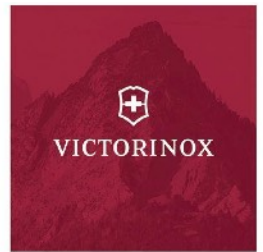







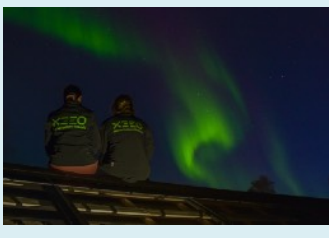










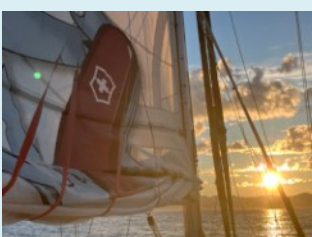





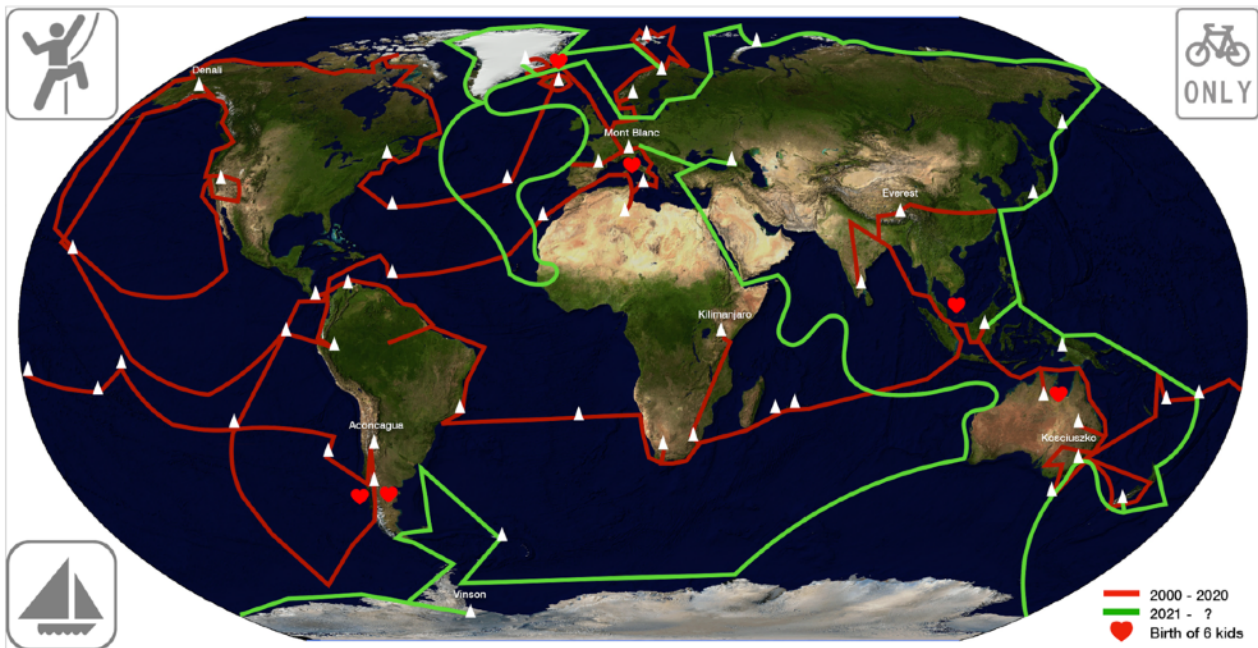
# TOPtoTOP



## GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION

### Annual Report 2024

			
Cycling to North Cape	Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0	Alegra Swiss Champion	Sailing to schools
			
Solar roofing	Northern lights	Int. Zürich Film Festival	Sea2toP
			
The power house	Topper World Championships	Bringing kids together	Orca project
			
Confirmation	25 years TOPtoTOP	Music for peace	Research
			
Sailing North	Family events	Great media coverage	Top of Switzerland



### TOPtoTOP Track Record

#### **EXPLORE — INSPIRE — ACT: OUR MISSION IS TO SAVE OUR PLANET!**

TOPtoTOP is the first expedition to traverse the seven seas and reach the highest peaks on each of the seven continents, connecting with all climate zones and relying only on the power of nature and the human spirit. *“Along the way, we have discovered good solutions for our climate and inspired more than 175,000 students in more than 100 countries through presentations and actions. Our message is one of hope, designed to inspire students and communities to act for a better future by sharing experiences of nature’s beauty and resiliency, and presenting innovations for a healthy planet”.* Dario Schwörer

