



## *Swiss Alps*

### St Gallen Altenrhein to Sion

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A VFR flight from St. Gallen to Sion is a unique experience to admire the natural beauty of the Swiss Alps. Departing from St. Gallen-Altenrhein Airport, the flight offers a panoramic view of Lake Constance and the surrounding peaks. From here, the flight continues eastward through the Appenzell Mountains, passing over green valleys and steep peaks.

As you approach Sion, the view opens to the majestic mountain range of the Mont Blanc Massif. Once in Sion, the airport offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, including the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc. Sion is a major city in the Valais region and is famous for its idyllic location among vineyards and mountains.

- **No. of Legs:** 1
- **Total distance:** 155 nm
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## Legs

### Leg 1: LSZR - LSGS

Departure: St Gallen Altenrhein (LSZR)

Destination: Sion (LSGS)

Distance: 155,3 nm



### POI1-Rhine River

Distance: 4,5 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 4,5 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 150,9 nm

True Course: 125°

Magnetic Course: 121°

After takeoff begin your climbing to 8,000 feet. You can admire the beautiful Lake Constance (Obersee). Turn slightly to the right to reach the Rhine River.

The Rhine River is one of the most important rivers in Europe. About 1,233 kilometers long, it has its source in the Swiss Alps, on the slopes of the Gotthard massif, at an elevation of about 2,200 meters above sea level. From here, the Rhine flows northwest through Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands and finally flows into the North Sea.

The river is dotted with numerous cities and towns, including Basel, Strasbourg, Rotterdam and Cologne. It has been a major trade route for goods between northern and southern Europe since the Middle Ages, and is still one of the region's main transportation routes today. Its catchment area covers an area of about 185,000 square kilometers, passing through numerous geographical regions such as the Alps, the black forests of Germany, the Dutch plains and the river delta region. Throughout history, the Rhine River has been at the center of numerous conflicts between nations

and cultures, particularly during the wars between the Roman Empire and the Germans, during World War I and World War II, and during the Cold War.

The river has also played an important role in European culture, inspiring many works of art and literature, including the poem 'Loreley' by Heinrich Heine. Today, the river is also a popular tourist destination, offering many opportunities for river cruises, outdoor recreation, and exploring the towns and villages along its banks. The Rhine is also known for its natural beauty, with a variety of landscapes ranging from alpine mountains to floodplains to urban river landscapes.

#### POI2-Buchs

Distance:	18,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	22,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	132,9 nm
True Course:	204°
Magnetic Course:	200°

Leaving the Rhine, set your course to 200, veering southeast as the landscape buckles into foothills. The river fades behind, replaced by the Alviergruppe's rugged flanks on your right. After 18 nautical miles, Buchs nestles into view, a tidy town cradled by the Rhine Valley.

Located in the district of Werdenberg in the canton of St. Gallen. Buchs was an important trading center in the region due to its strategic location along the road connecting Germany with Italy. The city has a long history dating back to the Middle Ages, when it was known as 'Buchis.' Today it is a modern city with a diversified economy, such as manufacturing industry, trade, services and agriculture.

The city has a population of about 12,000 and is served by various infrastructure including a train station. Buchs' climate is temperate, with warm summers and cold winters. It is also famous for its scenic location overlooking the Rhine Valley and surrounding mountains, making it a popular tourist destination for outdoor activities. The city is also home to important educational institutions, including The University of St. Gallen Buchs (German: 'Fachhochschule St.Gallen - Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften'), a university of applied sciences.

#### POI3-Chur

Distance:	19,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	41,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	113,9 nm
True Course:	174°
Magnetic Course:	171°

The flow of the Rhine River leads us to Chur between views of the reliefs on the right and urban centers on the left. Chur is located in the canton of Grisons, in the Plessur district. With a population of about 35,000, it is the largest city in Graubünden and is also the cantonal capital. It is one of the oldest cities in Switzerland, with a history dating back to the Iron Age. The city was founded by the Romans in 15 B.C. and became an important trade and transit center during the medieval period. During the Renaissance, Chur became an important cultural center, hosting important artists and intellectuals of the time. Today, Chur is a modern and vibrant city with a well-preserved historic center and a number of tourist attractions.

The old town is also famous for its narrow, winding streets with colorful houses and pretty arcades. Chur is an important center for winter sports and mountains, with numerous ski resorts nearby. In addition, the town is home to the Graubünden Museum of the Arts, which collects local and international works of art.

