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The major event in Switzerland this year will be Expo.02. For 159 days from 15 May to 20 October, the Three Lakes Region of Switzerland will host 40 exhibitions and 4000 shows at the four lakeside exhibition sites, at Biel, Murten, Neuchâtel and Yverdon-les-Bains.

Costing SFr 1.4 billion, Expo.02 hopes to attract 10.5 million visitors, and travel by train is being strongly promoted as the recommended mode of transport. An entrance ticket to Expo 02 entitles the holder to a reduced fare, and a SBB Junior Card entitles under-16s to free admission and train journey when accompanied by an adult. Tickets are valid for two days to allow an overnight stay. Trains leave the 'main cities' for Biel/Bienne, Neuchâtel and Yverdon every half-hour from 06.00, taking advantage of the major infrastructure improvements between Lausanne-Biel/Bienne-Olten, culminating in the opening on 19 April 2001 of the Vauderons Tunnel between Yverdon and Neuchâtel.

Travel between the sites is facilitated by an Expo.02 rail ticket allowing travel between Biel/Bienne-Neuchâtel-Yverdon, Biel/Bienne-Lyss-Murten/Morat, Murten/Morat-Neuchâtel, and Murten/Morat-Payerne-Yverdon. Bicycles can be hired for the cycle paths between them, and buses and boats also provide links.

Expo.02 will have five principal themes:

- **Power and Freedom:** using a 260-metre long forum at Biel/Bienne with three 120-metre high towers to demonstrate the relationship between the individual and society.

- **Instant and Eternity:** will use the whole of medieval Murten for small exhibitions as well as a labyrinth of plants containing seven separate exhibitions and a 35-metre cube rising from an artificial mist.

- **Nature and Artifice:** The Neuchâtel lakeside stage will be surrounded by artificial reeds, whose tips will be lit at night. Themes include robotics, natural disasters and sustainable development.

- **The Universe and Me:** The Yverdon arteplage will explore the senses and issues such as the national and personal identity, the body, the soul, sexuality, sport, leisure and tourism.

- **Meaning and Movement:** The rogue element of Expo.02 is a former barge plying between the fixed sites, designed to create mischief and an "alternative" view of the other exhibitions.

There will be plenty to appeal to children, with hands-on and interactive exhibits as well as amusement parks, the one at Neuchâtel having the largest ferris wheel in Europe.

Contact Swiss National Exhibition
Place de la Gare 4, CH-2002 Neuchâtel.
For more information, log on to www.expo.02.ch or
e-mail info@expo.02.ch

TICKETS AND PRICES

Admission tickets are available on line or from all SBB stations and are cheaper if purchased prior to the date of opening. Prices are given below although the Combi rail/admission tickets are omitted, as generally readers will be travelling with some kind of pass. Substantial discounts are available to children.

Type of ticket	Prices to 14 May 2002	Prices from 15 May to 20 October 2002
1-day pass	48.-	48.-
3-day pass	99.-	120.-
Season pass	198.-	240.-

(1/8 & 20/10 excluded. Prices in Swiss francs per adult. All prices subject to change without notice.)

Category	Reductions
Children up to 6 years	free
Children from 6 to 16 years	50%
Senior citizens, students, apprentices	10%
Handicapped persons	10% Free for one escort (if necessary)