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TOURIST NEWS

SWISS NATIONAL DAY IN BERNE

Another attractive programme has been arranged in Berne for the annual 1st August celebrations marking Swiss Independence Day. With 1st August this year falling on a Sunday, crowds will begin to gather in the city centre during the afternoon. At 20.15 the traditional lantern procession by local children will begin from the bearpits, continuing along Gerechtigkeitsgasse and finishing at the Town Hall Square (Rathausplatz). Official ceremonies will begin at the Münsterplatz (Cathedral Square) at 20.00. There will then be wining and dining until the early hours of the morning, and open-air dancing on Bärenplatz and Waisenhausplatz in the heart of the city.

Lucerne International Music '76

The general programme for the 1976 International Festival of Music has now been published and *advance bookings* can be accepted in writing for all events from 18th August to 9th September 1976.

The festival this year will be specially dedicated to the theme of Iberia, with the centenaries of the birth of Manuel de Falla and Pablo Casals forming the basis for the structure of the 39 events. The twelve symphony concerts will be given by the Swiss Festival Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Munich, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra. Choirs to be heard will include the Lucerne Festival Choir, the choirs of the West German, North German and Bavarian Radio, the Toelz Boys' Choir and the Cologne Children's Choir.

The Lucerne Festival Strings will present two jubilee chamber concerts and, for the first time, play as an opera orchestra. The Zürich Collegium Musicum is to perform the Serenades at the Lion Monument. "Musica nova" will feature interpretations by the Lucerne Vocal Soloists, a chamber ensemble, the "Mobile" Wind Quintet and the Berne String Quartet, of works by prize-winning entries in the composition contest organised by ten Swiss towns. The contrasting programme "Musica antiqua" brings the Ioculatores Upsalienses to Lucerne from Sweden. Three matinées (one for 80-year-old Wladimir Vogel), two lieder evenings, two piano evenings, one quartet evening, an evening with "Young Artists", an organ soirée and a nocturne will complete the programme. Concert performances of the dramatic cantata "Atlantida" by de Falla discovered after his death and the "War Requiem" by Benjamin Britten form the contents of the two major choral works.

SUNKEN TREASURE ON SHOW IN BERNE

More than 14,000 people last year visited the Berne-based Abegg Foundation's museum of early applied art at nearby Riggisberg. Even more are

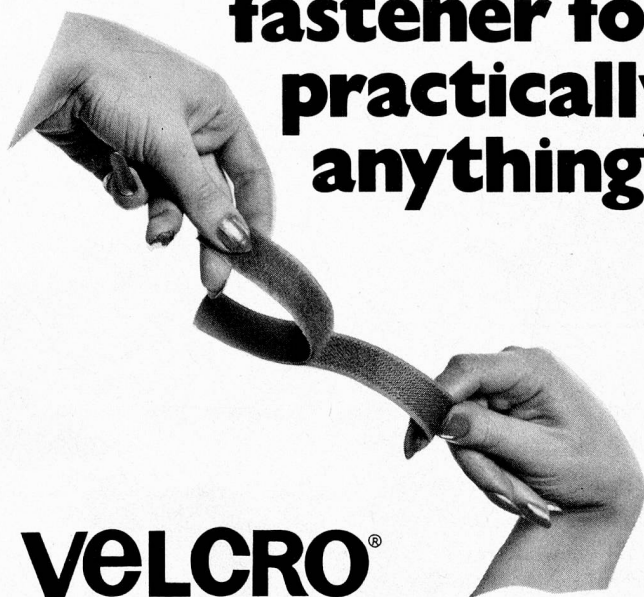
expected this summer and the foundation has added some valuable new exhibits to its unique collection. They include an exceptionally well preserved Egyptian woollen tapestry from the fifth or sixth century, showing a girl playing a cithara; a pair of marble vases from the Cyclades, made about 3,000 years before Christ; a sixteenth-century Florentine sculpture in wood of a stalking lion; and a sixteenth- or seventeenth-century container made from rock crystal in either Germany or Italy.

In addition to these new permanent exhibits, the museum is this year staging a special exhibition devoted to textile preservation — for which the Abegg Foundation has earned an international reputation. Highlight of this exhibition are several items from a cargo ship which sank in 1600 off the Dalmation coast and salvaged only eight years ago by Yugoslav divers. The exhibits (specially treated and preserved by the Abegg Foundation at the request of the Yugoslav National Museum in Zadar) include a bale containing some 170 feet of silk damask, linen shirts and woollen headwear. The preservation methods used are also shown in the exhibition. The Abegg Foundation museum at Riggisberg will remain open until 17th October.

INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE MEETING IN LUCERNE

The Jubilee Festival of the Swiss National Costume Association, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will be held from 10th to 13th September, 1976. This festival is to be held in conjunction with an international folklore meeting taking place for the first time in Lucerne.

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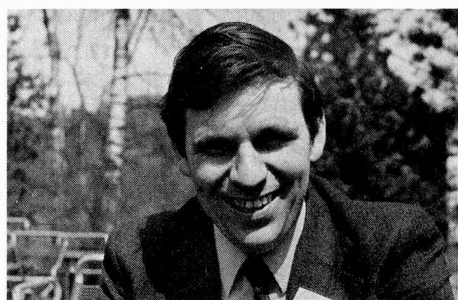
The jackpot soon?

British airline Dan-Air flew a record 3,789 passengers on its London (Gatwick)-Berne route during the first four months of this year – a 59 per cent increase over the January-April period of 1975.

Dan-Air Marketing and Development Manager Brian Brett said the airline was confident of achieving its target of a record 15,000 passengers on the route this year.

Passenger total on the route last year was 12,159, compared with 4,196 in 1974.

Dan-Air is the only carrier operating a regular service between Britain and the Swiss capital.



Brian Brett of Dan-Air who is confident of more records to come on the London Gatwick-Berne route.

SWISS LAKE AND MOUNTAIN HOLIDAY

A leading Swiss hotel has announced an attractive offer which should prove particularly popular to lovers of lakes and mountains.

The five-star Park Hotel, situated at Vitznau on Lake Lucerne, is offering six days' accommodation and half-board plus unlimited free travel on local lake steamers and mountain railways – for an all-in price of only Sw.Fr.582 per person. The region is famous for its many forms of mountain transports, among them Europe's first mountain railway (Vitznau to Rigi Kulm), the steepest rack-and-pinion railway in the world (the one-in-two climb up the Pilatus), and the ascent to the Bürgenstock peak by lift. The offer is open from 15th September until the end of October.

SWISSAIR GOES GOURMET WITH CHIC

Swissair and the Zürich-based Chic Hotel Group are co-operating this summer in the launching of a "Gourmet Tours of Switzerland" programme.

The programme includes a one-week tour costing from Sw.Fr.995 and two two-week tours costing from Sw.Fr.1,966 and Sw.Fr.2,020 per person.

Said Mrs. Marlene Mugglin, Chic sales promotion and public relations manager: "Our gourmet programme is an entirely new concept in Switzerland.

"We plan to concentrate on the United States this summer – then next

year we'll go for the European market."

The tours include accommodation and meals in Chic hotels throughout Switzerland.

Highlights include a wine-tasting competition, a candlelight dinner, a fish festival, a cheese-tasting session and an invitation to the mansion home of a prominent Swiss cooking writer.

Participants will also be shown how to prepare many Swiss specialties themselves – and will be presented with a diploma at the end of the tour.

NEW M/S "PETERSINSEL" ON THREE-LAKES SERVICE

This summer the new motor ship *Petersinsel*, the tenth unit of the Lake of Biel fleet, will be operating on the one-day three lakes tour. Starting at Biel, the trip first takes passengers past the little wine-growing villages of Tüscherz, Twann and Ligerz. On the port side lies St. Peter's Island, where Jean-Jacques Rousseau lived for some time.

It is connected to the little medieval town of Erlach by means of a strip of land called the Heidenweg. The ship then proceeds through the six-mile long Zihl Canal to enter the Lake of Neuchâtel and reaches the Lake of Murten through the Broye Canal, a nature reserve area. A halt is made for lunch in Murten, which will be en fête all this summer for the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Murten in which the Swiss beat Charles the Bold of Burgundy. The return trip takes the same route, calling at Neuchâtel.

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Durations: 1/2/3/4 weeks (small supplements for 3 or 4 weeks)

We will shortly be announcing details of our already widely recognised comprehensive all-year round programme to Zürich for Autumn 1976 and 1977. Advance registrations for peak dates and Christmas departures are now being accepted.

Chancery Travel also operates weekly *poundsaver* departures to Corsica (every Monday £53), Athens (every Friday £59.50), Rome (every Saturday £55), Milan (every Sunday £48) and many other destinations.

Chancery Travel prides itself on offering the keenest prices, instant confirmation and the full financial security of a Government bonded tour operator.

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Some prices still stable

Six new offers have been added to the 1976 summer programme, including an "Inexpensive Switzerland" category in which tourists can select their own itinerary from 78 resorts.

WST director Mr. Yves Barraud said the new category had been introduced to enable visitors to "combine a tailor-made holiday with secure hotel reservations and getting to know Switzerland inexpensively".

