the city of Lucerne could not be avoided.

The headland, also easily accessible for Nauen, cargo boats, and the clay found there, meant that as early as the 16th century and until the second half of the 19th century, bricks were fired at Zinnen and transported on the lake. To prove this, bricks with "ZZ" for "Ziegelei Zinnen" engraved on them were found until the end of the 20th century whenever houses were demolished. At the end of the 19th century, the owner modernised the brickworks. But a fire one night finally drove him into bankruptcy. A commercial fishery was located here until 1976.

In this wonderful location at Zinnenegg, an inn with its own boat station was run until the beginning of the 20th century. Since 1912, the richly decorated house has only been used by the owners as a holiday home.

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