

Holidays in Switzerland

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HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Railways and Swiss State Travel Bureau, 11B, Regent Street, S.W.1, have just published a very useful pamphlet entitled: "*Can I Have a Swiss Holiday?*"

It gives the following welcome information:

MONEY:

"At present, you can buy through your own bank or an accredited Travel Agent £75 0. 0. (children under 16, £40 0. 0.) worth of Swiss money in Traveller's Cheques, Letter of Credit, etc., to spend in Switzerland as you like. You may also get, if you are lucky, a small amount of it in cash. The rate of exchange is pegged at Frs. 17.35 to the £ sterling. You must apply to your bank for the money in the usual way on Form 'T.'

TICKETS:

You may now buy your railway and air line ticket to Switzerland and back by any direct route, and pay in sterling without formality or a Bank of England permit. (V Form.)

TRAVELLING ACCOMMODATION:

All this looks, and is, simple and straightforward, but of problematical value unless you are 'booked,' i.e., unless you have a seat reserved on the train or 'plane. You should, of course, also book your hotel accommodation in good time, although there should be no difficulty on that score.

Travelling facilities to the Continent are very limited, at least this year, and you should make sure of accommodation as early as possible. Let's come back to this point later, and now see what else you require.

PASSPORTS:

You want, of course, a valid Passport. Your present one — unless you used it during the war — has either expired (if it is more than 10 years old) or requires renewal. British subjects should apply to the British Passport Office, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1. (LIVERPOOL: 36, Dale Street; GLASGOW: 10, Bothwell Street). Nationals of other countries should approach their respective Legation, Embassy or Consulate.

The necessary Swiss Entry Visa for three months or less is granted at once. For longer periods there may be a delay of several weeks, as the application has to be referred to Switzerland. Please apply to the

nearest Swiss Consulate, or to the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, London, W.1.

You will also require a Transit Visa for the countries you are travelling through. They are granted at once and without much formality. Application should be made (after you have obtained your Swiss Visa) to the nearest Consulate or to:

The French Embassy, 58, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1 (*all routes*).

The Belgian Embassy, 10, Belgrave Place, London, S.W.1 (*Ostend route*).

The Luxembourg Consulate-General, 27, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.1 (*Ostend route*).

Now, your Passport, your Visas, and your £75 0. 0. worth of Swiss money will be of no avail unless you are booked either by train or 'plane, i.e., unless you have a seat reserved. As already mentioned, transportation facilities will probably not accommodate everybody who wishes to go to Switzerland. You should, therefore, first of all make sure of a seat by applying to the Southern Railway, Continental Department, Victoria Station, London, S.W.1, or, if you propose to go by air, to the B.O.A.C., Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1 (who are agents for Swissair), or to Air France, 2B, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1, and obtain a confirmed booking for a definite date.

TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS:

All the foregoing is written for the 'lone wolf' who wants to do things for himself. There is, however, especially under present circumstances, a better way. Why not go to your — or a — Travel Agent, and let them see to the Passport formalities and the money, booking, and hotel reservation? For a small fee they will relieve you of all the bother, and save you time. The following are the Head Office addresses of some of the principal Travel Agencies:—

Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., Berkeley Street, London, W.1; Messrs. Dean & Dawson Ltd., 81, Piccadilly, London, W.1; Messrs. Frames' Tours Ltd., 80, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1; Messrs. Polytechnic Touring Assoc., 309, Regent Street, London, W.1; Messrs. Pickfords Travel Service, 205, High Holborn, London, W.C.1; Messrs. Sir Henry Lunn Ltd., 29, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1; Messrs. Workers Travel Assoc., 49, Cannon Street, London, E.C.3; Messrs. American Express Co., Inc., 6, Haymarket, London, S.W.1; Messrs. Wayfarers Travel Agency, 33, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. Whatever method you adopt, *do it early*.

TRANSPORTATION:

There were, before the war, about 15 services daily to Switzerland. There are four now. Only one is 'direct,' i.e., has through carriages from a French Channel Port to Switzerland (Calais to Basle). It is running daily from April 15th (including Sundays), and has a second class Sleeper and Dining Car ex Calais.