For more than two decades, Dario & Sabine Schwörer, their family and volunteers have circumnavigated our blue planet visiting every climate zone, witnessing examples of climate change and its effect on communities, conducting field-based research, and sharing examples of innovative solutions. They have learned along the way to protect, preserve and conserve our planet.

At the core of their expedition, they meet with students at schools and community groups, organize clean-up campaigns, and present examples from around the world of counteracting global climate change by living in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Currently, the focus of their activities and commitment is in the communities in the far north, where they introduce indigenous peoples in the Arctic to the art of guiding and outdoor sports. This enables them to create an alternative source of income to survive in their fast-changing environment caused by climate change. In addition, TOPtoTOP partner with science institutions to understand the fast-changing processes in the arctic natural environment to raise awareness, look for solutions and create measures to adapt.

In this report, we elaborate on our expedition, its goals, the annual highlights for 2024, as well as our strategy, route, the outlook for 2025 and how you can support us in our amazing challenge to save the planet.

## **OUR PROGRESS - HOW WE MEET OUR GOALS**

In line with our belief that ‘inspiring youth to act’ is the most efficient way to facilitate long-lasting change, we, as is customary, visited schools and universities with our program.

During the year we continued our outdoor programs for local kids, where ever we stopped. Sailing and mountaineering connects young people with nature and has many benefits: increasing resilience, learning endurance, being healthy, becoming a part of nature, thinking strategically, taking responsibility, and increasing self-confidence. To become a good sailor and mountaineer, we integrate other sports and music into our training: music for collaboration; chess for strategic thinking; diving and swimming for strength; climbing for balance; surfing and skiing for coordination; ski-mountaineering and biking for endurance. *“But the most important thing for us is that young people get back in touch with nature, become a part of it and protect it.”*

## **ANNUAL REVIEW 2024:**

January, February March, April: **Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0**

In January, we continued with "*Swiss TOPtoTOP*": A bike/hike tour to the *TOP* summit of each canton to discover the most inspiring examples to help protect our climate. Twenty years ago, we climbed non-stop to the highest *TOP* in each canton to collect the best innovations for our climate on Swiss "*TOPtoTOP 1.0*". The idea of "*Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0*" is to explore and compare the progress of positive innovations over the last two decades.

TOP of Switzerland:

It was sad to see how the glacier has diminished in recent years since we were there with "*Swiss TOPtoTOP 1.0*" 20 years ago.

The strong winds and large accumulations of drifting snow made route selection and planning very difficult and often impossible this year.

For example, on the way to the highest Bernese summit, the Finsteraarhorn, we waited in vain for better conditions with our friends, the Hefti farming family in Grindelwald. Alegra used the time to help in the barn and got a new rope from mountain guide Johann Kaufmann.

Up to 180 kilometres per hour were measured on mountain peaks over Easter that is why we did a cycling trip around Lake Constance and collected exemplary projects in the border triangle of Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

As soon as the conditions stabilised we climbed over Breithorn to the the Monte Rosa hut, another example for renewable energies. From the Monte Rosa hut we climbed up towards the Dufourspitze shortly after 4 a.m.. We made good progress and made the ski depot slightly below the ridge saddle due to the cold and wind. The long, exposed summit ridge we climbed roped together with crampons and ice axes. A great achievement for 12-year-old Alegra to climb the highest peak in Switzerland in record time.

Conditions didn't allowed us to climb Finsteraarhorn and Bernina, our two last tops of the 26. "Respect for nature!" This is another important message we want to pass on. – But we had to focus again on our campaign "*Save the Arctic*", because the arctic summer is short!

### 3S Solar

One of the interesting event, TOPtoTOP was invited, was the **opening of the most modern production factory** for roof solar panels in the western world. More than 300 people from business, politics and companies visited the factory. Dario had the honour of officially opening the factory together with CEO Patrick Hofer-Noser before sharing his expedition experiences and visions with the participants in his keynote.

