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but is definitely worth a mention because of the view, is the ascent from Guibiasco on the main line to Lugano - from the right hand side of the train, you can see down to Locarno and Lake Maggiore about three hundred feet below.

The descent to Andermatt from Sedrun on the Furka Oberalp Railway is very spectacular, as the train twists and turns in order to lose height. It seems to amuse visiting American and Japanese tourists who travel this way on the Glacier Express, as they try to anticipate where the next spiral will find the train! It is also quite enjoyable to stand on Andermatt Station (not the most interesting or architecturally exciting of Swiss stations!) and photograph the little red trains of the FO climbing out of Andermatt on their way to the Oberalp Pass - they are easily visible for most of their way up the mountain.

For a really interesting round trip on a Saturday or Sunday in the summer, with something for everyone, take the train from St Maurice to Le Bouveret, and then the tourist train known as the Rive Bleue Express around the south side of Lake Geneva to Evian-les-Bains. There are good views of a side of the lake which is not so well known, and plenty of interest - for instance, there are many level crossings on this route and no automatic barriers,

so that at each one, a member of the train staff has to get down and operate the gates manually! Have a good look around Evian, which is a small town with an attractive lakeside promenade, then catch the boat across to Lausanne Ouchy. A funicular metro connects Ouchy with the city centre. Don't forget your passports!

My final choice for the most scenically interesting train ride in Switzerland would be the line from Winterthur to Schaffhausen, which actually crosses the River Rhine very close to the Rhine Falls. All I can say is, if you have never seen the Rhine Falls at close quarters, then you do not know what you are missing. They are MAGNIFICENT! Get as close to them as you can (personally, I favour staying on the bank and not getting a boat any nearer!), then follow this up with a stroll along the banks of the Rhine, and a train from Neuhausen back to Schaffhausen. If the weather is good, this trip is unbeatable.

Finally, may I say that we have just spent a very enjoyable holiday based in Lugano, and can I recommend the Hotel Continental Park there for its wonderful views of the trains using the Gotthard Line. Ask for a lakeside view there, and not only do you get brilliant views of Lake Lugano, but also closeup pictures of the Gotthard Line.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS STOCK CHANGES

Brian Hemming

March 1999

No changes

May 1999

Rebuilt & Renumbered:

RABDe12/12 1118 to RABDe 510 017

Withdrawn:

Ee3/3 16342

Bm6/6 18514

April 1999

Rebuilt & Renumbered:

RABDe12/12 1113 to RABDe 510 012

June 1999

New:

Tm 234 000

Withdrawn:

RBe540 540 008 (accident)

Ee3/3 16338, 16341, 16350

Tm II 777