

"O Switzerland" [Ashley Curtis]

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Embassy News



Grüezi mitenand,

My name is Silvia Greve; I am the new Personal Assistant to the Ambassador and am grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself. In my free time I love to hike in the mountains, ride horses, make long bike tours or simply take my camera and spend hours in doing photography.

Originally, I come from Winterthur but I would describe myself as a citizen of the world, since I have studied and worked abroad a lot. To achieve my Bachelor degree in Tourism and Leisure Management, I studied in the Netherlands and in France. Afterwards, I completed my Master's degree in International Business Management with the University of Cumbria, UK.

I have been working in the tourism industry for several years, gaining insight into the hotel business by working in lodges in South Africa, Argentina and Italy. I also worked as a project manager in the group department of TUI Suisse Ltd in Zürich. Later, I became the head of the group department of the tour operator Kontiki Reisen in Baden.

The tourism industry experience was certainly enriching. However, I became more and more interested in the field of international cooperation and started to work for a development organization in Nicaragua, where I coordinated volunteers for different development projects in Central America. Thereafter, I joined the Swiss army and became part of a peace support mission in Kosovo for over a year. There I worked as a team leader of a Liaison and Monitoring Team in the north and later as the liaison officer to international organisations and NGOs.

Now, I am in New Zealand - for the second time, having spent three months working on a horse farm in Canterbury 14 years ago. I am very happy to be back in this beautiful country and am delighted to be part of the Swiss Embassy team.



Dear fellow Swiss citizens

As the new diplomatic intern at the Embassy in Wellington, I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Vivien Stringer and I grew up in Zurich, Switzerland. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family as well as going horseback riding, going for runs, and doing yoga.

In September 2018, I took over the position of Maurus Räss, who has gone back to Switzerland.

This is my first time working for the EDA. In July 2018 I completed my bachelor's degree in social anthropology at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

During my studies, I gained some work experience abroad in Anchorage, Alaska, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I am planning to pursue a master's degree in international relations in the near future.

New Zealand has been amazing so far. The unique nature, the fun outdoor activities, and the people have all been amazing. I have really enjoyed my time so far and I look forward to exploring more.

I hope to meet you all in person soon, be it at the Embassy or somewhere else in New Zealand.

Vivien Stringer

Important note:

The Embassy email address has changed to:
wellington@eda.admin.ch

The Auckland Consulate phone number will change on the 1st of January 2019 to:

(09) 281 3272

Book Corner

“O Switzerland!”

Traveler's Accounts, 57BCE to the present

Pilgrims and traders, soldiers and refugees, scientists and artists, alpinists and invalids; Switzerland has enticed them for more than two millennia, they have loved it and hated it, cursed it and sung its praises; they have made war and made love, reported on its food and its religion, its peaks and its poverty, its dances and its prisons.

In 20 thematic chapters, “O Switzerland!” evokes a complex, ever-surprising nation in the words of over 200 travelers – from Napoleon to Nietzsche, Petrarch to Prince, Mary Shelley to Mark Twain. With his deft narration and wry humour, compiler Ashley Curtis leads the reader over the mountains and through the centuries, highlighting connections and disparities by turns ironic, hilarious, and sublime.

“A must read for anyone in love with Switzerland.”

- Diccon Bewes, bestselling author of *Swisswatching: Inside the Land of Milk and Money*

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