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Enclaves

Two international enclaves in Switzerland and one exclave???

By any standard, Switzerland belongs to the world's smaller countries. And yet the country's German and Italian neighbours have a stake in some of its land. The towns of Campione d'Italia and Büsingen are the equivalent of a foreign embassy – a property within another country's borders. It is all a socio-economic-political mishmash.



Büdingen am Hochrhein

("Büdingen on the High Rhine"), commonly known as Büdingen, is a German town (7.62 km² or 2.94 sq mi) entirely surrounded by the Swiss canton of Schaffhausen and, south across the High Rhine, by the Swiss cantons of Zürich and Thurgau. It has a population of about 1,450 inhabitants.

Long under Austrian control, the town became part of the German kingdom of Württemberg under the 1805 Peace of Pressburg agreement during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1918 after the First World War, a referendum was held in Büdingen in which 96% of voters chose to become part of Switzerland. However, it never happened as Switzerland could not offer anything suitable in exchange, and

consequently Büdingen has remained an exclave of Germany ever since. Later attempts were rejected by Switzerland. The exclave of Büdingen was formally defined in 1967 through negotiations between West Germany and Switzerland. At the same time, the West German exclave of Verenaahof, consisting of just three houses and fewer than a dozen people, became part of Switzerland. Since the early 19th century, the town has been separated from the rest of Germany by a narrow strip of land (at its narrowest, about 700 m wide) containing the Swiss village of Dörfingen.

Administratively, Büdingen is part of Germany, forming part of the district of Konstanz, in the Bundesland of Baden-Württemberg, but economically, it forms part of the Swiss customs area, as do the independent principality of Liechtenstein and the Italian town of Campione d'Italia. There are no border controls between Switzerland and Büdingen or the rest of Germany since Switzerland joined the Schengen Area in 2008/09.

Büdingen is highly regarded as a holiday destination in summer by both German and Swiss visitors from around the area for its recreational areas along the Rhine. The town is also the home of the European Nazarene College, a relatively large Bible college. The citizens of these territories are generally either German or Italian. Both enclaves mainly use the Swiss franc as the common currency and each of them has two different postal codes. What a special place to live in!

Campione d'Italia

An Italian Municipality of the Province of Como in the Lombardy region, Campione d'Italia occupies an enclave within the Swiss canton of Ticino, separated from the rest of Italy by Lake Lugano and mountains.

In 2007 statistics showed that in its small area of 1,6 km² there were 2,190 inhabitants with a density of 1,368,8 ab./km²

The enclave is less than 1 km at the shortest point from the rest of Italy, but the hilly terrain requires a journey by road of over 14 km to reach the nearest Italian town, Lanzo d'Intelvi, and over 28 km to reach the city of Como.

First settlements in the area date back to the first century BC, when the Romans founded the garrison town of Campionum to protect their territories from Helvetii invasion attempts.



In 777 Totone da Campione left the territory to Milan and to the Monastery of Saint Ambrogio. This act split Campione from the Lecco territory, and created a special dealing of Campione with Milan. In fact, when Ticino chose to become part of the Swiss Confederation in 1798, Campione's people chose to remain part of Lombardy, which subsequently became part of Italy in 1859.

After the II Independent War and the setup of the Kingdom of Italy, the Swiss and the Italian Governments revised the border that was already established with many difficulties with the Treaty of Varese (1752). The new Convention of 5 October 1861 provided the transfer to Switzerland of the Coast of Saint Martin, on the other river of the lake.

In 1933, the Italian Government modified the name of the Municipality in "Campione d'Italia".

Specialities

Campione has a considerable amount of economic and administrative integration with Switzerland. Because of its particular status, legal tender in the town is the Swiss Franc and the euro is widely accepted.