Other new offers include tennis holidays in the Valais mountains, sailing on Lake Geneva, High Alpine Trail walking weeks, a Swiss Gastronomic Tour, and holidays for Lovers of the Arts.

WST is also repeating many of its most popular offers, including the one-week cycling tour round Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps Mule Safari — "the 1974 and 1975 bestseller". Riding, golfing, summer skiing and honeymoon holidays are also being repeated.

Mr. Barraud said some holidays were being offered this summer at the same price for the second or third successive year.



Welcome Swiss Tours director Yves Barraud and 19-year-old hostess Nicole Fonjallaz in folk costume, check the itineraries of this year's extended programme of special interest holidays in Switzerland.

BERNE ENJOYS BRITISH BOOM

The number of British tourists to Berne increased by nearly 21 per cent last year, according to statistics just released by the Swiss capital's official tourist office.

Berne City Tourist Office director Mr. Ernst Hegner told his annual press

conference that overnight bookings from Britain had increased during 1975 by nearly 3,000 to 17,308.

He said British overnights in the city has shown an increase in nine of the months — including a 194 per cent increase in May, a 70 per cent increase in

January and three other monthly increases of more than 32 per cent.

Mr. Hegner said the expansion of British airline Dan-Air's London-Berne link had played a major contribution in boosting British tourism to Berne.

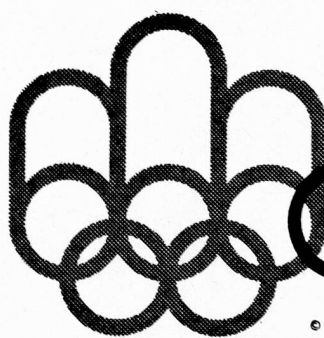
Total overnight bookings in Berne by all foreign tourists fell last year by 5.2 per cent.

SAILING, HORSE RIDING AND DRAWING IN ASCONA

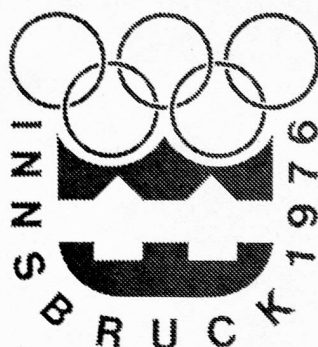
The resort of Ascona, on Lake Maggiore, has a whole range of facilities to offer this summer. An addition to the list this year are the sailing holidays on yawls and yachts. The riding courses include instruction in the riding hall, rides out of doors and barbecues. For painting and drawing students, an artist is in charge of activities in the midst of nature and in picturesque Ascona. There is a special week for tennis enthusiasts and another for holiday-makers who enjoy hikes in this countryside of palm and chestnut trees. For golfers, too, a special week is being organised. Information is available from the SNTD in London.

BRIDGE COURSE IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND

The Beatus Hotel in Switzerland's Lake Thun resort of Merligen in the Bernese Oberland is this summer organising six one-week Bridge Courses. Cost per person per week is Sw.Fr.555 (Sw.Fr.35 more for a single room) and includes full board and accommodation, the Bridge Course, use of the hotel's sauna and swimming pool, and other extras.



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Buses galore

The Europabus organisation, the motor coach system of the European railways, has launched its annual summer programme of escorted Swiss Alpine Tours — and has reduced some of its prices.

The programme includes a three-day Swiss Highlights tour costing from Sw.Fr.335 per person, a four-day Swiss Alps and Lakes tour from Sw.Fr.470, and a seven-day Grand Alpine tour from Sw.Fr.805.

ON FOOT THROUGH SWITZERLAND

Swiss holidays are often equated with walking — and rightly so, as Switzerland has 30,000 miles of clearly-marked footpaths to offer walking enthusiasts. Hiking weeks, often combined with botanical, bird-watching and geological excursions, are organised by a large number of resorts.

A new development this summer is that the Tourist Offices of S-chanf, Bad Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, Val Müstair, Zerneß and Zuoz which for years have been organising guided walks through the Swiss National Park have pooled their resources, with each organiser having its own programme with four to six different one-day and half-day hikes. Further information is contained in the brochure "Hiking Weeks", published by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

ALL-YEAR OPENING FOR LUCERNE PALACE

The Palace Hotel in Lucerne has become the second five-star hotel in that city — after the Schweizerhof — to announce all-year-round opening. The move follows completion of a five-year Sw.Fr.17 million modernisation programme, including the installation of air-conditioning, the renovation of bedrooms and the construction of simultaneous interpreting, projection and other facilities in the completely re-modernised "Ambassadeur" conference room.

