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## SWISS HALF FARE CARD

Members who visit Switzerland may be interested to know that non Swiss nationals can purchase the Half Fare Card for an annual price (at May 1997) of CHF150. This is valid for 12 months and can be purchased at any station in Switzerland on production of a passport photograph. From 1st August 1997 a two year card will also be available for CHF220.

The Half Fare Card, although not a ticket in its own right, enables the purchase of half fare rail tickets for journeys throughout Switzerland and also makes available the General Abonnement (GA) day tickets. These can be purchased at CHF50 for any 1 day or CHF250 for any 6 days on presentation at any station of the Half Fare Card. The GA tickets are validated on the day of travel in the orange machines found on every station and represent extremely good value for those who require a greater flexibility of travel dates than that offered by the Swiss Pass. Although most lines are covered by the GA tickets, including the whole of the RhB, some

such as the FO and BVZ unfortunately are not. It is not known how long the 6 day tickets are valid, but such a ticket purchased in July 1996 was valid for use until 31/12/97.

Currently as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations the SBB is offering a special 1 day GA ticket to Half Fare Card holders for CHF29. Although this is valid only during the month of purchase it represents extremely good value.

### Swiss Passes

For this year to celebrate the 150th the SBB is giving to holders of 8 day or longer passes an extra day free of charge by presenting their passes at a station.

### Swiss Card

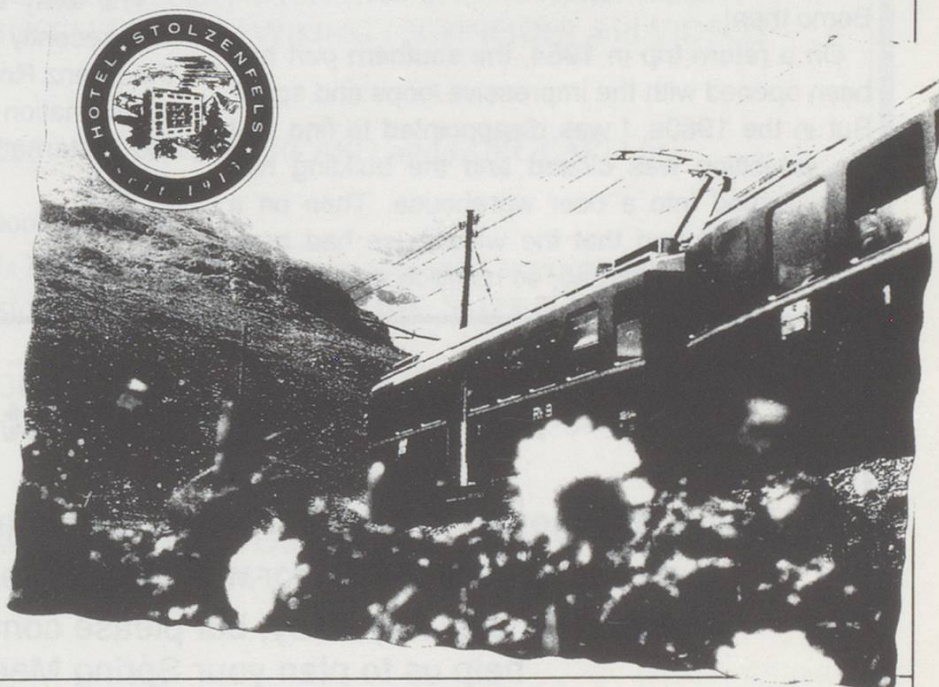
If you purchase a Swiss Card this not only gives you travel from your point of entry in Switzerland to your hotel and return but also acts as an Half Fare Card on any tickets you purchase.

## *Fascination*

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