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TOURIST NEWS

CONVALESCENT HOMES AND SPA HOTELS IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Tourist Office (SNTO) has published a new edition of its booklet "Convalescent homes and spa hotels in Switzerland". It lists, in alphabetical order, more than 140 establishments in spa resorts and towns, with address, opening times, board rates and the type of treatment offered, dieting facilities, etc. for each one. The list can be obtained free from the SNTO.

A GYPSY'S LIFE IN THE JURA

Travelling around in a gypsy caravan is an adventurous way of getting to know the Jura, Switzerland's newest canton. One-week trips are being arranged from the end of April to the end of October this year in the Ajoie, Franches-Montagnes and Alsace-Laufenal regions. To celebrate the founding of the new canton, every senior citizen married couple booking a week with a gypsy caravan in May, June or September, will be escorted on the first day of their trip by a former cavalry soldier who will explain how to handle the horse and caravan and point out things of interest along the route. In addition, two-, three- and four-day arrangements are also planned in May and June and again from the middle of August. Leaflets and booking forms are obtainable from Pro Jura, CH-2740 Moutier or ACS-Reisen, Postfach, CH-3001 Berne. Early reservation is advised.

ALPINE DAIRY MUSEUM AT UNTERWASSER

The newly-opened private museum belonging to the Bosshard-Frischknecht family in the Dorfstrasse at Unterwasser contains a collection of unusual and rare implements. Among the most valuable heirlooms are old cream separators, cheese cauldrons, alpine dairy ware, cupboards and chests. A cheesemaker's room from the nineteenth century has also been reconstructed. The exhibits give the visitor an idea of one aspect

of life as it used to be in the Upper Toggenburg region. The Museum is open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and at other times by prior arrangement (Tel. 074/ 5 12 73).

PRESENTING LAUSANNE IN A PACKAGE

Lausanne's programme offers many ways of getting to know the charm of this city on the shores of Lake Geneva. It can be done, for instance, over three or four days, with accommodation and half board, plus a day ticket for public transport and a boat trip to Evian, the French resort on the opposite side of the lake, thrown in. For activity holidays, sailing and golf courses are suggested from April to October, while from May to October there are mini-cruises on sailing vessels, lasting five days or just for a weekend, in which the villages on both sides of the lake can be discovered. Inquiries are handled by Tourist Office and Convention Bureau, 60, avenue d'Ouchy, CH1006 Lausanne.

SWISSAIR CUTS WEEKEND FARE FROM MANCHESTER

From 1st April Swissair is cutting the weekend excursion fare from Manchester to Zürich to £119 from the current £138.50.

The reduction is being made to restore an adequate differential between the weekend and the one month excursion fares from Manchester to Zürich, which is at present only £3.

The weekend fare is applicable for outbound travel on Friday or

Saturday, returning on Sunday or Monday of the same weekend.

The new fare is subject to government approval.

SPECIAL SEASONAL OFFERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Hotels all over Switzerland are offering considerable reductions to senior citizens during off-season periods (except for the duration of certain trade fairs, such as the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle and the Geneva Motor Show, both in spring, and the OLMA in St. Gall in the autumn).

All holders of a valid Senior Citizen Rail Card issued by Swiss or foreign Transport Undertakings are entitled to reduced hotel rates. In Switzerland these cards (Senior Citizen Half-Fare Season Ticket valid 12 months) are sold to ladies of 62 and gentlemen of 65 and over, including foreign visitors, at Sw.Fr. 80 (instead of the normal Sw.Fr. 360) and are accepted by hotels as proof to entitlement. In the case of couples staying at hotels participating in the scheme, it is sufficient for one spouse to be holder of the Senior Citizen Rail Card, and it is immaterial whether the other is of Senior Citizen age or not.

The card must be produced on arrival at the hotel. Please apply to the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 10 Wardour Street, London W1V 3HG, telephone 01-734 1921, for a 32-page booklet called "Season for Seniors".

"FROM THE PISTE INTO THE THERMAL BATHS"

Switzerland has about 250 medicinal springs. Most of the major spa resorts, recognised by the



Swissair Airbus A310

Swiss Spa Resorts Association, are also open in winter. But young people also go as preventive measure to the spas, where there is a harmonious combination with sport. Leukerbad, in Canton Valais has adopted the motto "From the piste into the thermal baths". Eight indoor baths and the open-air thermal facilities with three pools make swimming possible even in the depths of winter. Operating in similar fashion in Vals, where a thermal-mineral indoor and wave bath is available. There is a saltwater bath at Breiten/Mörel, where package weeks called "Eat, swim and slim

yourself fit" (fitness and cross-country ski-ing) are offered. In Lenk a new spa centre was opened last year and, like the spa centre at St. Moritz Bad, it stays open in winter. Bathing in thermal baths is also possible in winter at Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, Rietbad, Schinznach Bad, Schewelbergbad, Bad Ragaz, Lavey-les-Bains, Lostorf, Ramsach, Rheinfelden, Stabio, Baden and Zurzach.

