

## **BOWEN APARTMENT IN LEYSIN**

### **Address:**

LARGES HORIZONS. APT #103  
LEYSIN, VAUD  
SWITZERLAND  
<http://lovelywork.co.uk/leysin/>

**Currency:** Swiss Francs

**Language:** French

<http://www.leysin.ch/en/index.cfm>

### **How to get there:**

**1) Flight to Geneva** (EasyJet/Swiss/BA) - Flying time about one hour fifteen minutes. Then...

**2) Train from Geneva Airport to Aigle.** Journey time approx. 1hr 20mins. Beautiful view around Lake Geneva.

The train station is part of the airport. Come out of baggage reclaim/customs and turn left following signs to the Gare (down escalators). The train to Aigle is usually the one that heads to Brig via Montreux and Lausanne and you can purchase tickets from the Ticket office or from the automatic ticket machines. The train that connects hourly with the cog railway to Leysin leaves at 21 minutes past each hour. Last through train leaves the airport at 9.21pm. The single fare is approx. CHF 45. More info on prices and times:  
<http://www.swissrailways.com>

NOTE: You MUST now buy your ticket for the cog railway (see below) before boarding the train – otherwise there is a CHF100 fine! Easiest is to ask for a ticket from Geneva airport right through to Leysin Feydey station (the third of four station stops at Leysin). About 25 minutes journey with great views over the valley. Buy a single if you are staying more than five days. Or, if you plan to do some traveling, look at the 5 or 7 day passes for the region which allow you to travel on buses, trains and lake steamers.

**3) Cog railway from Aigle to Leysin.** Journey time approx. 20 mins. Come out of Aigle train station (same side as you got off the train) and turn right towards the trams sitting there. The one to Leysin is either brown and cream or bright green. If you get your ticket at the counter in Aigle station, the fare is around CHF10.00. Feydey is the third stop in Leysin, after Village and Vermont.

- When you get to Feydey, the apartment is about 5 minute walk.
- Come out of the station and turn left up past Davinda restaurant to the junction.
- Turn right down the hill, Rue du Commerce, past the Lynx bar on your left and several little shops.

- Turn left when you get to the first road on your left, there should be signs for the Ecole
- Suisse de Ski and Plan Praz and another that says Leysin Lodge (holiday houses). Road is uphill here.
- Just at the top of the hill on your right is Larges Horizons. The front 2 doors into the
- hallway will be open unless after 8pm and apt #103 is down the stairs and left at the very end of the corridor. Lights are on automatic time switch.

**Link to google maps:**

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZmVEBtAptgD2>

**THE APARTMENT**

Furnishings are basic but you should find all you need. The outer blinds can be rolled down and adjusted for degree of sunlight: you will probably want to lower them at night. The terrace and "garden" are private to the apartment, however, and no-one should walk past the windows. There are a few peculiarities:

**Main door:** Close the door inside by turning the handle up after it is pulled shut. Also to lock from outside, you need to pull the handle up as you turn the key.

**Hot water and heating:** are both centrally provided: no need to turn on inside the apartment. Radiators can be individually turned off by moving the black knob clockwise (anti-clockwise to turn on). Degree of heat is controlled by moving the thermostat (the cream dial with the numbers).

**Cooker:** self-igniting, but you need to turn the knob and keep it pressed in for **quite a long time** (maybe ten seconds or more!) after it lights or the gas will go out again. Some of the rings are quicker than others!

**Video/cable/DVD:** instructions beside the machines. You will find Sky News and other English-language channels among many others.

**Washing/drying:** the laundry facilities are in the basement through the boiler room. Go along the same corridor the flat is in almost to end. Enter the door on the right to the "cave" storage area (time switch light on right). Use the main building door key to enter the boiler room and walk through to end. Then you need to use the laundry key for the inner door (labelled, in flat).

There are two Miele machines with instructions. They are operated with the magnetic key (in the small storage unit in the hall of the flat).

\* Press the key into its place in the box: it will beep and show the amount of credit remaining. If the machine door is closed, keep pressing the key while you simultaneously press the orange button to open the door.

\* Load the machine and put in powder (the 20-minute, mini-cycle is effective for sheets and stuff that's only lightly soiled).

