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HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Railways and Swiss State Travel Bureau, 11B, Regent Street, London, S.W.1, have just published a very useful pamphlet entitled "Switzerland again!"

It gives the following welcome information:

As the result of the negotiations between Great Britain and Switzerland, travel to the "Playground of Europe" for Holidays will again be possible from May 1st, 1948. An official announcement to this effect was made in the Press a short time ago.

The "Travel Ban" is off, but the total amount of Swiss francs available for holiday purposes is limited, and therefore rationed. A definite sum and no more is set aside for each month, commencing with May.

It is obvious that under these circumstances everybody residing in Great Britain, regardless of nationality who requires Swiss Francs in exchange for Sterling should apply as early as possible for their individual share of Holiday Money which is at most £35.0.0 per adult and £25.0.0 for a child under 16, or £2.10.0 per day for a stay of less than a fortnight. An application form is provided for this purpose, and obtainable from any Tourist Agent or direct from the Authorisation Office for Travel to Switzerland, 11c, Regent Street, S.W.1 (Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation). This form should be completed and returned at once or as soon as possible preferably by post to the Travel Agent through whom you are booking. He will then do the needful towards obtaining your Authorization. If you are making or have made your own Hotel Reservation you should send with your Currency Application Form, the letter from your Hotel-Keeper in Switzerland confirming your rooms. In case you are lodging with a private family or if you have made no reservation at all (motorists, hikers, etc.) you should produce some other evidence confirming the length of your stay in Switzerland.

The Authorization fee is 3/- per head. Your Travel Agent is entitled to a further 3/- per person for his Services.

Applications for Swiss Currency can be made at any time, but the Authorization itself will only be issued up to a fortnight before departure. Should the application be unsuccessful, you will, however, hear within a few days.

When you have obtained your Authorization you will, on presenting it to your Bank, receive your Swiss Franc Allocation, less the amount (if any) paid to your Travel Agent in this Country for Hotel Accommodation, etc., in Switzerland ("V"-Form). Your Travel

Expenses (Tickets, Sleepers, Meals, etc.) to Switzerland and back can, as a rule, be paid for in Sterling, and do not come off your Allocation. For Season Tickets of any kind, you will have to obtain a "V"-Form or buy them in Switzerland out of your £35.0.0 or whatever your allocation may be. Your Bank will sell you the Swiss Money in the form of Travellers' Cheques at the Official Rate of Swiss Francs 17.34 to the £, less commission. If you wish, you will be able to obtain a small proportion in Swiss Cash.

Upon arrival in Switzerland and on presenting your Authorization, your Travellers' Cheques and your Passport, you can collect half the amount mentioned on the Authorization, and, after 7 days stay, the other 50%, all in cash. Hotel and Transportation Vouchers will no longer be made use of.

Transportation.

The Summer Services 1948 overland and by Air will come into operation early in May. They will be approximately the same as last year, with slight improvements. As far as it is possible to say now, the principal Services by boat and train will be as follows:—

London-Bâle via Dover-Calais-Lille:

	A.	B.
Victoriadep.	9.20	9.20
Dover Marr.	11.10	11.10
Dover Mdep.	12.20	12.20
Calais Marr.	13.40	13.40
Calais Mdep.	14.45	14.38
Lillearr.	16.43	16.15
Lilledep.	17.10	16.30
Bâlearr.	6.00	4.00
Lucernearr.	8.36	
Coire (Chur) arr.	11.32	

A. Daily until June 29th and from October 1st.

B. Daily June 30th to September 30th.

London-Bâle (Lucerne, Coire) and Berne (Interlaken) via Folkestone-Calais-Laon:

	A.	B.
Victoriadep.	14.30	14.30
Folkestone ...arr.	16.13	16.13
Folkestone ...dep.	16.50	16.50
Calais Marr.	18.20	18.20
Calais Mdep.	19.25	20.05
Laonarr.	23.28	23.56
Laondep.	23.41	0.08
Belfortarr.	6.26	6.58

Belfort ...dep. 6.47* 7.08
 Dellearr. 7.15* 7.36
 Bernearr. 10.27* 10.27
 Interlaken
 Bf.arr. 11.45* 11.45

Belfortdep. 6.36 7.18
 Bâlearr. 7.55 8.40
 Lucernearr. 10.38
 Züricharr. 10.10
 Chur (Coire) arr. 12.05

A. Daily from May 8th.
 B. Fridays only from July 2nd.

* Until June 30th all Bernese Oberland Traffic goes via Bâle.

