

# Switzerland Jura - Ridereport

## A tour into the unknown

### Background/preparations

It all started when I published my tour report "[3000 km Switzerland](#)" on the homepage and also posted it in various Swiss motorcycle forums.

Among other things I wrote in the report:

"For me, Switzerland as a whole is the most beautiful thing the Alps have to offer!

My personal highlights there are:

1. the Bernese Oberland - clearly number 1!!!
2. the Valais - simply beautiful and of course not to forget
3. the area around Lake Lucerne"

To this I received various answers that the most beautiful thing in Switzerland was the Jura and that I had never been there before!

Since I had never really been to the Jura, this part of Switzerland was now on my wish list!

Then last year I asked our "Dieter\_N" from the Alpenbiker-Forum if he could put together some nice routes and be available as a tour guide. He agreed and so I could consider the Jura as the destination of the next Alpenbiker-Forum tour!

Then it was all about finding a decent accommodation at an acceptable price - not so easy at all!

After internet research I found about six/seven hotels/pensions, which were suitable because of their size and price. I then sent an inquiry for a motorcycle group with about 15 - 20 persons to these houses with the request for a corresponding offer. Result: NO ANSWER!

Then I have tried the same with the help of google translator also in French - again NO ANSWER!

After this unsuccessful attempt I asked some members of the Alpenbiker-Forum, who either live in the Jura themselves or live close by for hotel tips.

The best tip then came from Géraldine "phila", who recommended the Hotel Balsthal - [KreuzRössliKornhaus](#) and had already negotiated a very reasonable price.



motorcycles had finally registered!

Herbert was willing to act as a tour guide for a second group and we were already thinking about possibly even forming a third group.

So the starting point of the tours was also fixed and it was possible to go over to the detailed planning.

Herbert "anomai", who lives only 5 km from Balsthal and knew the hotel very well, managed to round off the price once again, he said "I don't like crooked amounts!

At the next forum meeting the whole thing was discussed with the participants and then the trip to the Jura for Whitsun 2011 was fixed. So from 10 (arrival) to 13 (return) June 2011 to the Hotel Balsthal!

By the beginning of May, 26 people with 19

## **Realization:**

In the last days before Pentecost some participants cancelled for different reasons, so that we finally could start our tours in Balsthal with 18 persons and 14 motorcycles (the motorbike of Franz "Aquarius" was unfortunately cancelled on the outward journey in Konstanz and he could not go on).

## **Friday, June 10th**

The weather forecast was rather mixed and so Petra and I started at 07:30 am with mixed feelings in Sonthofen to meet with some other "alpine bikers" in Kressbronn to ride from there together towards the Jura. During the night it had rained heavily and the roads were wet. But the further we went to the west the better the weather became! The roads were dry and the sky already showed one or the other bruise. With 8 motorcycles we went via Friedrichshafen directly to Meersburg, with the ferry to Konstanz and from there - after we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Franz - on partly very narrow roads across Switzerland. Already the trip there was a lot of fun and the anticipation for the next days grew.



Already the trip there was a lot of fun and the anticipation for the next days grew.



In the late afternoon we arrived in Balsthal and moved into our rooms. At dinner we got a friendly welcome and the cosy evening could start with a good meal - starter, main course, dessert (!). The last participants arrived shortly after 8 pm and we were complete.

## Saturday, June 11th

Today the "[Juratour 1](#)" was on the program.

After breakfast we started at 9 am.

We rode in two groups of seven and six motorcycles respectively (Inge didn't ride along herself today, but as a Sozia).

The route led us first over the Passwang towards Beinwil. In the downhill section - hardly visible between two houses standing on the right side of the road - a small but fine road branched off to the north, which we followed until Nunningen. We continued via Erschwil and Bärschwil - always on the smallest side roads. Via Kleinlützel we reached Roggenburg and via Ederswiler, Movelier and Pleigne we reached the Col de Rangiers, where we made the first longer stop - a coffee break.



From there down into the valley to St. Ursanne - a very beautiful place, which we visited on the way back. From here we drove along the idyllic Doubs to St.-Hippolyte and then about 15 km along the Dessoubre.

Then we left this picturesque valley and turned south over a small narrow bridge. Via Battenans-Varin and Trevillers, we reached the Col de la Vierge. The descent to Goumois brought some very nice views down to the Doubs.



After the lunch break in Goumois, the last part of the day had to be tackled. Via Saignelégier and Montfaucon we drove back north via Soubey down to St. Ursanne.



Here we took the opportunity to have a closer look at this medieval picturesque place.



The further way led us over the Col de la Croix (beautiful view of the Vosges mountains on the horizon!) to Courgenai and via Charmoille, Lucelle and Kiffis to Welschwiller. Further on via Laufen, Wahlen, Büsserach and Zullwil to Beinwil (again an extremely narrow and beautiful road!). From there it was not far back over the Passwang to Balsthal.

Because of the length of the route (295 km) and the many small roads we did not return from our tour until around 6 pm - but it was worth it! A really great round.

At the common dinner and the following cosy round the impressions of this beautiful day could be processed. The weather had played along well and only once or twice there were a few drops from above. Apart from that the blue sky often looked through the clouds - it was nice!

The division into two groups had proved itself. We were often right behind each other, but if there were stagnations, the second group led by Herbert could follow the others without having to catch up.

## **Sunday, June 12th**

The "[Juratour 2](#)" should become a pleasure!

Again we started at 9 o'clock in two groups, one directly behind the other.

This time the tour should be shorter - a good 270 km - but Herbert told me before: "The tour is shorter, but it will seem longer to you! - He was right!"

Dieter had promised us to show us again the most beautiful and beautiful spots of the Jura - he kept his promise!

I found "La Goule" and the view from the Chasseral particularly impressive.

