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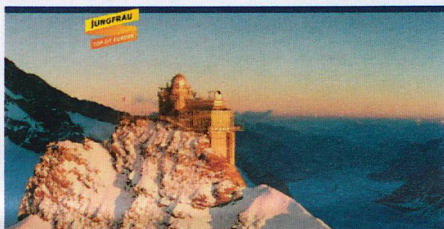
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Did You Know?



1. In Bern, there is a centuries old statue of an ogre eating babies out of a sack. Not even the tour guides are sure why it is there.

2. The highest railway station in Europe is in Switzerland. On top of the Jungfrau-joch at 3454 meters. Although it is quite costly and takes two and a half hours each way the panoramic views from the "Top of Europe" are truly spectacular.



3. Switzerland has nearly five thousand cable cars, inclines and ski lifts. After hauling skiers to the top of the numerous slopes, many of Switzerland's lifts remain open in the summer season for hikers to enjoy the mountains.

4. There are more banks than dentists. But these days, it appears that there are more Starbucks coffee shops than banks...

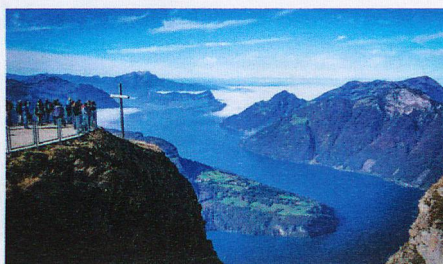
5. Bank tellers are protected by bullet proof glass. This is the case even though Switzerland has an impressively low crime rate.



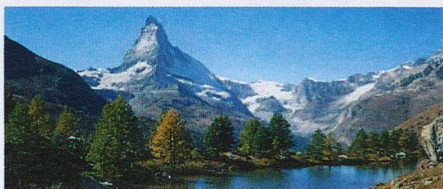
6. Europe's oldest Wooden house is in Schwyz. Bethlehem House in Schwyz, central Switzerland was built in 1287 and was occupied till the 1980s. It is a museum now and is claimed to be oldest surviving wooden house in Switzerland/Europe.

7. Teaching is a highly paid occupation (in fact, most occupations in Switzerland are). Elementary school teachers earn an average of CHF 60,030 each year. On top, they get 12 weeks of annual vacation time. On the low end, a supermarket cashier can expect to take home CHF 48,000 annually.

8. Switzerland has over 60,000 km of signposted hiking trails. A walking holiday in Switzerland offers some of the most easily accessible, spectacular mountain scenery in the world. Even in winter they work hard at keeping walking trails open in many of the resorts.



9. Mountains cover a whopping sixty percent of Switzerland's land area. It is reckoned that if the country was flattened out like a pancake, its total area would be twelve and a half percent larger!



10. Switzerland has more high peaks than any other country in Europe. Forty eight of the mountains in Switzerland are above four thousand meters.

11. One in three Swiss people are on Facebook. Switzerland is the fifth best networked country in the world. That is pretty impressive considering all those mountains.

12. Half of Swiss people belong to a hobby club or a non profit organization. One third of those are sports club and the rest covers everything from live ac-



tion role play to disc dogging. (google it!!..and there the Frisbee throwers and the dogs are enjoying disc dogging!!!)



13. Outgoing mail cannot be left in the mailbox. Parcels and letters have to be dropped off at the post office or in a yellow postal box. The Swiss Post logo on a yellow background is a recognisable image for any resident. Swiss Post has been around since the federal postal service was unified in 1849 and today is responsible not only for mail services but also for a national finance group PostFinance, the PostBus transport network, and the wide range of services offered at post office counters.

14 . A weird thing happens where the Arve river meets the Rhone at the top of Lake Geneva. You need to see the picture to believe it. The Rhone is one of the major rivers of Europe, rising in Switzerland and running from there through southeastern France. the confluence of the Rhone and Arve rivers is in Geneva, Switzerland. The river on the left is the Rhone, which is just exiting Lake Geneva. The river on the right is the Arve, which receives water from the many glaciers of the Chamonix valley (mainly the Mer de Glace) before flowing north-west into the Rhone on the west side of Geneva, where its much higher level of silt brings forth a striking contrast between the two rivers.

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