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TOURIST NEWS

ST. BEATUS CAVES — REOPENING

The St. Beatus Caves on the shores of Lake Thun have again been opened to the public.

This natural wonder with its stalactite caverns, gigantic chambers, gorges and subterranean waterfalls illuminated by electricity attracts many tourists each year.

ON THE ROOF OF EUROPE BY POSTCOACH

In Switzerland the continental watershed, the dividing line between the catchment areas of the Atlantic and Mediterranean follows the line of the Alps and is appropriately known as the "roof of Europe". The great watersheds can also be reached or crossed by postcoach and combined with a walking trip, starting in the west with the Col des Mosses, which runs from Château-d'Oex in the Pays d'Enhaut to le Sépey. From Sion the yellow postbus takes travellers to the cofferdam shortly after the Sanetsch Pass, from where — only for people on foot used to the mountains — there is a steep descent to Gsteig, near Gstaad, while the journey from Sion to the Rawil Pass, which leads travellers on foot over to Lenk, ends below the pass summit. Another deep cleft is the 7,100 ft high Furka Pass from Oberwald to Andermatt, from where another postbus service goes over the Gotthard Pass to Airolo in Canton Ticino. The Lukmanier Pass, from Disentis to the Ticino's Val Blenio, is not only a watershed but a linguistic dividing line. Other watershed crossings are the San Bernardino, Splügen, Julier and Flüela.

SNTO'S NEW WINTER PUBLICATIONS

The Swiss National Tourist Office has just published three special brochures listing all-inclusive winter holiday arrangements for Alpine skiers, cross-country skiers — and non-skiers. Also out is the SNTO's new calendar of events for the winter half-year 1979/80, listing thousands of cultural, sporting and folklore events, and congresses and trade fairs nationwide. All publications are obtainable free of charge from the SNTO.

PRE-SEASON SKI-ING WEEKS IN SWITZERLAND

Every skier, whether advanced or beginner, needs practice and training at the start of a new season. Many Swiss resorts offer an extensive range of all-inclusive winter arrangements, including holiday apartments or hotel accommodation, half pension, ski-ing instruction (Alpine and Nordic), ski-pass and such other attractions as free admission to ice-rinks and indoor swimming pools, fondue parties, etc.

In the Grisons, special pre-season ski-ing weeks are being organised in Arosa (1st–22nd December), Bad Scuol (9th–23rd December), Bad Tarasp-Vulpera (from 16th December), Bivio (9th–22nd December), Celerina (24th November–22nd December), Davos (2nd–23rd December), Disentis (8th–22nd December), Films — where "V.I.P." weeks and Swiss ski instructors' courses are being held (8th–22nd December), Klosters (2nd–22nd December), Laax (from 17th November), Lenzerheide-Valbella (1st–15th December), Pontresina (2nd–23rd December), St. Moritz (24th November – 22nd December), Samedan (9th–23rd December), Samnaun (1st–22nd December), Savognin (1st–22nd December), Silvaplana (27th October – 23rd December), Splügen (from 26th December) and Vals, where thermal bathing is also possible (from 15th December). Pre-season ski-ing weeks will also be arranged in eastern Switzerland in Elm (1st–22nd December), the Flumserberge (2nd–15th December), Unterwasser (from 15th December), Wangs-Pizol (9th–15th December), Weisstannen (from 15th December) and in the Liechtenstein resort of Malbun (8th–23rd December). Arrangements in central Switzerland include Andermatt (2nd–22nd December), Engelberg (9th–22nd

December) and Sörenberg (8th–22nd December); and in the Bernese Oberland: Adelboden (15th–22nd December), Gsteig (5th–18th December), Habkern (from 18th December), Kandersteg (17th–22nd December), Lenk (from 16th December), Meiringen (from 3rd December), Mürren (8th–22nd December), Wengen (1st–23rd December) and Zweisimmen (from 1st December). Château-d'Oex is offering "Gogoski" (from 15th December), Les Diablerets "Mise-en-train" weeks (8th–23rd December) and Leysin and Villars special ski-ing courses from mid-December. The programme in the Valais includes Bettmeralp (8th–22nd December) and Riederalp — where a course in acrobatic ski-ing is also offered (15th–22nd December) — Champéry (15th–22nd December), Crans-Montana (8th–22nd December), Fiesch (9th–23rd December), Grimentz (from 15th December), Leukerbad, with free entry to the thermal baths (8th–12th December), Morgins (from 17th December), Saas Fee (21st–28th October and 24th November – 8th December), Verbier (2nd–15th December) and Zermatt (24th November – 21st December).

Special courses for cross-country skiers are being offered by Einsiedeln (9th–22nd December), Sedrun (9th–23rd December), Seewis-Dorf (from 15th December), Sils i.E. (9th–15th December), Ulrichen/Goms (from 17th November) and Zuoz (24th November – 8th December) and by many areas of the Jura, renowned as an ideal region for this form of ski-ing. For non-skiers there is an extensive range of other sporting holiday courses and arrangements including horse riding, ice-skating, rambling, tennis, etc.

Full details are obtainable from local tourist offices or from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

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