London-Bâle via Dover-Ostend-Brussels - Luxembourg - Strasbourg:

	A.	B.
Victoriadep.	9.00	15.00
Doverarr.	10.40	16.40
Doverdep.	11.20	17.20
Ostendarr.	15.05	21.05
Ostenddep.	16.35	22.10
Brussels Nord arr.	18.05	23.41
Brussels Nord dep.	18.30	0.15
Bâlearr.	6.00	13.10

A. Daily.
 B. Daily from May 9th.

London - Folkestone - Calais - Paris - Vallorbe - Montreux - Brigue:

Victoriadep.	14.30
Folkestonearr.	16.13
Folkestonedep.	16.50
Calais Marr.	18.20
Calais Mdep.	18.51
Paris (Lyon)arr.	23.31
Paris (Lyon)dep.	23.55
Vallorbearr.	7.30
Lausannearr.	9.12
Montreuxarr.	9.40
Brigue (Brig)arr.	11.24

From May 9th:
 Daily Through Carriages Calais-Brigue, with 2nd class Sleeper.

Any of the four routes mentioned provide through travel, without change, to Switzerland. In addition there are both morning (9.05) and evening (19.50)



departures from Victoria via Newhaven-Dieppe to Paris with good connections beyond to all parts of Switzerland. They, as well as the Night Ferry Service via Dover-Dunkerque (Vict. dept. 21.30) necessitate a change of Stations in Paris. The same applies, of course, to the Southampton-Havre Service (Waterloo dep. 21.00). *Exception:* The morning Newhaven-Dieppe Service (Victoria dep. 9.05) will, on Saturdays only from July 3rd to September 11th, provide Through Carriages from Dieppe to Bâle via Noisy-le-Sec-Troyes (Bâle arr. 4.40). For further and more ample details please see the "Continental Handbook" published by the British Railways (Southern Region), and the separate time-tables distributed free of charge by the Swiss Federal Railways and Swiss State Travel Bureau, 11b, Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

Direct Air Services to Switzerland are being flown by Swissair, British European Airways and K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Air Lines), Air France and Sabena (Belgian Air Lines) also provide excellent connections. For particulars please see the respective time-tables.

Whatever means of transportation you select, early reservation is advisable. If humanly possible do not change your date of travel, your route, etc., after you have placed your order. more likely than not you will have difficulty in obtaining alternate accommodation.

Fares vary from time to time with the rates of exchange and for other reasons. It may, however, be useful to give a few specimen rates, applicable at present and subject to alteration without notice:

	By Air	1st class via Calais	2nd class via Calais
London-Bâle return ...	£24.15.0	£17. 4. 6	£12.19. 6
London-Zürich return ...	27. 0.0	18.19. 7	14. 4. 3
London-Geneva return ...	25. 4.0	18.17.10	14. 1. 2
London-Lucerne return ...	—	19. 1. 8	14. 5. 9
London-Interlaken return ...	—	20.14. 9	15. 9. 5
London-Montreux return ...	—	18.12. 8	13.19. 8

Baggage can be registered through from London to most Swiss Holiday Centres. Free allowance: 66lbs. per Adult in England and France. Please label your Hand and Registered Luggage clearly. In addition it is wise to put your name and address inside your suitcase or trunk, etc. Insure your luggage. The premium is small and your mind at ease. Make yourself familiar with Customs regulations. Your Travel Agent will be able to tell you where and when you have to be present for the examination of your baggage, and for the passport controls.

Before leaving this Country, *i.e.* at the Port you will be asked to declare all the money, travellers' cheques and cash you are carrying. You can take with you in cash: £10.0.0 of foreign currency, plus travellers' cheques covering the rest of your "basic allowance." In addition you are allowed to carry £5 in Treasury notes to pay for incidental expenses in the United Kingdom. The countries you are travelling through on your way to Switzerland also have a fiscal control, and you will have to declare your money upon entering and leaving France, for instance, even if you are "en transit."

