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Swiss Holiday Scene



The first of the 10,000 entrants in the Engadine Ski Marathon pull away from the start. More pictures overleaf.

Swiss Holiday Scene



Some of the skiers in the 35-mile marathon near the Castle Crap da Sass in Silvaplana/Grisons.

10,000 in marathon in the snow

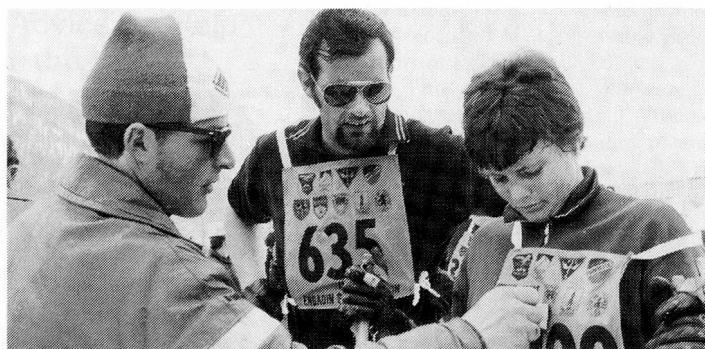
EACH year in early March about 10,000 enthusiasts gather in the Engadine area of Switzerland to compete in the Ski Marathon, Switzerland's biggest cross-country skiing event.

This seasons marks the 14th year the event has been held. It is open to those born before 1962 and takes place on March 14. The route is Maloja (5960 ft), Isola, Sils, Surlej, Silvaplana, St. Moritz, Pontresina, Samedan, Bever, Zuoz and S-chanf (5487 ft).

An all-inclusive arrangement from March 7 to 15 (eight nights), combining scheduled air travel to Basle, rail transfer, half board at the two-star Hotel Scaletta at S-chanf near Zuoz, tuition and training, as well as the entry fee for the marathon, is available from £245.



Most marathon entrants ski for more than three hours before they cross the finishing line.



The words "Finished the Course" are stamped on the starting numbers – a perfect souvenir for the living room wall.

Gold medal for film

THE latest film to be made on behalf of the Swiss National Tourist Office, "Andante", has been awarded a gold medal at the International Film and TV Festival in New York.

Directed by Christian Tauber, it was produced by Condor Film of Zurich.

"Fly-baggage" expands

MORE Swiss towns have joined the scheme that enables passengers flying from Geneva and Zurich airports to register their luggage from a local station.

The scheme, which has been much appreciated by people flying from Switzerland to Britain, means it is no longer necessary to carry luggage between station and airport, and cuts out queuing at a busy check-in desk.

The number of stations now accepting luggage has been increased from 72 to 95. The new ones are: La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Locle, Moutier, Porrentruy, Aigle, Château-d'Oex, Lyss, Herzogenbuchsee, Langnau, Meiringen, Brunnen, Schwytz, Sursee, Einsiedeln, Glaris, Rapperswil, St-Margrethen, Sargans, Thalwil, Winterthur, Frauenfeld, Klosters and Pontresina.

The scheme is for passengers on all scheduled services from Geneva and Zurich, as well as a number of charter flights. All it costs is Sfr. 7.— per item of luggage. However, if you are not travelling to the airport by train yourself the price is tripled to Sfr. 21.—.

Popularity unabated

FURTHER proof of the popularity of Switzerland with British holidaymakers comes in the latest figures from the Federal Statistics Office.

These show that in the period January to November 1981 the percentage increase in visitors compared to the same period in 1980 was:

Great Britain	30
Italy	11
France	9
Germany	3
USA	1
Netherlands	1
Belgium	1



ry in the snow at one of Hoch-Ybrig's past competitions.



Amateurs and professionals compete in this annual contest in Central Switzerland.

Hiking theme to sculpture competition

THE Central Switzerland resort of Hoch-Ybrig will be the scene of the seventh Swiss snow sculpture competition, which will be held from February 11 to 14.

This year's subject, The Spirit of Hiking, has been chosen in connection with an extensive promotional campaign with the same slogan, to be launched by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

The competition will attract individual participants as well as groups of up to a maximum of five people. The time is limited to

four days, and snow and water only is to be used.

A jury will judge according to the quality of the sculpture, originality, use of material and interpretation of the given theme. Prizes will include holidays in Switzerland and Canada.

This competition is organised under the patronage of the Swiss National Tourist Office and Air Canada.

Registration must be by February 4 to Hoch-Ybrig AG, 8842 Hoch-Ybrig, Switzerland.

Events of the month

Feb. 1st half
Feb 16-19

St.Moritz
Basel

World bob championships
Muba: RECYCLING, international
exhibition of machines and processes
for recycling waste