

Station to station walking on the RhB : a follow-up from Philip Nalpanis

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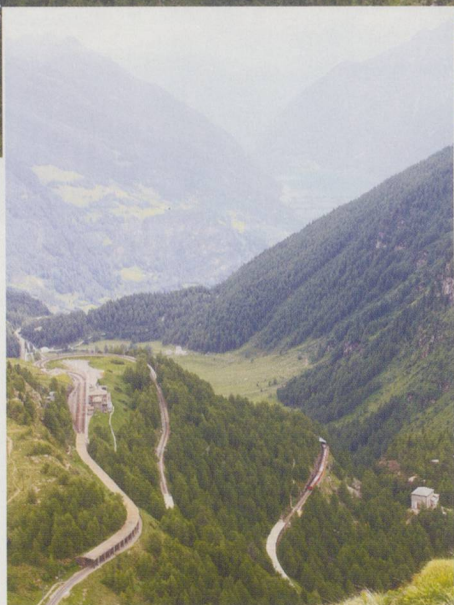
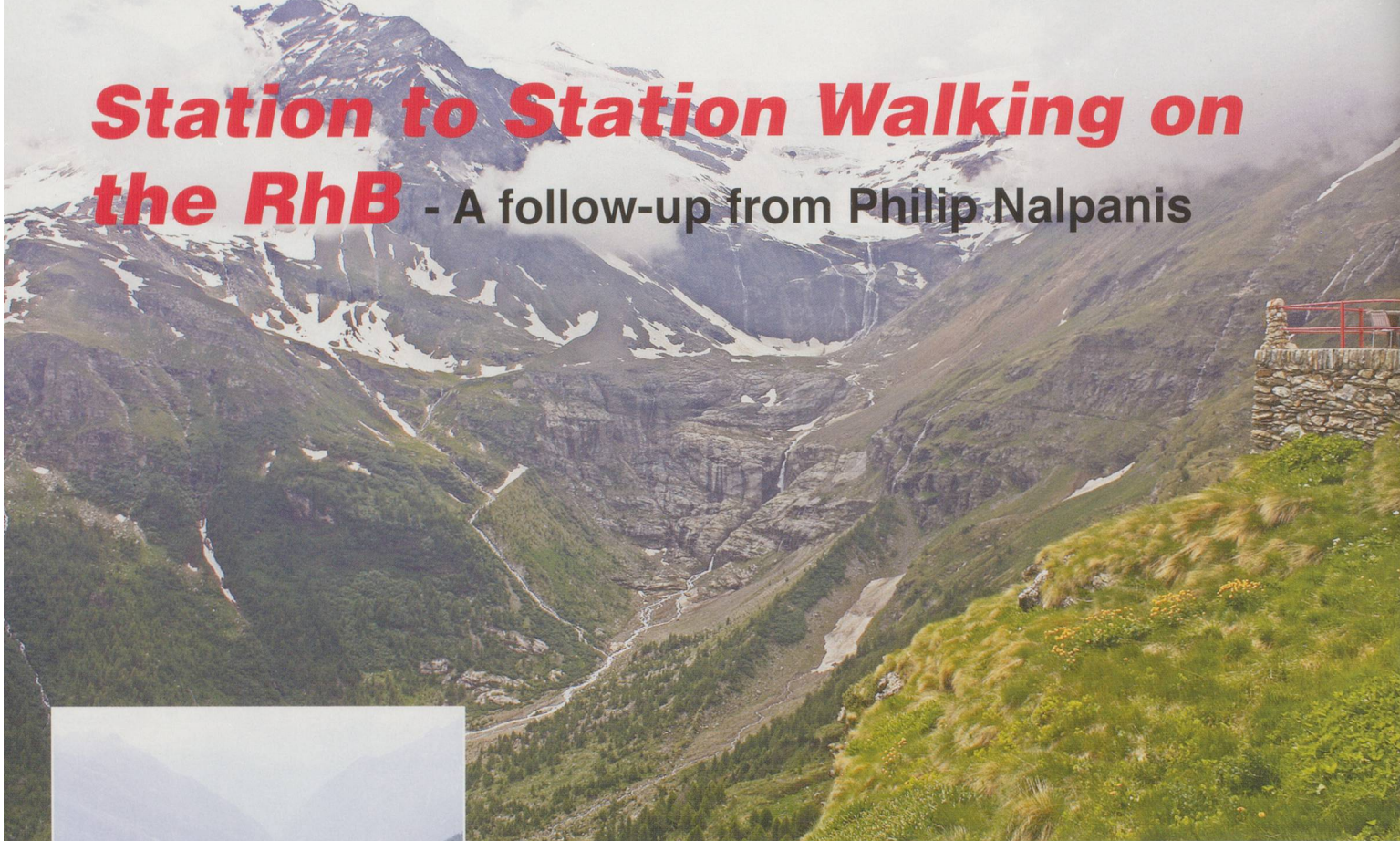
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Station to Station Walking on the RhB - A follow-up from Philip Nalpanis



