



Information for Event Organizers



SCHWEIBENALP
Zentrum der Einheit
Center of Unity

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View to Schweibenalp

Sacred Place Schweibenalp

In the midst of the Bernese Oberland Alps, on a plateau 1100m (about 3300 feet) above sea level, at the border of the Giessbach Canyon, lies Schweibenalp. From here you can enjoy an incredible view towards the Rothorn mountain chain, the Axalphorn and the Lake of Brienz. The nearby steep Giessbach waterfalls, alpine meadows, forests and mountains with their lakes and streams invite you to explore, take a break and enjoy the beauty of nature.

The history of Schweibenalp as a sacred place goes back to the time of the Celts, when Druids lived here and had their rituals and celebrations on the plateau. Around 500 A.D. the Christian religion reached the Bernese Oberland and Schweibenalp became property of the monastery of St. Gallen.

The Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela (pilgrimage path), called «Via Jacobi» in Switzerland, leads through Schweibenalp.

With its amazing location and magical mountain-, forest- and water worlds surrounding, the sacred place* Schweibenalp will certainly contribute to enrich your event.

***Sacred places are certain points on earth charged with high energy. Often these places are located on geographic lines of forces which find their correspondence in the human meridians. These lines of forces transport energies in order to supply the organic earth system.**



LOCATION IN SWITZERLAND

From Schweibenalp you can easily reach the vacation sites Meiringen-Hasliberg and Grindelwald. The Lake of Brienz invites you for a swim during summertime and many hiking tracks cross the area all around.

In winter the small ski resort of Axalp can be reached by car or bus within 15 minutes. At the eastern end of Lake Brienz lies the popular tourist town Interlaken. From there, the world-famous mountains Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau can be easily visited.

The Swiss Open-Air Museum “Ballenberg” is located within a 20 minutes drive from Schweibenalp. Here you can discover more than 100 ancient, century-old traditional buildings from all over Switzerland, 250 farmyard animals, traditional,

old-time gardens and fields, demonstrations of local crafts and many special events creating a vivid impression of rural Swiss life in days gone by.

The Flüeli-Ranft, 30 km from Schweibenalp, is another sacred place worth being discovered. In fact, it is the birth-, living and retirement place of Niklaus von Flüe or Bruder Klaus. In the 15th century he retired and became a hermit. Besides intensive mystical practice, his advice was widely sought and followed. He is considered to be the patron saint of Switzerland.



Community and vision

As a living and working community we manage the seminar business and the permaculture gardens of Schweibenalp. Depending on the season up to 30 people are living in the community. Additionally, every year numerous volunteers come to join us and support our work. As a part of the Global Ecovillages Network, we consider ourselves as one of the emerging models for a holistic cultural transformation. Therefore, a conscious lifestyle design considering the aspects of ecology, economy, the social and spirituality are important to us, influenced by values like respect for natural cycles, a fair economy and mindfully living together. In everyday life we connect in meetings, communal meals and by singing together as well as in special events such as rituals of thanksgiving, fire ceremonies, sweat lodges a.s.o. Mutual support and

