

INSIDE:

- Yellow Roads
- Travel Tips from an Expert
- L.A. to Vienna - \$498
- Map Scale Ratios

**DEAR
SUBSCRIBER**

Price Reductions On Swissair

For those planning summer trips the question is whether to wait to purchase air tickets in the hope fares will fall. Further reductions are possible but our advice is to act now.

Gemütlichkeit subscribers, especially, should take a long look at what **Swissair** is currently offering. In the envelope that enclosed this issue is a flyer outlining Swissair's special price reduction for active subscribers. With it you can purchase the airline's current sale fares for \$50 less than the published price. That applies to each ticket purchased as long as additional passengers travel at least one leg of the journey with the subscriber. Business Class travelers can save \$300 per ticket and First Class passengers save \$500. The reduction is \$100 on regular economy fares.

To take advantage of the Swissair offer make your reservations *directly* with Swissair using their main reservation number, 800-221-4750. Then, to purchase tickets at the reduced *Gemütlichkeit* rates, call 800-238-0399 and ask for Shirley. Swissair will verify with our office that at least one ticket holder in each party is an

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GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

INTERLAKEN

Strategically placed Interlaken is the gateway city to the Bernese Oberland and the center of tourism for the region. It is also home to one of Switzerland's finest hotels.

Perhaps no city in Switzerland is more centrally placed and accessible to so many major attractions as Interlaken. From the town's unusual location, on a flat strip of land known as the Bödeli, between the lakes of Thun and Brienz, one can embark on excursions to half a dozen peaks, including the Jungfrauoch and the Schilthorn; pretty mountain villages such as

Wengen, Mürren, Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald; or board a lake steamer at either end of town. The quiet Kander Valley is less than an hour away as is the woodcarving town of Brienz and the nearby Giessbach Falls. The *Michelin Green Guide for Switzerland* recommends an outing that consists of a full day's automobile tour of three of the country's great passes, the Grimsel, the Furka and

the Susten. Roundtrips to the Jungfrauoch (127 SFr./\$83 for adults) and Schilthorn (79 SFr./\$52) are not inexpensive though Swiss Pass holders bound for the Jungfrauoch travel free as far as Kleine Scheidegg and receive a 25% discount the rest of the way. Pass holders headed for the Schilthorn ride free to Mürren and receive the same 25% discount from there to the summit.

Interlaken itself

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BODENMAIS

In the small Bavarian Forest resort of Bodenmais we checkup on an old favorite and find a great little brewery-hotel.

Ten years ago Bodenmais was an off-the-beaten-track resort near the Czech border at the foot of the Grosser Arber in the Bavarian Forest. Tourists were attracted to its lovely setting among green, rolling pastures, 85 miles of walking trails, a low-key atmosphere and its glassworks. It has never been visited much by Americans.

Beginning in 1989, the Iron Curtain came down and inexpensive Bodenmais became

popular with new travelers from the East and a stopping place for Westerners flocking to such Czech cities as Prague, Pilsen and České Budejovice.

Today Bodenmais bustles with tourists as never before. Each day busloads of Poles, Czechs and Hungarians crowd the town's few streets and several large stores that sell the glassware for which the region is noted. There are more hotels than ever and dozens of pensions, private accom-

NO ITINERARY, NO RESERVATIONS

Winging it on the backroads of Europe.

While not quite an adventure on the order of exploring the Orinoco in a dugout canoe, those who can live with a little uncertainty find that travel without reservations and an itinerary carved in granite has its rewards. Others, who absolutely must know before the trip exactly where they will stay each night, where they will eat and what they will see, cannot

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DEAR SUBSCRIBER

Continued from page 1

active subscriber.

Here were Swissair's current sale fares at press time. They are good through March 5 but it is quite possible the purchase date will be extended:

	Shoulder		Peak	
	MW	WK	MW	WK
East Coast	\$618	\$668	\$718	\$768
South	\$668	\$718	\$768	\$818
Midwest	\$718	\$768	\$818	\$868
West Coast	\$818	\$868	\$918	\$968

MW = midweek WK = weekend

Gemütlichkeit subscribers can subtract \$50 from the above numbers. These fares are good from most major cities in the U.S. and to several major destinations in Europe. Shoulder season is April 1 to May 31 and September 1 to October 31. Peak season is June 1 to August 31. In 1993 it might not get any better than this.

RT L.A. - Vienna for \$498

Lufthansa and Austria's *Lauda-air* have combined on a marvelous offer from Los Angeles to Vienna. Passengers fly Lufthansa non-stop to Munich and then change to *Lauda-air* for the Vienna leg. This introductory roundtrip fare is \$498. The offer is good from March 28 to May 31. Phone Lufthansa at 800-645-3880.

Expert Travel Planning

Karen Pasold is a long-time subscriber and travel consultant. Through

letters and phone conversations over the years we have come to realize the depth of her knowledge and experience. Ms. Pasold is not a travel agent; she custom designs independent travel itineraries in Europe for individuals and small groups. She has personally visited each of the mostly small hotels she sends clients to, and at many of them she has a personal relationship with management. Years of research trips, and an energetic, fearless curiosity about hotels, restaurants and shopping bargains have created one of the most knowledgeable travel advisers I know.

