

Tourist news

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1975)**

Heft 1709

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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TOURIST NEWS

ON FOOT IN THE SWISS NATIONAL PARK

During the summer months, daily guided tours through the Swiss National Park are offered. They start in Zernez and give the visitor an introduction to the area's rich flora and fauna.

On Mondays, there is a half-day tour to Val dal Botsch, on Tuesday a full-day tour to the Val Trupchun. On Wednesday a one-day Alpine excursion leads to the oldest part of the park; the less ambitious may prefer the half-day tour of the village.

The Thursday excursion to Munt La Schera is designed principally for the botanically inclined.

An Alpine tour on Fridays leads up to Munt Baselgia, the most scenic spot in the Lower Engadin, and beyond past glacier lakes. A tour to Piz Quattervals (3,154 m) fills the weekend.

SEEING SWITZERLAND'S CULTURAL RICHES

Various hotels and tourist offices have acknowledged European Architectural Heritage Year by offering all-inclusive holidays combined with cultural sightseeing visits this year.

Brunnen, for instance, is including a "Glimpse of Central Swiss history and art" on its programme. Brig offers trips to discover the charm of Valaisan Baroque while Bettmeralp and Riederalp are arranging for local lore and art history walking and excursion weeks.

In the Jura the "Circuit des château" promises new discoveries, while a weekend at Bönigen on the Lake of Brienz will provide the opportunity of seeing the renovated wooden houses in the old section of the village.

Medieval and modern can be contrasted for four days through visits to the towns of Biel, Büren an der Aare, Ligerz, Erlach, Le Landeron and, on the three-lakes trip, Murten.

Neuchâtel offers many attractive features for visitors touring the city and visiting its museums, with a side-trip to the recently-opened Watch Museum at La Chaux-de-Fonds.

In North-East Switzerland Nesslau is organising holidays with excursions to castles, churches and museums in the Toggenburg region, while St Gall gives visitors vouchers to discover the city's cultural aspects all the year round.

An "Art and culture in Winterthur" weekend gives an idea of the city's cultural riches.

A well-known institution for several years has been the "Chur Pass", available for seven days or even for just a weekend with museums and town visits and reduced prices for sports facilities.

Lastly, Zuoz offers "Nature and culture in the Engadine" with botanical excursions, wildlife observation in the National Park and visits to Tarasp Castle, and the old water-mill at Ftan. Information is available from the various tourist offices and in the list of holiday suggestions published in connection with Architectural Heritage Year by the Swiss National Tourist Office, London.

PLODDING THROUGH THE JURA AT 4 mph

Last year's try-out of the ACS (Swiss Automobile Club) idea "travel through the Jura in a gypsy caravan" was a big success. There were so many applications that it was decided to offer two alternative routes this year: the romantic Ajoie district and the Franches Montagnes region.

A one-week "one horse-power trip at 4 mph" costs Sfr 695 for each of the first two people and Sfr 195 for the third and fourth. These trips will be run weekly until 24 October.

SHANKS'S MARE HOLIDAYS IN THE TICINO

Holidays for footsloggers are being featured in the Mendrisiotto and Basso Ceresio districts of Canton Ticino. They involve four hours' walking each day, and at the end of each stint the weary wanderer finds his luggage awaiting him. The tours lead through countryside nestling between Monte Generoso and Monte San Giorgio behind the Lake of Lugano - from 21-27 September and 5-11 October accommodation in double rooms and full board (lunch in a cosy Grotto) are included at a price of 380 francs.

MADRISA ROUND TOUR - A NEW INTERNATIONAL HIGH-ALTITUDE FOOTPATH

You need a passport in your rucksack to make the Madrisa round tour, the international footpath (passable from July until October) opened last autumn.

Over a three-day period it takes ramblers (used to mountain conditions) from the Saas Alp above Klosters, over the Rättschenjoch to St Antönien and then on to Gargellen in the Vorarlberg region of Austria over the Schlappinerjoch and back to the starting point. The all-inclusive arrangement costs Sfr 95 for adults and Sfr 65 for children under 12.

