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Fun tips - Monte San Giorgio region



Monte San Giorgio - panoramic views from the top towards the North, with Morcote in the centre and Melide (Swissminiatur) to the centre left
Source: www.WNHS-eXperience.org, photo by Luigi Tura

Tip No. 1 Fossil Museum of Monte San Giorgio

Remodelled and expanded by the Ticinese architect Mario Botta, the Fossil Museum in Meride exhibits a selection of fossilised animals and plants from the unique UNESCO World Heritage Site of Monte San Giorgio.

The 2.5-meter long reconstruction of the saurian Ticinosuchus welcomes visitors to the fossil museum in the center of the village of Meride. Spread over four floors, it exhibits a large variety of animals that lived 245 to 180 million years ago in the former sea and on the coast of southern Ticino. Illustrations and models explain to the public the long extinct world whose fossils have been excavated, prepared and scientifically described by Swiss and Italian experts from 1850.

www.ticino.ch/en/commons/details/Fossil-Museum-of-the-Monte-San-Giorgio/2778.html

Tip No. 2 Swissminiatur

SWITZERLAND IN MINIATURE!

If you want to have an overview of Switzerland and spend a nice time in a wonderful region, do not miss Swissminiatur, an exciting place and a must see attraction for everyone visiting Switzerland. Swissminiatur was inaugurated on 6th June 1959 and celebrated its 50 year anniversary in 2009. It is an open-air miniature park located in Melide on the shore of Lake Lugano, in the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. The park is surrounded by mountains like Monte Generoso, Monte San Salvatore and Monte San Giorgio, which has been declared an UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

www.swissminiatur.ch



Picturesque Meride on Monte San Giorgio, a Swiss Heritage site of national importance

Chuderwälsch (Swiss Dialect)

- ◇ iifalsriich – full of ideas, inventive
- ◇ iiblase – to whisper, to understand
- ◇ iidunkle – to get dark
- ◇ innäkeihä – to be tricked, to fall into
- ◇ iischmierä – to cream, grease
- ◇ jä so – I see !
- ◇ juflä – to hurry
- ◇ Jumpfärä – unmarried woman, virgin
- ◇ Juuchzer – cry of joy
- ◇ es Kamuff – an idiot

Tip No. 3 Enjoy a sunny spring day on Mount Tamaro

There is something for young and old! "Monte Tamaro" is located in the Lugano-Bellinzona-Locarno triangle. From Rivera, which is easily accessible by car and public transport, a convenient cableway whisks you up to Alpe Foppa at 1,530 metres above sea level. With its big restaurant and the Church of S. Maria degli Angeli (designed by architect Mario Botta), Alpe Foppa is also the starting point for walks with panoramic views, as well as being home to an innovative play park for kids, Alpine coaster bobs, flying fox and a new track for downhill fans.

The Adventure Park meeting point with snack bar and the bike park are situated at the cableway's middle station.

www.montetamaro.ch

By Alexandra Beskid-Jung