Hotel Accommodation.

Your Travel Agent will be happy to book you hotel accommodation anywhere in Switzerland. As mentioned earlier its value comes off your basic allowance or "Spending Money." On the other hand, you can select your own Hotel and write direct for rooms. In this case you will pay in Switzerland out of your Travellers' Cheques. Hotel prices may be slightly

higher than the rates mentioned in the Swiss Hotel Guide for 1947. The 1948 revised Edition will probably not be ready for distribution until May. Comfort and Food are of the usual high standard. Rationing is practically abolished, and Meal Tickets are no longer required.

Passports and Visas.

A valid Passport is, of course, essential. If you are without one or if its validity has expired and requires renewal, you should apply to the British Passport Office, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.

Holders of British Passports issued in the U.K. do not need a Swiss, French, Belgian or Luxembourg Visa. Swiss Nationals, however, require from the French Embassy, Visa Section, 29, Queen Anne Street, W.1, a transit visa for France, but do not need a Re-entry Permit to come back to this Country. Other Nationals and Stateless persons should make careful and early inquiries at the Visa Offices of the Countries they wish to visit or travel through, and also at the British Passport Office (Aliens' Section) in order to find out whether they require a Re-entry Permit. Your Travel Agent will on demand see to most of these formalities. The Golden Rule is: do everything as early as you can.

Be sure you get the ticket for your journey in Switzerland which suits your purpose best. In nearly all cases you will want a "Swiss Holiday Ticket" for a definite itinerary at your own choice. It is not only greatly reduced compared to ordinary fares, but contains 5 vouchers for excursions at half price. The

INSURANCE SERVICE

The members of the SWISS COLONY in this country can obtain free expert advice and, on request, quotations for the following insurances :-

MARINE. A direct cover with own Certificates can be procured with Switzerland General Insurance Co. Ltd., or Lloyds.

FIRE, LOSS OF PROFITS, BURGLARY, WATER DAMAGE, ENGINEERING.

HOUSEHOLDERS COMPREHENSIVE & ALL RISKS.

MOTOR CAR. PUBLIC LIABILITY & FIDELITY.

SPECIAL OMNIUM POLICIES giving ALL RISKS cover anywhere in U.K. for Industries with Outworkers.

SPECIAL ACCIDENT Insurance giving WORLD WIDE cover for any accident, from £3 per annum (for £1,000 and £10 weekly).

LIFE ASSURANCE, individual and Staff Schemes.

HOUSE PURCHASE, MORTGAGES.

Please phone or write for particulars to:—

**ANGLO-SWISS INSURANCE
AND REINSURANCE AGENCY LTD.,
29 & 30, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1**

Tel.: CHAncery 8 5 5 4 (5 Lines)

"Holiday Ticket" is obtainable from any Travel Agent, and can in the great majority of cases be paid for in Sterling outside the "Basic Allowance." A separate leaflet will give you full particulars.

There is another new kind of Swiss Ticket which we would describe as the holiday-makers "Magic Carpet." It is a General Holiday Season Ticket allowing unlimited travel over more than 4,000 Miles of Railways and Steamboats during six days of a fortnight or twelve days of a month. The choice of these days is optional and at the discretion of the ticket holder. This new facility is a great boon. Even in Switzerland it rains sometimes, or you may for a change decide to explore the countryside afoot. Even then, *i.e.* on days when you do not use the Holiday Season Ticket as such, you will, upon presentation at any booking office be supplied with tickets at half price! Try this passport to carefree travel; you will be delighted. It must, however, be understood that this new "Holiday Season Ticket" can only be bought in Sterling against a "V"-Form, in other words the cost comes off your "Basic Allowance." It is therefore, from a money point of view, quite immaterial whether you buy it in England or in Switzerland out of your Travellers' Cheques.

Switzerland is short of very few things, as you will discover when you are there. One of them is paper for the production of Posters, pamphlets and Tourist Advertising Literature of the well-known kind. Will you help us over a temporary difficulty by only asking for, or taking what you really need, by preserving carefully what you manage to get and by letting your friends have a look, or if you do not need the material any more, by passing it on to them?



