

SENTIER INSIEME IN ZINAL / VAL D'ANNIVIERS - SWITZERLAND

4.-10. JULI 2025



From the diary of Christoph Kuhn / Easy Group

In front of the Hotel Europe in Zinal on Friday afternoon: as usual, a warm welcome from many familiar faces, including a Turkish and a Taiwanese delegation.



1 Our Taiwanese guests

Saturday: After the village tour and a much-needed lunch break, the Easy Group sets off on a walk along the Navisence torrent upstream to the bridge and back again on the other side.



2 village walk



3 Edelweiss

The combative Hérens cows stare at us menacingly from the pasture!



4 Hérens cows – an old, combative race

In the evening, Christoph gives a presentation on 'Life and Music in Val d'Anniviers'.

Sunday: We take the post bus to St. Luc, then stroll uphill through the historic part of the village to the valley station of the funicular, which takes us high up to Tignousa. A long hike to the 143-year-old Hotel Weisshorn, standing on a terrace ledge, which we reach only with a final effort over the high, forbidding boulders. As a reward, some of us enjoy the famous blueberry cake with its sky-high topping on the terrace, while others opt for a wholesome vegetable soup. In the evening, as usual, all the group leaders provide information about the programme for the next few days, and the 'weekend-only guests' say their goodbyes.



Monday: Today, the Easy Group visits the old copper mine at the back of the valley. The young guide is so knowledgeable, it's almost like a theatre performance!



5 Guided tour of the copper mine

The «easy group» continues to stay at the hotel and can have dinner today and on Tuesday evening in the cosier dining room instead of the multi-purpose hall. Afterwards,

more singing (and other activities) in 'our' room: we have the advantage of having musician and choir director Guido with us!



6 The Easy group sings together in the evening

Tuesday: We take the post bus to Chandolin, one of the highest villages in Europe that is inhabited all year round (at almost 2,000 metres). Today it is cloudy and windy-cold, so the expected view of the Rhone Valley is only partially visible. But before turning back, we scramble up a steep path for 5 minutes – and suddenly see deep below us: the Illgraben (and at the very bottom, a glimpse of the fertile Rhone Valley)!



7 View of the Illgraben

The return journey takes you along a peacefully babbling «Suone» (German for water channel, in Swiss French: «bisse») to the Illhorn Hut for a late lunch break.



8 Along a Suone

Some add a visit to the Espace Ella Maillart, which houses many touching documents and books about this remarkable woman and her travels.

Wednesday: Today the sky is cloudless again, but the temperature is still significantly colder than last week. Early drive up to the other side valley and along the Moiry reservoir to the rear, ending up at Lac de Chateaupré below the former glacier gate. We

climb for about an hour on the way to the Moiry hut to take in the breathtaking glacier landscape.



9 The Easy Group in front of the glacier world

Back on foot to the dam. We just manage to arrive in time for an extremely interesting guided tour of the dam. Due to the many questions, it ends up lasting three hours instead of the estimated two!



10 Guided tour of the dam

In the afternoon, the other groups gradually return to the Hotel Europe. Due to the snowfall, they had to change part of their programme.

On the final evening, the groups present their sketches.



Guido and Christoph, this time joined by two other Swiss folk musicians, provide dance music, alternating with songs coached by Guido.



left to right: Christoph Kuhn (Servas Switzerland), Christoph Descurtins (from Val d'Illiez), Hanspeter Kuhn (Christoph's brother), Guido Schärli (Servas Switzerland)



And then it's time to say goodbye again:

See you at the next Chemin de l'Amitié in the French Alps from 26 June to 2 July 2026.

Many thanks to the management team for their thorough preparation and tireless presence! –

And thank you to photographer Guido Schärli!



11 Thanks to the management team!



12 On the left is Guido, our photographer.

Further impressions:



13 take a break



14 Soon the summit will be reached



15 Traditional Valais architecture – stone slabs keep mice away from grain stores