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The joys of a Swiss winter for Young Swiss Abroad

Switzerland's mountains boast the ideal conditions for young people to experience winter sports and leisure to the full. Young Swiss Abroad are advised to book their winter holiday now with the Youth Service.

The Youth Service's winter sports camps are extremely popular for a number of reasons. First and foremost, there is the fun of spending your vacation with a like-minded group. Young people from all over the world enjoy ten days of communal camp life, exchanging their experiences as Swiss Abroad, telling others about their country of residence, and discovering all about the land of their forefathers. Any inhibitions about speaking a foreign language soon disappear, because the most important thing is personal contact. The OSA's qualified ski and snowboard instructors guarantee safety and make skiing and snowboarding both entertaining and rewarding. A full programme of activities makes for variety and atmosphere, whether the

focus is on sport, entertainment, relaxation or creativity.

Our Internet page, with extracts from campers' diaries and a photo gallery, gives you an insight into camp life. Log on to: www.aso.ch

The New Year camp in Torgon is fully subscribed, but there are still vacancies in other camps. Book now!

Winter sports in Scuol (GR)

(6.3.04 – 13.3.04)

If you are aged 18 or over, this is the camp for you. Scuol is a picturesque village in the Engadine with a small but excellent ski region. Scuol's thermal baths soothe the body and mind. For years our March camp has been a case of one big happy family, and newcomers are always welcome.

Cost: CHF 790.–

Easter camp in the Fiesch Valley (VS) (4.4.04 – 12.4.04)

If you're still looking for snow in Spring, you can take full advantage of the longer, lighter days in the Aletsch region. Modern accommodation featuring a gymnasium

and a spectacular panorama, a world-famous ski region, and hopefully lots of feel-good sunshine on the slopes.

Cost: CHF 750.–

University experience

For those who want to do something towards their further education during their vacation, the Youth Service offers various packages. You can live with a friendly host family to gain an authentic insight into life in Switzerland. We will put together a daily programme for you tailored to your individual needs.

The following arrangements are available for winter:

Language courses:

(5.1.04 – 16.1.04) During these dates we offer a French course and a German course. The idea behind these two-week courses is to motivate you to extend your knowledge of the relevant language: a total immersion experience with the opportunity to use the language in day-to-day situations. We endeavour to create a pleasant

learning climate and give you the chance to make the acquaintance of your classmates and other Swiss Abroad and Swiss in Switzerland. Cost: CHF 970.– (including language course, teaching material, stay with a host family, Swiss Pass for all public transport throughout Switzerland, excursions).

Studying in Switzerland

(until 14.2.04 and from 22.3.04) An insight into Switzerland's education system. Attend university lectures, make contact with student groups, obtain individual advice on education and gain an insight into the practical aspects of your chosen course of study. These are just a few of the aims of this special arrangement. A unique opportunity to explore your possibilities and the ins and outs of studying in Switzerland. Cost: CHF 680.– (including study programme, stay with a host family, Swiss Pass)

There are lots of other arrangements available from the Youth Service. Contact the OSA for further information!

As always, information on youth arrangements is available from:

Organisation for the Swiss Abroad
Jugenddienst, Alpenstr. 26, 3000 Bern 16
Tel.: ++41 (0)31 356 61 00
Fax.: ++41 (0)31 356 61 01
youth@aso.ch, www.aso.ch

Summer camps in 2004

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad will be running its traditional summer camps during July and August 2004. Each camp lasts two weeks and offers children aged between 8 and 14 the chance to get to know Switzerland better.

The organisers have selected accommodation in Melchtal (Obwalden), Unterwasser (Toggenburg), St. Cergue (above Nyon),

L'Auberson (near St. Croix/VD), Cerentino (Maggia Valley) and Eriz (Emmental) for the six summer camps scheduled for next year. Each camp offers accommodation for 30 to 50 children from all over the world and an opportunity to make new friends and visit sights in and around the region. Our experienced, multilingual camp leaders accompany the children on a two-week discovery voyage of Switzerland interspersed with games, crafts and sport.

The parental contribution of CHF 800 covers the total cost of a two-week camp, excluding the cost of travel to Switzerland.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad aims to offer all Swiss Abroad children an opportunity to take part in a camp at least once. To this end it set up a fund for subsidised contributions. An application form may be requested on registration.

Details on the individual holiday camps and the application form will be posted under www.aso.ch (SJAS) at the end of December. We should also be pleased to send you

our information brochure by post. The registration deadline is 31 March 2004.

We will also gladly answer any other questions you may have: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26
PO Box, CH 3000 Berne 16
Tel: +41 (0)31 356 61 16
Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01
e-mail: sjas@aso.ch

Please note: There are still a few vacancies for the winter camp in Charmey (21.2.04 to 28.2.04)! Register now!