

## **Trummelbach Falls: A Comparison to Richenbach Falls**

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Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Jim Hawkins posted our journey to Meiringen and the Richenbach Falls, which generated some interest to those who read and viewed this event. For those who enjoyed the photographs and to build upon this first episode, the following day's excursion to Trummelbach Falls is reported so that a comparison can be made with Richenbach Falls. The photo (see below) that Jim placed on the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem entitled, "Footprints Along the Paths" of Vicki and me was taken within the cavern walls of Trummelbach Falls.



Vicki and I left Zurich by train to Lauterbrunnen via Berne and Interlaken. We then took a bus to Trummelbach Falls.



This visit was prompted when we were riding down the Richenbach Falls in the funicular and a couple from England told us about the tremendous water surges within the caverns of the Trummelbach Falls. We were enticed to visit this site since we were very impressed with the setting provided by Conan Doyle of Richenbach Falls. The following photograph is a view from the bottom of the Falls.



Upon arrival at this small village we entered the Trummelbach Falls cavern. There are ten caverns with rushing, swirling waters streaming down the winding caverns walls with sharp curvatures. The *Lonely Planet Guide* reports that inside the mountain up to 20,000L of water per second flows through potholes and ravines shaped by the swirling waters. We entered a tightly compacted elevator filled to capacity with other visitors and rode up to the sixth level of the cavern. Yes, it was somewhat claustrophobic as we ascended within the walls.

Departing and then walking upwards from within the cavern to the top of level ten offered many spectacular views of the different levels of the roaring waters crashing down within the winding crevices. This falls has tremendous force and the sound of the waters flowing down emit a high pitch.



Each level provides spectacular views of the different aspects of the inner walls of the caverns.



The force of the falls was heard and felt as we continued upward towards the top of the tenth level.



An example of the depths of the cavern and the visitors who make their way along the tunnels is shown below.



Multiple views of the different aspects of the flowing falls can be seen when traversing the levels of the falls.



After reaching the top level, we walked down all of the ten levels to the bottom of the falls. It was an experience being within the caverns hearing and watching the roaring waters rushing down through the winding inner walls of the caverns. Walking within the walls of the

cavern and viewing such a tremendous force of water was a sight to behold. Each level brought forth new views combined with sprays of water.



The geological impression made by the rapidly flowing water provides an indelible mental image of the wonders of nature.



Each view offers a different perspective of Trummelbach Falls.





As we made our way down to the bottom Vicki seemed to be somewhat blurred by the experience.



However she persevered.





And emerged unscathed.



Both the Richenbach Falls and the Trummelbach Falls provide the visitor with different, and yet spectacular settings. Richenbach Falls is an outside venture whereas Trummelbach Falls combines an inner with an outside venue.

A. Conan Doyle used the Richenbach Falls as the backdrop to describe the harrowing cliffs with its narrow paths as the venue for “The Final Problem.” Just as spectacular would have been the Trummelbach Falls as the setting for Holmes and Moriarty to meet and engage in their duel.