



We meet up with the girls in Cologne train station...

.and head
out to see a
bit of the
city and
have the
first of
many...





...beers at a friendly cafe on a
lovely day.

Sights
around
Cologne...



..a
cool
mural,

a balancing act over
the Rhine





A scenic view from the top of a tall Gothic-style tower, looking down at a city skyline with a river, bridges, and buildings.

If there is a tower,
we will climb it!

The mighty Rhine River







Breakfast at Chez DiGuseppepi





Looking
around
Esneux

and the Ourthe Valley





A ride through the ripe Belgian countryside...

..leads us
to the
town of
Ath and
its
summer
parade of
giants
(Ducasse)



I love
that they
still use
horses to
pull the
floats





This is
Wallonia's
oldest
procession



You still ext
practised
after 500
years





Note the traditional necklaces and beverages



No language barrier here!

The giants at rest.



Note the
little seat

Remember
the little
seat from
the last
slide?





Round and
round he went,
poor baby!



We soak up
more
culture on
the Grand
Place in
Tounai



One of
Belgium's
famous
bell
towers,



a
UNESCO
site along
with
Tournai's
ancient
cathedral.



The
mesdemoiselles
head off on an
adventure of their
own







We join them again in colorful Colmar, France







The artist and his works in woods



The "little
Venice"
section of
Colmar



Can I have some local color with my crepe, si'il vous plait?

We
leave
the
colorful
wacky
beauty
of
Colmar...





..and head up into Switzerland.



We come upon glacial lakes with waters as clear and blue as a tropical sea...



And head into a valley between the lakes to Interlaken



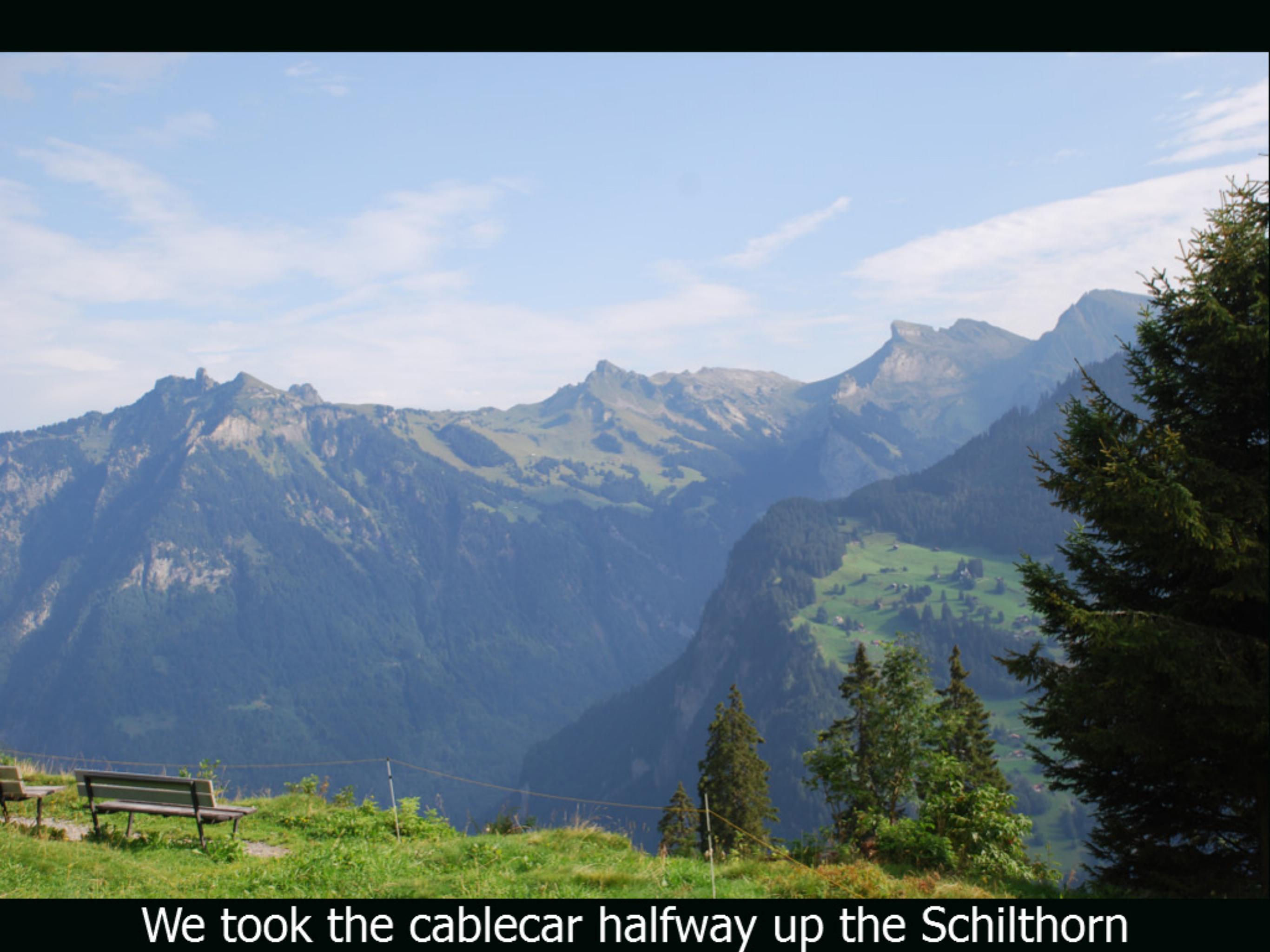
Here the ice blue rivers bring the glaciers to the lakes



