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Apart from the well known "Swiss Pass" and "Abonnement General", which are for the whole of Switzerland and some regional passes for tourists, there are many areas with local season tickets. Although these are aimed at local residents, for "work and play", they can be bought by anybody. As is usual with our integrated transport system, they are valid on most of the public transport providers in the area. They are usually valid for a minimum of one month and can be good value even for a shorter stay. To find out more, try visiting these sites, they all start with the usual "www.". Most sites are primarily in German or French. Once on the site, look for "Tarifverbund", "Verbundabonnemente", or the name of the pass given below. Most are based on a zonal system, there is usually a small map and prices are displayed. So here goes:

Aargau: "A-Welle Extra": www.a-welle.ch

Basel: "TNW Umweltschutz": www.tnw.ch - the first one in Switzerland!

Bern: "BäreAbi": www.bemmobil.ch

Berner Oberland Ost: "Sunnecharte": www.post.ch - type Sunnecharte in the search box and there is a choice of a map or information.

Biel/Bienne: "AboZigZag": www.abozigzag.ch

Davos: "Davoser Pass": www.vbd.ch

Geneva: "unireso": www.tpg.ch

Graubünden: "Bündner Generalabonnement": www.post.ch - click the regionalverkehr button and click the area map. This also works for several other regions.

Jura: "Vagabond": www.jura.ch

Lausanne: "Gallilée": www.t-l.ch - click on the tariffs and abonnements links

Morges: "Ecot-de-Morges": www.swisscraft.ch/bam - follow the links from the bus link.

Neuchâtel: "Onde verte": www.onde-verte.ch

Olten: "Verbund-Abo TVO": www.post.ch - type in Olten in the search box.

Oberengadin: "Tarifverbund Oberengadin": www.engadinbus.ch

Ostschweiz: "Tarifverbund Ostwind": www.ostwind.ch - the largest in Switzerland!

Schaffhausen: "Flex Tax": www.vbsh.ch - this has a snappy introduction.

Schwyz: "Tarifverbund Schwyz": www.tarifverbund-schwyz.ch

Solothurn: "Frosch-Abo": www.rbs.ch

Thun: "Stärncharte": www.staerncharte.ch

Ticino: "Abonnemente Arcobaleno": www.arcobaleno.ch

Zug: "Zuger Pass": www.zvb.ch

Zurich: "Regenbogen": www.zvv.ch

Have fun and maybe next time explore a smaller area more thoroughly! Thanks are due to the "Verband öffentlicher Verkehr" (VoV), and the "Informationsdienst für den öffentlichen Verkehr" (LITRA) for all the information. By the way in typing it out to save my finger and stop my computer asking every time if I wanted "Mad and Soft" internet access I left out the www. (*Note from Ed. I put them back, my finger hurts*)

George Hoekstra reports from Switzerland that Swisscom, the Swiss equivalent of BT, have changed the dialling system so that all internal Swiss calls now require area codes, even local calls within the area. Remember this if you need a taxi!