

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 26 (1999)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Tracing Switzerland's history with "Swiss Review" : journey along the Rhone
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-906989>

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Tracing Switzerland's history with "Swiss Review"

Journey along the Rhone

In 1998 a group of Swiss Abroad made a trip to Central Switzerland and the Canton Ticino. The participants discovered an unknown Switzerland with a fascinating history. This year we are offering "Swiss Review" readers a historical trip along the Rhone, through French-speaking Switzerland.

Our journey begins in Switzerland's birthplace. From Lucerne we will take a trip up the Titlis (3030 m), the highest mountain in Central Switzerland. After enjoying an unforgettable panorama we will visit several museums, the Rütli and other landmarks in Swiss history.

Following two nights in Brunnen, we travel over the Furka Pass to Brig. Although the Canton of Valais is bilingual, French is the predominant language. Over the centuries the valley's mountainous surrounds and barren landscape have forced generations of Valais residents to seek their livelihood by emigrating. Often they found new professions as soldiers or as pioneers in the international hotel industry. In the Valais itself, however, tourism has also developed well – in places such as Zermatt.

Continuing along the Rhone we will reach Lake Geneva, where one of the most beautiful wine-growing regions of Switzerland awaits us. Towering, sprawling slopes covered with green vineyards are reflected in the clear waters of the lake. On the opposite shore lies France.

From Lausanne, capital of this region, we take a little side-trip to the Jura. It is here, in the sleepy alpine Vallée de Joux, that the smallest, most sophisticated and most beautiful watches in the world have traditionally been made. This is the cradle of the watch industry.

Finally we return to the Rhone. Geneva, the second-largest city in Switzerland with a population of 400,000, is an open city. Since the Reformation it has been the hub of numerous international activities. For instance, it is the seat of the United Nations and countless other international organisations. Yet Geneva

also holds many attractions for the tourist. The magnificent jeweller's stores on the Rue du Rhône are world-famous.

On a trip to the hinterland of Geneva we will see that Geneva seems practically an enclave of France. Only one road leads to Switzerland, yet Geneva's ties with the Federation are strong.

Every day we will also enjoy a culinary excursion, sampling "Recipes with Swiss History" based on historical and geographical facts. Specialities like raclette from the Valais will be supplemented by wine-tasting trips in the Cantons of Valais, Vaud and Geneva.

Our tour will be accompanied by historians speaking German, French and English. We will travel by coach and stay in 3-star hotels with full board. The first trip will take us from Lucerne to Lausanne from 31 July to 5 August. The return trip starts in Lausanne on 9 August and ends in Lucerne on 14 August. Between these trips the Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Lausanne from 6 to 8 August. Those not wishing to attend the Congress can still register for the famous Fête des Vignerons (see "Swiss Review" 5/98).

The tour will be conducted by Historia Swiss Tours and accompanied by a member of the "Swiss Review" editorial staff. You can register for these trips using the form below. We look forward to welcoming you! ■

Registration Form – 1999 Historical Trip along the Rhone for Swiss Abroad

Please complete the form and send to the following address by 30 June 1999: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, "Readers' Trips", PO Box, CH-3000 Berne 16

Name/First Name _____

Name/First Name _____

Address _____

Zip/Place _____

Country _____

Tel _____

Fax _____

Contact address in Switzerland, from _____

Please tick the selected programme and give the number of participants

☐ **A – Rhone Trip Programme 31.07.99–05.08.99**

Per person, double room CHF 1790/Single room CHF 1895

☐ **B – Rhone Trip Programme 09.08.99–14.08.99**

Per person, double room CHF 1790/Single room CHF 1895

Number of participants _____

☐ **Fête des Vignerons 05.08.99–07.08.99**

Per person, double room CHF 450/Single room CHF 495

Number of participants _____

Mark the language group you would prefer to join:

☐ German

☐ French

☐ English

I wish to pay with my credit card

☐ VISA

☐ MASTERCARD

No. _____

Expiry date _____

Month _____

Year _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____