### Collaboration with ETHZ

At the ETH Zurich, we met Loic Pelissier to plan the upcoming "*TOPtoTOP Research Expedition*". The goal is to get more eDNA data globally and train local people for field labs to ultimately better protect biodiversity on our planet. As climate change progresses, it will be essential for nature to have the broadest possible biodiversity in order to be able to adapt optimally to climatic changes. This also gives TOPtoTOP the opportunity to build bridges between the schools we visit and the scientists on board. This under our central motto EXPLORE – INSPIRE – ACT.

### May: **Collecting good examples on 900 nautical miles**

On a long journey of more than 900 nm, Pachamama was able to meet up with old friends, who do exemplary projects: Odd, Eli & Christian, Maria & Stein, Hilde & Anders, Aina & Helge, Yngvar & Torguun and Halvard.

Thanks to the fair winds and good crew we had a safe and comfortable journey. Ueli and Dario with a lot of experience on Pachamama shared their knowledge with the newcomers Jeremy and Roger.

### June: **North Cape**

After 1000 nautical miles on the sailing ship Pachamama, Noé and Dario covered the last 250 km by bike after Noé's confirmation. Up to this northern cape, it was time to take again eDNA samples. After a visit of our friend Halvard on Grytøya Island, we had to sail fast in an emergency towards the next hospital, because Vital and Mia needed blood urgently because of their spherocytosis.

### July: **Arctic eDNA + Stetind + Topper World Championship 2024**

After a hard time sampling, we set off for a new adventure: To climb Stetind, Norway's national mountain and the most beautiful TOP in Norway... already the 2nd TOP on the "Sea2toP" project.

Alegra, Noé and Andri were invited to Los Alcazares on the Mar Menor in Spain and were proud to represent Switzerland at this year's Topper World Championship 2024.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to cover the great distance under sail to Spain, but these kinds of events prove that peace between different countries is possible. Young people from all continents share the idea of global citizenship and form friendships across borders.

After the Topper Sailing World Championships, we profited to be close to the Alps. Our next goal was to reach the two remaining TOPs of the "*Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0*" project, as well as to help with a polysportive camp in Tenero. While we climbed Finsteraarhorn, Alegra was working on an alp

above Grindelwald. Together with the dairyman, there were only two of them with up to 40 cows that had to be milked twice a day and then there was the work of making cheese.

### August: **Clean up the Arctic**

We were cleaning the beaches of remote islands from plastic debris.

### September: **The “TOPtoTOP Arctic base”**

Our “Power House Project” is a true team effort, bringing together friends, kids, neighbours, and innovative companies to work hand in hand. Together, we’re building a unique prototype that demonstrates what’s possible with renewable energy—even in the extreme conditions of the arctic. From planning to construction, this collaboration is a shining example of how determination and teamwork can turn a vision into reality. It is the base for TOPtoTOP’s campaign “*SAVE the ARCTIC*”. It is a Norwegian-Swiss joint venture with the aim of building “*THE best ZERO-energy house in the Arctic*”, open to anyone who needs a quiet refuge to develop sustainable solutions or compose a musical masterpiece.

Throughout the year we had great helpers. Special thanks to Caspar and that we were able to rely on the high-performance “*Siga*” building membranes and insulation materials from “*Isover*”. “*3S Swiss Solar*” supplied solar modules for the roof, façade and railings, and “*Kühne & Nagel*” organized the environmentally friendly transport of the materials.

A huge boost came from the “*Xeeo*” company, whose incredible team—Adi, Sabrina, and even CEO Thomas—joined us on-site to assist with installing the solar panels and electrical setup.

### October: **World Premiere + 25th birthday of TOPtoTOP**

Because of the 25th anniversary of our TOPtoTOP Expedition and our World Premiere at the Zurich Film Festival, we did an almost 4000 km long journey from the high Arctic by sailing ship, bicycle, and train to Switzerland to celebrate with our members.

On the 5th of October 2024, TOPtoTOP was 1st time on the Green Carpet. It was for our World Premiere of our film “*Home is the Ocean*” by Livia Vonaesch at the 20th International Zurich Film Festival 2024.