Through tickets will be issued to all principal Swiss destinations and baggage can also be registered through.

There will be, from May 6th, a daily service, London — Folkestone — Ostend to Brussels, with a connecting through train from Brussels to Bâle. Through tickets to Bâle are issued, but luggage must be re-registered at Ostend.

The daily London — Calais — Paris service con-

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nects in Paris with the evening train for Switzerland. Through tickets to Switzerland are issued, and luggage can be registered direct.

The London — Dieppe — Paris service is tidal and, therefore, does not always get into Paris in time for passengers to proceed to Switzerland the same night.

No through tickets to Switzerland are for the time being issued by this route, nor can baggage be registered through. You will therefore have to buy tickets to Paris, and re-book there, paying in French francs. On the other hand — and this is a better plan — you can now obtain for sterling, tickets from Paris to the Swiss frontier and to certain Swiss inland stations from the London Office of the French National Railways, 179, Piccadilly, W.1, who will also undertake to reserve train accommodation ex Paris.

In Switzerland, you are sure of a friendly welcome, and will find conditions practically normal. Although food-rationing is still in force, there is plenty to eat, and the service is as good as ever.

Upon arrival at the Swiss Frontier or Air Terminal, you will be handed Meal Coupons for 3 days. Your Hotel will then see to those for the rest of your stay.

You can move about freely in Switzerland. Transportation facilities by rail or road are, if anything, better than pre-war. Textile and shoe-rationing is off, and you may spend as much as you like of your £75 0. 0. on purchases. Certain goods are subject to an Export License; the shops or your host will be able to give you particulars. You may also have to pay Import Duty and Purchase Tax upon returning to this Country."

Some Transportation Companies:

Southern Railway, Continental Department, Victoria Station, S.W.1; L.N.E.R., West End Office, 71, Regent Street, London, W.1; Swissair, c/o B.O.A.C., Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1; British Overseas Airways Corporation, Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1; Air France, 2B, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1; Sabena, Belgian Air Lines, Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1; K.L.M., Dutch Air Lines, 198/199, Sloane Street, London, S.W.1; French National Railways, 179, Piccadilly, London, S.W.1.

HOLIDAYS FOR SWISS CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

A Commission has been formed under the auspices of the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems, in conjunction with the Pro Juventute scheme, with the object of arranging a holiday in Switzerland for children from this country.

The Pro Juventute make it a condition that the children (ages 8 - 14) be selected, in the first place, from amongst those who (a) as a consequence of the war are in need of having their health restored and (b) those whose parents are unable to meet the full cost of a journey to Switzerland and back.

The time of the holiday is foreseen from about the middle of July to the middle of September next.

Will parents, who are interested, please communicate at once with: The Secretary, Swiss Benevolent Society, 31, Conway Street, W.1, so that an official application form can be forwarded to them in due course.

SWISS HELP FOR POLAND.

A train consisting of 44 trucks left Switzerland last month, destined for Poland. This convoy of merchandise was exclusively reserved by the "Don Suisse" for Poland, and is the first organised consignment of its kind.


Eight trucks contained articles for current use, such as textiles, surgical instruments, bandages, medicaments, two fully equipped ambulances, etc., etc.

Thirty-four trucks were loaded with material for constructing twenty-nine huts. One carriage was reserved for lodging the staff accompanying the convoy, such as doctors, nurses and technicians, as well as railway personnel.

A further truck contained agricultural machines and tractors, representing a present from the Swiss Co-operative Society to their sister institution in Poland.

The "Don Suisse" consignment, which represents a value of Sw. Frs. 931,000, will be distributed by the "Don Suisse" Delegation in Warsaw, in collaboration with the Polish authorities.

The huts will be erected in the neighbourhood of Warsaw, and will be used as a holiday camp for deficient children. It is estimated that about 4,000 children will be accommodated in the course of one year, to receive medical aid of which they are so badly in need.



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