

The Hasliberg offers not only scenic landscapes but also a fascinating manner of settlement which is based on centuries of growth and development of numerous dwellings, building groups, gardens and paths. This brochure should help to enhance your walk through the villages and assist in observing the architectural development from around 1500 to the 1930's.



The route can be followed in either direction or in segments and in combination with the Postbus. About 2½ hours are necessary for the entire route. A pair of binoculars is advantageous not only for observing architectural details, but also for enjoying the panorama along the way.

HASLIBERG HOUSES

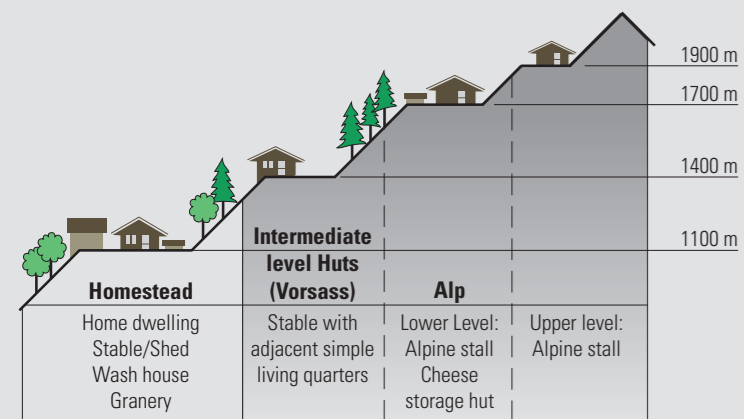
Hasliberg Houses

The following short explanations are in no way complete descriptions, but are intended to increase your enjoyment of individual houses, groups of dwellings and settlements.

The Hasliberg Community

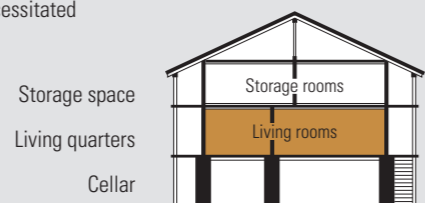
Our route passes through large areas of fields, woods and streams between 1000m and 1200m. At this level, dwellings were maintained year around. In the settlement pattern particular the Hasliberg, domiciles and small groups of buildings were originally dispersed throughout the entire area and only much later developed into actual villages. These larger settlements developed near streams because water was necessary for the household (stable and laundry) and small industry (saw mills and grain mills).

Until the beginning of tourism in the late 19th century, agriculture was the only way of life with several producing a small side income. Suitable grazing or herds of cows is found at several elevations at the Hasliberg. Therefore, a farming family owns and maintains a number of smaller stables, besides the homestead, at different altitudes all the way up to about 1999 meters.



The Hasliberger Farmhouses

The type of house found on the Hasliberg is essentially the same as in the rest of the entire Hasli Valley: home dwelling with a separate stable. The foundation of the house was normally built of quarried stone and plastered. The upper stories were crossbeam timbers of pine (Picea abies). Entry stairs up to the side door were usually located on the typical enclosed side porches which were finished in vertical weatherboards. In earlier centuries, the roof was covered with wooden shingles which were weighed down with large stones. This way of roofing necessitated a low-angled gable (18–25°)

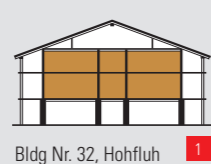


The living quarters usually comprised a large living room and a small chamber to the front of the house. The living room seldom took up the entire house front. The upper story (Hasli dialect "Laube") was originally left uncompleted and used as a storage area.

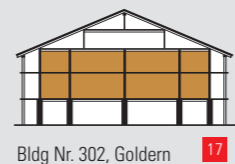
At the Hasliberg, numerous examples of this type of house which were built between 1600 and 1700 still exist, often as the core to later additions and renovations.

A number of substantial 3- and 4-room wide, richly decorated houses were constructed in a period of prosperity at the end of the 18th century.

