

Back To The Family Roots In Aargau

My Swiss passport states that I hail from Bünzen in the canton of Aargau! This is not true as I was born in Holland. However since I am married to a Swiss national whose forebears once upon a time lived in Bünzen, (never mind the fact that both he and his father were both born in London) it is now my seat of origin and thus I thought I might go and check it out and got my husband to take me there. Well Bünzen is a rural small village with a big church, a bakery and a hotel and not much to recommend it. So in about 10 minutes we were done.

However as luck would have it, about 15 kilometres from Bünzen is the Hallwiler lake which is a little known jewel with crystal clear waters in a pretty valley with quite a lot of history surrounding it. The lake is only 8.4 kilometres long and 1.5 kilometres wide. It has a walking trail of 22 kilometres that circumnavigates the lake. The walk takes about 5 – 6 hours depending on your pace. The borders of the lake are protected and cannot be urbanised and thus nature is everywhere and on a good day the views of the distant mountains are breath-taking. Along the walking path there are several beaches and places to swim so take your bathing suit on a hot day. There are several restaurants on route but also great picnic places.



Comfortable ferry boats go around the lake regularly and it is possible to interrupt the walk around the lake by doing one or more stretches on the boat.



At the top of the lake is the romantic moated castle of Hallwyl. This is an 18th century castle and completely surrounded by the Aabach river. The castle was for centuries owned by the Hallwyl family with a rich history of distinguished services in sciences, religion and the arts. Information for tours and opening hours can be found on

<http://www.schlosshallwyl.ch>

The hotel where we stayed is the lovely Seerose resort hotel just outside the small town of Meisterschwanden. It is located right on the lake and has direct access for swimming as well as a jetty for the ferry boats. It boasts 3 restaurants – thai, Swiss and a very casual restaurant the with great hamburgers. All 3 restaurants are right on the water with lovely views on the lake.

<https://www.seerose.ch/hotel/seerose-resort-spa/>

On your way there or back, you might like to stop en route at the small town of Sursee with its historical centre situated on the border of the Sempacher lake. It has a pretty centre with a grand gothic townhall and is a pleasant place to stop off for a coffee or lunch.