#### POI4-Flims

Distance: 9,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 51,2 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 104,2 nm  
True Course: 263°  
Magnetic Course: 260°

Head west to continue following the Rhine in the narrowing valley. Fly sequentially over the towns of Felsberg, Domat/Ems, and Tamins. Here leave the river and follow the Reichenauerstrasse to Flims.

Flims is located in the district of Imboden in the canton of Graubünden, Switzerland. Its history dates back at least to Roman times, when a road was built through the Anterior Rhine valley that runs close to the town.

Over the centuries, Flims has come under the control of various lords and rulers. Flims is a popular tourist resort in both summer and winter because of the many outdoor activities offered in the area. In winter, the Flims-Laax-Falera ski area offers more than 220 km of ski slopes, while in summer there are numerous hiking and biking trails, as well as the opportunity to enjoy water sports on Lake Cauma.

#### POI5-Ilanz

Distance: 5,0 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 56,2 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 99,2 nm  
True Course: 223°  
Magnetic Course: 220°

At Flims turn slightly left to stay on Road 19 in the direction of Ilanz.

Ilanz is a town located in the Surselva district on the right bank of the Anterior Rhine River. It has a long history dating back to Roman times, as evidenced by the presence of archaeological remains. In the Middle Ages, Ilanz became an important administrative and commercial center in the region due to its strategic location along the Via Mala, a major transit route through the Alps.

Today Ilanz is a modern city with a vibrant local community. It has numerous stores, restaurants, and accommodations for visitors wishing to explore the region. Tourist attractions in the area include the Rhine Gorge, a protected nature area offering spectacular views of the river, and St. George's Church, one of the oldest Romanesque churches in Graubünden. In addition, Ilanz is also the starting point of the Rhaetian Railway, which connects the town with other major tourist destinations in the region, such as Disentis and Andermatt.

#### POI6-Sumvitg

Distance: 11,3 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 67,5 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 87,9 nm  
True Course: 256°  
Magnetic Course: 253°

Continue to follow Road 19 and the river flowing through the narrow valley. Climb to 14000 to be ready to overcome the oncoming mountain ranges.

The municipality of Sumvitg was created in 2013 by the merger of the municipalities of Riein and Sumvitg, which together have a population of about 750. Sumvitg was an important center for the



timber trade and agriculture. In the 17th century the village was hit by a plague epidemic that killed most of the population.

Over the next few centuries, the region experienced some economic growth through the development of manufacturing enterprises and the expansion of the tourism industry. Today, Sumvitg is an ideal destination for hiking, mountain biking and skiing enthusiasts, thanks to the presence of trails and ski slopes that wind their way through the surrounding mountains. It is also home to numerous cultural attractions, including the 12th-century St. Martin's Church and Brandis Castle, which dates back to the 15th century.

#### POI7-Tujetsch

Distance:	7,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	74,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	80,5 nm
True Course:	248°
Magnetic Course:	245°

As you pass Sumvitg you can see Piz Avat peak on your right. Continue along the valley and you will soon reach Tujetsch.

Amche Tujetsch is located in the Surselva district, at the foot of the Sarcatal mountain range. The Tujetsch region has a long history, dating back to pre-Roman times. During the Roman period, the area was part of the province of Raetia and was one of the main trade routes between Italy and Germany. In the Middle Ages, Tujetsch was part of the lordship of Sax-Misox and was one of the main centers of the salt trade. In addition to the natural beauty of the area, Tujetsch is also famous for its culture and traditions.

Numerous churches and chapels can be visited in the municipality, including the Church of St. Charles Borromeo, the Church of St. Mary, and the Chapel of St. Nicholas. In addition, many festivals and cultural events are held every year, including the Tujetsch carnival, one of the most famous in Switzerland. In terms of economy, Tujetsch has active mountain agriculture and several handicraft enterprises. Tourism is the main driver of the local economy, thanks to the many outdoor activities it offers, the area's natural beauty, and its rich cultural traditions.

#### POI8-Titlis Glacier

Distance:	14,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	89,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	65,7 nm
True Course:	292°
Magnetic Course:	289°

Leaving Tujetsch's alpine hush, turn right on a heading of 245, ascending sharply as the terrain leaps into icy grandeur.