Houses built in one stage:



Bldg Nr. 32, Hohfluh 1



Bldg Nr. 302, Goldern 17

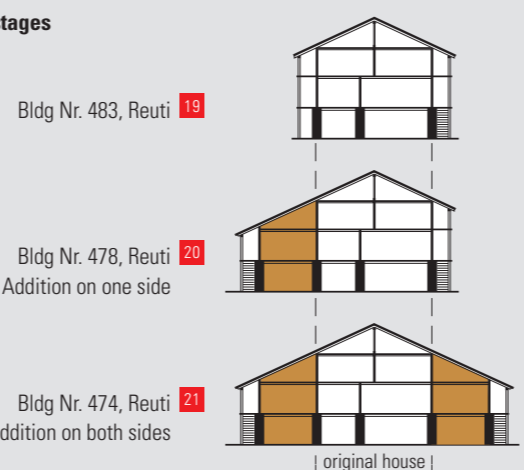
The houses began to have steep-pitched roofs (25–35°) in the 19th century along with nailed shingle roofs, higher rooms and completed upper story rooms.

The gable of the Hasli House is almost always facing south or southwest. The large overhanging roof shades the house façade in the summer.

Building in Stages

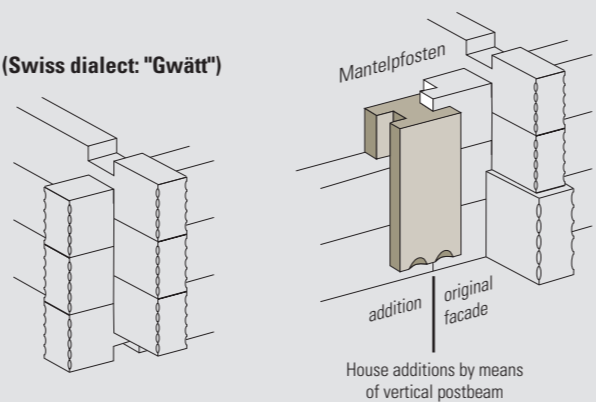
Most of the typically wide Hasli dwellings are actually later additions onto 2-room wide original houses (see diagram). Increasing family size called for enlargement. Additions were usually on room wide built onto the left or right side. The roof-line was simply extended at the same angle.

Buildings in several stages



The addition of a new wall followed by placement of a covering vertical postbeam. Thus, different additions to a house can be seen clearly by the use of differed ornamentation and also by this obvious building element (vertical postbeam).

Mortise Joint (Swiss dialect: "Gwätt")



Wash houses / Sawmills / Grain Mills

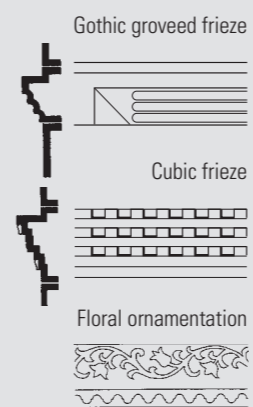


Former mill in Goldern

At the Hasliberg there are a large number of free-standing wash houses often belonging to more than one family. These small houses are usually situated alongside small streams which are now often channelled in pipes. Sawmills are to be found in every village, originally using water wheels for power. In earlier times there were probably three grain mills but only one site is actually verifiable (Goldern).

Ornamentation

Besides the inscriptions, the ornamentation deserves special attention. Traditionally, window ledges, consoles, window posts, often entire horizontal beams running across the top of windows were richly decorated. At the Hasliberg, one finds a multitude of designs, from every era, adaptations depending on the master builder, from the early horizontal grooves of the 16th century to the flat relief floral ornamentation of the late 18th century.



Professor Ernst Georg Gladbach

Ernst Georg Gladbach (b. 1812 Darmstadt, d. 1896 Zürich), Professor of Architecture at the Zürich Technical University, devoted special attention to the Hasliberg house. Gladbach spent the summer of 1888 in Reuti making drawings and descriptions of several houses of the region. The drawings became part of the book, «Charakteristische Holzbauten der Schweiz», published in Berlin, 1893 (republished 1976, Vincentz-Verlag, Hannover).



Bldg. Nr. 483, Reuti, Drawing from Gladbach, 1888

For more detailed information about the houses of the Bernese Oberland, there is an excellent book, «Die Bauernhäuser des Kt. Bern, Band I, Das Berner Oberland», Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Volkskunde, Basel.

Hasliberger Kirchweg

Historical path from Goldern/Reuti to Meiringen built in 1860.

