

## Rigi-Hochflue North Face "WM 2022"

M3-4, 80°, 350m

06.12.2022; Franz Friebe, James O'Sullivan

It involves a lot of grass, requires good footwork, is apparently a winter activity and is a stupid idea.

**Route:** The appeal of this route is the excellent ratio of adventure to accessibility by public transport. The climbing is more of an acquired taste. There are always trees for a solid belay, but the protection of the pitch can be as little as ice pitons hammered into grass and slings around twigs. Frozen turf does exist, but a good amount of digging is needed to get there. We followed the easiest line, but climbing the direct couloir is certainly possible.

1: start on the right side of the couloir and go left to the grass field (80°), straight to an obvious snow ledge and right towards a tree.

2: straight up over the short cliff (M4) and follow the 60° grass field.

3: easy 60m traverse into the couloir. The pitches 1,2 and 3 can be cut short by going left a lot earlier. This involves climbing almost vertical grass and requires good conditions.

4: 30m on the left side of the couloir, M3. Belay on the left before the couloir get more difficult

5: leave toward the left and climb up a 5m slab, traverse right underneath the overhang and continue on the ridge

6: 60m of simul-climbing in easy mixed terrain until you reach the snow field. From where you top out to the summit or hiking trail.

The approach and exit snow fields are prone to gliding avalanches. While the critical sections at the lower snow field can be avoided, the upper snow field cannot and is looming over the couloir.

**Access:** Start at bus stop Lauerz, Dorf and follow the hiking trail towards Gätterlipass. At 1100m turn left and walk towards the face. The last 200 vertical meter walk through the forest directly toward the face

**Descent:** one of the many hiking trails

**Equipment:** slings, ice pitons, warthogs, hexentrics 0.5-4, nuts, cams 0.3-1



