

LIECHTENSTEIN

NATACHA 21



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You, cyclists who like to climb, discover in these few pages what makes the list of the national challenge in Liechtenstein so rich.

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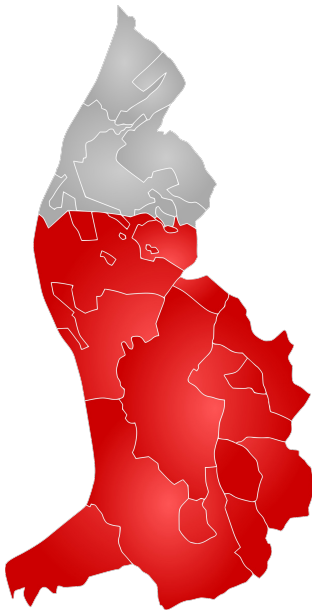
Liechtenstein

160 km², that's the area of this micro-state located on the eastern bank of the Rhine, to the south of the Lake Constance, between Switzerland and Austria.

160 km², that is 3x less than Andorra or 30 less than Luxemburg.

Liechtenstein is a part of the Rätikon Mts. in the Central Eastern Alps. Its highest point: Grauspitz (2599m).

The country is divided in two regions : the Unterland in the north and the Oberland in the south.



Grauspitz

Like in Andorra, in order to highlight the country, we've opted for comprehensiveness, proposing a challenge with 15 summits. For this purpose, we've selected 6 climbs for which a gravel bike or a MTB is required, like Alp Lawena or Bettlerjoch (Pfälzerhütte) in the south.

The distribution of the climbs can be understood in three ways:

- North (Unterland, 4 summits) vs. south (Oberland, 11)
- Rhine Hills (7) vs. mountain (8)
- Road bike (9) vs. gravel bike or MTB (6)



The Rhine from Triesenberg



Vaduz Castle at the foot of the cliff

Tourism

Liechtenstein didn't sign the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention). Therefore there is no UNESCO site in the country.

And no national or natural park, but a few natural areas, that don't concern our climbs.

What are the places in interest in the Challenge?

The high-altitude resort of Malbun, located at 1600m asl.

The 3 castles in Vaduz, Gutenberg and Neu-Schellenberg. Vaduz lies in one side of Malbun ; the two others are summits of the Challenge.



Malbun



Gutenberg Castle

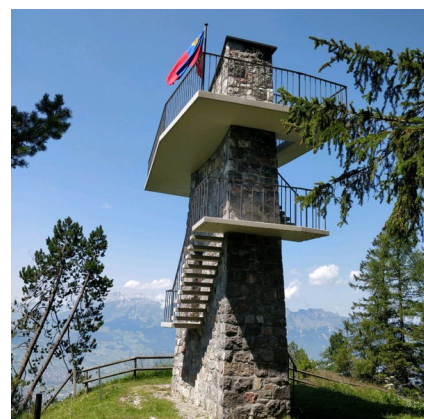
The lake Gänglesee (Stausee Steg) at the foot of Bettlerjoch and close to the road to Malbun.

The mountain refuge Pfälzerhütte (Bettlerjoch) isn't a place of interest in itself, but at 2100m asl, the viewpoint is so nice.

Beyond Gaflei, we can see the Rhine Valley 700m below thanks to a lookout tower.



Gänglesee



Gaflei lookout tower

Cycling race

One single reference: the Tour de Suisse comes from time to time in Liechtenstein (4x since 2000, in 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2022).

Malbun 2007: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3GrsEhXAw0>

Malbun 2011: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UATG8kdrJIM>



Ullrich, Schleck,... to Malbun (2004)



Bettlerjoch

Difficulty

The six higher summits are located in the south: Bettlerjoch (2105m), Gapfahl (1864), Malbun (1602), Alp Lawena (1518), Gaflei (1495) and Gafadurahütte (1437).



Gapfahl



Alp Lawena

The 5 best elevation gains: Malbun (1143m), Alp Lawena (1049), Gafadurahütte (969), Bettlerjoch (817) and Paulahütte (559).

The 5 most difficult: Alp Lawena (1494 points), Gafadurahütte (1170), Malbun (1121), Bettlerjoch (1037) and Paulahütte (647).



Gafadurahütte



Paulahütte

The most explosive, 9 climbs above 30 points Bomb: Alp Lawena (50), Bettlerjoch (39), Gaflei (38), Gafadurahütte (37), Steyagasse (35), Erlenweg (34), Malbun (33), Paulahütte (31) and Steinegerta (30).

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