LEFT: Looking back to Alp Grüm. ABOVE: A view of the glacier. Photos: Philip Nalpanis

I was interested in the Station to Station article by David and Elizabeth Carpenter in the March *Swiss Express* having walked a lot in the area, making extensive use of the RhB and local buses. Readers may be interested in an alternative route from

Ospizio Bernina to Alp Grüm. At the end of Lago Bianco, cross the dam and turn left at the far end to take a gently rising track, ascending about 140 m to the Sassal Mason hut, where

refreshments are available. This provides a stunning viewpoint, not only down to Alp Grüm but also to the Palu Glacier, Lago di Poschiavo and beyond. The walk can be extended towards the foot of the glacier but this circuit requires a steep climb back up to Alp Grüm station. Otherwise, by continuing a little way beyond the hut, there is a path off to the left, which in time curves back towards Alp Grüm – this has some steeper descending sections. Incidentally, whilst staying at Pontresina Youth Hostel during summer 2013, I had a free pass giving free travel on trains, buses, cable cars and even the Muottas Muragl Bahn in the Upper Engadin. The pass actually cost CHF10, but this was refunded if the pass was returned on departure. I believe this was generally available if staying in the area for a few days, although it would be worth checking this through the STC or when the accommodation is booked. ☞

Albula Bahn Club

Piers Milne

I am one of a small number of UK members of the Albula Bahn Club (ABC) that is based in Bergün and currently has some 300 members from around the world. There is a small active core of Swiss Members and a much greater number of Patrons who pay a reduced membership fee. I am one of those. Over many years the club members built, in the 'Orts-museum' in the centre of the village, a HOm RhB layout (recently upgraded to DCC operation), which features the entire line from Bergün to the mouth of the Albula tunnel at Preda. Entry to the museum and layout costs CHF5.50 (free to ABC members) but it is only open from 1st June for the summer, and only on Wednesday (19.30-21.00); Thursday (16.00-17.30 July and August only), and Saturday (16.00-17.30). Members normally receive a twice-yearly small, very informative, black and white magazine (in German) called 'Das Krokodil'. As the ABC is one of the clubs and associations under the wing of Historic RhB members also receive a copy of 'Die Bündner Kulturbahn' that gives all that organisation's annual activities. The magazine can be purchased separately for CHF10 (€10) on direct application to Historic RhB, Postfach 662, CH-7002 Chur. The new Albulabahn Museum is situated at Bergün station (see *Swiss Express* 117), where the ABC's own preserved, but non-operational, Krokodil locomotive No.407 is now resident. More information about the ABC (including how to subscribe) can be found on its website www.albula-bahn-club.ch or potential members can in the first instance approach the treasurer benedict.mueller@bluemail.ch. Current subscription rates for Patrons are CHF30 (€24). As UK banks charge inflated fees to transfer money to Europe I pay by simply sending €25 in notes, a €1 premium! ☞