

Small adventures in big mountains

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Does an adventure always have to be big expeditions of several months or years? Or can you get that same feeling of exploring the world over a weekend? In Switzerland, you sure come pretty close.

Surrounded by snowcapped mountains and deep valleys with clear blue skies above, this country is one giant playground for any adventurer and outdoor freak. Here you can go up, down, do the distance and soak in thermal baths.

If you want to reach that peak and get that feeling of looking out over the entire world, one way of getting there is with snowshoes in the region of Leukerbad, Gemmi.

A little awkward at first, you'll soon get a hang of it and start that climb to the top (if you get out of breath quickly don't get discouraged – you're surrounded by peaks of almost 3000 meters and probably also climbing one). Once at the top, get out that glühwein, Swiss chocolate and enjoy the view.

Psst! Don't forget to fold up your metal buckle on the snowshoe when climbing up. It will make the climb to the top a lot easier!

So, you reached the top and now you want to go down. Trade in the snowshoes for a sledge in the ski resort Belalp and you'll be down in no time! Do this at night when the moon is out to give the mountains that mystical look with the stars shining above, and the air all calm and quiet. As you see the lights of the resort below, it truly is a spectacular view. Don't forget to bring your head lamp, make sure to take those turns and watch out for icy patches.

But if you don't want to go up or down, you can choose to simply go straight ahead with cross country skis in the small ski resort of Oberwald.

Take your time cruising the cross country ski loop as the sun beams down on you while surrounded by the giant mountain walls. Along the way you pass several villages where you can stop for lunch and try the Swiss traditional food Rösti. And if you get tired? Stop at the next train station and hop on the next train, and you'll be back right where you started.

To finish the weekend off, let your body heat up again after all that cold air in a thermal bath. Soak for hours in Leukerbad and you'll soon be ready for your next winter adventure!



Where to go

Located in the south of Switzerland you find the skiresort of:

Leukerbad, Gemmi
www.leukerbad.ch

Belalp, Valais
www.belalp.ch

Oberwald, Goms
www.goms.ch