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ON NARROW CROSS-COUNTRY



Mother and child travel together across the Jura – the baby probably more comfortable than the mother. Photo by courtesy of SNTO.

THE Swiss Jura, with its rugged but dry climate, its altitude of about 3,300 ft. above sea level and its hilly terrain criss-crossed by a network of 150 miles of prepared cross-country trails and routes, is an ideal region for this type of ski-ing.

On the Franches-Montagnes high plateau the 38-mile cross-country route runs from La Ferrière to Les Bois, Le Noirmont, Saignelégier, Montfaucon, Bellelay, Les Genevez, Les Breuleux, La Chaux-d'Abel and back to La Ferrière. Particularly recommended are the stretches between Saignelégier and Les Reussilles (4½ miles) and between La Ferrière and Les Breuleux (9 miles).

The network of trails is well marked and cleared. Many places can be reached by rail. The Swiss Federal Railway's stations at Basle, Berne and Biel sell excursion tickets; day tickets for the entire region are available at weekends and on public holidays.

A cross-country ski-ing weekend is offered at Sonceboz until the end of March. The package begins with dinner on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. Cross-country skiers discover the beauties of the Jura countryside on three-hour outings. The all-inclusive price of Sw.Fr. 105 covers two overnight stays at the Motel Le Grillon, as well as full board and guide's fee.

Guided cross-country ski-ing weeks through the marvellous Franches-Montagnes district are held under the name of "Forfait équipe". Covering a distance of 12 to 15 miles, the small group reaches a different place every day, luggage being transported separately.

The "Forfait évasion" alternative is for advanced cross-country skiers and families who wish to decide on their individual length of stay, daily cross-country route and speed. Participants can have their lunch in any restaurant near the route in exchange for vouchers.



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