

# The weather in Switzerland

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## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

Once again, we are asked to remind our readers of the existence of the "ASSOCIATION POUR LA FORMATION DES JEUNES SUISSES DE L'ETRANGER" whose seat is at the Secretariat of Pro Juventute, 8, Seefeldstrasse, 8008 Zurich.

The aims of this Association which is subsidized by the Federal authorities, are not only to provide funds for young Swiss to be educated in Switzerland, but also to advise as to the method best suited to the applicant's abilities and background. Once the best training has been chosen the "Ausbildungswerk" will plan the whole course of studies or training as well as arrange for suitable lodgings. Where financial support is needed scholarships can be provided. In addition, the scheme aims at introducing young Swiss from abroad to their homeland by choosing suitable training centres, by fostering relations between the young student and young people in Switzerland and by arranging special meetings and functions at which the young Swiss from abroad will be able to get to know and love Switzerland. By so doing the Association hopes to make a useful contribution towards the rejuvenation of our Swiss colonies abroad. Founded in 1961, it is the joint concern of Pro Juventute, the "Aide aux Suisses" Foundation and the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. The services of the scheme are available to young Swiss between ten and twenty-five, exceptionally also to older people.

Information and application forms may be obtained from the Swiss Embassy, 18 Montagu Place, London W.1.

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## THE WEATHER IN SWITZERLAND

After fairly normal summer weather, with perhaps a little more rain than usual in North-Eastern Switzerland in August, and a very warm September, autumn arrived in earnest with a cold and generally wet October. The hail insurance companies reported that the summer of 1964 was a moderate year for hail. 11,000 reports had been received of hail damage for which 7.3 million francs were paid in compensation.

November brought rain, a deficit in sunshine and a lot of snow. By 3rd December, already fifteen pass routes were closed to traffic. Whilst winter sport places showed early activities due to heavy snowfall, there was drought again in the Jura.

Boxing Day brought snow to the Swiss Midlands; Zurich and Lucerne had as much as 15 cm., Berne even 18 cm. The New Year began with excellent snow conditions and mainly fine weather. La Brevine in the Neuchâtel Jura was once again the "Swiss Siberia" with -23° on 6th January. The strong "Bise" North wind was responsible for the collapse of a laboratory pavilion in Geneva-Plainpalais.

On 18th January, heavy storms and thunderstorms hit many parts of Switzerland. The Lake of Geneva district, Zurich and above all Neuchâtel and Lucerne were the worst afflicted. There was considerable damage. Trees were uprooted, communications interrupted, boats were damaged or sunk, show windows were smashed, roofs dislocated. In Basle, the wind was 25 metres per second. In Neuchâtel, a factory entrance was wrenched away and the cemetery of Boudry completely devastated. In Zurich, scaffolding (14 metres high) collapsed and buried three cars. There were no trains to the Kleine Scheidegg and the Jungfrauoch because of massive snow drifts.

The storms were followed by further heavy snowfalls and very low temperatures and then by milder weather, specially in the Jura. By the end of January, seventeen passes were closed. Snow conditions have been excellent in most parts.

[A.T.S.]

### FAMOUS TRAVELLERS AND SWITZERLAND

This is the theme featured by the Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne.

Goethe, Mendelssohn, Widmann, Meyer, Dumas, Musset, George Sand and hundreds of other well-known personalities visited Switzerland from the end of the eighteenth and during the nineteenth centuries, gathering plants, sketching, writing, etc. They left behind them mementos of their travels which even today seem to conjure up their presence.

The Transport Museum has given these mementos a unique setting: old signs, old porcelain, menus, etc., which revive all the charm of travel of a bygone age. Rosalie de Constant wrote in 1807: "After having ascended the Alps, how delightful it is to take one's repose on those velvety greenswards, picking the flowers that adorn them! And so it is that a herbarium represents the memoirs of a lifetime. Each plant retains the memory of the place where it was culled, of a person who gave it. Above all, one likes to think that each and every one of them was born in this blest land where the richness and beauty of nature remind us that gold is not the chief among assets".

[S.N.T.O.]