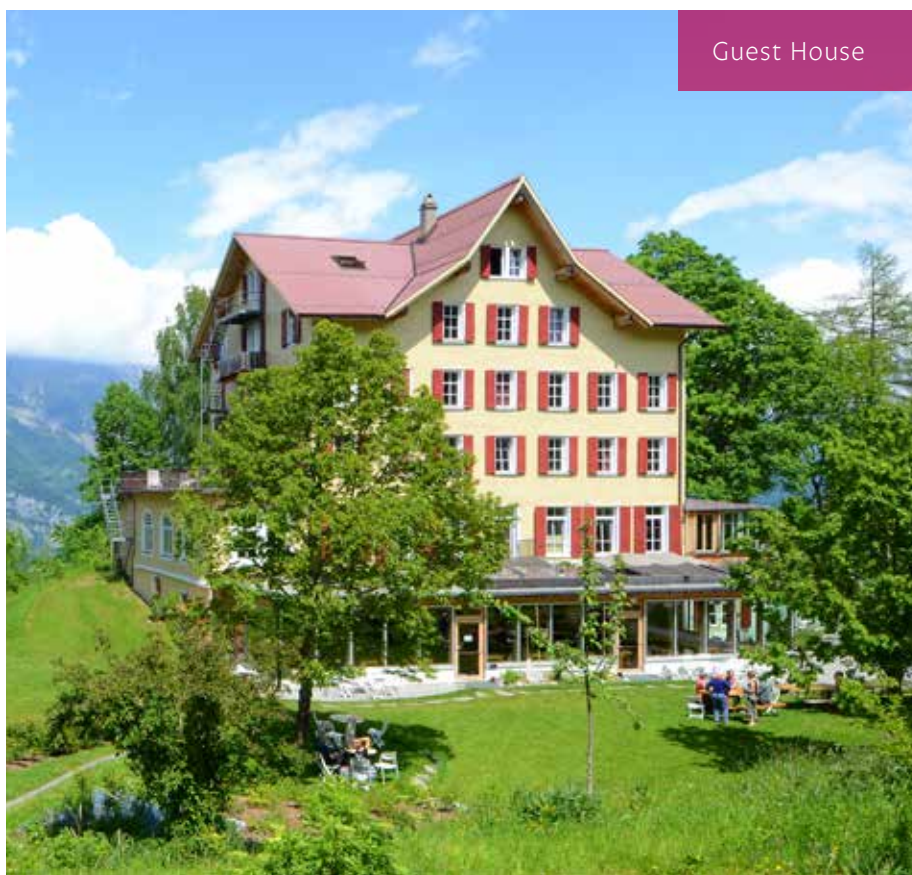
collective intelligence help us to overcome challenges and solve conflicts. The community encourages the members' personal development.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Peace - Freedom - Development of the Heart

Schweibenalp is a community, whose members by mindfully dealing with oneself and others make an active contribution to the strengthening of the field of consciousness of love, in which every human being can unfold its true potential.

The community at Schweibenalp explores and lives sustainable ways of living together and acting in the areas of community, spirituality, economy and ecology as possible models for a new world.



Renting seminar rooms

The Center of Unity Schweibenalp was, already in the early 1980s, one of the first seminar facilities in the German speaking area to offer a platform for trans-religious and intercultural dialogue.

We offer several seminar rooms, each room with its own special flair. Our rooms are perfectly suitable for smaller group retreats as well as for events with many participants. In fact, we can welcome up to 190 overnight and up to 250 day-guests.

Our picturesque Guest House, with a capacity of approx. 100 beds, was built in 1896, during the early years of the Swiss Mountain Tourism and is surrounded by a property of about 20 hectares.

Two staff houses and a private chalet are also located on the site.

Home to our regular fire rituals is the **Vedic ritual tent "Dhuni"**, which can be used on request and following specific instructions. Our rituals are open to all guests.

The lovely meditation room in the Temple of Unity, as well as the Sweat Lodge place are as well freely accessible to our guests.



Seminar House



Dhuni



Lakshmi Shop

The **Lakshmi Shop** with books and selected products (many of our own permaculture garden), the **Kids Playground** with sandpit, the **Library on the scenic North Veranda**, a self-service coffee machine as well as a bar with organic drinks and snacks complete the services provided at our beautiful center.

SEMINAR ROOMS

Available seminar rooms are:

Room **Peace** with 240 m² and the small room **Earth** with 40 m² in the Seminar House, and room **Light** with 84 m² in the Guest House.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN EACH ROOM

Each event room is provided with standard equipment :

blankets	beamer
pillows	audio equipment
meditation mats	microphones
yoga mats	mixing desk
chairs	
tables	stage elements (only in room Peace)
flipcharts	

NEUTRALISATION OF GEOPATHIC STRESS ZONES

Geopathic interferences have been neutralised in the Guest House and the whole area with the Turbovis Energetic System. More details can be found on the website www.turbovis.ch.