Titlis Glacier is located in the central part of the Swiss Alps, in the canton of Obwalden, in the Engelberg region. It is one of Switzerland's most popular attractions, especially for its spectacular views and winter sports opportunities. The glacier can be reached by the Titlis cable car, which runs from the town of Engelberg.

The cable car has two sections, the first runs from Engelberg to Trübsee, at an altitude of 1,800 meters, while the second section runs from Trübsee to the Titlis Glacier, which is at an altitude of 3,020 meters.

The glacier has an area of about 23 km<sup>2</sup> and reaches a depth of more than 100 meters. It is surrounded by towering mountains, including the Titlis, which gives the glacier its name, the Engelberger Rotstock and the Wissberg. The area around the glacier is also famous for its natural beauty, with glaciers, alpine lakes, waterfalls and hiking trails. Titlis Glacier was opened to the public in 1967, when the Titlis cable car was inaugurated. Since then, it has become a major tourist attraction in Switzerland, especially for winter sports enthusiasts.

In winter, the glacier offers skiing and snowboarding on well-prepared slopes, while in summer there are activities such as hiking, paragliding, rock climbing and crossing Europe's highest suspension bridge, the Titlis Cliff Walk. Titlis Glacier also has scientific significance, having been one of the first alpine glaciers to be monitored for climate change research. In 1978, a meteorological observatory was installed on the glacier, providing temperature, precipitation, snow and ice data to study the effects of climate change on the alpine environment.

#### POI9-Innertkirchen

Distance:	9,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	99,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	56,2 nm
True Course:	245°
Magnetic Course:	242°

From Titlis's icy throne, turn slightly left, descending into the Hasli Valley as the peaks relent. Keep the glacier's shimmer behind, the Aare River's faint thread guiding you below. After 15 nautical miles, Innertkirchen nestles into view, a village cradled by steep slopes, its red roofs a warm contrast to the grey rock.

Innertkirchen is located in the canton of Bern. The Innertkirchen area has been inhabited since prehistoric times, as evidenced by archaeological remains found in the area. During Roman times, the area was part of the province of Raetia and was part of an important trade route between the northern and southern Alps. During the Middle Ages, Innertkirchen was part of the Hasli bailiwick and was subject to the lordship of the Ringgenberg barons.

In 1334, the area came under the control of the lords of Thun, and in 1384 it became part of the city of Bern. Over the centuries, Innertkirchen has experienced considerable economic development through agriculture, timber production and hydropower. In fact, the area is crossed by the Aare River and several tributaries, which have allowed the development of numerous hydroelectric power plants. Today, Innertkirchen is a popular resort for nature lovers and outdoor sports enthusiasts, thanks to its proximity to the Grimsel Pass and the Susten Pass, two of the most spectacular alpine roads in Switzerland. In addition, the area is also an important center for hydropower, with numerous power plants producing renewable energy for the whole of Switzerland.

### POI10-Sphinx Observatory

Distance: 13,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 112,9 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 42,4 nm  
True Course: 227°  
Magnetic Course: 224°

At Innertkirchen continue straight ahead flying over a series of spectacular peaks. Reach Sphinx Observatory.

The Sphinx Observatory is an astronomical observatory located on the summit of Jungfrauoch , at an altitude of 3,571 meters. Construction of the Sphinx Observatory began in 1937 and was completed in 1938. It was designed by Swiss architect Rudolf Otto Salvisberg and funded by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research.

The observatory was used for astronomical research and meteorological observations. Today, the Sphinx Observatory is operated by the University of Bern and the Swiss Society for Physics and Astronomy. It is equipped with telescopes and a range of scientific instruments for the study of particle physics, meteorology, astronomy and geophysics.

Due to its elevated location, the observatory offers a panoramic view of the Swiss Alps. The observatory has been used for scientific research in various fields, including particle physics, meteorology, astronomy and geophysics. In 2016, for example, scientists from the University of Bern used the Sphinx Observatory to study the interaction between cosmic rays and the Earth's atmosphere.

The observatory is open to the public only during the tourist season (mid-April to mid-October) and can be reached by a cable car from the Kleine Scheidegg railway station.

### POI11-Brig

Distance: 13,9 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 126,8 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 28,6 nm  
True Course: 180°  
Magnetic Course: 177°

Now head south and fly over a series of high mountains. You can see to your left Jungfrau Summit.