Alpbach Gorge

Trail through the gorge built in 1891, restored in 2008. Accessible in the summer months, a head for heights and surefootedness required!

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A historic route through the villages of the Hasliberg





Bldg Nr. 32

Built in 1797 as a large domicile. Rococo script and low relief floral ornamentation.



Bldg Nr. 65

An architectural detail, the "heathens' cross" (King post and right strut) indicate a house built before 1500.



Bldg Nr. 375

Residence built in 1866 by master builder Brog. Richly ornamented enclosed side porch (right side).



Bldg Nr. 368

House built in 1728. Upper floor and gable richly decorated with diamond friezes and inscriptions.



Bldg Nr. 317 B

Built in 1749. Two-story building with balconies on all sides for drying plants, raised above ground level against vermin. A free-standing granary decreased the chance that fire in the main dwelling would spread and destroy an entire harvest.



Bldg Nr. 316

Originally a farm house, now known as the restaurant "Gasthof zur Post". Although dated 1759, the core of the house is probably from much earlier (heating stove in living room dated 1563).



Bldg Nr. 314

Built in 1664, the façade displays use of finely grooved horizontal bands and consoles as well as rhombic ornamental bands. Interesting inscription refers to a comet in the year the house was built.



Bldg Nr. 313

Exceptionally large and decoratively written construction year 1723. Bands of script and attractive east side house addition 1756.



Bldg Nr. 303

House built in 1938 in traditional cross-beam manner but with steep roof angle. Interesting granary immediately to west.



Bldg Nr. 302

A substantial four-room wide dwelling built in 1778. Decorative console band and very finely carved low relief floral designs on window beams and window posts. Just to the right, a stable with great ridgepole jutting out and inscribed 1741. Behind stable, an adjacent house with house "symbol" on foundation wall.



Bldg Nr. 451

Original one-room wide middle section from 1728, built in unusual manner at the time (verticals corner posts). Addition in 1756 with richly decorated façade of rhombic ornamental bands and script. Careful renovation in 1992 preserving essential characteristics of original building.



Bldg Nr. 474

Original house core (right side of gable and upper story) from 1601, displaying façade relief, consoles, finely grooved horizontal gothic bands and inscription. East side addition 1736, richly decorated west side addition 1832.



Bldg Nr. 43

This dwelling was added onto several times. Legible "antiqua" in centre section of house from 1682.



Bldg Nr. 70

Residential house, probably built in 1797, south facade excellently proportioned. Interesting corner decorations on the basement plinth. Studio extension on the north side of the painter Franz Gehri, who lived and worked here from 1914 to 1960. Facades restored in line with the original design.



Bldg Nr. 377

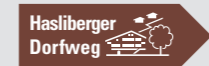
Dwelling built around 1830 with hip roof typical of the era.



Bldg Nr. 336

The upper story and gable of this house are from 1591. Decoration consists of simple gothic finely grooved horizontal bands. An original size window opening in the left upper story.

The "Hasliberger Dorfweg" is marked with the following brown signs:



- Wash houses
- Sawmills
- Location of former mill (Goldern)
- Protected trees (pine tree)

- Glacial boulders
- Restaurant
- Playground
- Postbus stop
- Fireplace



Bldg Nr. 378

Built in 1728, this house displays decorated smoke holes (sun symbol) in the gable. Nearby stands the wash house and shed.



Bldg Nr. 57

The original middle section of this large residence from 1596 was built by the notable master builder Hans Julmi from Canton Freiburg. Early example of cubic and rhombic ornamental band. Left and right-side additions from 1653 and 1774. Painted corner stones and house symbol at west cellar entrance



Bldg Nr. 168

Built in 1836 enlarged 1890. Known as "Pension Beutefluh" guesthouse around 1900. Richly decorated north side.



Bldg Nr. 483

Unpretentious house and barn built at the end of the 18th century (one of the houses drawn and described by Prof. Gladbach in 1888, see reverse side).



Bldg Nr. 491

Harmonious group made up of dwelling and wash house granary.

Bldg Nr. 478

West side addition to original house which dates back to the 17th century.



Bldg Nr. 528

A late 19th century symmetrical three-gabled house, developed out of a house core dated 1593.