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TOURIST NEWS

WALKING IN THE SWISS NATIONAL PARK

The Swiss National Park in the Lower Engadine district of Canton Grisons is a big alpine nature reserve covering about 77 square miles. It is in fact one of the biggest wild animal and plant life reserves in Europe and offers the rambler many destinations for excursions. The tourist offices around the Park have got together and for the first time they are this summer offering a National Park programme. It covers guided half and whole day tours to take a closer look at flora and fauna. The tours from Zuoz and S-chanf concentrate on the Val Trupchun, which is renowned for wild life observation. From Zernez the tour takes participants up to the 8,462 ft Munt La Schera into the Val Cluozza and via Murtèr to the Ofen-Pass. The Münster Valley also offers a wealth of facilities for the rambler. Finally the Scuol Tourist Office arranges tours into the Val Mingèr to the Piz Minschun (9,900 ft). A leaflet is obtainable from the the tourist offices and from travel agencies.

1979 WILLIAM TELL PRODUCTIONS AT ALTDORF

"William Tell" will this summer again be presented at Altdorf — this time in the completely renovated Tell Theatre. An innovation this year will be Saturday evening performances. The programme will be enhanced by various exhibitions, such as the one in the Tell Museum in Bürglen entitled "The influence of the Tell idea in the world".

SIMPLON DORF OPENS FIRST "OFFICIAL" WALKING SEASON

This summer Simplon Dorf, which lies on the pass road from Brig, in Switzerland, to Domodossola, in Italy, will experience its first "official" walking season. Last autumn school-children from Winterthus in camp marked an extensive network of footpath, and a map for walking is now also available. Of particular interest is the old Roman route from the Hospice via Simplon Dorf to Alpe and then on to Gondo or Trasquera/Iselle in Italy, from which the return journey to Brig can be made by train. In a three-hour walk, a marvellous path from Simplon Dorf takes the rambler deep into the wild Laggin Valley with its wonderful flora. It takes the same time, via Feerberg and Furggu, to reach the Zwischbergen Valley, which has a vegetation that must be unique.

1,200th ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANSHORN ON LAKE CONSTANCE

Romanshorn on Lake Constance is 1,200 years old this year. The town's actual development began in the early nineteenth century with the construction of street and the first harbour facilities. Various events are planned to celebrate the anniversary. The main celebrations will be in midsummer with a festival production "Mis Horn-Romanshorn", entertainment on the lake, sporting contests, castle concerts, etc. At the end of September the three-day "International Lake Constance Walk" will be held for the tenth time. It is an event that attracts some 1,500 walking enthusiasts from various countries. On 23rd September it will be concluded with a festive parade through the streets of Romanshorn. All year round Romanshorn is offering package arrangements with accommodation, free admission to the swimming pool, navigation museum, the St. Gall Abbey Library, etc.

Information is obtainable from the Tourist Office, CH-8590 Romanshorn.

SWITZERLAND FOR YOUNGSTERS

The "Inter-rail" ticket is an inexpensive way for youngsters up to 26 years to discover other countries. The ticket bought at domicile is valid for one month and allows unlimited travel in Switzerland and most other European countries. It includes the Swiss Federal Railways, private railways, navigation companies and postcoach services throughout the country — a transport network totalling about 9,400 miles. Incidentally, the Swiss National Tourist Office has issued for the first time a list containing a wide range of suggestions and offers for holiday activities for young people as well as other useful hints. It is obtained free from the SNTTO.

NEW YOUTH HOSTEL IN BLENIO VALLEY

Young hikers wanting to visit the Blenio Valley can find overnight accommodation from the middle of May in the new youth hostel at Püscèd (founded by the Blenio Valley Tourist Office), a building set among alpine meadows and woods. The house is a converted rustico and now has more than 93 sleeping facilities, running hot water, showers and heating. The new youth hostel is situated on the section of the high-altitude trail (Sentiero alto) leading from Airolo over the Passo de Sole, and via Camperio, Gorda, Bosco Negro and Püscèd down to Biasca in four days on foot. From Biasca the hostel is reached by bus to Loderio, then with the local bus to Semione, from which it is 90 minutes on foot to Püscèd. The Swiss Federal Railways have published a brochure with a full description of the Sentiero alto and the Sentiero basso Blenio routes.

FAVOURABLE 1978 RESULTS FOR SWISSAIR

Swissair's Board of Directors has announced favourable results for 1978, despite the adverse impact of the currency situation. The dividend of Sw.Fr. 35 per share is being maintained.

Total revenue amounted in 1978 to Sw.Fr. 2,298 million or £696.4 million, compared with Sw.Fr. 2,436 million or £631.1 million in the previous year. Expenditure before depreciations came to Sw.Fr. 2,054 million or £622.4 million, against Sw.Fr. 2,128 million or £551.3 million. The company therefore achieved a gross profit of Sw.Fr. 244 million (£74 million), against Sw.Fr. 308 million (£79.8 million) in 1977.

Ordinary and supplementary depreciations totalled Sw.Fr. 195 million (£59 million), compared with Sw.Fr. 256 million (£66.3 million) the year before, leaving a net profit of Sw.Fr. 49.4 million or £15 million.

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