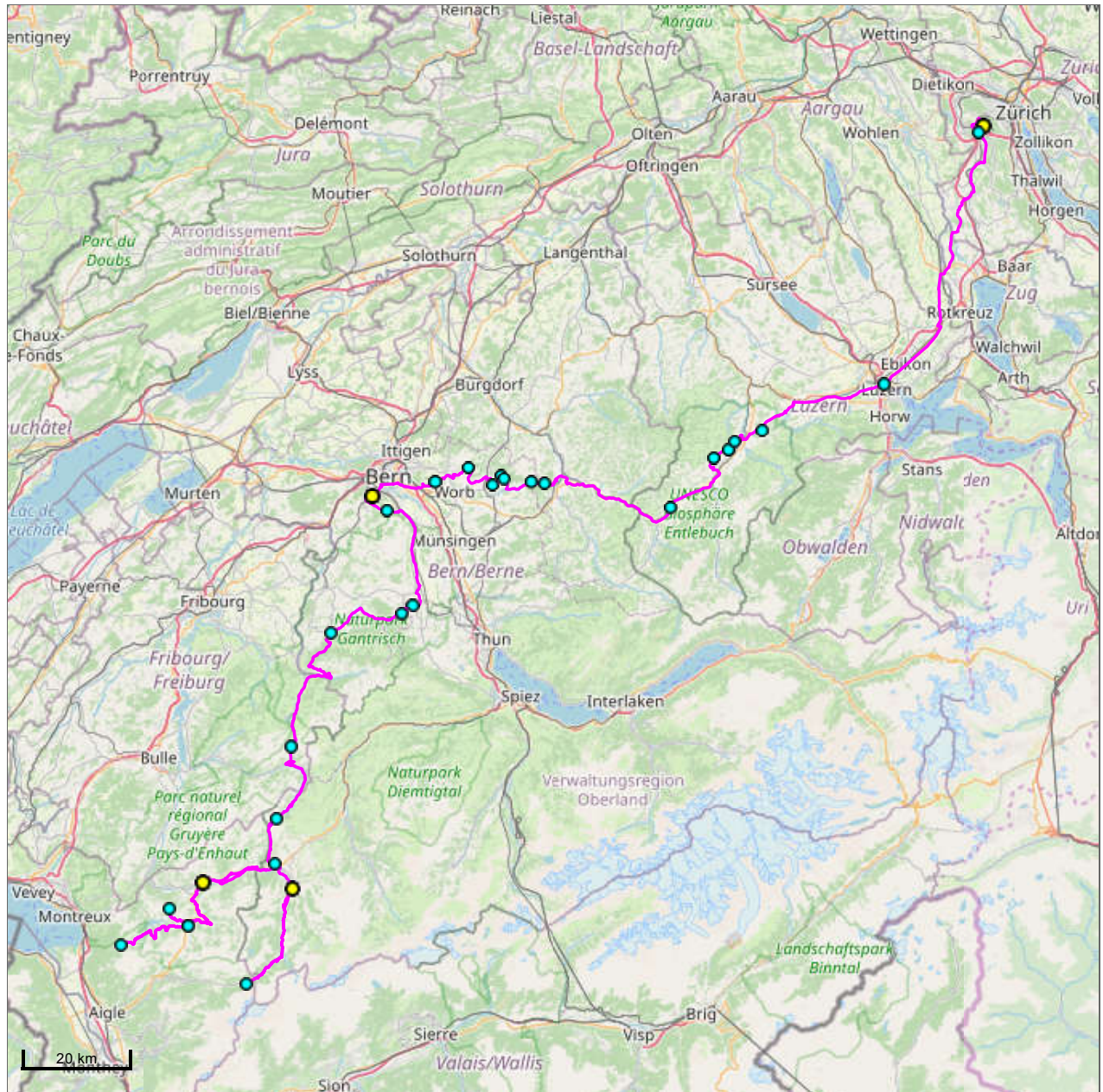
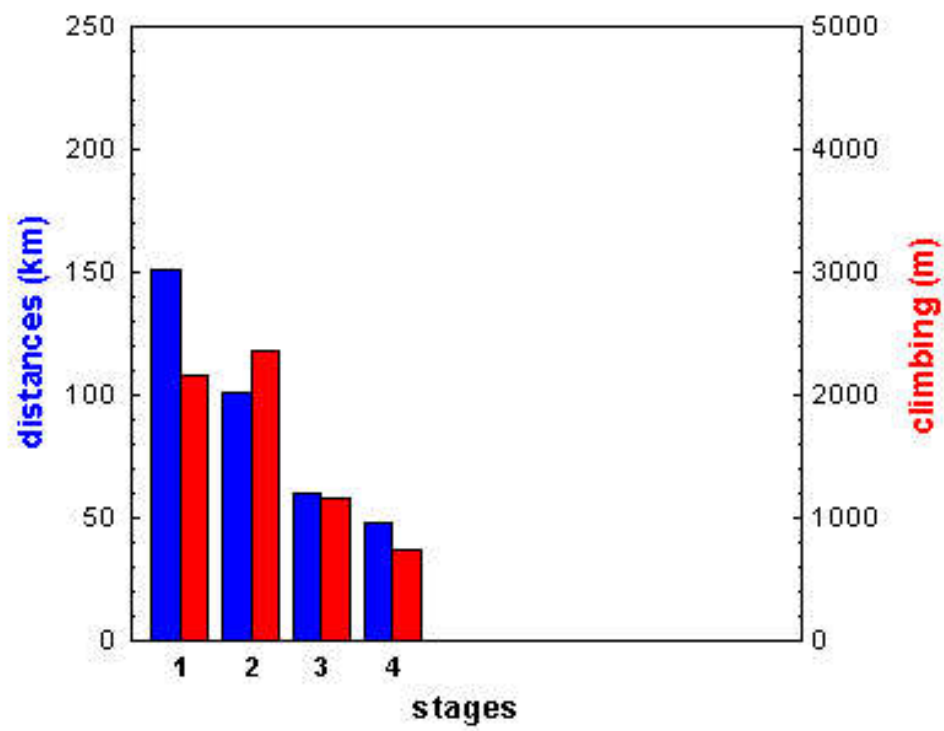


