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Let's go to JUSKILA!

Children from around Switzerland aged 13 and 14 will attend a week-long snow sports camp in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland from 2 to 8 January 2023. Lots will be drawn to allocate 600 places on the camp, including 25 spots for Swiss Abroad.



Crossing the 'Peak Walk' – the famous suspension bridge connecting two mountain peaks. One of many unique holiday camp memories. Archive photo: photo provided

A further chapter in the history of JUSKILA will begin on 2 January 2023 when several hundred boys and girls aged 13 and 14 travel from all over Switzerland by special train to Lenk im Simmental. This time, it is the turn of children born in 2008 and 2009.

Those wishing to take part in the winter camp for young people (JUSKILA) must be able to communicate in at least one of Switzerland's three national languages (German, French or Italian). A draw will be held for the camp spots. The prize includes participation in the camp as well as snow sports coaching, ski pass, food, accommodation, and train tickets for travel within Switzerland. Participants must only contribute 120 Swiss francs each to the cost of this extensive package. The additional costs of hiring winter sports equipment are as follows: 50 francs for skis, poles and ski boots; 150 francs for a snowboard and snowboard boots.

Parents are responsible for organising and paying for their children's outward and return journey. The winners of the 25 places for Swiss Abroad will be announced at the end of September.

Participation in the draw is only possible via our website at sjas.ch/en/winter-camp. The deadline for entries is 15 September 2022. In addition to registering for the draw, an email containing a copy of the Swiss passport or identity card of the child or of one of their parents must be sent to kappeler@sjas.ch by 15 September 2022. This email is a prerequisite for participating in the JUSKILA draw.

Please note: If you participate in the draw, this does not guarantee that you will take part in the camp. You will learn whether you have won one of the 25 spots at JUSKILA when emails are sent at the end of September 2022 to all those who entered the draw.

SIBYLLE KAPPELE


 Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer
 Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
 The foundation for young Swiss abroad
 Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero

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Winter holiday camps for children aged 8 to 14

Whether they are skiers or snowboarders, beginners or advanced, young Swiss Abroad between the ages of 8 and 14 will have a great time at our winter holiday camp, which will take place this year in Valbella (canton of Grisons).

Date:

Wednesday, 28 December 2022 to Friday, 6 January 2023

Number of participants:

42

Cost:

CHF 900

(contribution to the camp)


Ski or snowboard hire:

approx. CHF 150

Registration deadline:

30 September 2022

Full details of the winter holiday camp, including the registration form, will be available from Tuesday, 6 September 2022 at sjas.ch/en/winter-camp. We offer price reductions whenever these are justified. The relevant fee reduction application form is available to download from our website.


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How do we negotiate tomorrow's challenges and opportunities?

The annual Congress of the Swiss Abroad can finally take place again. Delegates will gather in sunny Lugano from 19 to 21 August 2022 to look at a range of important issues. In particular, they will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our democracy.

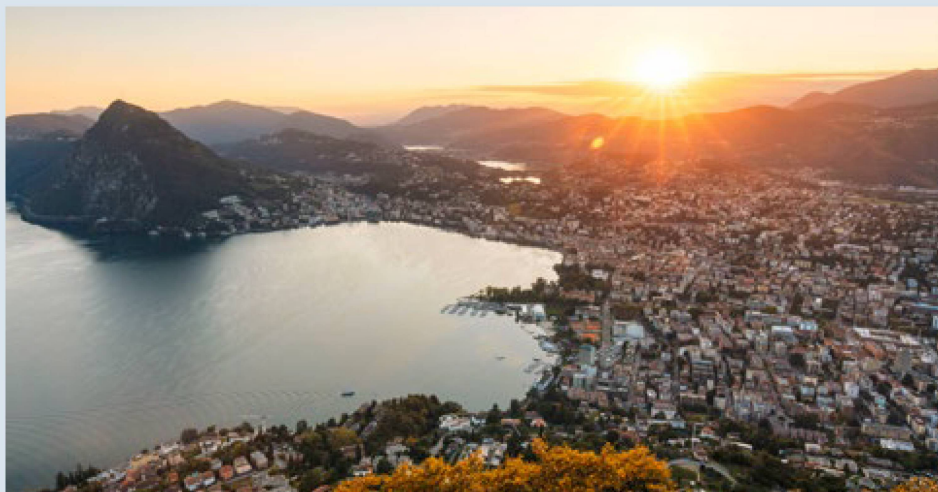
The world is changing at unprecedented speed. Covid-19 has amplified existing challenges and opportunities for our democracy. These include digitalisation, immigration, data protection, new communication technology, upholding democracy in an increasingly globalised

world, and exercising political rights. How is Switzerland's democratic system responding to these challenges? What do we need to reform? How do we protect Switzerland's democratic principles amid globalisation and the rise of autocracies? Must political rights in

Switzerland be extended to foreign nationals and to 16- and 17-year-olds?

Speakers and delegates will examine and try to answer these and many other pressing issues. The congress will also feature theme-based workshops allowing direct interaction with experts. In the beautiful, summery surroundings of Lugano, congress participants can look forward to taking part in outstanding discussions and gaining greater insight in relation to forthcoming challenges.

DÉSIRÉE KÜFFER



Sunset over the lake – Lugano is an attractive venue. Photo: Milo Zanecchia

Register now to secure your participation at the 98th Congress of the Swiss Abroad from 19 to 21 August 2022 in the unique city of Lugano: swisscommunity.link/congress.



As a member of the Swiss expatriate community, you can join in the conversation with other Swiss Abroad and share your own perspectives and ideas: members.swisscommunity.org.



Youth camps – what it takes to organise them

The Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad hosts several youth camps every year. Look behind the scenes and you will see that our camps involve a great deal of planning and rely on the amazing commitment and initiative of our well-trained camp leaders.

