

Swiss Holiday Scene

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Swiss Holiday Scene

Compiled by the Swiss National Tourist Office

A touch of romance for young folk

WHEN young people travel they look for good, cheap lodgings where they can meet others of the same age. If at the same time the accommodation has a touch of old-world romance or offers something different from "home" in their own country, so much the better. In Switzerland they will find just what they are looking for.

There are more than 100 youth hostels — in cities, in the countryside, in the spas and, away from the hurly-burly of traffic, by lakes and rivers and in the Alps.

They are all different. Some have modern comforts like those in Zurich, St. Moritz, Lugano, Beinwil and high up on Hoch-Ybrig. Others are simpler, such as those in Avers-Juf, Weissbad-Appenzell and Gimmelwald.

Even more basic is, for example, the one at Sulsana in the Lower Engadine, which stems from the 1920s, the pioneer age of youth hostels when a straw-filled mattress and stream-fed wash trough was the order of the day.

And the romance? That the young traveller can find by spending a few nights in a one-time knight's castle.

There are a number to choose from. Schloss Schwandegg at Waltalingen in Canton Zurich, Schloss Laufen by the Rhine Falls, Burg Ehrenfels in the Domleschg, Burg Rotberg-Mariastein near Basle, and Schloss Hegi near Winterthur are names enough to conjure up the spirit of breastplate and lance.

The Swiss scene is personified in the true-to-style Swiss chalets in Adelboden and Grindelwald, and in the farmhouses in the Emmental and the Jura, all of which provide hostel accommodation — as do former military barracks in Bienne, Solothurn and Zug.

At each and all of these very varied spots the hostel is clean, providing good sleeping places, somewhere to cook and a room in which all can get together and relax.

There is no age limit for Swiss hostels, though should there be a rush for places the under-25s have first call. So do not forget,

advance booking in high summer (July and August) and at the large and popular resorts at Christmas is recommended.

Young people up to 26, using one of the various European inter-rail season tickets, travel free on Swiss railways and at a reduced rate on many of the private mountain railways.

Swiss youth hostels are associated with the International Youth Hostel Federation. Additional information is to be found on the Swiss Youth Hostels map, which is available free from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

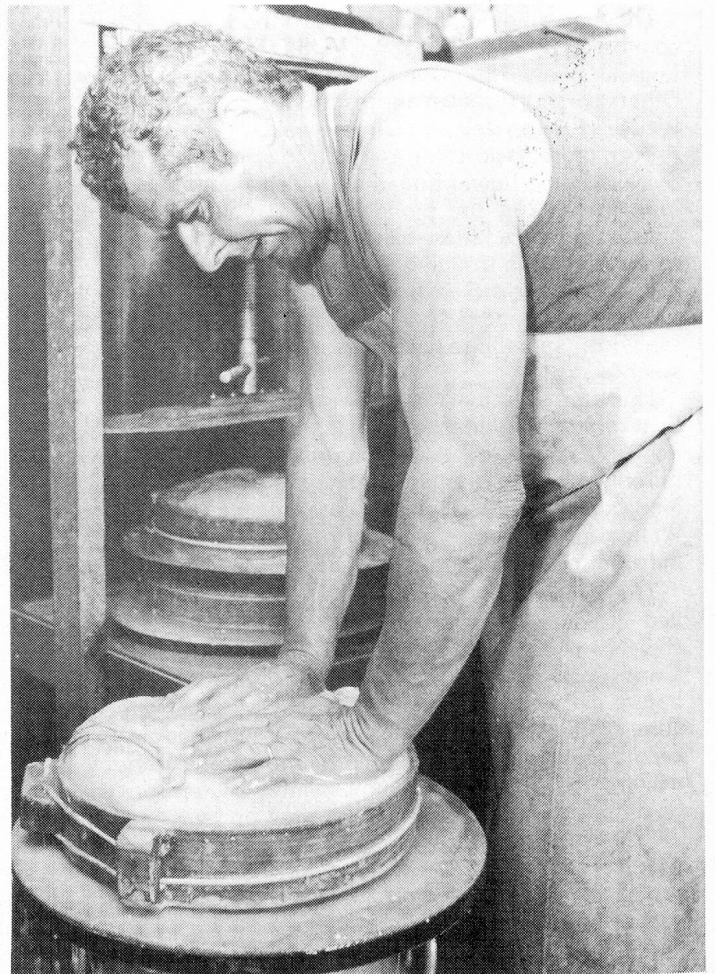


AIROLO, in the Leventina valley of the Swiss canton of the Ticino, which is pictured above, will be the holiday home of 30 British children next month — by command of the Queen.

During her recent state visit to Switzerland the Queen was asked to nominate 30 children to go on a no-expense-spared holiday. The generous offer was passed on to the National Children's Home, who have nominated 15 boys and 15 girls between the ages of 11 and 15. All are from children's homes in the Birmingham area.

Mr Albert Kunz, general manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office in London, said: "In collaboration with the Ticino Tourist Office we will do our utmost to ensure that the children have a very happy holiday in our country".

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A holiday visitor weighs up a Valaisan cheese ... and (right) raclette in the making. Each 6kg cheese calls for 60 litres of milk.