Bicycle tour 2020, 25 - 28 June

Patrick Schleppei

stage	distance (km)	climbing (m)
Ringlikon - Luzern - Langnau i. E. - Liebefeld	151	2160
Liebefeld - Riffenmatt - Euschels - Grubenberg - Château-d'Oex	101	2360
Château-d'Oex - Ayerne - Sonlomot - Château-d'Oex	60	1170
Château-d'Oex - Gstaad - Pillon - Gstaad	48	740
total	360	6430





Eggelriedegg



Euschels pass and Chörblispitz



The Hongrin lake from Les Mossettes

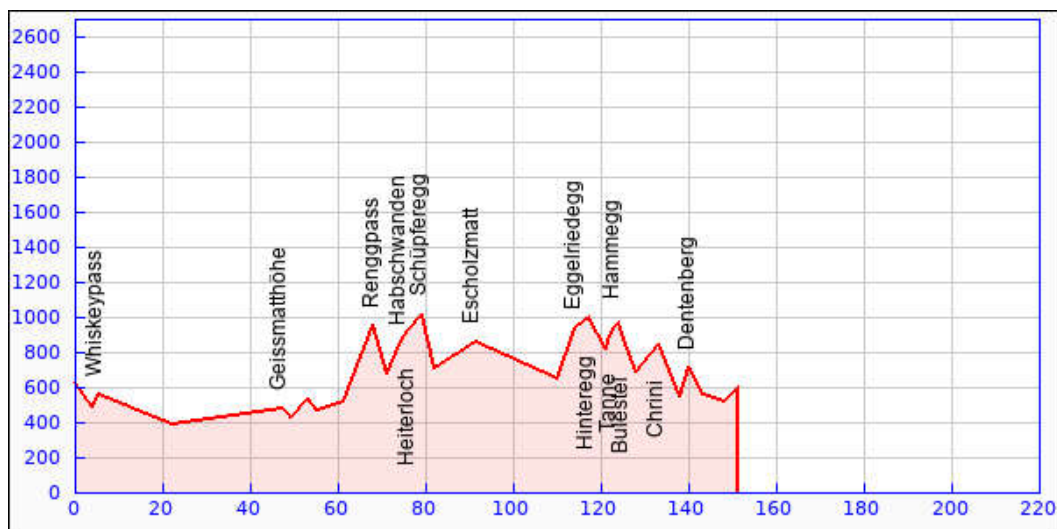


Pillon pass towards Les Diablerets

Stage 1 (25 June 2020): Ringlikon - Luzern - Langnau i. E. - Liebefeld

After years of searching for the big road passes in the Alps, the time had come to look after smaller ones. This year, i decided to leave again directly from home. The first pass on my way was thus not unknown: it was the [Whiskeypass](#), which anyway includes 3 hairpin bends from Landikon. Then i had a long part of almost flat roads, passing Affoltern am Albis, Sins and Root to reach Lucerne. Close to the hospital of this city, i took a street on the left which brought me up to a small urban pass, the [Geissmatthöhe](#). After going down across the river Reuss, i headed west through Littau and Malters. Then, instead of making the detour through the valley of the Kleine Emme, i cut through the mountains via the [Rengg](#) pass to reach Entlebuch. I then climbed on the other side of the valley towards [Habschwanden](#). There i had to stop to repair a flat tire. No external cause, it was a defect of the tube itself. A Chinese product sold under a European brand, as i later noticed when i patched it. I continued on the back side the ridge and made a small hook to a pass a bit off the road, the [Heiterloch](#). It is further on, at the [Schüpferegg](#), that i went back to the Entlebuch side of the