Seminar room "Peace"

Seminar room "Peace"

The spacious seminar room "Peace" has a wonderful octagonal form. The harmonising design of the room, guided by principles of Feng Shui, will energetically support your workshop. Many big windows render the room not only bright, but also magically open to

the surrounding, powerful nature. The wooden sprung dance floor, a mobile stage and high standard technical equipment make this room ideal for dance, concerts and theatre plays.

The room is open towards a wonderful natural yard

SEMINAR ROOM "PEACE"

Location	ground floor with same level exits
Size	240 m ²
Height	wall height: 3,40 m roof height at top: 4,66 m
Floor type	wooden sprung dance floor
Others	incorporated wall heating very bright, without pillars darkening system

Equipment

Mobile stage (combinable elements up to 4 x 12 m), audio system for playback and live performances, projection system, modern lighting technology with stage lighting, central control panel for all technical equipment, translation room, if needed possibility to externally rent simultaneous translation equipment.

+ general equipment (details on page 6)



Seminar room "Light"

which is perfect for physical exercise, outdoor activities or performances in the open-air arena. Seminar room Peace is very well suited for larger events with physical activity (yoga, Qigong, dancing etc.).

The seminar house was built according to the Holz100-system*.

*The Holz100-system has been developed by Erwin Thoma. It was his dream to build houses in which people feel really comfortable, which convey good health and are respectful of ecological principles. No chemical and poisonous products are used during the processing of the timber, it is possible to reduce the primary energy consumption by 50-80% during the building phase, and to offer a healthier environment to people. Additional information about the Holz100-system can be found on the website www.thoma.at.

Seminar room "Light"

The seminar room "Light" is located in the Guest House, which dates back to the founding years of the Swiss Mountain Tourism. The building as a whole has kept its very special charm from that period, when the room was used as a ballroom. Timber panels along the walls and a parquet floor are stylish witnesses from that period.

SEMINAR ROOM "LIGHT"

Location	1st floor at-grade exit to the exterior
Size	86 m ²
Height	3,3 m
Floor type	parquet
Others	bright, without pillars
Equipment	general equipment (details on page 6)



Double room Guest House



Shared room Guest House



Dining room Guest House

Accommodation and meals | Prices

We provide accommodation for your seminar participants in our Guest House with approx. 100 beds.

GUEST HOUSE

All guest rooms are simple, individual and lovely arranged. Each floor has its own mixed bathroom, with showers and toilets.

Two computers, including free internet access, are available in the library and furthermore an ethernet cable is provided on each floor, allowing guests to connect their own laptop computer. WiFi is available in the bar of the Guest House and in the foyer of the Seminar House.

NUMBER OF BEDS

Single rooms	6
Double/Twin rooms	12
Multiple rooms	13
Dormitory	1 (for 20 people)

BIG EVENTS

We are able to create additional dormitories and in summer participants can use our camp site with their own tents. We can host events with the following numbers of participants:

- in winter	up to 100 people
- in summer	up to 190 people

PRICES FOR ACCOMMODATION

Rates for seminar participants

(incl. 3 vegetarian meals, rent for seminar room, infrastructure & terrain not included; visitor's tax and permaculture contribution)

Single Room	CHF 160.-
Double Room	CHF 135.-
Shared Room	CHF 121.-
Own tent	CHF 87.-
Camper Van	CHF 102.-
Dormitory (only for big events)	CHF 110.-

All prices refer to accommodation in the Guest House or on our premises. Included in the prices are the rent of the seminar room, three vegetarian and organic meals, tea/water throughout the day, internet, bed linen (only when sleeping in a room), towels and VAT. Local tourist tax is **not** included.

DISCOUNTS

Children until age 6	free*
Children aged 7 - 11	50 % discount*
Children aged 12 - 16	33 % discount*
* applicable only if staying in the parent's room	
Apprentices/students	on request

NOTE

Pets are not allowed.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION

For day visitors and participants to workshops who do not stay overnight with us, we charge an infrastructure fee of CHF 25.- per day for tea/water, use of the place's infrastructure.

MEALS

We put great emphasis on a high quality vegetarian and organic cuisine. According to the season and available quantity we use self-grown herbs and vegetables from our permaculture garden.

