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THE REVIEWS



Chemins de Fer du Jura - Cab Ride

Le Chaux-de-Fonds - Tavannes & Le Noirmont-Glovelier

MITV, 97 mins. long. Available through SRS Sales, MITV and other outlets. £19.95

The Jura is not an area on most enthusiasts itineraries and this MITV video gives a flavour of what you might be missing. Delightful countryside, rolling hills, thick dense forests and with the attractions of the local metre gauge railway, why wait? Cab rides are not everyone's cup of tea but in ignoring this one you would be making a mistake. Made with the customary skill and legendary good weather the ride is a fascinating introduction to a well run yet engagingly eccentric line. I particularly enjoyed the run down to Glovelier from Le Noirmont, passing the depot at Saignelégier and the reversal at Combe-Tabaillon. Chris and Sue said the area is very like France, only tidy! A perfect description.

A full MITV video on the Jura system is in preparation and will be available at the AGM, in the meantime wet your appetite with this lovely cab ride.

SWITZERLAND - Rail, Road, Lake, The Bradt Travel Guide.

Anthony Lambert. Published by Bradt Travel Guides, 19 High St, Chalfont St Peters, Bucks, SL9 9QE. Softback, perfect bound. £12.95

This is the second (and renamed) edition of "Switzerland By Rail". A guide that I actually purchased at the last Manchester AGM and found very useful, particularly the suggestions on which side to sit on the trains and buses. There are 21 chapters, the first five offering overall planning and the rest giving in depth information by geographical area, walking tours of major cities and nearby accommodation. Each area chapter has a useful map at the start and then describes the major conurbations, railway lines and routes, Postbus lines, lake services and other suggestions.

All guide books suffer from faults by their very nature. Given the strong emphasis on sustainable transport and tourism in this book the suggested hotels are generally in the higher price brackets. 3* and 4* hotels are not normally associated with serious walkers, cyclists and travellers. This is however a minor criticism, contact numbers with all Tourist Offices are given should further information be required. A very good guide and well worth the price. You could save the price on film by sitting on the suggested side, or should that be spend the price on more film!

It is hoped to have copies for sale at the Manchester AGM in March if you can wait.

SWISS RAIL MAP SUPPLEMENT

Alan Snowdon and Beat Feller.

Edition 10 - dated October 2000. Published by the authors and available through SRS Sales at 75p inc. post.

For those not already in the know this A3 black and white diagrammatic map on stiff paper is designed to accompany the Kümmerly and Frey Swiss Rail Map. It shows all Swiss railway lines and indicates whether they are SG or NG, rack or adhesion, non passenger routes, the operator and owner. Although diagrammatic it is geographically laid out and has a host of information, accurate information!. If you do not already have a copy then SRS Sales have them now. If you do have a copy then why not update it? It is surprising how much has changed. Highly recommended.