### November: **Orca time**

From the end of October, huge schools of herring arrive in the northernmost fjords of northern Norway. With them, many orca families return to the fjords every year, followed by humpback whales and accompanied by sea eagles and other seabirds.

It is also an important moment for TOPtoTOP, as there is an incredible amount of biodiversity all around us.

This is not only exciting for the eDNA sampling for the ETH in Zurich but also a unique experience for local school classes or club members who join us.

December: **Swiss Champion Alegra**

13 years-old Alegra, already became the Swiss U16 champion in sprint ski mountaineering on the 7th of December in Davos. This discipline will be part of the Olympics for the first time in 2026 – we are all excited!

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024**

- distance sailed: 2,000 nautical miles (of a total of 132'000 nm)
- distance climbed: 100,000 altimetres (of a total of 1'000'000 a.m.)
- distance cycled: 500 kilometres (of a total of 25'000 km)
- number of attendees at presentations: 10'000 (of a total of 175'000)
- number of DNA – and microplastics samples collected: 10 (of a total of 150)
- plastic collected in clean-ups: 5'000 kg (of a total of 85'000 kg)
- campaign 'Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0'
- campaign 'Save the Arctic'

## **HIGHLIGHTS 2024**

- World Premiere at Zürich Film Festival
- Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0
- Topper World Championships in Spain
- Establishing the 'TOPtoTOP Arctic Base'
- Community actions and Clean-Ups to fight plastic waste
- Great media coverage! Everywhere we travelled, the media were interested in an interview. In all destinations, TV, radio and print media reported very positively about the TOPtoTOP actions.
- Collaboration with the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the Norwegian Research Center, the University of Tromsø and the ETH Zürich in Switzerland to get a better understanding about the arctic seas.
- With our concept to get everybody on board, we have been received with open arms especially in Norway, Spain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, establishing new partnerships with local individuals, organisations and initiatives.

## **OUR STRATEGIES - HOW WE ACT**

Our belief '*to go together is to go far*' is a success: the family members and volunteers have gone far again this year and accomplished inspiring many to act too.

Our strategy to reach out more and to get the media involved worked very well. This approach also helped us to get in contact with the school authorities to organize events and actions.

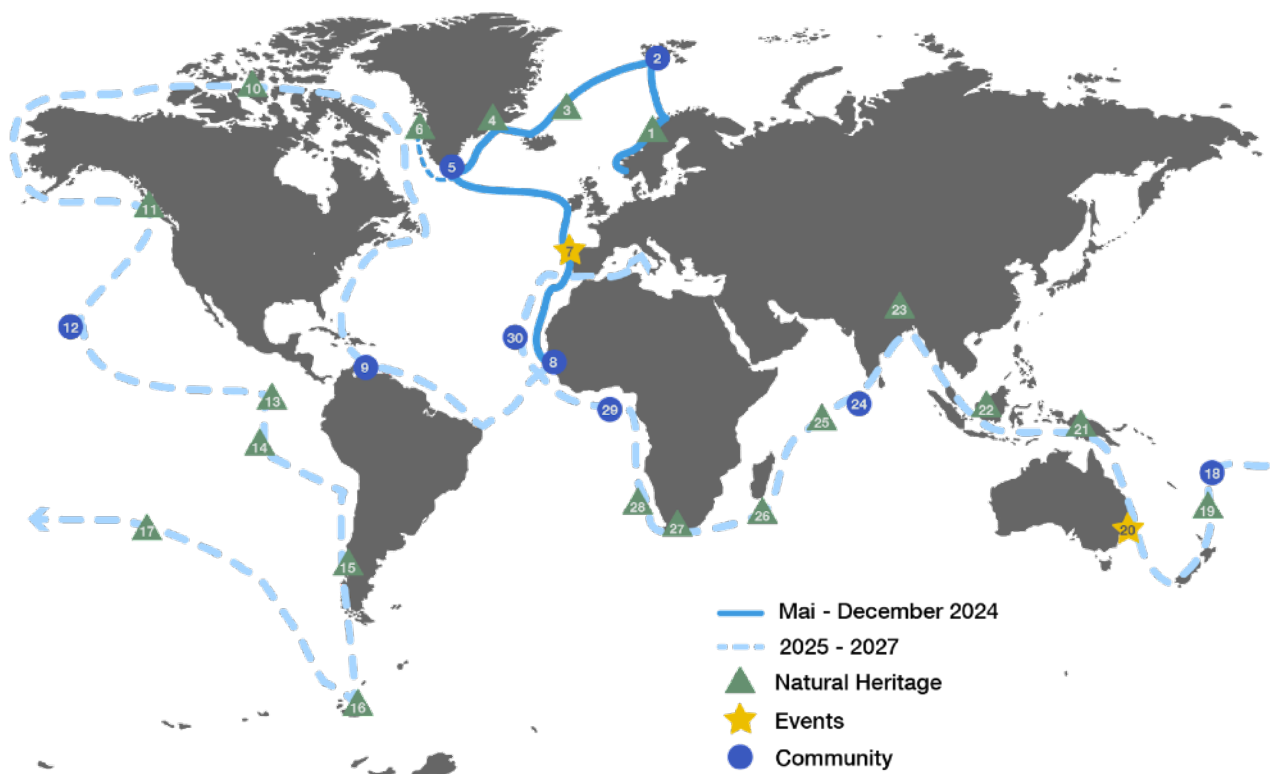
We learned that our message is so much more powerful when our children started to talk to their peers of the same age as well as to the media.