Our kitchen team is dedicated with heart and devotion in order to serve a buffet with a rich choice of dishes. As standard we serve vegetarian dishes.

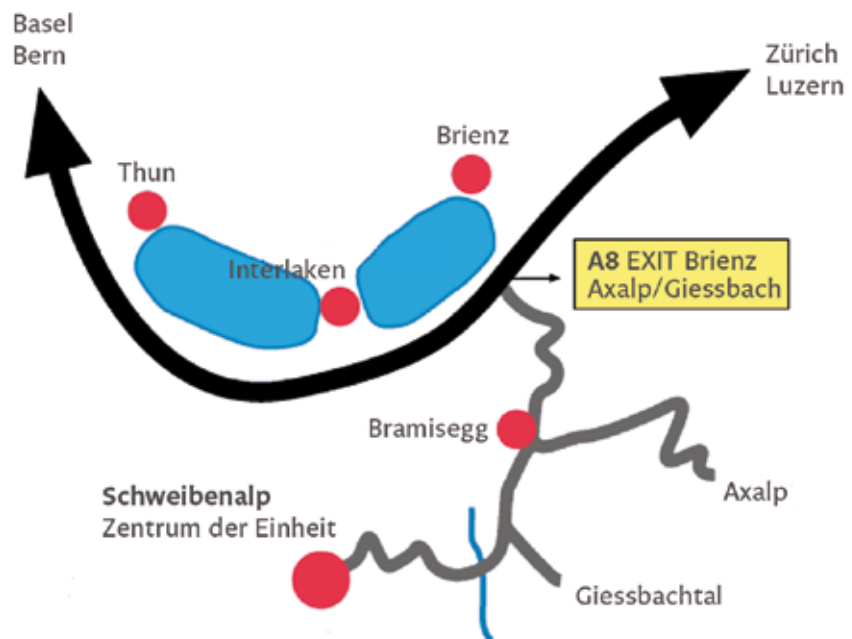
During the day, water and a wide selection of teas are at our guests' disposal.

PRICES FOR SINGLE MEALS IN CHF

	breakfast	lunch	dinner
Adults	19.-	30.-	24.-
Children 12-16	17.-	26.-	22.-
Children 7-11	15.-	23.-	20.-

PAYMENT TYPES

We only accept Swiss Francs (CHF). Furthermore, we accept the following debit/credit cards: Post-Finance, Maestro- & EC-Cards, V-Pay, Mastercard, Visa (CHF 5.- fee for payments with credit cards).



DIRECTIONS

on how to get to Schweibenalp

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We recommend using the train. You can choose either the route via Lucerne-Brünig or Berne-Interlaken to Brienz. From the railway station take the postal bus direction "Axalp" and get off at "Bramisegg" bus stop. From there it is an approx. 800m walk through the forest (keep on the right side at the intersection) and over a bridge crossing the river Giessbach.

Upon request we can arrange a pick-up service from Brienz station (CHF 38.- per service for up to 4 persons, CHF 46.- for 5 to 8 persons). The pick-up from the bus stop "Bramisegg" to Schweibenalp is free of charge.

Train & bus schedules: www.sbb.ch

BY AIRPLANE

The nearest airport is Zürich-Kloten. From there you can travel by train to Brienz via Berne or Lucerne (current timetables: www.sbb.ch).

Traveling by train from Zürich-Airport to Brienz takes approx. 2,5 hours.

BY CAR

1. On the motorway A8, take the exit to „Brienz“, direction Axalp / Giessbach. Do not drive into the village.
2. Follow the sinuous main street uphill.
3. After approx. 7 km, on the right side of a sharp left-turn bend, is located the restaurant „Bramisegg“. From that bend take the untarred road on the right side, next to the restaurant. A first Schweibenalp direction panel is fixed at the road's beginning.
4. Follow the road and keep on the right side at the intersection, a second Schweibenalp direction panel is fixed on the left road side.
5. After the bridge crossing the Giessbach river, continue uphill for an additional 300 m.
6. You have reached the Center of Unity Schweibenalp.

Welcome!