\* Set to desired cycle and close door.

- \* Press with magnetic key again, simultaneously pressing the start (green) button.
- \* When wash is finished, release door again by pressing the key and the orange button simultaneously.

The dryer operates in the same way. If you use cycle 3 (normal), it will take about 1 hour 15 minutes. Please return the magnetic key bowl in the hallway of the flat.

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

**There is NO maid unless you have contracted for a clean, please**

- turn large radiators down but leave small (hall, bathroom and kitchen area) on.
- Empty and switch off fridge and leave door open.
- Unplug appliances.
- If possible (not if you have to leave at dawn) wash and dry sheets and towels for next occupants. If you cannot, please strip beds and leave sheets etc in a pile in the bedrooms. Wind down all shutters.

### **Skiing**

Leysin and the surrounding area should provide enough skiing excitement for all but the most advanced skiers for six or seven days. There is a good mix of gentle tree-lined swooshes with some more challenging red and black runs. It is also possible to hire off-piste guides from the Ecole Suisse de Ski by the Telecabine. Off course lessons (private or in groups) can be booked here too.

You can get over to Les Mosses (shuttle bus from the bottom of Solepraz) or get a bus up to the glacier at Les Diablerets. Villars and Chamonix are not far away - although no Bowens have ever needed to venture that far!

There are also cross-country and snow-shoeing opportunities - again not really Bowen pastimes...

### **Ski hire and passes**

Probably most convenient for skis, boots and boards is Hefti Sports opposite the tele-cabine (chair-lift). Friendly and helpful staff who speak English. None of the equipment is over three years old and a good range of equipment. Ski or snowboard and boot hire is around CHF175 for four days. There are other options, mainly Endless Ride on the middle road.

It is easy to get back to the flat via the nursery slope drag lift but if you want to leave your skis by the Telecabine, Hefti do a locker for 4 sets skis/boots that dry overnight.

There is a large ski locker for the building. Head to the second building and towards the underground garage. Door is on the left. Key to main front door operates in. Please leave skis and boards there rather than in hallway.

Ski passes can be bought by the day/several days/week etc. You may need a passport-type photo for a week pass. Slightly cheaper passes are available from 11.00 and 1pm (check at ticket office). You can use the "key cards" in the

Swiss bowl on the side units in the hall to avoid having to pay 5CHF for the card itself. Just remember to leave them in the Swiss bowl at the end of your stay. Credit cards are accepted at the ski pass cash desk.

### **Ski food:**

It is very easy to get back to the flat for lunch if you are looking to save some money, have a midday rest or both! Get the drag lift up the nursery slope and walk the 100 yards back to the flat.

There are several options on the mountains however. The Kuklos restaurant at the top of the Berneuse does average self service food/ sandwiches etc and has a good terrace with stunning views. Behind the cable car station is also a family-style picnic room where you can eat your own food – if you can be bothered carrying it up the mountain with you.

More fun are the Buvette de Mayen (at the top of Mayen chair lift) and the restaurant at Les Fers. Buvette de Mayen is a lovely little wooden chalet that does great soup, hot cheesy dishes, sandwiches and drinks. Space inside is very limited so only really an option in nice weather.

The Restaurant at Les Fers has amazing views. Sit outside for full views and sausage and frites or sandwiches or go inside for a full menu - great salads, lasagnes, croutes and other specials. Not cheap but not the ridiculous prices of some ski resorts. Good for vin chaud before the last run of the day!

### **General Information**

The Information and Sports centre is down the hill a bit below the tele-cabine. It has all the brochures for local attractions, maps, information on local events, cinema, etc.

There is a free local bus service that circles the entire village about once an hour. Timetable in the apartment or at the Information Centre.

**Banking:** The Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, BCV, is on the Place du Marche. It has an ATM in the foyer. You can also change money there. There is also an ATM in the Migros opposite the swimming pool.

**Post Office:** In the centre of town almost opposite but higher up than La Farandole and the BCV.

**Internet:** Leysin is a wireless internet hotspot! Can be a bit intermittent but you should be able to pick up the internet for free from the balcony of the flat or if you sit close enough to the window. No need for a password, just log in to the free Wifi you will pick up. There are also internet options at the Lynx Bar and at the La Farandole in town.