With its 4,158 meters in height, it is one of the most famous and visited peaks in the country. Continue straight ahead and reach the Rhine Valley, located on the southern slope where Brig is located. Begins your descent. Brig is located at the crossroads of important communication routes, including the Simplon railway that connects Switzerland with Italy through the Simplon tunnel. Brig's history dates back to Roman times, when a fortress was built on the hill above the town.

The town developed further during the Middle Ages, becoming an important trading center due to its strategic location on the route between Italy and northern Europe. In the 15th century Brig became part of the Swiss Confederation and gained considerable military importance. One of the town's most important monuments is Stockalper Castle, an imposing fortress built by Brig merchant Kaspar Stockalper in the 17th century. The castle has recently been renovated and is now open to the public. Brig is also famous for its Carnaval, one of the oldest in Switzerland, which takes place every year during the carnival period. During this festival, the streets of the town are filled with colorful masks and costumes, while groups of musicians play and dance in the streets. Other

attractions in the town include St. Sebastian's Church, built in the 15th century, and the 16th-century St. John the Baptist Church.

#### POI12-Raron

Distance:	7,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	134,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	20,8 nm
True Course:	267°
Magnetic Course:	264°

Turn right to head west through the valley and reach Raron. You will find it just after the local airport, at the foot of the Bietschhorn mountain.

Raron is known as the site of the church of St. Theodul, patron saint of Canton Valais, as well as Raron Castle, which was the power center of the Raron family. In 1283, the Raron family were appointed 'vogt' (administrators) of the Diocese of Sion by the Bishop of Sion.

In 1330, the family sold the castle to the counts of Sabaudia. In 1407, the castle came under the control of the cantons of Bern and Sion. The Church of St. Theodul in Raron is an important pilgrimage destination in Switzerland, thanks to the presence of the statue of St. Theodul located in the crypt of the church. The statue is considered miraculous and attracts many visitors every year. In addition to the church and castle, Raron is known for its wine. The region of has been famous for growing vines since Roman times and produces some of the best wines in Canton Valais.

#### POI13-Sierre

Distance:	11,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	145,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	9,7 nm
True Course:	266°
Magnetic Course:	263°

Continue straight ahead in the direction of Sierre and enjoy the view of the mountains climbing to the right and left. Sierre is located about 15 km east of Sion.

It has a history dating back to Roman times. The area where the town is located was known as 'Sedunum,' meaning 'bridge over the river.' In the Middle Ages, the city developed as an important trading center for wine production. Sierre has preserved its wine-making traditions to this day and is home to several wineries and vineyards. It is the administrative and commercial center of the Valais region and has many cultural and sports activities.

The city has a major train station with direct connections to Geneva, Zurich and Milan. Sierre's tourist attractions include the Vallesia Museum, which presents the history of the Valais region from prehistoric times to the present day.



**POI14-- Sion -**

Distance: 7,3 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 152,9 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 2,4 nm  
True Course: 241°  
Magnetic Course: 238°

At Sierre, turn slightly to the left and you'll already have Sion in sight.

Sion is located at the confluence of the Rhone River and the Sionne Stream, which has a long history and strategic location in the Canton of Valais. Since the Roman period it was known as Sedunum. After that, the town was ruled by the Burgundians, the Franks, and finally the Bishop of Sion, who ruled over the town until 1798, when Canton Valais became a republic. It has also been an important religious center, as it is the seat of the Diocese of Sion.

The city also has a medieval castle, Tourbillon Castle, which dates back to the 13th century. In addition to the castle, there are other places of historical and cultural interest in Sion, such as Notre-Dame-du-Glarier Church, St. Theodul Church, and the Museum of Valais History.

The city is also known for its wine production, especially the famous red wine 'Dôle'.

**LSGS-Sion**

Distance: 2,4 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 155,3 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm  
True Course: 246°  
Magnetic Course: 243°

Prepare to land at Sion Airport.

Sion Airport mainly serves charter flights, private flights, and winter sports flights. It offers various facilities and services for passengers, including a bar/restaurant, VIP lounge, parking area, car rental, and cab service. It also has general aviation facilities, including hangars and aircraft maintenance services.

As you will notice during the approach phase, it has a strategic location in the heart of the Swiss Alps and offers breathtaking scenery.