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remember that 300 years ago, at this remote location, they dug iron ore at 2000m near the Balmeregg, and carried it for smelting by sledge to Mühletal on the Susten road, which

the PostAuto passed en-route. Life was brutal, and short, up here. This high valley has the stuff of history all around it, and an ethereal beauty of its own. ☒

## **Ivan Rodrigues – News from the Switzerland Travel Centre**

2014 will see some changes to the Swiss Travel System products. There will be a new addition to the standard range, the Swiss Peak Pass, which includes the following mountain excursions: Allalin (Metro Alpin), Brienz Rothorn, Cardada, Corvatsch, Niesen, Rochers-de-Naye, Säntis and Stanserhorn. The Swiss Peak Pass will be available only in conjunction with a 4 or 8-day Swiss Pass/Saver Pass for a small surcharge (approx £20 for 4-days and £41 for 8-days). Most additional mountain excursions will still be offered at a 50% reduction. We hope that SRS members will be able to take advantage of the different peaks on offer and we look forward to seeing your photos from each mountain peak - the best ones showcasing the spectacular views may receive a surprise! Another change will be the reduction granted to the Saver Pass program. To date, 2-5 passengers travelling together at all times were entitled to a 15% discount on the price of an Individual Swiss Pass. This reduction will now be 10% and will come into effect for travel from 1st January 2014. The CHF prices for the Swiss Pass, Swiss Flexi Pass and Swiss Half Fare Card however, remain unchanged (GBP prices may alter slightly subject to currency fluctuation). For 2014 we have been informed that the Wilhelm Tell Express will no longer be operating its Premium Service. The Standard Wilhelm Tell Express, which comprises a lunch cruise on Lake Lucerne and a train trip by comfortable panorama coach along the legendary Gotthard route to the southernmost part of Switzerland, will still be available year round. STC are pleased to confirm that we will continue to offer SRS members a 5% discount on STS passes and on STC packages, including our Experience packages, Scenic Rail holidays and Tailor-made holidays in 2014. Contact us now to pre-register for your 2014 Experience and Scenic brochures. We look forward to

assisting you with your travel plans for 2014. Finally, STC will be participating at the Destination Show at London's Earls Court from the 6th to 9th February 2014 when we hope to see as many SRS members as possible. ☒

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