

## Guided Lite Route: Day 5 / Murten to Solothurn

To Follow: Regional Route 44, National Routes 8 & 5

Map: Route 5 Book pages 40,38,36,34

GPS points: 4.1 - 4.49

Distance: 61 KM

**Watch out for:** Have plenty of water and snacks with you today. Not until GPS 4.25

**Watch out for** families on bikes !

### Points of Interest:

**POI Buren:** (GPS after 4.31) Picturesque terrasse with good ice cream.

**POI Altreau:** (GPS 4.40) Good terrasse with views of the river and storks in the trees.

We had better stock up on water and take a few granola bars because we won't see much once on the road. Our lunch will be in "Nidau", right outside the city of Bienne.

The German and French-speaking regions of Switzerland meet again at Lake Bienne. This is your fourth lake in four days, and the lake region of Neuchatel, Murten and Bienne is called the "3-lakes region". The cantons and communes work together to promote tourism in this area. All three lakes are connected by canals, and they are quite popular with cyclists, walkers and tourists taking boat cruises. If it's the weekend and the sun is out, you might see as many as 1,000 cyclists out and about. The paths are especially popular with families with young children...so be careful.

This is also the meeting place for two agricultural landscapes - one typified by winegrowing, the other by field crops. The habitats around the three lakes show clear contrasts. In Yverdon you saw the water-rich flood zones on the lake shores, but now the scenery is characterized by the dry karst soils of the Jura chain. Once you get closer to the northern tip of Lake Bienne, you will make out the terraced vineyards on the other side of the lake.

The city center of Buren (town with big wooden bridge) deserves a look and there is also a great terrace for cyclists in the town of Altreau (10 k before Solothurn) that is especially popular because it allows you to glimpse the colony of storks that have made their homes on the roofs of local houses. (Look up!)

Solothurn is our destination. This baroque city was built between 1530 and 1792 and shows an architectural combination of Italian, French and Swiss styles. In 1980 Solothurn was awarded the Wakker Prize for the development and preservation of its architectural heritage.

If at Hotel XXX. Take a free beer from the fridge and enjoy the river view on the terrace. This is your "free night" to explore Solothurn and its restaurants. Enjoy.

