**Engelberg**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

4

**Intermediate Runs**

9

**Advanced Runs**

5

**Total Runs**

18

**Lifts**

22

**Chairs**

8

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

4

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

60m (197ft).

**Overview**

A ski resort that’s as hush-hush as the Benedictine monastery in the village, Engelberg (‘Angel Mountain’) is a secret Swiss haven that attracts professional powder freaks who prefer their skiing off-piste.

Just a short hop from Zurich, Engelberg makes the most of its topographical prowess with access to two main skiing areas and some smaller, less developed ascents on offer too.

So whether you’re mounting the mighty Titlis to tackle its infamous off-piste Laub run or paying a farmer a backhander to use his cow’s cable car to get some snow to yourself, Engelberg has it covered.

At 3,239m (10,627 ft) Mount Titlis is the master with glacier skiing, a sprinkling of advanced runs and the world’s highest revolving cable car. Earn a massage in one of the resorts many hotel spas with a summit-to-ski-shop decent of 1,300m (4,265 ft).

On the other side of the village, Brunni, at 2,040m (6,693 ft), has some lovely tree-lined routes and a huge area for children, families and bow-legged beginners. There’s also sledging available.

But really, Engelberg is a resort where waist-high powder reigns supreme and it’s not uncommon to see more folk free-riding than tackling the marked routes.

**Location**

High up in the Alps, Engelberg is found in the Obwalden canton of Switzerland, about 35km (21 miles) south of Lucerne.

**Website**

www.engelberg.ch/en

**Piste Map**

www.skiclub.co.uk/assets/maps/images/largemaps/1051.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

At 3,239m (10,627 ft), the nosebleed heights of Mount Titlis give Engelberg’s upper slopes some decent, dependable snow, plus an off-piste glacier run. At peak season, powder is rarely in short supply up high but snow cannons are often used for the lower slopes.

There are some 82km (51 miles) of pistes this side of the village too, including some tricky blacks and narrow reds. It also has a wonderfully challenging red/black route (run 1) from the summit, which is accessible by revolving cable car.

There are fewer skiers across at Jochpass, where the runs are less steep, but there are two interlocking blues (runs 7 and 10) that are a nice change of pace, plus a gentle and rather pretty route (run 5) into town.

Across the resort, Brunni hosts the beginners with a large children’s area hosting T-bar lifts and magic carpets as well as small jumps and a slalom course. There are 7km (4 miles) of graceful, sun-kissed runs here, which dip between the trees further down the mountain.

The season runs from late-October until late-May and multilingual ski schools are available on both sides of the resort. With such accessible free-riding opportunities, especially the 35% Laub run and the glacier fields of Galtiberg, off-piste instructors are recommended.

The first ride up at the Bergbahen cable car can get busy, but the resort is installing a new lift which carries eight people per car and will reduce the travel time to Gerschnialp by 12 minutes.

**Engelberg**

**Resort**

1050

**Base**

1050

**Top**

3208

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Attractions beyond the slopes are almost as exciting as the happenings on them. Winter thrills include snowmobile racing, ice skating, sledging, airboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and a high rope walk as well as snow tubing.

Meanwhile in summer, there are plenty of good hiking trails plus numerous sporting activities including curling, tennis, tobogganing, golf, rowing, swimming (in the indoor pool), kayaking and a vertigo-inducing via ferratas route.

Plenty of camera-wielding tourists make their way to the top of Mount Titlis for photos too. Most say “cheese” next to a cardboard cut-out of the characters from Bollywood classic, *The Brave-Hearted Will Take Away the Bride* (which was filmed here), before tackling the wind-whipping cliff walk and slightly disappointing glacier cave.

Engelberg also hosts plenty of competitions, from a Ski Jumping World Cup round in December to the Snow Epic fatbike cycling race in January.

**Family Fun**

While many Mount Titlis slopes will be too tough for some youngsters, there’s still plenty on offer for families.

Beginners should head to Brunni where the Schweizer Skischule (tel: +41 41 639 5454; [www.skischule-engelberg.ch](http://www.skischule-engelberg.ch)) can get little ones up and snow-ploughing in no time. There’s plenty on offer here from T-bar lifts and magic carpets to small jumps, a slalom course and the chance to meet a furry, fair-weather mascot called Gobi.

During white outs, the Ludothek board games library (tel: +41 41 637 36 31) at Einwohnergemeinde becomes a treasure trove of puzzles and toys, Hotel Edelweiss (tel: +41 41 639 7878; www.edelweissengelberg.ch/English) and Hotel Terrace (tel: +41 41 639 6666; [www.terrace.ch/en](http://www.terrace.ch/en)) both offer childcare services for guests.

**Retail Therapy**

Engelberg won’t ever compete with The Dubai Mall, but Dorfstrasse has some decent shopping opportunities. OKAY shop (tel; +41 41 637 0777; [www.okay-shop.com](http://www.okay-shop.com)) on Bahnhofplatz is a ski rental shop that doubles up as free-riding hangout, while NAJO (tel: +41 79 195 5581; najoandfriends.ch) at 6 Studentenweg stocks cool locally-designed clothes. Foodies should seek out the Show Cheese Factory (tel: +41 41 638 0888; www.schaukaeserei-engelberg.ch) at the Engelberg Monastery.

