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## World Atlas of Swiss Places

Where can you find Swiss places outside Switzerland and what are they like? What did emigrants seeking a new life, mainly in the 19th century, take with them when they established new towns like Berne, Glarus, Zurich, Locarno and many more?

Journalist Petra Koci, a Swiss woman with Hungarian roots, set off to explore these outposts of the Swiss Confederation. Her travels took her to countries such as the Netherlands, Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine, Russia and Australia. The result is the World Atlas of Swiss Places, in which she paints a portrait of fif-

teen towns and villages. She not only researched their history, but also participated in the day-to-day life of their inhabitants. Often this everyday existence still reflects the dreams that the founders had when they set off to establish a new "Switzerland" in a foreign land – some out of a sense of adventure and a fascination with far-off places, but most from sheer necessity.

Koci likes the people and tells their stories concisely and

often with a subtle humour, but never lapses into sentimentality. Her partner, photographer Benno Gut, is a skilled documentarist. The

World Atlas of Swiss Places has only one drawback: it is currently only available in German, with no translations produced as yet.

PETRA KOCI, "Weltatlas der Schweizer Orte"; Limmat Verlag, Zurich 2013; 288 pages with photographs by Benno Gut; CHF 39.50, EUR 33; [www.limmatverlag.ch](http://www.limmatverlag.ch)



Basel, now Vasilyevka: Russia  
 Founded: 20 August 1767  
 Population when founded: 166  
 Neighbouring villages on the Volga: Glarus, Lucerne, Zug, Schaffhausen, Unterwalden, Solothurn, Zurich, all founded 1767/1768



Zurichtal, now Zolotoe Pole: Ukraine  
 Founded: September 1805  
 Population: 4,000  
 Inhabitants: Ukrainians, Russians, Crimean Tatars





Villa Lugano, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires:  
Argentina  
Founded: 18 October 1908  
Population: 114,253  
[www.villalugano.com.ar](http://www.villalugano.com.ar); [www.ojodepez.org.ar](http://www.ojodepez.org.ar)



New Glarus: Wisconsin, USA  
Founded: 1845  
Population: 1,341; ten speak Swiss German  
[www.swisstown.com](http://www.swisstown.com)



St-Maurice, now Haï Mouaz M'hamed: Algeria  
Populated: from 1851 by 27 Swiss families  
Population today: approx. 10,000