For the Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), every camp begins with the challenge of appointing camp leaders. It is not only about recruiting enough leaders, but also about finding people who are well-trained. One leader is needed for every 12 participants, and every leader has to have done the Y+S instructor course in camp sports and trekking. Y+S stands for Youth and Sport, the federal government scheme to promote sport. Those assigned overall responsibility for a camp must be even more qualified. They need to have com-

pleted training as a Y+S camp leader. All OSA youth camps meet clearly defined requirements and can therefore be registered with the Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO), which is responsible for the Y+S scheme to promote sport. FOSPO-registered camps enjoy considerable benefits. For example, they can provide all camp participants with Swiss Air-Rescue (Rega) insurance cover.

Practical planning for the summer camps begins every year at the end of February. The initial planning stage takes all Y+S-related requirements into ac-

count while drawing up a programme of activities that is as balanced as possible.

Work on the detailed plans can start once these broad outlines are in place. The camp leadership teams meet at their summer camp locations in May to discuss the programme of activities in detail. The programme for a two-week camp can result in up to 200 pages of guidelines! Depending on the activities in question, planning not only covers procedures and schedule but also addresses any issues relating to safety. For example, camp leaders will complete all the planned hikes and explore the actual localities themselves before the camp. This helps them to decide which activities are viable and what the scope of these activities should be. Every camp should provide participants with the op-

portunity to go on hikes, play ball games, go swimming, go on trips to nearby cities, experience the Swiss countryside – and share their own experiences of life as a Swiss expatriate. Detailed plans for this year's camps have almost been finalised, and the Youth Service of the OSA is looking forward to welcoming and meeting over 100 young people from around the world.

FABIENNE STOCKER



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Discussion

Relations between little Switzerland and big China are multi-faceted. In the previous edition of “Swiss Review”, we shone a light on this complex, complicated dynamic. Recent geopolitical events now beg another awkward question: what is Switzerland’s stance on resource-rich Russia now that Ukraine has been invaded? A small country on the one hand, superpowers on the other. Our readers had plenty to say.



Switzerland and China – it’s complicated

HERMANN LISCHER, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

A neutral Switzerland should treat all countries in the same way. You cannot make an exception for China. You can be neutral but still be critical and say what you think. Switzerland has yet to learn this. It needs to accept that neutrality comes at a price.

HANS J. ROTH, BANGKOK

There are some missing links to your otherwise comprehensive article on Swiss-Chinese relations. For example: the fact that human rights have been viewed solely through a Western lens until now, where the focus is on individual rights and freedoms. The duties that arise from the family and group dynamic were brushed under the table in the 1940s after the demise of nationalism and fascism. We are paying the price for this. The societies around the world that have gained in influence are those that believe people have to fulfil their duties as citizens before they can have rights. We in the West need to take this into account if we want to navigate the 21st century successfully. China, for its part, will need to engage with the Western approach to rights and freedoms – the same rights and freedoms that are set to play an increasing role for China’s growing middle classes. In Western societies, the concept of duty-bound citizenship

will always be afforded much less weight than it is in collective societies like China. But denying the concept altogether means we lack the bigger picture.

EDITH PRESCOTT, OTTAWA, CANADA

Swiss neutrality is an illusory concept because it depends on the war in question. The Federal Council pleads ‘neutrality’ on weapons deliveries to Ukraine, but the same government has no hesitation in exporting arms to Saudi Arabia, a country currently waging war in Yemen. Artillery for the Saudi oil sheikhs, but no protective vests for the Ukrainians. It seems that Switzerland is happy to apply double standards when doing so is conducive to its economic interests.

JING LI, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

I doubt Switzerland can play the role of bridge between China and the West, unless Switzerland’s politicians can adopt a more objective view on China. Swiss politicians need to know that Western values are not universal. Traditional Chinese values have great influence on the Chinese people and the political thinking of the Chinese government. They carry much greater wisdom than Western values.

ARYE-ISAAC OPHIR, ISRAEL

Essentially, state neutrality means to refrain from intervening in other countries’ problems. But neutrality does not mean simply looking on while other countries commit horrible crimes.

GUIDO ZIEGLER, PATTAYA, THAILAND

The Ukraine war shows that Switzerland is no longer neutral. Berne is well within its rights to respond in the way it has. But then it has to face the consequences and possibly take the economic hit. Switzerland treats

China and Russia differently to how it treats the US. Why? The world is now divided into two diametrically opposed economic systems. I think the system favoured by Russia and China will end up in the ascendancy. But Switzerland has already made its decision! And it will have to live with its choice.

LUTZ BRUGGER, RHEINFELDEN, GERMANY

Europe’s naivety continues. China wants to become a global power, and Beijing couldn’t care less about what the Europeans think. The Russians are working to the same template but also being played by China. Ultimately, we will all depend on China.

Visit the online edition of “Swiss Review” at www.revue.ch. Read the latest comments on our articles and join the conversation yourself.

You can also share your opinions on the community discussion forum of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). Popular discussion topics at the moment:

- > Health insurance for retired Swiss Abroad
- > The current situation in Ukraine
- > Specific administrative issues such as the Swiss pension system (AHV) and taxes

Link to the SwissCommunity discussion forum: members.swisscommunity.org/forum



CORRECTION

In the previous edition of “Swiss Review”, we said that the Aabach was a small river in the canton of Lucerne that flowed into Lake Greifensee. However, the Aabach only runs through the canton of Zurich. Two attentive readers – one from Vuokatti in Finland, the other from Jestetten in Germany – pointed this out to us. We can allay their fears and confirm that the tectonic plates have not swapped Zurich for Lucerne. (MUL)