

# The Hotelplan

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use of an excellent camera and the slides which we were given to see were worthy of any professional. The meeting was disrupted at the beginning by a power-cut and the traditional snack could not take place. But Mr. Stettbacher's part of the programme was left unhampered by these strikes to the enjoyment of an unusually large attendance.

### THE HOTELPLAN

*After his enlightening colour-slide exposé, I had a short conversation with Mr. Stettbacher. Knowing that he relied on Hotelplan for his regular holidays in the Engadines and in Majorca, I asked him to send me a few lines for the benefit of our readers on this holiday and travel organisation for which he professes the highest respect. (Ed.)*

When you travel in Switzerland as an individual, and wish to stay at a hotel, whether you enquire for bed and breakfast for a single day or for several days, or for a full board, you will almost invariably be given the top price, although you may have asked especially for a cheap room, and although the hotel may be quite empty. As you know, the official Swiss Hotel Guide normally mentions a price range, for instance bed and breakfast from Fr. 20 to 25, but I repeat that although you may ask for a cheap room, the hotelier will size you up for a while and then decide that you can pay the highest rate.

I have noticed that the Swiss hoteliers in this country are proceeding along the same lines. Some 10 years ago, when a Swiss-owned hotel mentioned in its advert in the Swiss Observer that bed and breakfast could be had for 26/- onwards, I asked for the cheapest room to be reserved for me for a night, from 1 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock, as I would be arriving by air after midnight. The price quoted was about 80% above 26/-. When I remonstrated with the owner, he replied: "I strongly protest against your untrue statement; I would have charged you only 79% more than advertised, and not 82% more as you state".

You may also know that early in 1969, most owners of tea-rooms, restaurants etc. decided to include the tips into their prices. Numerous restaurateurs added not only 15%, but 20, 25, 30 and even 35%. A Swiss M.P. raised the matter in Parliament, and while a "Bundesrat" replied that he deplored this action, no doubt nothing was done about it.

And yet most of the above gentry would probably be annoyed if you told them that their action was unfair and certainly unchristianly.

If you take advantage of the Hotelplan "Schoener leber fuer alle" you avoid all this. You get fixed prices, everything is arranged beforehand, even transport for you, and you know exactly where you stand. When I started using the Hotelplan 4 or 5 years ago, they claimed that they would fix

you up at pre-war prices, and I think that on the whole this still applies today. The prices quoted do not include drinks.

While I believe that this scheme is primarily intended for Swiss Pensioners, many young people, also from abroad, do take advantage of it.

As a result of my suggestion, one of the leading dentists on the South Coast had a holiday in Sils-Maria at the Hotel Edelweiss. It was a wonderful experience for him and his family.

Three Scottish ladies aged between 60 and 70 also stayed at the Hotel Edelweiss for a month, and they too were enthusiastic about it. They would like to go there again next year, but the cost, and the continuous inflation in this country, may prevent them from doing so.

The Hotels available, and the prices applicable, are usually published at the beginning of the year, in February or March, in the "Brueckenbauer" which is a Migros publication. If anyone in this country wishes to take advantage of the Hotelplan, it would be advisable to write early in the year to:

Hotelplan, Abt. "Schoener Leben"  
Postfach 8031 Zurich.

By leaving it late, an applicant will probably find that everything has already been reserved. (You can also obtain a prospectus from Hotelplan, 26 Old Bond St., W.1.—Ed.)

The low prices quoted generally apply from early May to end of May, or beginning of June to early July, and again from around the 23rd August to the end of September or the middle or end of October, but in many cases one can get rooms reserved at the height of the summer season against payment of a supplement. These are in the following localities:

Alt St. Johann, Arosa, Beckenried, Davos, Lenzerheide, Locarno, Lugano, Lugano-Sorengo, Lungern, Montana, Melide, Muzzano, Interlaken, Sils-Maria, Wengen, Zermatt, and Zuoz. Also in Catolica in the Adria and in Cambrils, Spain.

I have listed below 4 examples of the cost of a Hotelplan holiday during 1970:

Locality	Hotel	Price per week inc. train	Pro- longation per week
Alt St. Johann	Edelweiss	204	177
Arosa	Dell'Angelo	189	162
Locarno	Hof	186	159
Sils-Maria	Roessli	Fr. 149	122

These prices include the cost of travel from Zurich to destination.

The above prices are for double rooms; for single rooms there is in most cases, but not in all, a supplement of Fr. 10 per week.

In the above prices, tips are included, although if one is satisfied with the service, it pays to give small tips, preferably at the beginning. I found, however, that some of the owners of the hotels discouraged guests from giving extra tips, as waiters in Switzerland have rather high fixed wages, which in

### SWISS CHURCH

**SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS:** à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

**SAINTE-CENE:** le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

**PERMANENCE:** chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

**REUNION DE QUARTIER:** huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager"

**CLUB DES JEUNES:** tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

**REUNION DE COUTURE:** le 2<sup>e</sup> mardi du mois.

**LUNCH:** tous les dimanches à 13h00.

**VISITES:** sur demande.

**PASTEUR:** A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

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**SERVICES IN GERMAN:** at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

**CONSULTATIONS:** every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

**DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON:** see "Gemeindebote".

**SERVICES IN ENGLISH:** every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

**"KONTAKT" (Youth Group):** every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

**SWISS Y.M.C.A.:** see Forthcoming Events.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** every first Tuesday of the Month.

**MOTHERS' REUNION:** 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**VISITS:** by request.

**MINISTER:** Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

**SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION:** at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

**SATURDAYS:** Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

**SUNDAYS:** Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English). At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

**CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:** preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

**SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS:** Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2. on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

**SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB** — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

**CHAPLAIN:** Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.