LUCERNE CHURCH CONCERTS 1976

The young Lucerne musician, Olivier Eisenmann, will give concerts of sacred music in the Church of St. Paul, Lucerne. The series began on 1st June and further concerts are planned for 3rd August, 28th September, 26th October, 9th and 23rd November and 14th December, 1976. In addition to purely organ concerts with distinguished organists from Lucerne, Bienne, Basle, Bad Kreuznach, Bonn, Hamburg and Oslo, other instrumental soloists have been engaged for the Advent concert.

BERNE TO REPEAT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Berne's first International Jazz Festival — held in May this year — was so

successful that the organisers are already preparing for another festival in the city in May 1977. The programme will again feature top Swiss and international soloists and bands and, predict the organisers, should attract as large crowds as this year.

Prices include hotel accommodation and half-board. A spokesman said the prices for standard room arrangements had been reduced, and that those for superior room arrangements had been kept at the same level as last year.

More than 2,000 bookings are expected for this year's Swiss programme, which will continue until October.

Full details are contained in the Europabus Swiss brochure "Look and Book".

Departures are from Zürich or Geneva, and the four-day and seven-day tours also take in Liechtenstein, France and Italy.

MUSEUMS CLOSE TO BERNE

One of the most representative country castles in the Berne region is the eighteenth century *Jegenstorf Castle*. Built on the walls of a medieval fortress, the castle is now owned by the Jegenstorf Castle Foundation and maintained as a historical monument open to the public. The rooms contain period furniture and exhibits and also house an exhibition which is changed every year. The castle is open to mid-October from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 17.00.

The beautiful moated *Landshut Castle* near Utzenstorf houses the Swiss Museum of Hunting and Wildlife Protection. There's a permanent exhibition devoted to the most important indigenous wildlife and also a valuable collection of hunting weapons. Each year there is also a different special exhibition — the one this summer is on the fox and rabbits. Opening times are from Tuesday to Sunday to mid-October, 10.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 17.00.

In Riggisberg there's the Abegg Foundation Bern, founded a few years ago by a Swiss abroad, Werner Abegg. This is an institute which houses many works of applied art — in particular textiles — collected by the founder over a period of many years. Aim of the foundation is not only to exhibit these works but also to conduct research into the collected items and to carry out textile preservation. There is a special workshop in which regular training in textile restoration is given. Open daily to October 17, 14.00 to 17.00.

The *Oberhofen Castle* on Lake Thun offers visitors an idea of a completely furnished, high class residence over the changing years. On show here are exhibits of Bernese interior architecture from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. The Oberhofen Castle has been an affiliated museum of the Berne History Museum since 1954. It is open to mid-October, from 10.00 to 12.00 and

14.00 to 17.00 daily, excluding Monday afternoons.

FUN ON FOOT WITH THE HIKING PASS

For visitors who want to explore Switzerland on foot, the Reka hiking pass covers four worthwhile walking areas: hilly Appenzell, the 420 miles of footpaths and mountain trails in Toggenburg, through field and forest and past sedate farm-house in the Emmentaler or through the broad meadows and woodlands of the Jura.

The hiking pass covers overnight stays and breakfast in one of the many hotels and inns and use of all public transport facilities (trains, postcoaches and aerial cableways) in the district. The brochure, with maps and suggested routes, also contains ideas on what to do in bad weather such as visiting castles, museums and churches or taking the plunge in indoor swimming pools. Period of issue 1st September to 31st October. Two days (one overnight stay) cost Sw.Fr.40, four days (three overnight stays) Sw.Fr.95 and seven days (six overnight stays) Sw.Fr.170.

NATURE TRAILS IN SWISS FORESTS

Switzerland now has about 100 nature trails, most of them laid out in woods, where ramblers can widen or brush up their knowledge of botany, geology and minerals. Novelties are the geological nature trail in the Birregg Forest on the Pilatus near Lucerne and the botanical trail at Aeschi, located above the Lake of Thun. The Swiss Nature Protection League (Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz) has published a brochure describing about 70 of these trails in detail. It can be obtained from offices of the League, Postfach 73, CH-4020 Basel, and costs Sw.Fr.2.50 plus postage.

EXPO HENRY MOORE 1976 IN ZÜRICH

Until 28 August the Zürich Forum is staging a comprehensive exhibition of works by the British sculptor Henry Moore in the park area on the right bank of the Lake of Zürich. The small sculptures and graphic work will be housed in a specially-erected building and the large sculptures will be grouped on the open air. The exhibits cover work done by Moore from 1924 to 1976 and he personally takes part in arranging the exhibition.

NEW SNTO PUBLICATION

The Swiss National Tourist Office (SNTO) has just issued its four-language publication "Motels in Switzerland 1976". It is divided up into ten tourist regions and lists more than 100 motels. It is available free of charge from SNTO.