SWITZERLAND - THE HOBBY SCENE

"Switzerland - The Hobby Scene" is the title of a folder published by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

It contains six booklets describing made-to-measure holidays and listing the many hobby activities that can be enjoyed this summer, with detailed information on dates of hobby courses, venue and prices.

Already a great number of Swiss holiday resorts specialise in hobby activities for visitors. In North-Eastern Switzerland, for instance, courses for alphorn blowing are held at Appenzell and for rustic painting at Wildhaus. At Wildhaus also, a local craftswoman gives instruction in hand-weaving, and a young artist teaches clay modelling.

Brienz and Engelberg offer possibilities for wood-carving. Painting and drawing can be enjoyed at Lenk, Lugano and Mürren, whereas photography and filming are taught at Lugano and Mürren.

Numerous resorts organise "Hobby Weeks" in tennis, golf, summer ski-ing, riding, sailing and touring.

Throughout Switzerland, many Language Courses are organised for visitors from abroad, and holiday camps, with instruction in sports and languages, are arranged. Detailed information is listed in the booklet, which is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office in London.

SURFACE 75

The Fourth International Surface Treatment Exhibition, Surface 75, which will be taking place in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair, Basle, from 30 September to 4 October 1975 stands under the banner of corrosion prevention.

This aspect endows Surface 75 with particular topical interest and makes it up to date. For in surface technology the following equation can be formulated: surface treatment = saving of raw materials and longer service life for the equipment.

This is true for all fields in this sector. For this reason, interest in Surface 75 - on the part of the visitors and the exhibitors - can be expected to be particularly keen, also because international technical meetings with the subjects "Anorganic metal coatings" and "Organic coatings" are taking place from 30 September to 2 October 1975 as accompanying events to this trade fair.

In addition, two important professional associations from this branch of industry are celebrating their 20th anniversaries at the same time as Surface 75: the Swiss Electroplating Society and the European Federation of Corrosion.

WORLD MODEL AIRCRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Championships for Radio-controlled Model Aircraft are being staged at the Berne-Belpmoos Airport from 9 to 13 September. The first two days will be reserved for practice and the four championship flights have to take place between the Wednesday and the Saturday.

Sunday, 14 September, will be the big day for the general public – visitors will be able to see an exhibition of model aircraft covering radio-controlled and free-flight machines, models with moorings and scale models of big aircraft.

There will also be a demonstration of model helicopters and flying "curiosities".

Switzerland currently has some 3,000 aircraft enthusiasts belonging to more than 100 groups affiliated to the Swiss Aero Club.

DRIVING SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Another driving school with a difference has been opened in Berne. Following the introduction of electrically-operated, pollution-free vehicles at the Allmend school, a new area for learner drivers is now being run at Stöckackerstrasse, opposite the Weyermannshaus sports ground.

The school has been launched by 27 Bernese instructors in co-operation with the Swiss Post Office's vehicle department.

At a time when increasing doubt is being expressed about the system of teaching beginners on busy public roads, the Stöckackerstrasse area – like the Allmend school – is a paradise for learner drivers.

Isolated from every-day traffic, the almost 10,000-square-yard practice ground offers a choice of routes, manoeuvre areas and special facilities. For example, there's a ramp with a 1-in-16 incline where the beginner can perfect hill starts. After a short introductory session, the learner driver is alone at the steering wheel, sometimes as early as the second lesson.

Ultra-modern equipment has been installed to ensure that contact is maintained with the instructor who, at the same time, can supervise three pupils at once.

Another attraction is the price – the fee per lesson is Sfr 5 less than beginners would usually have to pay if learning on conventional (and congested) roads.

RIDING THE SWISS POSTAL COACHES

The yellow coaches of the Swiss postal system's passenger service carry over 50 million travellers a year!

Many are on their way to work, to school, to shop – but many ride the coach routes just for rest and relaxation.

This summer, a special schedule of excursions, originating in the federal

capital and exploring the surrounding countryside, has been arranged.