*Spend your Summer-Holidays
in Switzerland*

THE HOTEL "ALBEINA"

the house for Swiss from abroad, at Klosters-Village, Grisons (3690 ft.) is open from May 15th until the end of September, 1948.

All-inclusive prices for 7 days from fr.78.- to fr.90.-

Please make your early reservations through the AUSLANDSCHWEIZERWERK DER NHG, Wallgasse 2, Berne (the Secretary for the Swiss abroad of the New Helvetic Society).



— EVERY COMFORT —

TED SMITH AN HANS STEINER.

The letter from "Ted Smith an Hans Steiner" has appeared some little while ago in the "Basler Nachrichten." Its author, the "Nachrichten's" London Correspondent, Mr. Gottfried Keller, has put it at our disposal for reproducing. We are pleased to publish it below, as it seems to hit the nail on the head in more than one respect. (Ed.)

Der nachstehende Brief eines Durchschnitts-engländers an einen Freund in der Schweiz ist reine Fiktion. Er könnte aber Tatsache sein, wenn Ted Smith sich aufraffen würde, zur Feder zu greifen, um seinem Freund Hans Steiner in der Schweiz zu schreiben. Da aber Ted Smith nicht sonderlich gerne schreibt und seine Freizeit lieber anders verbringt, hat ihm Ihr Berichterstatter die rein manuelle Schreibearbeit abgenommen, da ihm scheint, dass das, was Ted Smith seinem Freund zu sagen hat, nicht ungesagt bleiben sollte. Der Brief, den Ted Smith an seinen Freund Hans Steiner richtet, lautet folgendermassen:

London, im April 1948.

Mein lieber Freund,

Seitdem wir uns letztes Jahr in jener hübschen Jugendherrberge im Toggenburg trafen und ganze Nächte miteinander durchplauderten, sind über acht Monate vergangen. Eine lange Zeit. Vieles hat sich in der weiten Welt und bei uns in England zugetragen. Das Wenigste davon war erfreulich. Wie Du aus Euren Zeitungen wissen wirst, sind wir hier in England immer noch auf dem Wege eines langsamen Anstieges und haben noch keineswegs die "luftigen Höhen" erreicht, von denen unser früherer Ministerpräsident Churchill in seinen Reden so oft zu sprechen pflegte.

Es wird, glaube ich, bei uns hart gearbeitet. Die Exportziffern steigen unaufhörlich und die Schlacht um die Kohle steht gut. Streiks haben wir in letzter Zeit wenige gehabt, wie es überhaupt eines der wirklichen Verdienste der gegenwärtigen Regierung ist, dass sie den Arbeitsfrieden im Grossen und Ganzen hat wahren können. Wenn es trotzdem nur so langsam vorwärts geht, so zeigt das, glaube ich, wie nahe am Rand des Abgrundes wir wirklich waren, als unser Wirtschaftsminister und Schatzkanzler Sir Stafford Cripps letzten Herbst mit starker Hand eingriff. Klingt es in schweizerischen Ohren anmassend und deshalb unenglisch, wenn ich sage, dass wir uns für Europa so sehr verausgabt haben? Ich hoffe nicht. Jedenfalls entspricht es doch den Tatsachen. Was haben wir als Volk schon aus dem letzten Krieg gewonnen? Wir gehören zwar zu den Siegern, aber was hat uns das gebracht? An gebietsmässigem Zuwachs gar nichts. Aber dafür sind wir ja auch nicht in den Krieg gezogen. Indien und Burma haben wir aufgegeben und aus Palästina ziehen wir uns demnächst ganz zurück. Ich glaube, das ist richtig. Wir haben uns dort nur Undank geerntet, indem wir versuchten, eine beinahe unmögliche Aufgabe zu lösen. Schliesslich können wir die Soldaten, die jetzt Palästina bald verlassen werden, gut brauchen. Hat uns der Krieg im Innern unseres Landes etwas eingebracht? Nichts als eine noch nie dagewesene Senkung des Lebensstandards, eine scharfe Verteuerung der Lebenshaltung, verschärfte Rationierung, eine Verknappung an allen Ecken und Enden.