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TOURIST NEWS

TO BADEN TO BATHE

Baden in Switzerland has long been the place where people have gone to bathe, to regain their health and — following the latest mode — to keep fit. Baden's thermal springs, the "Aqua Helvetiae", were known to the Romans. In medieval times family and group bathing was the thing, men and women bathing together in the health-giving warm water and passing the time with amusements of all kinds. And the 19 hot springs, the richest in minerals in Switzerland, are still an attraction. The baths of the modern hotels, which have succeeded in retaining the atmosphere of days gone by, are open to the public. Also available for guests are the outdoor thermal swimming pool (34°C/96°F) and the medical centre with specialist physicians and therapy institute. Another open-air thermal pool is to be opened next summer. The Baden Tourist Office offers visitors a "spa resort holiday" three-week arrangement and a package for tourists covering six days in Baden and excursions to various parts of Switzerland.

VCH HOTELS

VCH Hotels (Verband Christlicher Hospize) is a chain of well-run low-cost establishments. The same idea, the same aim and the application of the same operative principles are the common denominators of all these hotels which are firmly rooted in the Christian faith. Over 250 independent establishments in Europe are already operating along these lines. A brochure listing 47 establishments in 35 Swiss towns and resorts is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

NEW SNTO PUBLICATIONS

The Swiss National Tourist Office has published a revised edition of the new four-language leaflet "Switzerland — Holidays and Language Courses". It contains information on numerous institutes, private schools and holiday camps teaching languages combined with sport. Another new publication is the list "Motels 1980", describing around 100 places offering drivers accommodation in all tourist regions. Both publications are available free of charge from the SNTO.

MOUNTAINEERING IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Association of Mountaineering Schools has just published their leaflet giving details of courses for hikers, mountaineers and skiers during 1980. The folder is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

NEW LOCAL MUSEUM IN THE BLENIO VALLEY

A new local museum has been opened at Lottigna in the Blenio Valley (Postcoach Service Biasca — Olivone). It is housed in the "Palazzo del Pretorio", formerly the governor's residence. A whole range of utensils and many documents and costumes are on show, reminders of the old customs and the one-time cultural importance of this "Sunshine Valley". Another attraction is the large collection of old Swiss small-arms in use during the last four or five centuries. Wine-growing and agriculture are represented on the ground floor. From 1 April the museum will open daily from 2.30 to 5 p.m.. For group visits please contact the Ente Turistico Blenio, Tel. 092 / 78 17 65.

NEW YOUTH HOSTEL GUIDE

The Swiss National Tourist Office (SNTO), in close co-operation with the Swiss Youth Hostel Federation, has published a new and updated map of Switzerland, on which all 119 youth hostels are marked. A table on the back of the map gives useful information for each region, such as the addresses of the hostels, dates of opening, services and sports and transport facilities. There is also information on cheap tickets enabling young holidaymakers to travel around Switzerland at low cost. The four-language guide can be obtained from the Swiss Youth Hostel Federation, P.O. Box 132, CH-8958 Spreitenbach, or from the SNTO.

A ROUSSEAU RARITY

A hitherto little-known work by the Geneva philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau can be seen at the Museum of Domestic Art (Wohnmuseum) in Bäregasse, Zurich. It is a small herbarium consisting of 101 preserved plants carefully labelled by Rousseau himself. This little rarity, which has been in the care of the Central Library for 150 years, used to belong to a family in Môtiers-Travers which had given Rousseau shelter. The Museum of Domestic Art also contains the Sasha Morgenthaler doll collection. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday, and on Monday afternoon. Admission is free.

ALL-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND — SUMMER 1980

The Swiss National Tourist Office has again published its brochure "Summer Holidays in Switzerland 1980 arranged by British Tour Operators". During spring, summer and autumn this year, over 90 British Tour Operators are arranging inclusive holidays and "city breaks" in 60 Swiss resorts and towns.

Prices range from £134.00 for 8 days at Interlaken or from £215.00 for 15 days at Les Marécottes, half board and air travel from London.

GIPSY-STYLE HOLIDAYS IN THE JURA

The hills and dark fir forests of the Jura tempt the holidaymaker to take a break from the daily round. One way to see the romantic Ajoie region, the Alsace and the Laufen Valley or the Franches Montagnes at a comfortably slow pace is to explore it by gipsy caravan. The offers are valid from May to October. Early booking at Pro Jura, CH-2740 Moutier, or at ACS Reisen, Postfach, CH-3001 Berne is recommended.

"GRÜN 80" EXHIBITION IN BASLE

From April 12 to October 12 "Grün 80", the 2nd Swiss Exhibition for Horticulture and Landscaping, will be held in Basle. It departs from the traditional concept in that a great deal of emphasis is also laid on problems of the environment and quality of life. Sure to attract particular attention are the Bernese and Ticino country gardens, the rose-garden with its 10,000 bushes, the "Rhododendron Valley" and the English garden with Swiss sculptures. The humid and dry biotopes as sanctuaries for many endangered indigenous plants and animals, the spice and herb garden and the "Green University" sector are also of great interest. Tourist attractions include the monorail which offers a ride of 2.4 km (1½ miles) around the exhibition grounds, the observation Tower which is 76 m (249 feet) high, the numerous restaurants and an entertainment programme. The "Grün 80" Exhibition is open daily from 9 a.m. until midnight. On various occasions the Basle Tourist Office is offering special arrangements covering hotel accommodation, entry and other facilities. From 1 May return tickets will be available for the price of a single from all Swiss Federal Railway stations and most private railways, provided the second-class price is at least Sw.Fr. 11.80 and the first-class price Sw.Fr. 17.60 and that at the same time an entrance ticket to "Grün 80" is purchased or can be shown.