Vacationers may choose from a wide variety of destinations, among them the medieval market towns of Büren on the Aare and Aarberg, the farming village of Meikirch, the Schwarzsee (where passengers can take a boat ride on the lake), the Gurnigel-Gantrisch region, to the Abegg-Foundation in Riggisberg, which houses a collection of Iranian, Byzantine and medieval artifacts. A new pass for five richly varied tours in the immediate vicinity of Berne is now being issued. (Full price: Sfr 19; reduced price of Sfr 14 for children and holders of reduced-rate tickets.)

Tour packages include the Weissenstein Pass and ascents up the Stockhorn. In North-Eastern Switzerland, the local postal coach system, based in Frauenfeld, is advertising a wide choice of excursions to such places as Steckborn, or Diessenhofen (an ideal spot for hiking), or the Lake of Hüttenwil for swimming.

More extended tours include rides to Klewenalp on Lake Lucerne, Alp Malun in Liechtenstein, Trogen and the Pestalozzi Children's Village, or a trip around Lake Constance.

A reduced-rate ticket costing only Sfr 20 entitles the holder to a 20 per cent reduction on all one-way trips by postal coach. It is valid for one year and may be used by several passengers at once.

LARGE CAPACITY CABLE CAR TO RIEDERALP

In the Valais, a new large cable car facility has started operations. Passengers may now reach the sunny plateau of Riederalp (1930 m), where cars are banned, in a mere seven minutes.

In the Aletsch area, hiking is a favourite pastime, and according to one's preferences and capacities, one can join a guided hiking tour, traverse glaciers, scale the peaks or simply take leisurely promenades through the villages and environs. Weekly packages are available from Sfr 316.

FRIBOURG: PHOTOGRAPHY TRIENNALE "TIP 75"

Until 12 October, the International Photography Triennale "TIP 75" will be showing, in the old part of Fribourg, a large collection of shots of famous artists.

The festival programme includes among other things a series of concerts of classical music, a collaborative effort of the Théâtre Plume with optical illusions in the park of the University, and a special exhibit with 70 photographs by past-master Henri Cartier-Bresson.

During the Triennale, hotels in Fribourg are offering package arrangements for three to seven days including room and breakfast, a tour of the city, and admission to the exhibition. In the five and seven day packages, a fondue party and excursions to Gruyères, Moléson, and the Lake of Morat are included.

Europeanising titles and diplomas

The highly praised and equally highly calumniated (depending on the point of view) European federalism and pluralism bloom and flourish in education, and particularly in the field of professional training, as in hardly any other domain. The specialized field of surface treatment is no exception. It is difficult to gain a clear picture of the training possibilities in the individual countries and to assess them in their coherence.

