



### Earlham Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Trips

# Day hike: from Schwägalp mountain resort to the summit of the Säntis, Switzerland

**Organized by:** Paul Stanley '75

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**Location:** Alpstein massif in the Cantons of St. Gallen and Appenzell Ausserrhoden and Innerrhoden, Switzerland

**Dates:** 27 July 2021 (Backup dates in case of inclement weather: 28 July, 29 July 2021)

**Cost:** No administrative costs. Participants must arrange their own travel to and from and within Switzerland, lodging, provisions to be consumed during the hike. Participants must pay their own fare to ride the Säntis mountain cableway, by which we will return to the Schwägalp mountain resort after having reached the summit of the Säntis. For fare information, please consult <https://saentisbahn.ch/en/cable-car/prices/>. Possessors of the Swiss Travel Pass receive a 50% discount. For more information about transport (including the Swiss Travel Pass), lodging and provisions, please see below.

### Difficulty:

Level of fitness

Easy (No sweat, no hurry)	Moderate (Active lifestyle)	Strenuous (Regular vigorous exercise)
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Experience level

No experience necessary	Some experience with this type of trip	Significant experience required
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Seasoned hikers (including children older than 12), who can handle steep trails

### Itinerary

Day of the hike:

- Prior to 09:30 AM: Gather in the area in front of the information/reception desk of the Säntis Hotel of the Schwägalp mountain resort
- 09:30 AM: Depart by foot. The trail head is across the road in front of the hotel.

- 12:00 Noon (estimated): Arrive at Tierwies mountain house (elevation 2085 meters). Break for lunch (the mountain house serves hot meals and beverages, for those who are interested)
- 12:45 PM (estimated): Resume hiking
- 2:45 PM (estimated): Arrive at the summit area. Commence individual free-time (during which participants should purchase their tickets to descend to Schwägälp via the cableway) Note: A summit structure contains two restaurants, restrooms, a gift shop, observation platforms, exhibits, as well as the upper station of the cableway. Parts of six countries can be seen from the summit of Säntis, weather permitting. For a preview, see <https://saentisbahn.ch/en/> .
- 3:45 PM (estimated) Gather at entrance to the upper station of the cableway.
- 4:15 PM (estimated) Arrive at lower station of cableway, that is, at Schwägälp Mountain resort. Exchange farewells.

#### Trail characteristics

- Low point elevation (Schwägälp): 1350 meters (4429 feet)
- High point elevation (Säntissummit): 2502 meters (8209 feet)
- Length: 4.5 kilometers (2.7 miles)

### **Role of participants**

#### Transport

Regarding travel to the Schwägälp mountain resort:

- Public transportation is recommended; Switzerland's is the densest in the world. Schwägälp is reachable from St. Gallen, the nearest large city, via a combination of trains and post bus (a.k.a. Postauto). The trip lasts one hour and departures occur hourly. Fares and schedules are available online at <https://www.sbb.ch/en> , the Swiss federal railway website (note: the destination to select is, Schwägälp, Säntis-Schwebbahn, NOT Schwägälp, Passhöhe).
- Depending upon how long a participant intends to remain in Switzerland, purchasing a Swiss Travel Pass, available only to tourists, might be a sensible, economical alternative to paying individual fares. For more information, please consult <https://www.sbb.ch/en/leisure-holidays/travel-in-switzerland/international-guests/swiss-travel-pass.html> (Note: Swiss Travel Pass also affords a 50% discount on the Säntismountain cableway, by which we will return to Schwägälp after having reached the summit of the Säntis)

#### Lodging

Accommodations at the Schwägälp mountain resort:

- Säntis the Hotel. For information please consult <https://saentisbahn.ch/en/saentis-the-hotel/> .
- Information about accommodations throughout the region St. Gallen / Lake Constance (Bodensee), can be obtained by consulting <https://st.gallen-bodensee.ch/en/accommodation.html>
- Airbnb, of course, is also an option
- Schwägälp, our departure point, lies on the north-facing slope of the Alpstein massif. The fact should be taken into consideration when arranging accommodations in order to avoid unnecessarily long travel time.

#### Meals

- Provisions are available at any supermarket within Switzerland and - to a lesser extent - at the gift shop of the Säntis Hotel at Schwägälp
- There is a small cheese plant with a factory outlet across the road from the Säntis Hotel at Schwägälp
- The Tierwies mountainhouse (see itinerary) serves hot meals and beverages, for those who are interested.

#### Climate considerations:

- The hiking location is at about the same latitude as Tacoma, Washington.

- Weather at Schwägalp in July: average daily high temperature: 17 C (63 F), average count of days with precipitation: 13
- Weather at the summit of Säntis in July: average daily high temperature: 9 C (48 F), average count of days with some precipitation: 16

Outfitting - Participants are expected to provide their own gear.

Minimal gear recommendations:

- Rucksack with sufficient capacity to carry extra clothes, provisions and personal first-aid supplies
- Personal first-aid supplies (including, e.g., elastic bandages for sprained ankles)
- Long pants to wear or have on hand (could be light-weight, rain and wind resistant if wearing shorts)
- Light-weight wool sweater or thermal shell to have on hand
- Light-weight rain-resistant, wind-resistant parka to have on hand
- Light-weight wool cap and light-weight wool gloves to have on hand (in case a cloud cap with wind develops over the peak)
- Hiking boots suitable for rugged trails

Planning

- Participants should sign up – assuming the maximum (10 persons) has not already been reached - via the sponsors e-mail address no later than one week before the earliest possible date of the event.
- Participants should inform themselves the evening before whether the hike will take place on the next day or be postponed to the next backup day. Possible modes of inquiry: (1) an online blog – yet to be set up by the sponsor – accessible to signed-up participants, (2) e-mail correspondence with the sponsor, (3) telephone contact with the sponsor
- Participants must arrive at the gathering location no later than the hike-departure time (see itinerary)
- Participants must sign a liability disclaimer. These will be collected just prior to the hike departure.

### **Biography of the organizer**

Paul Stanley was a student leader on the very first Wilderness Pre-Term (1971) which took place in the Unita Mountains of Utah. From his teenage years into his forties, he mountaineered regularly in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains as well as other mountainous areas of the western United States. Throughout those years he introduced work colleagues and other acquaintances to the joys of mountaineering in the American West. In 1994 he moved to Switzerland. He has hiked the route of this trip description seven times.