ridge. After riding down to Schüpfen, i followed the road from Lucerne to Bern, first climbing the Entlebuch to [Escholz matt](#) and then going down to Langnau im Emmental. From then on, i had a bit of headwind. I left the valleys at the mouth of the Ilfis into the Emme. My route became steep again, with small, partly very steep roads, for example to the [Eggelriedegg](#) pass. A little further on, my route went through the [Hinteregg](#) pass to go down to Arni. The following passes were close, [Tanne](#), [Hammegg](#) and [Bulestel](#). To reach the next one, i had again to go down to a valley, in Walkringen, and then up to [Chrini](#). Then, between the Worb valley and Bern, only the [Dentenberg](#) remained, not high but steep as well. Once I'd passed this bump and gone down to Gümligen, i still had to cross part of the city of Bern to get to my brother Yves and his family, who had kindly agreed to let me stop off at their place.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Ringlikon	0	630	
Landikon	4	490	
Whiskeypass	5	560	70
Maschwanden	22	390	
Geissmatthöhe	47	480	90
St. Karl (Luzern)	49	430	
Oberrengg (Littau)	53	540	110
Stegmättli	55	470	
Schachen	61	520	50
Renggpass	68	960	440
Entlebuch	71	680	
Habschwanden	74	850	170
Heiterloch	76	930	80
Schüpferegg	79	1020	90
Schüpfheim	82	710	
Escholz matt	91	860	150
Emmenmatt	110	650	
Eggelriedegg	114	940	290
Hinteregg	117	1000	60
Arnisäge	121	820	
Tanne	122	900	80
Hammegg	123	950	50
Neuhaupt	124	970	20
Bulestel	125	880	
Walkringen	128	690	
Chrini	133	850	160
Nesselbank	138	550	
Dentenberg	140	720	170
Gümligen	143	560	
Monbijou (Bern)	148	520	
Liebefeld	151	600	80
total	151		2160



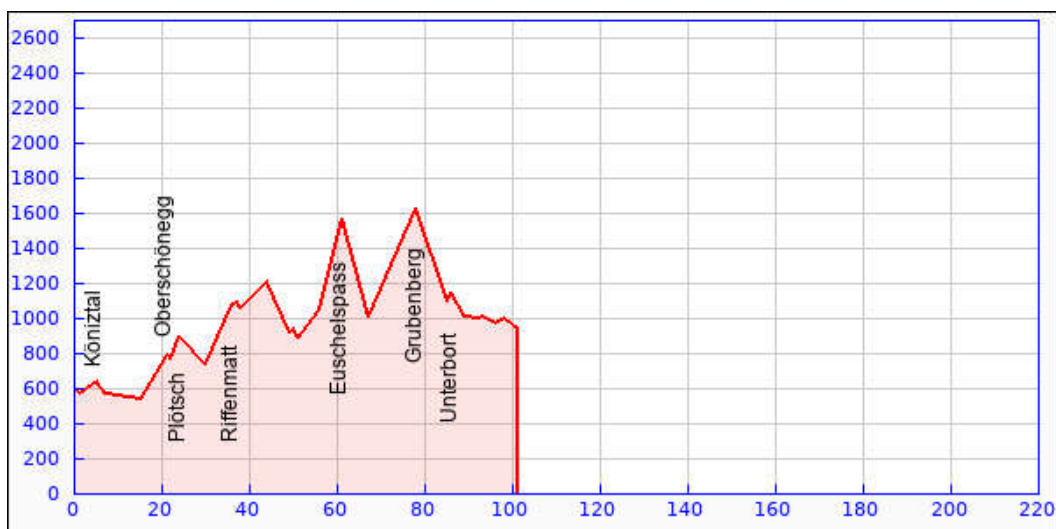
Stage 2 (26 June 2020): Liebefeld - Riffenmatt - Euschels - Grubenberg - Château-d'Oex