Currently, car plates are not Italian, but Swiss; similarly, the telephone system is almost entirely operated by Swisscom, meaning that calls from Italy and all other countries outside Switzerland



Coat of Arms of Campione d'Italia

The coat of arms, a shield tripartite encloses and summarizes the history and the spirit of the village. There are represented the pastoral, symbol of civil and religious power exercised for centuries by the abbots of St. Ambrose of Milan; the whip, remembering the victory of Ambrose over the Arian heretics, and the snail, blatant reminder of the customary migration of workers from Campione who brought with them tools and knowledge, affection and nostalgia. And as the Maestri Campionesi snails have left a trail which is measured on the scale of the monuments and works of art in the major centers of their time. www.tianello.eu

(with very few exceptions such as calling the city hall) require the international dialling code for Switzerland (+41) and the Ticino area code (91).

Mail may be sent using either a Swiss postal code or an Italian one using Switzerland or Italy as destination country respectively.

Pursuant to bilateral agreements, Italians residing in Campione also benefit from many services and facilities located in Swiss territory, such as hospital care, that would otherwise be available only to Swiss residents. Like the Italian town of Livigno, it is exempt from the EU VAT. Campione takes advantage of its status by operating a famous casino, the Casinò di Campione. Campione d'Italia is naturally oriented to cross border co-operation.

Juridical, social, administrative issues are solved step by step with the administrations of the two Countries, according to the economic, social, environmental progresses.



Verenahof

(also known as Büttenhardter Hof or Verena hofe) was a German exclave in Switzerland, administratively part of the German town of Wiechs am Randen (de) (which is now part of the town of Tengen). Geographically, it was separated from Wiechs am Randen by a 200–300 metre wide strip of Swiss territory.

In 1522, Emperor Charles V and his brother, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria purchased Verenahof along with other territories in the vicinity (Tengen, Kommingen, Wiechs am Randen) from Count Christoph von Nellenburg (de), who expressly wished not to sell these

possessions to the Swiss Canton of Schaffhausen.

In the 17th and 18th centuries there were repeated disputes between Tengen and the adjacent Schaffhausen over the access roads and the exact delimitation of the enclave. Residents of Verenahof were Catholic at that time whereas the inhabitants of Büttenhardt were Protestant. On Catholic holidays Verenahof denied the inhabitants of Büttenhardt rights of transit. In 1806, the Grand Duchy of Baden inherited sovereign rights over Verenahof, which became an enclave within the canton of Schaffhausen. In 1815 and 1839 Swiss attempts to obtain Verenahof were unsuccessful. In 1829 a schoolhouse was built in Wiechs am Randen where the children from the Verenahof enclave could attend school. By 1855 inhabitants of Verenahof were also Protestant as were their Büttenhardter neighbors; they had become a small Protestant minority within the otherwise completely Catholic community of Wiechs am Randen.

In the 1920s, there were several attempts to integrate Verenahof into Switzerland but the Baden Ministry of the Interior repeatedly rejected these. In the 1930s, the border markers around the exclave were updated. On 30 April 1945, four German officers sought refuge within the enclave. The Swiss police, however, expelled them.

By 1964 a treaty was concluded between Germany and Switzerland, which entered into force on 4 October 1967. The 43-hectare territory, containing three houses and fewer than a dozen people, became part of Switzerland with the transfer of 529,912 square metres (5,703,930 sq ft) of West German land parcels (that had administratively been part of the German towns of Konstanz, Öhningen, Rielasingen, Wiechs am Randen, Altenburg, Stühlingen, Weizen and Grimmelschhofen) in exchange for the transfer to West Germany of an equal area of Swiss land parcels (which had administratively been part of the Swiss towns of Kreuzlingen, Hemishofen, Büttenhardt, Opfertshofen, and Merishausen). Verenahof now belongs to the Swiss municipality of Büttenhardt.

At the Wiechs am Randen town hall there are some remaining border markers that had become obsolete with the land swap in 1967; and in Büttenhardt, at the old school house, some old border markers from the 1930s have been used to frame bushes planted around the enclave.