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Swiss Holiday Scene

Compiled by the Swiss National Tourist Office



The intricate bonnets of the female Rollenkläuse herald the Julian New Year's Eve – See following pages



The good spirits – Kläuse – stomp through the snow from hamlet to hamlet

New Year co a little late in Appenzell



The headdress of the male Shellenkläuse are masterpieces of intricate jigsaw work

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The old Julian calendar, which dates back to the year 454 BC, is, in contrast to the present-day Gregorian calendar, 13 days behind. According to the Julian calendar, New Year's Eve is January 13.

The Protestant people of Appenzell stubbornly kept to the old Julian calendar until 1822 and even today follow the old tradition of celebrating New Year's Eve on January 13.

This extraordinary festival is very gay and lively with a lot of dancing and rhythmic clapping of fantastic figures dressed in costumes with numerous head adornments. Wearing bells of all sizes, these "Sylvesterklaeuse" go from house to house, just as in ancient times, and with their wild noise and weird tunes try to drive out the evil spirits.

They let loose an uninhibited enjoyment with shouting and an unusual Appenzell yodel. The villagers whose homes are visited reward them with money, wine and presents.



The "ugly Kläuse" represent heathen demons

Events of the month

1982 Jan. until 3	Rigi Lausanne	75th Anniversary of «Winter resort Rigi» Palais de Beaulieu: «Fête foraine», fair and festival	Jan 10	Fahrwangen, Meisterschwanden	«Meitlisunntig», ancient custom and popular festival
Jan, beginning	Brigels	«Epiphany singing», ancient custom	Jan 13	Urnäsch	«Sylvesterklausen», ancient custom
Jan 1	Kandersteg	«Pelzmarti», ancient custom	Jan 18	Olten	«Bastian» festival, ancient custom
Jan 2	Hallwil	«Bärzelitag», ancient custom and popular festival	Jan 19-22	Basel	Muba: EUROPIPE 82, european pipeline construction and maintenance exhibition
Jan 2	Interlaken	«Harderpotschete», ancient custom with procession	Jan 20	Basel	«Vogel Gryff», Kleinbasel popular festival
Jan 2	Rafz	«Bächteln», ancient custom	Jan 27-31	Lausanne	Palais de Beaulieu: «Prix de Lausanne», 10th international competition for young dancers
Jan 3	Lötschental	Wiler: «Dreikönigsrössli», ancient custom			
Jan 6	Brunnen	«Greiflet-Plöder», ancient custom			
Jan 6	Schwyz	«Peitschenknallen», ancient custom			

It's winter sports time again



Known to skiers from all over the world ... this is Gstaad in the Bernese Oberland. Below, that other much enjoyed winter sport curling



MAJOR winter sports events to be held in Switzerland this month are:

- 8:** 26th British-Swiss Parliamentary ski race, Davos.
- 6-9:** Swiss figure skating championship, Zurich.
- 9-10:** Swiss two-man bobsleigh championship, St Moritz.
- 9-10:** Swiss skibob championship, Moléson.
- 13-14:** Ladies' ski races (World Cup), Grindelwald.
- 16:** Men's 15km langlauf (World Cup), Le Brassus.
- 16-17:** Swiss four-man bobsleigh championship, St Moritz.
- 19:** Men's ski races (World Cup), Adelboden.
- 24:** Swiss langlauf championship (50km men, 20km ladies), Campra/Olivone.
- 25:** Swiss langlauf championship, Splugen.
- 23-24:** Lauberhorn ski races (Men's World Cup), Wengen.
- 25-31:** European skibob championship, Adelboden.
- 27-28:** Ladies' ski races (European Cup), Meiringen.

- 29-31:** Swiss open-air curling championship, St Moritz.

Winter sports events in February:

- 6-7:** World two-man bobsleigh championship, St Moritz.
- 6-7:** Swiss ski jumping and Nordic ski championship, Langenbruck/Mumliswil.
- 13-14:** Ladies' ski races (World Cup), Arosa.
- 13-14:** World four-man bobsleigh championship, St Moritz.
- 15-21:** Swiss men's alpine ski championship, Leukerbad.
- 15-22:** Swiss ladies' alpine ski championship, Arosa.

Final events of the winter, to be held in March:

- 8-18:** 2nd world championships of winter sports for the disabled, Les Diablerets.
- 11-12:** Men's ski races (European Cup), Diemtigen.
- 14:** 14th Engadine langlauf marathon, Maloja-Zuoz (Engadine).