### **Swimming pools:**

There is a large pool, good for swimming lengths, in the sports centre: it costs CHF9.00 (children under 9 free and seniors about 4CHF). There are Turkish

baths too. Also a smaller pool open to the public at the Central Residence hotel (at quiet times), just below Larges Horizons: CHF 8.00 and CHF 5.00 for kids. It also has lovely Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. In both cases, take your own towel.

### **Skating rink/toboggan slide:**

At the very bottom of the village (can be seen from terrace of Larges Horizons). Skates can be hired, Check times at information centre. The rink is walkable but you might want to take the bus back. Beside the rink is a toboggan park. You slide down bobsleigh type runs on large innertubes. Runs of varying difficulty - fun for all ages and even scary enough to amuse thirty somethings for a while. Pay per descent CHF 3 or for two hours CHF 22.

**Cinema:** below the Classic hotel (further down from the sports centre). Quite good and up-to-date films but these are usually in French.

### **SHOPS**

The closest place to buy basic groceries, vegetables and (very good) bread is the small grocery (Epicerie) between Feydey station and the Buffet de la Gare. Open early till around 8pm (closes at 7pm on Sundays) but shut between 12.30pm and 2.30pm.

Larger and better selection at the Migros-related supermarket down towards the centre, opposite the Information Centre (fresh meat, good vegetables, array of wines and spirits etc).

Just off the centre of town, Place du Marche, is the Coop, the largest and best with pretty much everything in the food and drink line, as well as a limited range of scarves, ski gloves, underwear, towels etc. New rival to the Coop is Denner, very well stocked, close to Place du Marche bus stop.

Bread and pastries from La Farandole (also internet), or from the bread shop Boutique du Pain just below the Place du Marche - both very good. Speciality butchers and fish shop close to Coop. Also the Laiterie for cheese and dairy.

Pharmacie (chemists) just behind the Farandole café. Note: supermarkets do not sell even basic aspirins.

Plenty of small shops in the Place du Marche area for kitschy souvenirs, newspapers, etc.

### **RESTAURANTS**

**La Caleche:** just below the tele-cabine. Good food much patronized by locals, as is its nice little bar.

**Buffet de la Gare:** at Feydey station. Excellent and inexpensive fondue and some basic hearty dishes. Easy to take kids to.

**La Nonna:** Above the Information and sports Centre complex. Pizzas mainly - nothing special.

**Firenze:** on the Place du Marche, in the centre of the village. Good value fixed price menus.

**La Fromagerie:** Below the church, turn left and ignore the first restaurant on your left (overpriced and food not great according to local sources). The Fromagerie is a traditional Swiss mountain restaurant, serving fantastic fondues, raclettes and a great variety of other dishes in a friendly and inviting atmosphere - highly recommended - though again, not the cheapest.

**Creperie Leysin:** just below Place du Marche, on the corner going downhill. Good selection of savoury and sweet crepes. Nice for a change.

**Hang Lu:** Good Pekinese food for the days when more cheese is not an option - prices at the higher end of reasonable. Behind Hang Lu is Le Saloon with a pool table and the feel of a more traditional pub. A huge screen shows football. A lively place for high volume music and the full snowboard scene.

There are several other restaurants below the Place du Marche.

**BARS/EATERIES** within a few minutes walk of Larges Horizons

**Lynx bar:** up the road from Larges Horizons towards Feydey station. Now mainly quite good Chinese food but some bar snacks too.

**Buffet de la Gare:** at Feydey station, see above

**Davinda lounge:** close to Feydey station. Wide variety of food (soups, sushi, tapas and burgers as well as mains) and drinks, much patronised by foreign students.

**Medo Burger:** a new fast food place near the top of the Rue de Commerce, towards Feydey station. Pizza, wraps and kebabs. Probably useful in emergency but the jury still out on quality!

**Top Pub:** snooker tables, burgers etc. Located round the corner from the station on the lower road.

**Central Residence:** the hotel just below Larges Horizons has a pleasant restaurant. It's hotel food but the occasional special event and the fixed price buffets can be good value.