We dine at a five hundred year old inn, the Bear

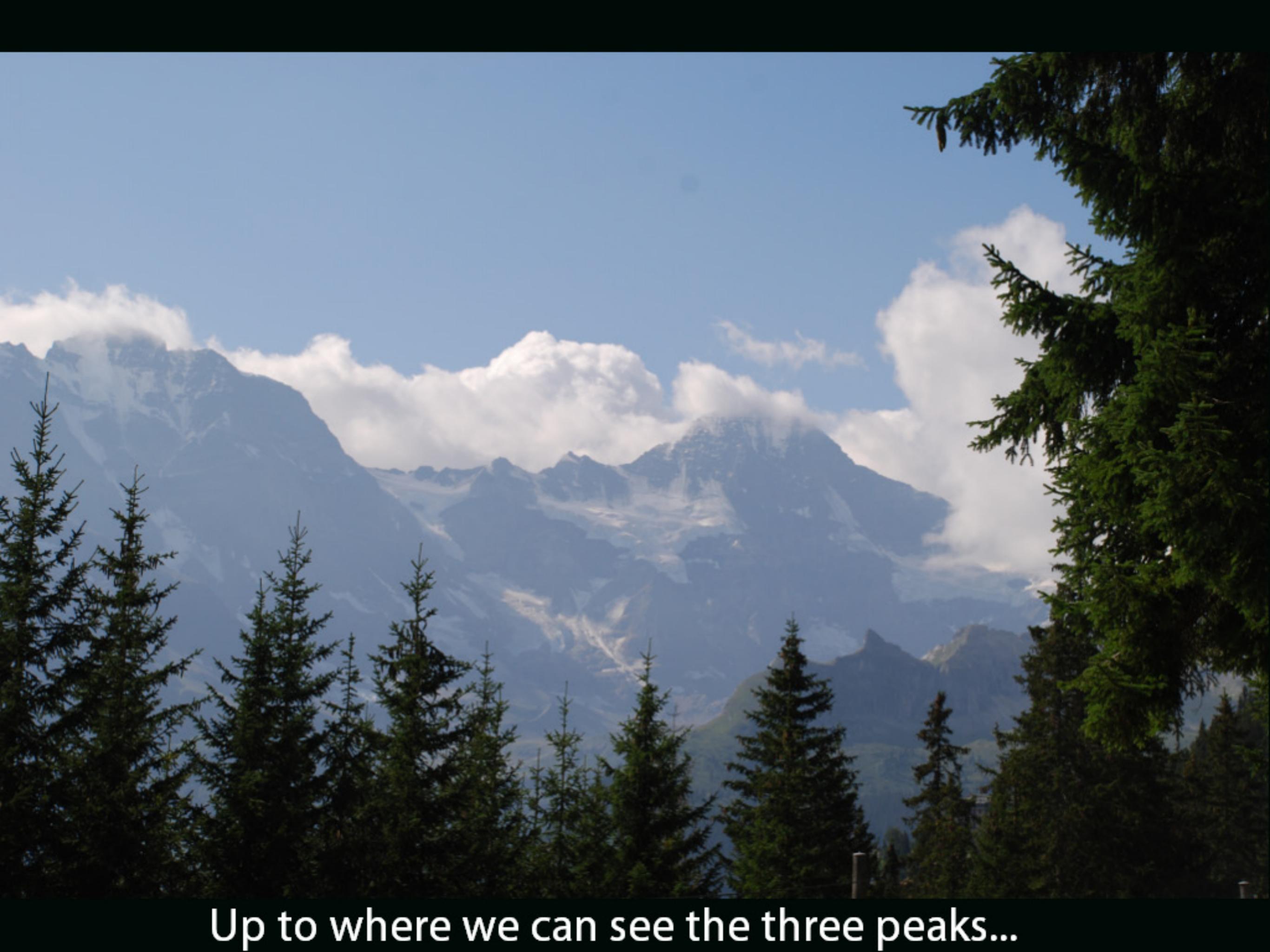
The
following
morning
we take
to the
hills





