

Schaffhausen and the Falls

Recently, we travelled by train to Schaffhausen in the canton of the same name which is the most northerly canton of Switzerland. It is surrounded on three sides by Germany and in fact we stayed in a village called Büsingen which is a German town entirely surrounded by Switzerland. Our hotel (Die Alte Rheinmühle) is located literally next to the Rhine and since it was a warm evening, we were able to have dinner outside next to the river. Below us we could see the fish waiting for a crust of bread to fall from our table. <http://alte-rheinmuehle.ch/en/>



From Büsingen we traveled by boat to the medieval village Stein am Rhein. The boat leaves from nearby the hotel and takes about 1h30. It is a lovely journey along the river with plenty to see on the shores. <http://www.urh.ch>

Stein am Rhein has many frescoes and painted houses and a stroll through the historic streets to the 'Rathausplatz' (town hall square) with its painted building facades is well worth it. Hohenklingen castle is situated above the small town and can also be visited.

The next morning we took the bus that stopped very near the hotel to picturesque Schaffhausen where we admired some of its 171 bay windows and its rich gothic and baroque architecture. The bay windows were built as status symbols by the rich and Schaffhausen has more bay windows than any other Swiss town. In the public squares are historic fountains as well as statues of the Moors and one of William Tell (did you know that he is also featured on the swiss 5 franc coin?)

The Rhine Falls are Europe's largest and a must see. They are easily reached from the railway station by bus (bus no. 1 to Neuhausen Centre and then 10 mins easy stroll). The waterfalls can be visited on foot – a pleasant walkway will take you to both the top and bottom of the waterfall so you can admire it from all angles. There are also boat rides of varying times and levels of excitement that go very near the falls. And of course there are plenty of places to have a bite to eat or drink. There is a tourist mini-train which runs every 30 minutes to take you back to Schaffhausen if you are too tired to walk back up the hill.

Schaffhausen and the falls can easily be visited as a day trip and the train from Nyon to Schaffhausen takes about three and a half hours.