But in detail:

First we went over the Scheltenpass



- really beautiful to look at and to drive (!) - to Corban, Courrendlin and Courfaivre. This section is not particularly beautiful, but the following stretch is even more so!

In Courfaivre we turned left and went steeply up the mountain. The single-lane road is here uphill unfortunately with many small bumps, which can be driven over only with very low speed, because otherwise it always results in hard blows! Downhill to Souce these bumps did not exist and we could enjoy the track again. Looking back at the rest of the group I noticed that there were suddenly more motorcycles than belonged to our group. Later it turned out that the first group probably got lost for a short time down in the valley and that we were riding in front. Via Undervelier and Les Genevez we went on to Saignelégier, where the coffee break was due.

Afterwards we went to Le Noirmont where we turned right to La Goule - worth seeing! The route leads first on a narrow but quite well asphalted road down to the Doubs. A little above the bottom of the canyon there is a great viewpoint where we stopped and enjoyed the view

Then we went further down to the small border crossing. In former times, when there were still permanent border controls, the customs officers here were probably often bored. Because probably not many vehicles will have come down here. But it is impressive and worth the detour!





Doubs bei La Goule

www.motorradrudi.info



Doubs bei La Goule

www.motorradrudi.info

But the drive up in direction to Col de la Vierge is not as easy as the departure from Le Noirmont. The road is extremely steep and goes up in narrow hairpin bends and requires a high degree of vehicle control! With bigger vehicles it is surely hard to manage. In the lower part - fortunately it is still relatively flat there - a group of chopper drivers came towards us. Here we could still pass without any problems, further up it would have been more problematic. At the top we had to wait a little bit for the others and quickly stopped a German couple with camper van from driving down to La Goule. The big motorhome should have gone backwards at the latest at the first bend, as turning is only possible here with a motorbike - and even this is very difficult!

Over the Col de la Vierge, which we had already partly got to know the day before, we headed towards Damprichard. Shortly before the village, a very small road branches off to the left again, over which we reached the D464, which led us back down to the Doubs.



Doubstal bei Biaufond

www.motorradrudi.info

A short photo stop at the border and shortly after that Dieter stood at the roadside and pointed us to the right over a small bridge for our lunch break. The restaurant "Hôtel de la Rasse" might have been an insider tip in former times, but not anymore! There were already some motorcycles and cars there and also during our stay there were many more motorcyclists. In addition, there was a group of riders on the square - who rode on along the Doubs below the inn and a group of mountain bikers who also chose this route.

The break lasted longer than expected, however, as the waitress was visibly overwhelmed by the crush. Both ordering the food and paying for it took much longer than usual.



Via La Chaux-de-Fonds we drove to the Col de la Vue des Alpes and enjoyed the beautiful view down to the Neuburger Lake. Down into the valley Dieter had a little treat in store for us: A single-lane road, which led down into the valley with many curves.



Via Cernier and past Savagnier we came up to the Chasseral. In contrast to the rest of the track of today - and also the whole previous day - it was full of Whitsun traffic here and one car followed the other, just as many motorcycles. Upstairs it was "all hell broke loose" - after yes, it was wonderful weather!

We took a short break and enjoyed the wonderful view of the Bieler See and the Neuburger See as well as the surrounding landscape - simply wonderful!



The drive down to St. Imier was then again accompanied by a lot of traffic, which prevented a speedy progress - the road is so narrow that two cars only pass each other very narrowly. Via Tramelan and Tavannes we drove north to Souboz until shortly before Moutier and on to

Court. The further way to Gänsbrunnen was again very narrow but also very attractive. On this section we had a coffee break at Binzberg before we started the last 30 km of the tour.

In Welschenrohr we drove up the northern mountain slopes again - via "courtyard entrances", where we thought the path was over, through hanging branches of a weeping willow etc. - but it was astonishing on this stretch that despite the single-lane road a relatively large number of cars came towards us and that we could only pass by carefully with our motorbikes. Finally we saw our destination Balsthal in the distance and reached it around 18:30.



The common dinner and a cosy get-together - with musical support from Herbert, who provided variety with his guitar. Again a great day, with a wonderful motorcycle tour!!

## **Monday, June 13th**

Today the beautiful days in the Jura should end and we started the way home.

First we said goodbye to the other participants, who individually arranged the return trip. The

rest of us - again under Dieter's guidance - drove home on seven motorcycles.

As usual over many small roads - with partly light rain - we headed northeast towards Germany. After about an hour we had reached the border and Dieter led us a little bit into the Black Forest. Here I had the opportunity to ride one of my favourite routes in the Black Forest - the Albatal - woooooooooooooooooonderful!!

Via Bannholz and Nöggenschwiel we drove to Witznau.

Here we had a coffee break. Afterwards we said goodbye to the others and drove on alone towards Sonthofen. Via Birkendorf, Bonndorf, Blumenberg and further via Singen we reached the B 31 which we followed via Friedrichshafen up to Scheidegg. From there it was not far to Sonthofen, where we arrived around 16 o'clock.

## **Conclusion / Summary**

It was a nice weekend!

It was a lot of fun and we saw a lot.

We were very lucky with the weather. Only on the 1st tour day in the Jura it rained a little bit once or twice and on the way back to the coffee break in Witznau. Otherwise everything was dry and especially on Sunday there was mostly bright sunshine.

**The tours that Dieter has worked out were simply brilliant!**

At this point we would like to thank him once again for this!

We certainly got to know the beauty of the Jura on these tours.

The division into two groups has proved to be very successful.

The Jura is very beautiful and has many great motorcycle routes.

However, some of the roads were in relatively bad condition.

Most of the time there was very little traffic - even on the main roads (which we often avoided).

# **Nice one!**