

Low cost accommodation in Switzerland

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Mounting number of single person-households in Switzerland

According to an evaluation of the last census only one in 25 persons in Switzerland lived alone some 30 years ago. However in 1990 this had risen to one in seven persons. In absolute terms of Switzerland's population of just over 7 million over 900,000 live in single households. In 1960 only just over 200,000 lived alone. The survey shows that a disproportionately large number of woman live alone. They make up almost 60 % of the total and the statistics office says that this is mainly due to Woman's longer life-expectancy and a lower percentage of Woman re-marrying. In fact just one of the reasons for the rapid growth in one-person-households is the equally swift increase in the divorce-rate. But the largest group living alone are the widows who make up 20 % of the total. Almost half of those living alone are unmarried and a seventh are divorced. One of the smallest single groups are the under-22-year-olds. This, says the statistics office indicates that children live at home longer and that young woman end to leave home earlier than men. Although they only make up less than 1 % of the survey of singles, figures show that juppies tend to live alone. 45 % of Women between 20 and 35 years of age who hold top jobs, live alone. The corresponding figure for men is 34 %. Sociologists say that in the case of professional women there is hardly any incentive to get married any more. Their higher salaries guarantee financial autonomy with no need for a possibly patriarchal partner. Even though there are more singles than ever before communal partnerships have also increased 2 and 1/2 times in the past 30 years. But unmarried couples still only make up barely 9 % of the total of all couples. Even as late as 1992 four rural Cantons still had a ban on unmarried couples living together, although this law had been a "dead-letter" for many years. In 1995 Val-lais was the last Canton to officially police this regulation.

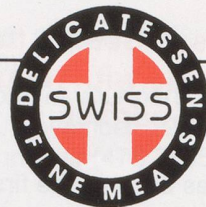
Low cost accommodation in Switzerland

The town of Thun on the lake of Thun (Thunersee) has become the first Swiss resort to offer a new form of low cost accommodation. The idea is based on a Swiss invention called "Swiss-tube"!

It is a simple idea. Take a wide diameter fibre glass tube, line it with pine, put-in some bunk-beds, a table and a bathroom and you have a Swiss-tube hotel room. The 8 meter long tubular units can be stacked and combined in different configurations and access by simple metal walkways, leaving a finished assembly that resembles a structure at a fair or exposition and that's part of the idea, temporary accommodations that can be used at the Swiss national exposition in 2001. The fast and easy assembly and dis-assembly make the Swiss tube-concept attractive and practical for special events in general, or to provide simple accommodation in resorts during specific times of the year. And above all the simplicity allows very low rates. The town of Thun is the first popular tourist destination in Switzerland to try the Swiss-tube idea and there a night will cost SFr. 20.--. ! Very reasonable by today's standards. This sort of accommodation should bring young tourists into Thun and to make them stay in Thun, because so far there was no cheap accommodation available. The Thun tourism organisation has all information available. The classic hotels know full well that they will never attract young people and are not opposed to the cheap accommodation. The idea is that young people will, thanks to the cheap accommodation, be able to stay for longer periods, become fond of the place and come back later in life to stay in one of the classic hotels. The Swiss-tube accommodation is to be widely advertised as ideal for the young and the young-at-heart.!!

Humour

Doctor examines new patient and discovers that the patients legs are all bruised. Doctor says to patient "Do you belong to a contact sports club & would it be football." Patient answers "No way, I only belong to a Jass club!"



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TEN WAYS TO WRECK YOUR SWISS CLUB

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you go, be sure to be late.
3. If the weather is bad don't even think of going.
4. When you do go to the meeting, be sure to try and find fault with the President and each of the other committee members.
5. Never accept office, that way you can be sure to be able to criticise those who hold an office.
6. Organise a private function on the same day the club has one and invite as many members and friends as possible.
7. When asked what your opinion is, reply you have nothing to say. After the meeting, you will be able to tell everyone how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when someone else comments about the lion's share that some have done, tell everyone that the club is run be a clique.
9. Don't worry about paying your dues, wait until you have received 2 or 3 late notices.
10. Don't worry about getting new members, let the other members worry about those problems.

Now, how about someone sending in a list of the 10 Best Ways to Achieving an Active Club!

J.M.