Activities from TOPtoTOP members in other countries make us proud. Our ongoing success story is the backbone that creates the unique global family of positive activists. Our global network is based on understanding, solidarity and positivity in order to solve the global challenges we face.

## OUTLOOK 2025

IN 2025 , we are focusing on two key factors: Biodiversity and Global Peace. This years route will lead us to Greenland (see map below 1 to 6 and if all works fine till 8). Means in 2025, *Pachamama* will operate mainly in the Arctic Sea. We continue to sample up to the highest summits in the Arctic. We will collect data for climate and plastic pollution research in *Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland, Iceland* and *Norway*. Furthermore, we will combine our environmental education program and clean-ups with our research activities.

*“EXPLORE – INSPIRE – ACT. Inspiring youth to save the planet.”*



We have a rolling schedule of events and can react flexibly and according to the situation:

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Stetind, Norway                   | 16. Mount Vinson, Antarctica       |
| 2. New Alesund, Svalbard             | 17. Point Nemo, farthest from land |
| 3. Jan Mayen                         | 18. Fiji Island                    |
| 4. Gjunbjorn Fjeld, Greenland        | 19. Minerva Reefs                  |
| 5. South Greenland                   | 20. Sydney Hobart Yacht Race       |
| 6. Disco Bay, Greenland              | 21. Puncak Jaya, Indonesia         |
| 7. Topper World Championships, Spain | 22. Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia       |
| 8. Senegal River                     | 23. Ama Dablam, Nepal              |
| 9. Santa Marta, Colombia             | 24. Maldives                       |
| 10. Northwest Passage                | 25. Chagos Archipelago             |
| 11. Mount Saint Elias, Alaska        | 26. Walters Shoals, Madagascar     |
| 12. Hawaii                           | 27. Table Mountain, South Africa   |
| 13. Cocos Island, Costa Rica         | 28. Vema Seamount                  |
| 14. Galápagos Islands, Ecuador       | 29. São Tomé and Príncipe          |
| 15. Corcovado Volcano, Chile         | 30. Capo Verde                     |

### ONGOING LIST OF HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

- We will finalise “Swiss TOPtoTOP 2.0” with “Piz Bernina”.
- We plan a joint music concert on a remote Arctic island for the benefit of our planet and its creatures with participants from different nations.
- We continue the multi-year collaboration with ETH Zurich in the Sea2toP campaign.
- We will invite people from all over the world to join our expedition outdoor camps and events. Our goal is to connect as many people as possible with nature through outdoor activities and bring people together from different nations, cultures and religions.
- We transfer our music - and outdoor guiding skills – to give new perspectives and hope to young people living in the Arctic.
- We aim to give remote places a voice and connect schools from different parts of the planet.

### LONG-TERM OUTLOOK

We will sail south via West Africa and South America to Antarctica to climb the last TOP (Mount Vinson) of the initial project **“7-Summits non-stop round-the-world by human power and nature’s force”**.

We aim to inspire another 100,000 students and explore more great examples of saving the planet over the coming years.

