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ST. GALL

by

A. MOSER

Did you know the highest city of its size in Europe is called "the city in a park"? The city of St. Gall, Switzerland, with its 72,000 inhabitants, all of 2,200 feet up in the foothills, just north of the Alps, is a good place to spend some leave time. Here's the why and wherefore:

It's only an hour's train ride from Zurich and a five hours' train ride from Munich to St. Gall, or eight hours from Stuttgart via Ulm, Friedrichshafen and by boat across Lake Constance to Romanshorn, Switzerland. And there, up over the hill in a pretty valley, between the Alps and the Lake you will find St. Gall.

It's a modern business centre, home of the world famous Swiss embroidery industry. So, before you make the rounds with the "missus" shopping for scarves, hankies and doilies, you will want to stroll over to St. Gall's Fashion School — the Museum of Trade and Industry — to see the very latest creations in fluffy organdy and embroidered dresses, laces, and silk prints. But St. Gall is more than just a business and industrial centre. Located in the midst of the marvellous scenery of the "Appenzellerland", St. Gall is a tourist's paradise. Switzerland's prettiest costumes are worn there by some of her prettiest daughters. And Sunday afternoon brings you a chance to hear genuine Swiss yodeling and typical old-time Appenzell fiddlers in many a quaint country inn.

And speaking of inns calls to mind St. Gall's culinary specialities, the famous "Bratwürste" — a kind of fried sausage, and St. Gall's fancy pastry, served in attractive tea rooms and restaurants.

After a plateful or two you will probably feel in the mood for some outdoor exercise. How about a little golf on St. Gall's nine-hole course, one of the most scenic in Switzerland, just twenty minutes from town? Or a game of tennis? — some horseback riding — soccer — or a swim in one of the three outdoor pools? If the weather is cool or windy, you can get your dip in St. Gall's large, heated indoor pool — the "Volksbad".

While visiting St. Gall you will see the cathedral as a matter of course. It's Switzerland's best example of Baroque architecture with rich interior decorations that will fascinate you. And right next door to the cathedral is another sight you can't afford to miss — the Abbey Library. Did you ever see a manuscript dating back to the year 600? Well, St. Gall's Abbey Library, once the library of a medieval Benedictine Abbey, is where you can see a manuscript that old — 1,355 years! And, of course, many later ones — marvels of lettering and illumination on ancient parchment — products of St. Gall's once world famous Abbey School. And they say that the Baroque Room in this library has treasures that can only be compared to those of the Vatican in Rome.

If you have a flair for old things, you will take in St. Gall's museums. The new Museum of Ethnology, the Museum of Natural History with St. Gall's art gallery on its upper floor and the "Heimatismuseum" — or museum of local history with relics that go back to the time of the cave dwellers.

Well, that was a lot of antiquity! Now, how about a breadth of fresh air? On your way through the Old Town, you will catch enchanting glimpses of winding streets, picturesque gable roofs, and fancy bay windows, some of them standing just where they did throughout the

Middle Ages. Strolling through the City Park, you will see many European birds and brilliant-plumed exotic specimens in the St. Gall aviary.

And on the hill overlooking the city, there is the Peter and Paul Zoological Park, with deer, mountain goats, chamois, marmots, and other forms of Alpine wild life.

But maybe you are looking for a good school for your youngsters. There is plenty of choice in St. Gall: The University of Economics and Public Administration — the only one in Switzerland — a Cantonal school, secondary girls' school, and Switzerland's largest boys' private boarding school, the "Institut auf dem Rosenberg".

When evening comes, you may go to see an opera, a play or operetta at St. Gall's excellent theatre. Or if in the mood for music, you will enjoy a concert at the "Tonhalle" Concert Hall where the most famous musicians of our time may be heard.

Lighter entertainment is always available at the seven movie theatres, or the Trischli Variété-Dancing where top-flight artists provide attractive floor shows.

When you visit St. Gall, you will find a variety of excellently managed hotels, for every taste and pocket-book. Whether you have a week or a week-end to spend in Switzerland, you will find that St. Gall offers you scenic attractions, fine hotels, and shops that provide the best in clothing, shoes, and goods. In fact, to give you the whole story in a nutshell, there is just one thing more to say: You will like St. Gall.

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