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...will certainly have a story to tell". Unfortunately, not everyone's experience of holiday or business travel is good. Good travel preparation is time well spent and can often prevent little annoyances or even worst-case scenarios.

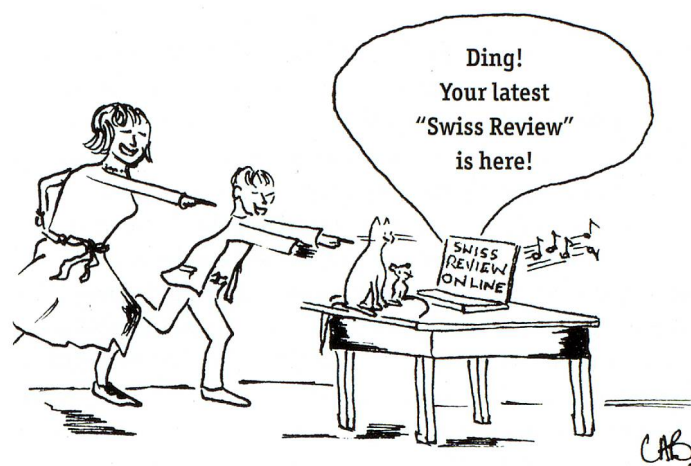
Obtain information on your holiday destination in good time from travel guide books, the Internet, the media and the FDFA (see box), etc. The “Wenn einer eine Reise tut...” brochure published by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) provides lots of sound advice: [www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise](http://www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise), “Tipps vor der Reise” section. This brochure can also be ordered in German, French and Italian from the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics, Federal Publications, CH-3003 Berne.

ESTHER LEUPP, FDFA, TRAVEL ADVICE

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## Statistics on Swiss abroad in 2008

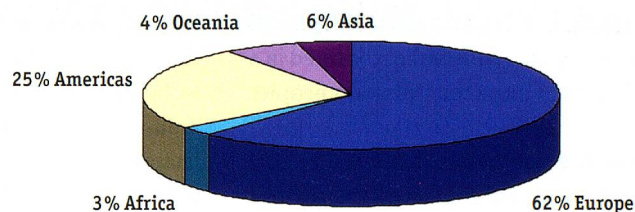
At the end of December 2008, the number of Swiss citizens living abroad was 676,176. This is 8,069 or 1.2% higher than in December 2007. The number holding dual nationality has reached 485,286 or 71.6%.

### Where do most Swiss people abroad live?

#### Top ten

1. France	6. UK (GB & Northern Ireland)
2. Germany	7. Spain
3. USA	8. Australia
4. Italy	9. Argentina
5. Canada	10. Brazil

### Statistics on Swiss abroad



57.6% of Swiss people abroad are female, and 22.5% are under the age of 18. Of those entitled to vote, 124,399, i.e. 23.9%, are enrolled on a Swiss electoral register.

The statistics in full and a detailed press release can be found at [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) (Documentation – Publications – Swiss Abroad).

### NEW POPULAR INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

No new popular initiatives had been launched since the last edition at the time of going to press.

At [www.bk.admin.ch/aktuell/abstimmung](http://www.bk.admin.ch/aktuell/abstimmung) you will find a list of pending referenda and popular initiatives and the corresponding signature forms if available. Please complete, sign and send the forms directly to the relevant committee which is responsible for the authentication of your signature.