



# Welcome to the most beautiful mountain of Switzerland, here on the "Chänzeli"! (1464 meters above sea level)

Mount Rigi rests like an "island" in front of the Pre-Alps and therefore offers a great view. We are here at about 1,000 meters above the level of Lake Lucerne. In clear weather, you can see half of Switzerland, the Black Forest in Germany and the Vosges in France, as well as beautiful sunsets. With the development of tourism, more than 200 years ago, the "Chänzeli" viewpoint quickly became very popular. In 1871 already, a large pavilion was erected on "Chänzeli". Look at the view from "Chänzeli" under [www.prorigi.ch](http://www.prorigi.ch)

## The Mountain

**Geology:** About 5 million years ago, the sedimentation of the ancient "Ur-Reuss" (a conglomerate) has been lifted by the pressure of the folding process of the Alps. We can clearly see the pebbles that have been rounded by the river in the rock: it is a limestone conglomerate. During the ice ages, a 1000m thick river of ice pushed against the Jura so that valleys and lakes have been formed. When fog lies on the lake, we can imagine the sea of ice.

**Flora:** the Rigi offers about 900 different flowers and plants, as well as 300 lichens and 100 mosses. This rich variety of species is due to the various geological and climatic conditions. The south side has a mild climate with little temperature fluctuation. Protected from the north winds, the lower altitudes are additionally heated by the reflection of the lake surface. The Föhn (a warm and dry wind) extends the growing season. In autumn and winter, the higher areas are usually above the fog. Since the summit of the Rigi was not covered with ice during the Ice Age, a rich alpine flora of nowadays over 100 species has survived. In the area of the Rigi, there are also 37 native orchid species, especially in ecological niches and hardly accessible locations. The Rigi area is a territory of national importance. Moreover, large areas belonging to the cantons of Lucerne and Schwyz are protected areas for plants and flowers, with objects of national importance.

**Forest:** Nearly 40% of the Rigi is forest. The forest belt stretches virtually all around the mountain from the lakes up to the summit, covering also steep slopes unsuitable for agriculture. This allows a great variety of woods. Climbing from the foot of the Rigi to the Summit (Kulm), we can observe different plant populations depending on the altitude.

**PRO RIGI** is an association with about 700 members. We are committed to sustainable development for the Rigi area and want to promote the relationship of local residents and visitors with nature and landscape.

**Main activities:** Care of the Rigi, guided nature tours, the flower path and the elaboration of comments and writing of objections to construction as well as infrastructure projects.

**Guard:** More than 40 Rigi guards work for the cantons of Lucerne and Schwyz and are responsible for the supervision and management of the nature and plant protection areas of the Rigi. They also give information to guests when needed, and observe and report any environmental change in the areas of nature and water conservation, trails, cultivation, landfill, building, traffic regulations, etc.

**Excursions:** Pro Rigi will introduce you in spring and summer to the wonderful world of flowers on the Rigi. Depending on the development of the flora, the easy three-hour hike takes place on scenic paths. We will be pleased to explore with you the crown jewels of the Queen of the mountains!

**Flower path:** it takes you from Rigi Kaltbad via Chänzeli to Staffel and on to the Felsenweg (cliff trail). During the flowering season, this attractive and scenic path is provided with panels explaining the flowers that you encounter on the way. In the course of the season, over 200 species can be observed and identified.

We offer a free brochure about the flower trail with 67 pictures of flowers with their names.