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ERSTFELD SEPTEMBER 2009 Roger Ellis

I am delighted to be able to advise members that our 2009 Autumn Social Event will take place from Thursday 17th to Monday 21st September 2009 in Erstfeld which is situated on the Gotthard main line. Thanks to Paul at the Hotel Frohsinn, Ruedi Steinman of the SVEA plus David Stevenson and John Jesson of the SRS the following proposed programme has been put together.

Thursday 17th September.

Members make their own way to Erstfeld and meet for an evening meal at the Hotel Frohsinn. Afterwards we are invited to the Erstfeld Model Railway Club to view their "O" and "HO" gauge layouts. Return to the Hotel for a nightcap!

Friday 18th September.

After breakfast a visit to Erstfeld Locomotive Depot (to be confirmed). The party will then go to Fluelen with an opportunity to visit the "crystal" exhibition in the old church and/or spend time at Karl Ziegler-Rieser's model shop (Karl is a member of the Erstfeld Club). Then we travel to Lucerne to either spend the afternoon in the Transport Museum, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009, or join David Stevenson who has offered to lead a conducted tour of the City. Both groups then meet up at the Hotel Restaurant Falken for an evening meal after which we have been invited to visit the Lucerne Model Railway Club. Return to Erstfeld for another nightcap!

Saturday 19th September.

If the weather is fine we join John Jesson for a day viewing the Gotthard by both coach and on foot. If the weather is unsuitable then Paul at the Frohsinn has offered to organise a visit to the Helicopter Rescue Centre and the Base Tunnel Information Exhibition. As an alternative, members could travel over the Gotthard to Swiss Miniature in Melide and/or to the Model Train Centre in Mendrisio. The weather may be better south of the Alps - or worse!

Return to the Frohsinn, and after the evening meal John Jesson and/or a guest speaker will present a slide show on the Gotthard. After which who knows?

Sunday 20th September.

The group travel to Realp and then on the Furka Damf Bahn combined with a visit to their Depot (to be confirmed). We then return to the Frohsinn for an evening meal and possibly partake of a farewell drink.

Monday 21st September.

Members depart after breakfast.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS MOST IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

If you are interested in joining me for this event you must note the following:-

1 You will need to book your accommodation direct with the Hotel Frohsinn advising the number of nights you wish to be there and also telling Paul that your stay is in connection with the SRS event (Paul has agreed to give members a 5% discount). Remember that as with any hotel, rooms are limited in number and early booking is advisable.

2 You must confirm to me that you have made the booking and are intending to come, also letting me know your e-mail or home address. I need this information again, as although you may have expressed interest before, this will be more of a commitment. I need to know the numbers coming to make sure that the event is viable. I will be sending out newsletters when appropriate letting you know how the arrangements are progressing.

3 The Swiss Railways Society is NOT organising this event as a tour and the SRS has no financial involvement with it. I have no financial involvement with the event and am only acting as a facilitator. You will therefore need to arrange the usual travel insurance for yourself as you would normally do when travelling abroad.

4 You should be aware that few of the outings are free and to illustrate this I understand that the SBB now charge CHF5 per person for a depot visit, and of course those coming on the

Gotthard coach trip on the Saturday will need to pay for the hire of the vehicle. However, as we will be travelling as a group we will be able to take advantage of the appropriate discounts offered where possible.

5 Individuals will be responsible for all their travel costs on public transport during the visit. It is expected that most people will be using an appropriate Swiss Pass, or similar, when travelling around.

6 You will be responsible for all your own travel arrangements in getting to and from Erstfeld.

It is presumed that most of you will book "half board" at the Frohsinn and this will make Paul's life easier and means we can hopefully all eat together. He is of course aware that most members of the party will be eating in Lucerne on the Friday evening and will adjust your bill accordingly.

I hope to make the weekend "flexible" in that I would not expect every member or their partners to go on all of the organised trips. I appreciate that there are outings

which may not appeal and if you want to go off on your own for a day, or half a day then fine. I will however ask, nearer the time, for a list of your intentions in order that I can advise the various organisations of the numbers we are bringing.

I have tried to make the programme varied but inevitably some will be disappointed. I enjoy both watching trains going over the Gotthard and Central Switzerland in General. The Hotel Frohsinn is an ideal centre and Paul, Ruth his wife, Nicole his daughter and all the staff are super and will make us most welcome.

Lastly I cannot guarantee that the event itself or all of the trips planned will happen as I am writing this article over a year beforehand! You all know I will do my best. If any of you reading this can assist in helping me with any of the arrangements then please let me know.

Hoping you can join me and enjoy a visit to Switzerland in the company of like-minded people.



Hotel Frohsinn

Visiting the Gotthard and the surrounding area of Lake Luzern?

Experience real Swiss hospitality in a family run hotel with well appointed rooms, excellent food and plenty of local atmosphere.

The hotel is located in an ideal place to start your tour. Situated at the beginning of the North Ramp of the Gotthard with a commanding view of the railway, and equally well placed for those walks in the beautiful surrounding countryside of William Tell fame or that longed for journey on nearby Lake Luzern.

For brochure and reservation details:

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