



PRESS INFORMATION - FAMILIES

Endless family fun, children's entertainment program and special family offers

Award-winning family destination

Endless fun for the whole family! The holiday destination Lenk-Simmental offers an unforgettable holiday experience with this motto. Family-friendliness is a big priority in the whole valley. The destination of Lenk, which has been awarded the «Family Destination» quality seal since many years, caters its offers in particular on this target group. In Lenk, most hotels include the use of cable cars in the accommodation fee, even for a one-night stay. The attractive children's entertainment program is also free-of-charge for holders of the SIMMENTAL CARD.

Families are put to the forefront in Lenk and Simmental. An attractive **children's entertainment programme** during twelve weeks in the summer and autumn holidays, with sports and leisure activities and child-friendly offers at hotels and restaurants ensure a stay in Lenk full of diversity. All activities in this children's entertainment program are free-of-charge for the youngest guests in Simmental. The offer comprises, for example, the Kasperli theatre, a bouldering course, an AlpKultur® reception with a petting zoo, a steam locomotive experience, a bike handling course with a tour of the bike workshop, a sausage workshop at the Lenk mountain butcher's Schläppi or – completely new this summer – a visit in the adventure park Rufeli or tinkering sock animals. All offers which are part of the children's entertainment program are listed in the guide book at www.lenk-simmental.ch/kids-programme.

Lenk-Simmental has a wide range of offers and events as part of AlpKultur®. This includes, for example, a variety of fun and game stations on the Betelberg in Lenk, with the **Betelberg Alpine experience**. On the gondola ride to Leiterli, the cow Mona, the goat Flöckli and the marmot Moritz tell visitors about their everyday life on twelve thematic, lovingly decorated gondolas. The amusing history continues on the journey down into the valley. (*In 2013, Lenk cable cars were awarded the national «Swiss Mountain Award» by the Swiss Cable Car Association for the AlpKultur® gondola ride.*) The stories can be listened to in the local Swiss dialect or in French. The Leiterli playground with bouncy castles, small wooden chalets, which are connected by the Alpine telephone, a slide, climbing pyramid, wobbly beam and webbed swing is a paradise for children. Anyone who can't get enough music, can show his/her talent on the Alpine piano. Together with the Leiterli ski lift, different melodies are playing when the keys are pressed.

The 7'000 m², mainly wheelchair accessible AlpKultur® Lenkerseeli playground, brings the Alps into the valley. Alpine life is brought from the mountain into the valley by means of a replicated Alp with different play elements, fireplaces and one of the oldest Alpine dairy farms in Obersimmental. All of the playing equipment is made of natural materials, like the zip line, wire suspension bridge, water table, sensory path, hedge maze, climbing frame, wheelchair see-saw, play model cable car, organ pipe coral, several toboggans etc., invite the whole family for fun and games. The popular «Stubeli railway», a miniature steam engine, enriches the AlpKultur® Lenkerseeli playground.

On the Jaunpass above Boltigen on the **AlpKultur® Bruchmandli Jaunpass adventure trail** children are playfully guided through nature, by a pinecone railway to a Tyrolean traverse, a climbing frame to an obstacle course. Illustrated boards provide information about nature and the surroundings on the Jaunpass, and explain the story of Bruchmandli, the small dwarf who has lived on the pass for many years.

Diverse hikes in Simmental: Various **thematic routes** – the marmot trail, lynx trail, detective trail, Leiterli Alpine loop, the Alpine flower route, GEOpath, fruit farms in Simmental in Lenk, the planetary route in St. Stephan, in the moor landscape of Sparenmoos/Neuenberg, on the Bruchmandli Jaunpass adventure trail, at the «Schnurenloch» cave in Oberwil and the adventure trail on the Stockhorn – invite guests to take exciting hikes.

Head-spinning! The 111-metre-long and 111-metre-high **suspension bridge** over the Morgetenbach gorge in Oberwil connects Maiensässe with Leiternweide. A second, smaller suspension bridge crosses the Morgetenbach gorge down below. The historic wooden ladders on the climb up the gorge have been replaced with metal steps. These building measures and the restoration of the dry-stone walls have brought the historic baths route back to life and make them accessible against for hiking tourism. This route can be explored on your own initiative or, if you prefer, you can join an organised excursion.

The Alpine descent by **Trottibike** scooter from the Betelberg to the valley: The 9km-long Trottibike route is a highlight for children over the age of 12 and those who are young at heart. The path passes by Alpine meadows and forests from the Leiterli at an altitude of 1'943 m, via Pöschenried down to the Betelberg valley station.

A speed adventure awaits on the Metsch in the form of the **mountain carts**. Get in the cart – set – go! The mountain carts promise simple, comfortable and safe fun.

The route goes from the Stand-Xpress mountain station along the road to the Metsch middle station. The mountain carts are equipped with a comfortable seat, wide tyres and good brakes, meaning that nothing stands in the way of your riding enjoyment. Mountain carts can be rented at the Metschstand mountain station and handed back at the Metsch middle station.

Children and adults can enjoy bathing at **Wallbach Bad** spa in Lenk. An 80m-long black hole slide with illuminations and sound, a 25m indoor pool, an outdoor pool with bubble loungers and massage nozzles, a kid's pool, Finnish and organic sauna, a steam bath and a glass-walled rest room with a view of the Wildstrubel provide excitement and relaxation. The outdoor area invites guests to enjoy two 50m swimming lanes and the large play and paddling pool with its Aquatrack events module, big non-swimmer area featuring a waterfall, fountains, children's slide, a crocodile and a toddler's pool with several springs and a slide, which is perfect for cooling down, or playing sports in the cool water. Attractive family prices are available.

Thanks to the initiative of five young sports fans and many volunteers, Lenk now has a **bouldering centre** in a barn – the **BoulderSchüür**. The 270 m² bouldering area provides an indoor centre for

climbers of all levels. Children up to the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult who is also responsible for the children.

On site there are climbing shoes which can be rented.

The **Alpine catching** allows visitors to discover the village of Lenk on a scavenger hunt thanks to an interesting question and answer game.

The kid's film weeks in October at the Kino Lenk cinema, a visit of the dwarf goats at Wallegg-Stube in Lenk or by the Simmenfälle waterfall, riding the 4-wheel family bike, a climbing hall, riding centre, toy library and (book) library, a bowling alley or the pump track at the TEC arena ensure lots of fun for the family.

Parents can even enjoy the spectacular mountain panorama with their youngest children: (terrain-suitable) pushchairs can be used on many routes.

Lenk is one of two holiday destinations in the Canton of Berne to have the «Family Destination» quality seal from the Swiss tourism association STV. The seal is also held by 32 partner sites in Lenk – from providers of children entertainment, hotels and restaurants to campsites and SAC huts.

Press Service / Lenk-Simmental Tourism

*Further basic media texts and Images of Lenk-Simmental can be downloaded from the following link:
www.lenk-simmental.ch/en/footer/media*

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