We took the cablecar halfway up the Schilthorn





Up to where we can see the three peaks...



.. the Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau











Chalet Edwa

















Andreas, Swiss physical therapy student and kayaker



This is
the river
we could
see from
far above
a few
slides
back.

The outside
part of
Trummelbach
Falls



A photograph showing a narrow, deep mountain pass. A waterfall cascades down the center of the frame, its white spray at the base. The surrounding rock walls are rugged and textured, with patches of green moss and lichen. The lighting creates strong shadows, emphasizing the depth and scale of the pass.

A river of
glacial melt
pours
through the
inside of the
mountain











Gletscherwasser $+2^{\circ}\text{Celsius}$ ist lebensgefährlich,
besonders für Kinder.

Glacier water $+2^{\circ}\text{Celsius}$ can be fatal,
especially for children.

L'eau de glacier $+2^{\circ}\text{Celsius}$ est très dangereuse,
particulièrement pour les enfants.



Looking back up the valley











Travelin' light?



One more
walk in the
beautiful
Swiss hills









"The
hills
are
alive...."



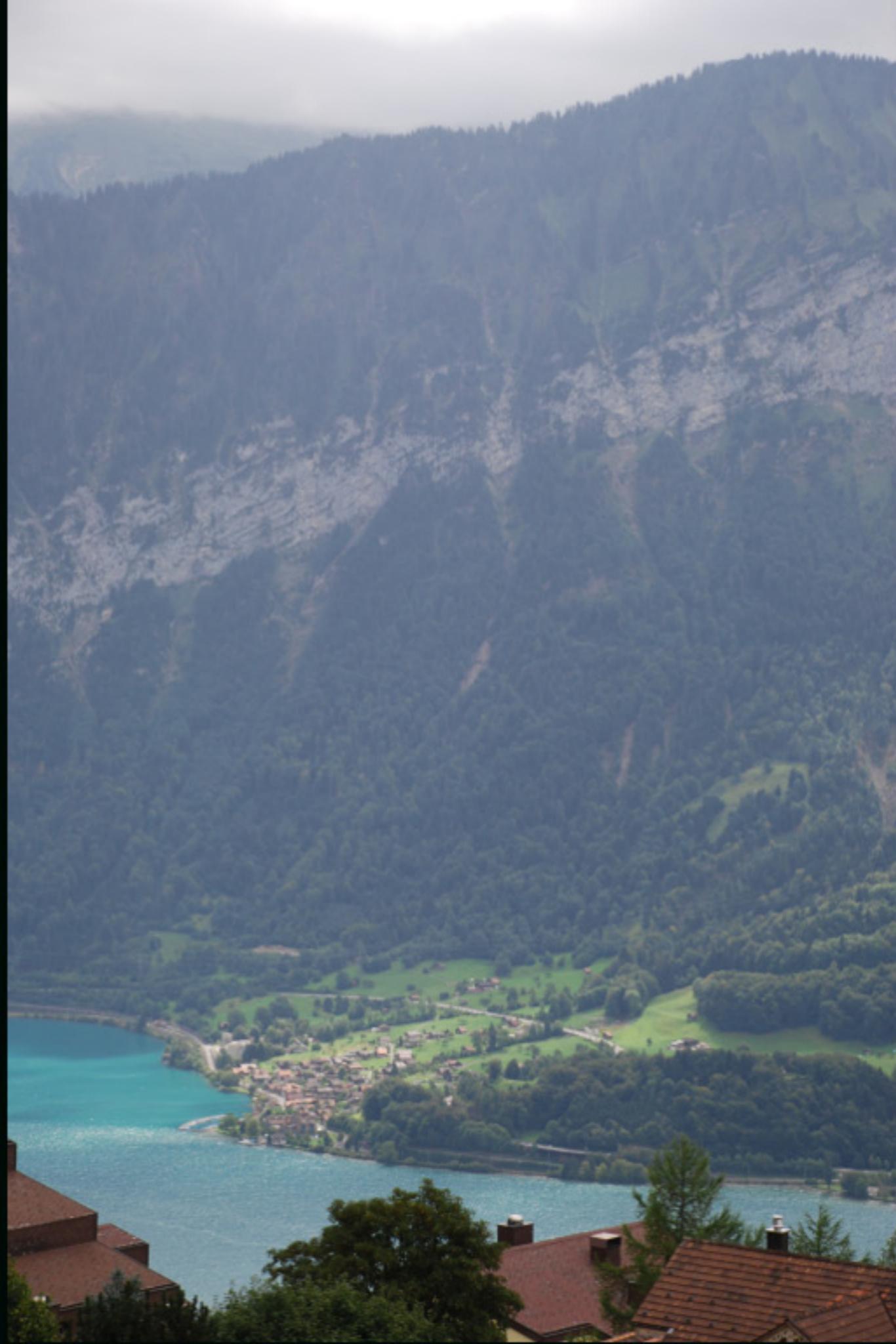


This slope is littered with rockfall...



..some of which are pretty recent.

We head
out of the
Alps down
to the city
at the end
of
Thunersee,
Thun



Crossing
another
ice blue
river
into
Thun















Our last picnic of the trip

We had
enough
to
share...





..but not enough for everyone!



A
covered
walkway
up to
the
Castle of
Thun,
nice and
dry in
winter.







Castle ~~~ of Thun



Must
climb
tower..





...for great views!



The town hall and market square







The town hall from the market square







Apparently not everyone is happy with the Swiss government



Environmentally friendly housing

ARAL



Claire
with her
beer
glasses
carry-on



A scenic view of the Swiss Alps under a clear blue sky with a few white clouds. In the foreground, a group of four people (three adults and one child) are standing on a dark stone wall, looking towards the mountains. On the far left, a branch of a pine tree is visible. The mountains in the background are rugged, with snow-capped peaks and green valleys.

Welcome to Gimmelwald

A Postcard to remember a great trip!