**Splashing Out**

Stay overnight at the Trübsee Igloo Village (tel: +41 41 612 27 28; [www.iglu-dorf.com](http://www.iglu-dorf.com)) where, long after all the skiers have gone down the mountain, guests enjoy dinner, a snowshoe stroll under the stars, bubbly in a hot tub and fresh tea brought to their bed in the morning.

**Apres Ski**

Don’t be fooled by the midweek quiet, Engelberg attracts weekend skiers who party as hard as they carve. Yucatan (tel: +41 41 639 6868; [www.bellevue-terminus.ch](http://www.bellevue-terminus.ch)) is the village behemoth with a basement-feel and cheesy cover bands.

The Hotel Hoheneck bar (tel: +41 41 639 5700; [www.hotelhoheneck.com](http://www.hotelhoheneck.com)) offers Irish music, low-slung ceilings and a drinks roulette wheel for the indecisive. It also has the best lounge in town: a chic den with areas designed as different rooms. Whiskies in the bedroom, anyone? Clubbers should seek out Spindle ([www.spindle.ch](http://www.spindle.ch)) for dance music and stag do behaviour.

**Eating Out**

You’re never far from a schnitzel in Engelberg, but it’s not all about the alpine appetite, and visitors will find everything from super salads to spaghetti bolognese in the village.

Mexican food and monster burgers can be found at Yucatan (tel: +41 41 639 6868; [www.bellevue-terminus.ch](http://www.bellevue-terminus.ch)), while the steaks are so big in Aplenclub (tel: +41 41 637 1243; [www.alpenclub.ch/en/home](http://www.alpenclub.ch/en/home)) they come with a bib. Ende der Welt (tel: +41 41 637 4787 ; [www.ende-der-welt.ch](http://www.ende-der-welt.ch)) is a little out of town, but this family-run joint serves excellent traditional food, especially during hunting season when the game is hunted fresh.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Zurich Airport (ZRH).

Distance to resort: 90km (56 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Engelberg (direct trains from Lucerne).

**Getting Around**

While Engelberg isn’t the biggest resort, it can take some time to cross in ski boots. Seven bus routes cover the village (free to lift pass holders). All go to the Titlis lift station, while Routes 3 and 5 pass Brunni lift station en route to Neuschwändi. Use Route 2 for the Fürenalp lift and Route 6 for Tellenstein.

Out of the ski gear, much of the resort is walkable, but Titlis-Taxi (tel: +41 799 039 373; [www.titlis-taxi.ch](http://www.titlis-taxi.ch)) is a good taxi option just in case.

**Hotels**

Bar a few recent developments, Engelberg has managed to retain its Alpine allure with a host of chalet-style hotels and belle époque boltholes. Though the village is in discussions about erecting its first 5-star retreat, that still looks a long way off, even if it gets the go ahead. Until then, guests can enjoy everything from self-catering accommodation to pretty art nouveau hotels, but ski-in, ski-out locations are few and far between.

**Hotel Schweizerhof**

A striking period hotel in the centre of Engelberg, the Schweizerhof offers seriously-sized sleeping quarters and wonderfully attentive staff. Some rooms may be a little dated, but this is all about the Swiss hospitality.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Dorfstrasse 42

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 637 1105.

**Website**

www.schweizerhof-engelberg.ch

**Hotel Hahnenblick**

With only 12 rooms, the Hotel Hahnenblick is about the small details. It’s quality and comfort above everything else, with filling homemade food in the restaurant and overwhelming views from the bedroom balconies.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Wasserfallstrasse 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 637 1212.

**Website**

www.hahnenblick.ch

**Berghaus Jochpass**

One of the only ski-in/ski-out options in Engelberg, this hotel on the Jochpass slopes has a choice of three restaurants and clean, basic rooms that sleep two to 10 people.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Jochpass 2222

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 637 1187.

**Website**

www.jochpass.ch

**Ramada Hotel Regina**

Ignore the Soviet-looking façade; Hotel Regina has all the hallmarks of a 4-star chain with large rooms, comfy beds and a relaxing wellness centre. Expect excellent service too.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Dorfstrasse 33

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 639 5858.

**Website**

www.h-hotels.com/en/hotels/ramada-hotel-regina-titlis-engelberg

**Hotel Bellevue-Terminus**

Overlook this belle époque beauty at your peril. First opened in 1898, the hotel still holds a majestic air over Engelberg train station. A recent renovation has turned rooms into modern, fin-de-siècle masterpieces.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofstrasse 10

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 639 6868.

**Website**

www.bellevue-terminus.ch

**TITLIS Resort**

These generously spaced, self-catering apartments stand out like a show home. Tastefully furnished with space age mod cons, they’re bright, quiet and come with access to a small but smart Alpine spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Alpenstrasse

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Engelberg

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

6390

**Country**

Switzerland

**Telephone**

+41 41 639 50 00.

**Website**

www.titlisresort.ch/en