This on our route circumnavigating the Arctic, Antarctica and the Equator from POLE to POLE in a figure of 8, making optimal use of the winds and currents.

In future, our milestones will not be the highest, but *“the most beautiful top natural wonders”*.

**Our ultimate goal is to save the planet with the inspiring examples we collect and unifying music-making, as well as with our environmental actions, clean-ups, scientific research and, above all, our educational events. We aim to build a global network of positive activists to solve global challenges, based on understanding, friendship, collaboration, positivity and solidarity.**



## SUPPORT US

It is time to save our planet! Our goal is to establish a lasting movement that inspires youth to act. Please consider an annual donation and scan below QR code or go to <https://toptotop.org/donate/>.



**JOIN US** on Instagram ([TOPtoTOPexpedition](#)), Facebook ([TOPtoTOPGlobalClimateExpedition](#)), website ([TOPtoTOP.org](#)) and subscribe on our YouTube Channel ([TOPtoTOPExpedition](#)).

## BECOME A MEMBER

The annual TOPtoTOP-membership is 50 USD/Euro/CHF per household/institution. A lifelong membership is 250 USD, please register at <https://toptotop.org/donate/toptotop-membership/> . - Thank you for your support!

## THANK YOU

Without the generosity and hospitality of the people we meet on our journey, and without your support, our efforts would have been unthinkable. A big THANK YOU especially to our main sponsor **VICTORINOX** as well as to the patronage of **UNEP** and our science partners **NORCE, HVL, UIT, and ETHZ**; and our carbon offsetting partner **myclimate**. Our thanks also go to all the benefactors and all those who support our project with their TOP products and services, especially: **Siga, Isover, 3S Swiss Solar, Kühne & Nagel, Xeeo, Rent a Bike, Swiss Youth Hostels, React, PredictWind, Hostpoint, Optrel, Magic Mountain Lodge, Hotel Waldegg, Topper International, Torqeedo, Olsen Batterieer, Nogva, and Skarvik.**

Special thanks to our members on the expedition: Sabine, Dario, Salina, Andri, Noé, Alegra, Mia, Vital, Hanne, Christian, Peder, Peter, Paul Johan & Inge, Eskil & Anna, Henrika & Patrick, Aina & Helge, Gunvor & Odd, Joelle, Jeremy, Roger, Ueli, Caspar, Øyvind & Jeanette, Stefan, Bruno & Dorothea.

A special thanks to all in the background: Alex & Ursula Zehnder, Marco & Karin Koch, Peter Locher, Manolito Birrer, Dag Olav Mollan Eneberg, Meret Jucker, Dominik Schaub, Simon Unternährer, Hanna Law, Bruder Martin, Frederic Marty, Peder Pederson, Marianne Nielson, Alessio Gomiero, Loïc Pellissier, Rosi & Ernst Ammann, Johann & Rita Kaufmann.

We also wish to thank the following people for their friendship and assistance:

Family Carl & Veronika Elsener, Sylvia & Juerg Zahnd, Bruder Martin Hieronymi, Dominik & Sylke Schaub, Marco & Ines Kappenberger, Family Odd Tufte & Gunvor Steine, Ric & Emma van Wachem,

Clark & Barbara Blynn, Elisabeth & Rolf Hefti, Hanne Lykkja & Harald Renum, Michael Thorne, Family Torgunn & Yngvar Rist Aagaard, Family Henrika Lönngren & Patrik Jonsson, Family Daniela & Marcel Hasler, Ingunn Riverts Vatne & Mathieu Blein, Johann & Rita Kaufmann, Susanne & Chérif Khater, Ursula & Alex Zehnder, Nathalie Thierstein & Stefan Leimer, Fred Marty, Family Marius & Karine Løken, Sten-Robin Morfjord, Peder and Kaja Pedersen, Roland Müller, Salve Dahle, Family Christian Wehrli, Familiy Irmela Mantel, Turid Samuelson & Haldor-Inge Samuelsen, Pål Kragerud, Pål Brynsrud, Christian Wehrli, Peter Gnehm, Pater Andri, Eugen & Susi Funz, Dominik & Elisabeth Brun, Familie Birrer Hotel Waldegg, Schule Engelberg, Stiftsschule Engelberg, Kloster Disentis ...