INTER-RAIL TICKET FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The International Union of Railways (IUR) will introduce the

"Inter-Rail Senior Citizens" ticket on 1st March for an experimental two-year period. The ticket will entitle anyone of either sex from the age of 65 to free travel on the railway network of the participating countries except for the country in which the ticket is issued. In the issuing country it will entitle the holder to obtain tickets at half-price. Valid for one month, it costs Sw.Fr. 340 for 2nd class travel and Sw.Fr. 510 for first class travel. Swiss Federal Railways and the Berne-Lötschberg-Simplon Railway have joined the scheme.

BUSINESS NEWS

SWISSAIR TRAFFIC GROWS IN 1978

In 1978 Swissair carried 6,856,437 passengers or 4.6 per cent more than in 1977. Cargo traffic rose by 14.5 per cent and mail traffic was marginally higher.

Total available transport capacity was up by 6.6 per cent over the previous year, climbing to 2,330 million ton-kilometres. Revenue capacity sold, on the other hand, went up by 10.4 per cent to 1,350 million tkm, resulting in an improvement in the seat load factor to 62.5 per cent from 60.7 per cent in 1977 and in the overall load factor to 58.1 per cent from 56 per cent.

In passenger transport, the North American, Far Eastern and African traffic areas all recorded gains of more than 10 per cent. In the cargo sector, the South American and African routes showed the best traffic increase with over 20 per cent.

At the end of 1978 Swissair's route network, including the new destination Jeddah, totalled 299,501 km, covering 92 destinations in 62 countries on all continents except Australia.

TAKE-OVER OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT FACTORY

Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. recently signed the final contract for the take-over of the British aircraft factory Britten-Norman Ltd. The contract stipulates the take-over of the existing premises and production works belonging to Britten-Norman at Bembridge (Isle of Wight) as well as the whole Britten-Norman production plant and the stocks of the Fairey Aircraft Factory at Gos-

selies in Belgium. The contract guarantees Pilatus exclusive manufacturing rights and sole sales rights for all Britten-Norman products. Today there are nearly 900 Britten-Norman planes in operation in 118 countries.

SULZER BROS (UK) COMPRESSOR ORDER

Sulzer Bros (UK) have received an order from Air Products Limited, for a Sulzer labyrinth compressor type 4D-225-2A for an air separation plant being built in northern Germany for Air Products GmbH.

GOLD MEDAL FOR GENEVA ENGINEER

A Geneva engineer won first prize and a gold medal at the International Inventions Exhibition (Geneva, December 1978) for a photovoltaic cell making it possible to obtain electricity from the ambient light. The semi-conductors used are made from selected products that are easy to handle and inexpensive. They come in the form of very thin films.

The absorbent material is transparent and can be a conductor, a semi-conductor or dielectric. The technique used makes it possible to adapt the cells to a clearly defined spectrum of light, their top being dark and non-reflecting. Their use in special traps, called third generation traps, has the advantage of combining the photovoltaic and photothermic systems. The presence of water on the cells, which are bedded in transparent silicone resin, serves as an infra-red filter and makes it possible to reduce internal resistance.

SWISSAIR ORDERS AIRBUS A310

Swissair's Board of Directors have placed a firm order with Airbus Industrie for ten wide-body A310 aircraft and at the same time took out

an option for another ten units of the same type.

For this purpose the Board has authorised a total expenditure of Sw.Fr. 697 million (£203 million).

The A310s will go into service between 1983 and 1987 on the main European routes such as Paris, London and Frankfurt, and to Mediterranean area destinations including Athens and Istanbul. Swissair's Airbus will be designated A310-220 and will carry 212 passengers, 22 in first class and 190 in economy. Its cargo capacity with full passenger load is 6.65 tons and the aircraft is equipped to take the same type of cargo pallets and containers that Swissair uses on its DC-10s and Boeing 747s.

On present estimates each A310 will cost on average Sw.Fr. 64.6 million (£18.8 million) at time of delivery.

SPECIAL WEEKEND

WITH THE MEN-CHOIR OF MURRHARDT, GERMANY

at Christ Church Hall,
Leigh Road, off Highbury Grove
London N5

(Nearest Underground: Highbury/Islington)

The meetings are:

in German:

Sunday, 29th April, at 10.30 a.m.
and 2.30 p.m.

in English:

Saturday, 28th April, at 8.00 p.m.
Sunday, 29th April, at 6.00 p.m.

Our regular meetings at 25 Calabria Road, N5 are: Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in German and at 6.00 p.m. in English.

Everybody welcome!

Swiss Evangelical Brotherhood