From Liebefeld, you can quickly get out of the Bernese conurbation: ride through Köniz, turn left, and it's already quiet. The road goes up through the **Köniztal** and then down to Kehrsatz and more traffic again. I turned right towards Belp and then into the Gürbetal valley. The weather was nice and the ride easy. From Kaufdorf, i climbed up the west side of the valley to reach first the **Oberschönegg** pass and then **Plötsch**. Then i had a rather long descent with some wooden covered bridges to Rüscheegg-Graben. Turning there the left, i went up towards **Riffenmatt**. The climb wasn't hard, but i anyway took a break on a restaurant terrace when i reached the pass. Then i didn't go directly down into the valley of the Singine/Sense, but i went in the direction of Sangernboden, which meant riding a bit up before going down again. This gave me a first glimpse towards my next goal, the valley of Schwarzsee. To go there, the road went up gently from Zollhaus. Further on, it was quite different, no more road but a steep gravel road, interspersed with many very steep passages with concrete slabs forming two ruts. But it was expected that this climb to the **Euschels** pass would be difficult with my touring bike. So i didn't let myself get discouraged and pushed through the steepest passages. The beginning, with the view of the Schwarzsee lake, and the end, with the pass and the mountains, were the most beautiful parts. I arrived at the pass a little before one o'clock in the afternoon.

In the descent to Jaun, i made a short stop at the ruin of Bellegarde. Once in the valley, i headed towards the Jaun pass, but only for about a kilometer, because then i turned right to climb via Abländschen towards the **Grubenberg** pass. It's a small road with very little traffic and it was very nice to ride through there. The sky was more and more overcast and in the last part of the descent to Saanen it started to rain. By the time i got to the small **Unterbort** pass, it was a big storm. As i wasn't too far from my goal, i didn't worry too much about getting wet. Towards

Château-d'Oex, the official cycle route only partly avoids roads with heavy traffic, and at the cost of more gradient for bikes than for cars. It is as if this would be on purpose to favour electric bikes. Anyway, after Rougemont i found dry roads again. It was mid-afternoon when i arrived in Château-d'Oex where my girlfriend Angelika was to join me later by car, coming directly from Zurich.

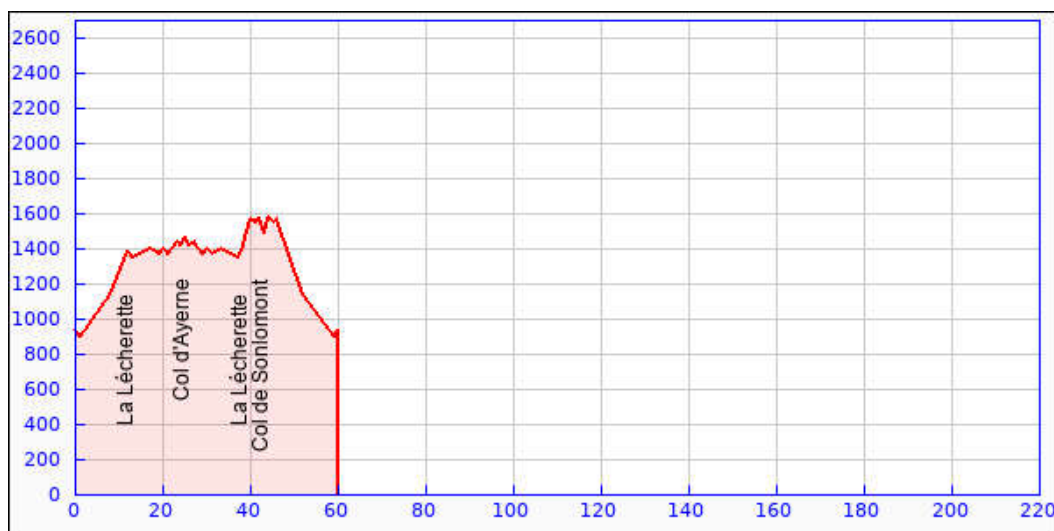
	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Liebefeld	0	600	
Köniz	1	570	
Köniztal	5	640	70
Kehrsatz	7	570	
Kaufdorf	15	540	
Oberschönegg	21	790	250
Elbschen	22	770	
Plötsch	24	900	130
Rüscheegg-Graben	30	740	
Riffenmatt	36	1080	340
Buechwald	37	1090	10
Stapfenböden	38	1060	
Martenen	44	1210	150
Hoflanderebrugg	49	920	
Unter Schafera	50	940	20
Zollhaus	51	890	
Schwarzsee	56	1050	160
Euschelspass	61	1570	520
Jaun	67	1010	
Grubenberg	78	1630	620
Pont de la Scie	85	1100	
Unterbort	86	1150	50
Saanen	89	1010	
Les Allamans	92	1000	
Rougemont	93	1010	10
Flendruz	96	970	
Les Granges	98	1000	30
Château-d'Oex	101	940	
total	101		2360



