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SUGGESTIONS FOR RAMBLERS

THE VALLEE DE JOUX – A REMOTE VALLEY IN THE SWISS JURA

The Vallée de Joux is one of the most remote valleys in the Swiss Jura. Its climate is all the same very healthy owing to its favourable height (3,000 ft.) and its huge fir forests. You can arrive there from Geneva by driving over the Col du Marchairuz and from Lausanne by driving over the Col du Mollandruz.

This region offers much variety to the tourist. There are hiking paths leading to the Monte Tendre, to the Dent du Vaulio and other mountains in the area or along the lake. Climbing to one of the highest points of the Jura – from the Col the Marchairuz past the high altitude resort of St. Cergue to the peak of La Dole (4,824 ft.) and down to Crassier – makes a worthwhile mountain excursion. The three lakes: Lac de Joux, Lac des Brenets and Lac de Ter are ideal for such summer sports as swimming, water skiing and fishing. Near to the village of l'Abbaye, with its impressive church-tower formerly attached to a cloister, is the entrance to the "Chaudières de l'Enfer" (Hell's Cauldrons). Le Brassus is a watchmaking and light mechanics centre. Campers will no doubt enjoy the well-equipped camping site of "Le Rocheray" on the Lac de Joux. The church of the former Cluny cloister at Romainmotier well deserves a visit – it is one of the purest buildings in Romanesque style. You can also visit the nearby castle. The local culinary specialities must not be left untasted: Vacherin (soft

cheese) and fish: Trout, pike and perch.

SWISS ZOOS AND WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES

Switzerland's oldest and best known zoo is of course at Basle. There is a smaller zoo in Zurich. Besides these, it is possible to watch animals in captivity or semi-freedom in several other zoos, such as those of Frauenfeld or Wald (Appenzell). The zoo at Romanshorn (northeastern Switzerland) is specialised in beasts of prey. It possesses Europe's biggest Siberian tiger. All sorts of animals can be seen at Gossau, varying from the grizzly bear to the porcupine. Rapperswil (Lake Zurich) is well known for its children's zoo and its four trained dolphins, which are its star attraction. Le Vaud (near to Nyon) has 250 animals including the most important birds of prey in Europe. Switzerland has several wild life sanctuaries, the most famous of which is the National Park in the Lower Engadine. Other wild parks worth a visit are the "Dählhölzli" in Berne, the national park of "Combe-Grède" above the lake of Biel, the wild life Sanctuary of "La Pierreuse" near Château d'Oex with its wild goats. The largest wild park is the one at Gotenbach, near Langnau am Albis. The wild park of Piz Lagalp near Pontresina is the highest of its kind.

HIKES IN THE WALENSEE AREA

For those who wish to escape the rush of tourists, the Walensee area offers

plenty of lonely and beautiful excursions. Because of its mild climate, the village of Weesen, on the western shores of the Walensee, an ideal excursion centre, is sometimes referred to as the "Riviera of Switzerland". The romantic walk along the lake on the cliff road to Murg starts at the point where the Linth canal flows into the Walensee. Taking the path along the northern side, you go through a rock gallery and past waterfalls to Quinten. Figs and grapes grow there and you can taste red Quintener wine in the two inns of the village. Regular boat services operate from Quinten, which is otherwise closed to all traffic, with Walenstadt and Wesen, as well as with Murg and Untererzen. You can reach the tiny village of Betlis by car following the small "Axenstrasse". For those not inclined to rambling performance, an hour's pleasant walk will lead them to the Seerenbach gorge. The mountain path demands a slightly greater effort as it leads past rocky hillsides and cliffs. Amden, on a sunny terrace above the Walensee, is the resort of the area. In winter, it boasts four ski-lifts with T-bars, one chairlift, an ice-rink, an indoor swimming pool and a new cross-country skiing "loipe". The region is also well-known for its spring-time ski tours to the Churfisten region. In summer, a three-hour climb to the top of Speer Mountain (5,853 ft.) is very rewarding. Filzbach lies at the highest point on the Kerenzerberg mountainside. You can discover many hiking paths by going up to the Habergschwend by chairlift. The lakes of Talap and Spannegg are ideal for swimming in summer but tourists can also use the indoor pool in the new sports centre.

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