



← The old factory hall has been transformed into a relaxing green oasis.



↑ You can always find a spot to sit in the Freiruum.

There is also a spacious outdoor area, opened in 2021, for those who prefer spending time in the open air.

The Freiruum is so spacious, it is usually not necessary to make reservations. That's part of the "freedom" inherent in the hall's name, as you can almost always find a spot to sit, often a quieter one too, such as for working. Larger groups visiting Zug's oversized living room should consider making a reservation, however. It can get a bit full sometimes on Friday and Saturday evenings, as Marco Husi notes. Cashless payment is required and free WiFi is provided. Every day is different here, with a stream of various events taking place in the Freiruum, which morphs into a Christmas market during the Advent season.

The art-historical perspective of architectural preservation is an interesting aspect of the Freiruum hall. Retired monument conservator Heinz Horat expressed a very positive opinion on the Freiruum in a trade journal article, saying: "This is exactly what I have in mind when I think of a successful conversion project for a former industrial building. Rather than trying to 'spruce up' the space, they have inventively managed to retain the building's industrial character while creating a lively space with a fresh, revitalised feel." That says it all, really.



11 **Bouldering and jumping**

The Freiruum is a great place to go for both kids and adults who like physical activity. The 2,000 sqm sports hall has every need covered. Kids aged six and over can bounce away in the trampoline park and run around in the parkour zone. Directly adjacent is one of Switzerland's largest bouldering halls, where adults can learn how to climb and hone their skills.



11 **Spiilruum playroom for younger children**

The sports area of the Freiruum has a special section for younger children, too, called the "Spiilruum" – a play area of almost 250 sqm with a comfortable and inviting lounge area for parents to relax in.



**Freiruum**  
zug-tourismus.ch/en/freiruum

# The eerie beauty of the moors

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**If you love the special nature of moorland hiking, you must come to the canton of Zug, which features four extraordinary hiking trails through nature reserves of national importance. Aside from the high Alpine regions, the moors are Switzerland's only remaining primeval landscapes.**

The Biber river meanders gracefully across the Ägeriried moor. ↓





attached restaurant, where you really get the feel of being on the old pilgrimage route to Einsiedeln. The view from here is breathtaking! For more extraordinary views, hike on to the right in the direction of Ahoren; in about 15 minutes, you will come to a lovely lookout point with barbecue area.

But for now, we are taking the left-hand hiking path, sloping slightly down to the moor. At the halfway point, we can see the landscape extending out before us in all its splendour, including the not inconspicuous Rothenthurm church, which is our destination. Walking past the Steinstoss restaurant we find ourselves on a firm path to the Bubrugg bridge, where we cross the Biber river. The Biber winds its way through the landscape like a snake, demarcating the border between the cantons of Zug and Schwyz.

**Upland moor on the Zugerberg**

Up on the Zugerberg, aka Zug Mountain, a somewhat sportier hike through moor landscape awaits. Owing to extensive peat extraction in the early 20th century, only a small remnant of the former mountain pine upland moor has survived, near the Fruebuel agricultural research farm. Even so, the Eigenried is the canton's largest moor, a site of national importance and a genuine pearl among Zug's natural parklands.

The circular hike begins at Buschenchappeli, leading through lovely light forest terrain to Raebuerli. We walk across the Eigenried here following an effortless ascent. At an altitude of nearly 1,000 metres above sea level, we enjoy a view over a very pretty



Reminiscent of the far north: Eigenried moor on the Zugerberg.

For centuries, people have found moors spooky. They are places of shifting terrain and uncertain ground, an in-between world of land and water, haunted by ghosts or demons. As the German author Annette Droste-Hülshoff wrote in 1842: "How creepy it is to cross through the fen / When it's billowing with haze / Mists writhing like phantoms."

With the ghosts and demons long departed, the moors are no longer quite so eerie; all that remains is the longing of the modern city-dweller for unspoiled nature. The quietness of the moors provides a counterweight to today's noisy urban living in built-over landscapes.

Yet even the moors bear the mark of human exploitation, as many such areas were created through the practice of peat extraction. Peat was, for a long time, used mainly as fuel, and when wood was harder to come by, peat extraction boomed. Moorlands are protected today as important biotopes for fauna and flora; they are also excellent for storing CO<sub>2</sub>. Another reason for protecting the moors is the fact that such lands develop quite slowly: it takes 1,000 years for one metre of peat to form.

**From Raten to Rothenthurm**

The Rothenthurm moor is Switzerland's highest-profile moorland conservation area. Moor conservation was written into the Swiss federal constitution in 1987 upon adoption of the Rothenthurm initiative – reason enough to go explore every corner of this historic landscape. Much of the moorland is located in the canton of Zug. The "Agerried" moor located between Raten and Rothenthurm is one of Zug's four moorlands of national importance.

An easy hiking trail starts at the Raten pass, which is mostly fog-free in winter, and gently climbs up into the forest. The first stop along the way is St Jost Chapel, with



← A virtually untouched environment: Reusspitz.

↑ The Boden area of Unterägeri is an oasis away from the hustle and bustle of regular life.

birch forest and a landscape that is reminiscent of the far north. On the other side of the moor we return to the starting point via Fruebuel, with the Rigi, the queen of the mountains, ever in view.

**Colourful wedge**

At the place where the Reuss and Lorze rivers converge, the canton of Zug drives a cheeky and colourful wedge between its neighbouring cantons of Zurich and Aargau. This area is called the Reusspitz. Unlike the land up on the Zugerberg, the Reusspitz moor remains largely in its original state. This landscape's value as a habitat for migratory and breeding birds and other species was discovered early on. This area, the "Maschwander Allmend land triangle", was made a conservation zone in the canton of Zug in 1946. The area can be explored via various paths starting from either Maschwanden (ZH) or Muhlau (AG). Note that dogs are not allowed on some trails.

Those who can't get enough of moors will find Zug's fourth moor of national importance at the village of Unterägeri. An outing to the moor can be easily combined with a trip up the Zugerberg (Zug Mountain). The "Boden" area at Nollen ski lift is a good starting point for several different tours. The Vita Parcours – which has won awards for its scenic beauty – starts here,

as do three Nordic walking routes. The still landscape around Hänggi (or Hünggi), Chnoden and Zigermoos, which is very different from what we saw in Rothenthurm, Reusspitz and Eigenried, is a serene and beautiful natural oasis – always a good place to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.



Moore zug-tourismus.ch/en/moore

**553 KM**

The Zug Hiking Trail Club develops and maintains the 553 kilometres-plus of hiking trails that extend across the entire canton. The Club's 1,000 or so members enjoy a host of benefits, including some 25 guided hikes per year, around four of which are offered within the canton of Zug itself. Pro hikers give participating members numerous practical hiking tips, such as the ideal pace to keep up. The golden rule is: don't go too fast! Keeping an even pace of 60 steps per minute is literally "the best way to go".

[www.zugwanderwege.ch](http://www.zugwanderwege.ch)