Stage 3 (27 June 2020): Château-d'Oex - Ayerne - Sonlomot - Château-d'Oex

For this day, we have planned a tour with two branches, each one to a pass. Angelika drove up to [La Lécherette](#). I met her after riding there by bike. As I arrived, it started to rain. We were lucky that it was just when we could find shelter under an eaves! If the rain was heavy, it didn't last long. A good quarter of an hour later, we were able to saddle up for the Hongrin. As it was Saturday, we could ride into this military exercise area. So we took advantage of the beautiful road around the lake, overhanging the lake. There were slight climbs and descents, but it always remained close to the elevation of 1400 m. Arriving at the [Ayerne](#) pass, we admired the Tour d'Aï and the Tour de Mayen. To have the view over the Rhone Valley and Lake Geneva, we would have had to go further, but instead we returned by the same road towards La Lécherette. In the meantime this road was mostly dry. At first glance the next pass, [Sonlomot](#), did not seem much harder since it was only a good hundred meters higher than La Lécherette. Except that it was interspersed with descents, and in total this second round trip still required more than 300 m of climbing, partly quite steep. But the view was beautiful and we had time. We arrived at the pass in the early afternoon. On mountain bikes, we might have returned by riding first down to the Hongrin lake, but with the bikes we had, it was wiser to take the same route back. So we went again to La Lécherette. And from there we returned to Château-d'Oex each by our own means: Angelika with the bike in the car and me on my bike.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Château-d'Oex	0	940	
Le Berceau	1	900	
L'Etivaz	8	1140	240
La Lécherette	12	1390	250
Les Antoinettes	13	1350	
Sur Catherine	17	1400	50
Joux Cergnat	19	1370	
La Rossière	20	1400	30
Le Vaudroz	21	1370	
Joux Noires	23	1440	70
Les Crêtes	24	1420	
Col d'Ayerne	25	1470	50
Les Crêtes	26	1420	
Joux Noires	27	1440	20
Le Vaudroz	29	1370	
La Rossière	30	1400	30
Joux Cergnat	31	1370	
Sur Catherine	33	1400	30
Les Antoinettes	37	1350	
La Lécherette	38	1390	40
Les Mossettes	40	1570	180
Pâquier à l'Henri	41	1550	
La Plaudri	42	1580	30
Col de Sonlomot	43	1490	
La Plaudri	44	1580	90
Pâquier à l'Henri	45	1550	
Les Mossettes	46	1570	20
L'Etivaz	52	1140	
Le Berceau	59	900	
Château-d'Oex	60	940	40
total	60		1170



Stage 4 (28 June 2020): Château-d'Oex - Gstaad - Pillon - Gstaad

On Sunday, the weather was overcast and quite cool for the season. We decided to climb up to the **Pillon** pass, which i hadn't been since 1995. Like the day before, Angelika first drove a part by car. I went by bike over Rougemont and Saanen, and i met just after Gstaad. And like the day before, the continuation of the journey was only possible because it was the weekend. Nothing to do here with the army, but during the week the road would have been closed for work. Fortunately, there weren't too many people taking advantage of the opening and the traffic wasn't too heavy. Up to Gsteig, the slope was gentle. Then it was steeper, but without any real difficulty. At noon, we reached the **Pillon** pass. From there, my plan would have been to continue and ride to the Valais the next day. But the weather forecast was very bad, with rain almost non-stop. So i decided to ride down to Gstaad and drive back with Angelika. She was obviously not unhappy that she didn't have to drive all the way back to Zurich alone. Even if it was a bit shortened, the 30th edition of my annual tour in the Alps had made me see beautiful landscapes and even discover some passes that were new to me.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Château-d'Oex	0	940	
Les Granges	2	1000	60
Gérignoz	3	950	
Les Revers	5	1010	60
Pont	6	960	
Rougemont	7	990	30
Le Vanel	8	1020	30
Öy	10	1000	
Rüebeldorf	12	1040	40
Mettlen (Gstaad)	13	1030	
Gstaad	14	1050	20
Feutersoey	20	1130	80
Gsteig	24	1180	50
Col du Pillon	31	1550	370
Gsteig	38	1180	
Feutersoey	42	1130	
Wispile (Gstaad)	48	1050	
total	48		740

