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VERKEHRSHAUS AT 50



The new Verkehrshaus FutureCom facade. PHOTO: Courtesy of the Verkehrshaus

It is 50 years this year since the Verkehrshaus der Schweiz at Luzern first opened its doors to visitors and over that time many members of our society will have visited its buildings at their imposing site on the shores of the Vierwaldstättersee. For those that have not it is well worth a day of your holiday – or more. The collection covers all forms of transport and transport related themes, not just railways, and there is an IMAX cinema within the complex that shows a whole variety of special presentations.

Over this summer numerous special events are planned to commemorate the anniversary as well as other organisations using it as a platform to launch their own souvenirs of the occasion. Swiss Post has issued a series of commemorative stamps and a first day cover available at all Post Offices, whilst Swissmint has issued a special CHF20 coin limited to just some 50,000 examples. These will be legal tender, however do not expect to see them in general circulation but if you are interested then contact www.swissmint.ch for more details.

Of special interest to SRS members the Museum (in association with RailAway, SBB Historic and the Rigibahn) has organised a special round trip excursion that will operate on Saturdays and Sundays between 30th May and the 27th September with extra trips on Thursdays from 2nd July to the 13th August. The tour starts with a one hour guided tour of the railway section of the museum, then visitors move on to the historic “Red Arrow” train at the museum station for a 25 minute trip to Arth-Goldau. A historic coach on an ARB train then takes the tour party to the top of the Rigi where a 3-course lunch is served in the Hotel Kulm and there is an opportunity to ride behind the Rigibahn’s veteran vertical boilered steam loco No. 7 before returning down the mountain to Vitznau where the tour culminates in a trip on a steam driven lake ship back to the Museum. Tours are limited to 55 people and booking must be made at least 5 days in advance. It is not cheap at CHF319. Contact www.verkehrshaus.ch for more details.