ExSat4: Holocene climate change and vegetation dynamics in the Swiss Alps
Saturday 26 August 2017, 09.00 – 18.30 h.
Guide: Prof. Dr. Willy Tinner, Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern

The excursion reviews Holocene climate and vegetation changes in the NW Alps as documented by glacier fluctuations and lacustrine pollen and macrofossil records. This regional climate history is placed into the context of European-North Atlantic cold events between the Younger Dryas and the Little Ice Age. Typical vegetation belts (Montane to Alpine) can be seen along an altitudinal transect. The extent to which human activities have modified the vegetation and landscape since the Neolithic (after 7500 BP) and how Alpine meadows are established will be discussed. The scenic hike leads to the Faulhorn (2600 masl), which offers a spectacular panorama of the Alps to the south and the Jura Mountains to the north.

Itinerary
The excursion takes us from Interlaken East (Railway Station, rail departure 09.05 h) to Grindelwald and then by cable car to First (2170 m). The hike *(4 hrs, 500 m upward, intermediate level, good physical condition required!)* from First (2170 masl) leads to Lake Bachalp (picture above) and Faulhorn (2700 masl) and then back to First on good trails. Return by cable car from First (departure 17.00 h) and via railway from Grindelwald (departure 17.49 h) to Interlaken East (arrival 18.24 h). The excursion uses public transportation only.

Equipment, food and drinks
Good hiking/trekking boots (!), sun/wind/rain protection, sunglasses, small backpack for lunch and water. A lunch bag (sandwich, 1 L water, chocolate and fruit) will be provided. Cold/warm beverages can be purchased at the restaurant on top of Faulhorn (mid-afternoon ca 15 – 16 h, not included in the excursion fee).

Maximum number of participants
30; minimum 15

Costs
The registration fee covers transportation from Interlaken to First and return, and the lunch bag.
Price: 85 CHF

Disclaimer
Health insurance and insurance against accidents is fully within the responsibility of the participants.
The program may be subject to small changes.