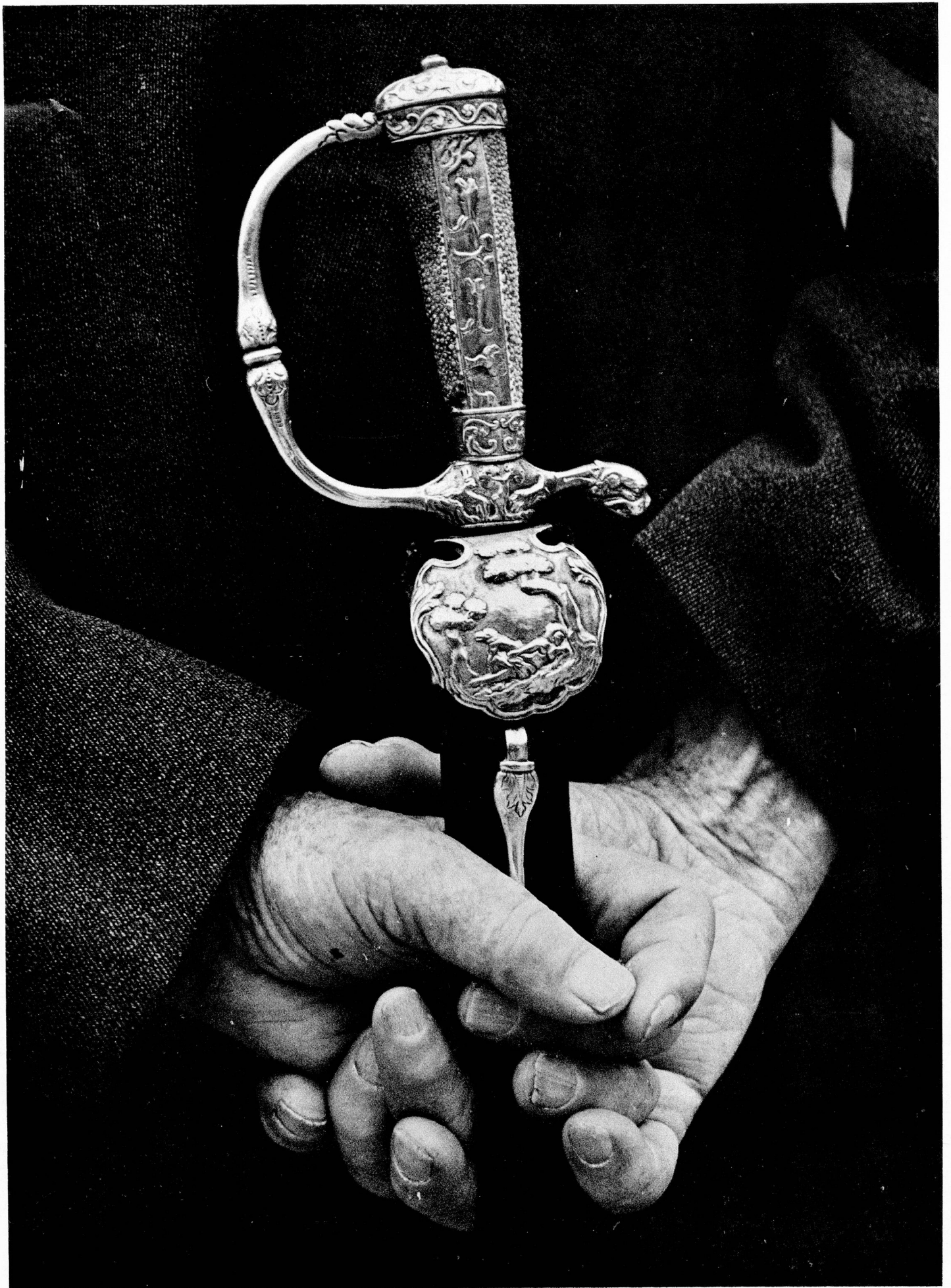
The organisers of the International Exhibition for Surface Treatment, Surface, in Basle, have therefore set themselves the task of enlightening and elucidating the visitors by means of detailed and extensive comparisons of European professional schools at this year's 4th event, from 30th September to 4th October, 1975.

According to the exhibition doctrine as strongly and successfully advocated by the Managing Director Dr. Frédéric P. Walther since he took over the management of the Swiss Industries Fair four years ago, trade fairs and exhibitions should not limit themselves to topical market information by means of the confrontation of supply and demand, but should in addition try to give more extensive economical and professional information of a general and specific nature.

Information and discussion are to be set in motion in two ways at Surface 75:

Firstly, as far as their addresses could be found, the professional schools that could be considered eligible in various countries have been invited to present their study plans, specific fields of work, requirements for admission to courses and the professional, advancement and further training possibilities offered, by means of charts and working examples, etc. within the framework of the "Galvanorama" special display.

The organisers have, however, not staked everything on this single card. For, within the framework of the international Surface technical meetings, organized by the Swiss Electroplating Society and the Swiss Union of Lacquer and Paint Chemists on "anorganic metal coatings and organic coatings", a whole afternoon from 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st October, will be devoted to a round table discussion on the "Promotion of education within and recruitment into the electroplating industry".



The sword is still a symbol of a citizen's right to vote in Appenzell. How many of our readers have got one?