In addition to the consultation, which typically includes reservations and an itinerary as complete as each client wishes, she provides customers with a most informative 20 page printout of travel advice tailored to each specific trip. From her notes for a tour of France, Switzerland and Italy, for example, I found these tips to her client:

- Be sure all drivers take their state drivers license. Forget about getting an International Drivers License.
- Drink enormous amounts of water on the flight over. It will help offset the severe dehydration encountered on long flights — a major cause of fatigue and prolonged jet-lag.
- No doubt you will feel jet-lagged on arrival but it is very important that you fight off your sleepiness. If you must take a nap when you arrive at your relative's flat, limit it to 60 to 90 minutes. Sleeping

too long will only prolong the difficulty of adapting to the 8-hour time difference.

- Always ask to see your hotel room before accepting it. Every hotel and *gasthaus* seems to have a least one room which is much less desirable than the others — too hot, too cold, too noisy, lack of view or whatever. Advise the desk clerk that you wish to see the room before you check in. If it is not to your liking, ask to see others in the same price range.

- At hotels, tip the baggage porter — unless he is the owner or proprietor — the equivalent of about \$1 to \$1.50 per bag. In Italy, tip the bellhops about 1,500 lire per bag.

- Unlike American hotels, European hotels strongly frown on guests keeping their room keys during the day. It's a way for the hotel staff to know who is in and who is out. It's o.k. to keep your key as long as you are in the hotel, and you will need to show it to your waiter at breakfast, but do not leave the hotel unless you deposit it at the desk, even if you plan to be gone for only a few minutes.

- To order one of anything in the German-speaking countries, hold up your *thumb* and say, for example, "ein bier bitte." When ordering two, hold up your thumb and index finger.

The prices for Ms. Pasold's trip consultations begin at about \$250.

Contact her at Classic Europe, 1 Glenmoor TX 75034, phone 214/625-6050, fax 214/370-2700.



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Rating Key - Hotel

- I Basic accommodations or a hotel that underachieves. Suitable only for stays of one or two nights.
- II Good hotel, typical of its class. Suitable for a longer stay.
- III A cut above other hotels in its price category.
- IV Excellent accommodations.
- V A great hotel, world-class, could be a memorable experience.

Restaurants

- ❖ Acceptable meals, but *only* if the price is right.
- ❖❖ Good food but not good value, overpriced.
- ◆ Serves good, plain food, typical of the region.
- ☆ A cut above other restaurants in its price category.
- ☆☆ Outstanding food and service.
- ☆☆☆ A great restaurant in every respect

Special Designations

- G By virtue of location, decor, special charm, warmth of management, or combination thereof, an especially pleasant establishment.
- \$ Offers significant value.
- ⊖ Stay away.

BODENMAIS

Continued from page 1

modations and vacation apartments. In front of the tourist office you can punch your accommodations requirements into a computer and get a free printout of hotels or private lodgings that fit your needs.

When it comes to tourist crowds, Bodenmais seems deserted compared to Rothenburg or Salzburg. Most of the tour buses are just passing through and at night things are considerably quieter. On the other hand, it sure isn't like it used to be.

Bodenmais Hotels

Wald und Sporthotel Riederin

The buildings of the Wald und Sporthotel Riederin sprawl over several acres of pasture on a hillside across the valley from Bodenmais. Adjacent to the hotel is its indoor tennis court and some 50 yards or so below it, in a separate building, is a splendid new indoor-outdoor swimming pool and spa reached via a carpeted and brightly lit underground tunnel whose walls are lined with posters and merchandise display cases.

Except for the spa, the 57-room Riederin is much more rough and rustic than elegant. The newness we remember from our first visit some 12 years ago has, of course, worn off. Wooden ceilings and walls have aged to a darker hue and fabrics that cover some of the furnishings are not so sprightly anymore. In the not too distant future the hotel will need a refurbishment.

Most guest rooms are spacious and have the necessary amenities, including separate sitting areas and balconies. Our room, Number 41, had the above features plus a poorly lit bathroom, fair reading lights over the bed, TV with limited cable and a balcony with a table and two lounge chairs.

While we find no fault with the hotel's ample buffet breakfast, the Riederin's restaurant is only average. However, a satisfying meal of pork or veal steak with salad is about 40 DM (\$24) for two persons including beverages. The dining and breakfast rooms, as well as a large adjacent sitting room with fireplace, have large windows and good views across the valley to the village.

With the spa, tennis, proximity

Bodenmais

Population 3,400
Altitude 689 meters/2,246 feet

Distances from:
Frankfurt 411 km - 255 miles
Munich 178 km - 110 miles
Passau 73 km - 45 miles
Prague 200 km - 124 miles

Bodenmais Tourist Office
Bahnhofstrasse 56
D-8373 Bodenmais
Phone: 09924/77835
Fax: 09924/77850

to miles of hiking trails and the fact that it is at the bottom of a little ski slope, there is much to do in all seasons at the Riederin.

Service was very friendly and the hotel is absolutely quiet. Not much English is spoken, however.

Wald und Sporthotel Riederin, Riederin 1, D-8373 Bodenmais, telephone 09924/7760, fax 09924/7337. Singles 65 DM to 100 DM (\$39-\$61), doubles 130 DM to 220 DM (\$79-\$133). No cards.

Hotel Riederin: II

Kur-und Sport Hotel Adam

In the center of Bodenmais, the Hotel Adam, on busy Bahnhofstrasse across from the tourist office, has grown from a small cafe to a 32-room hotel with its own brewery. It offers the same wood-dominated rusticity as the Riederin but is newer. The comfortable guest rooms are all alike

and contain a sofa, two soft chairs, television, phone, minibar and twin washbasins in the bathroom. Most have a balcony. Room Number 128 is on the quiet side of the hotel.

The Adam's small, but very up-to-date brewery, which guests can arrange to tour, sparkles with gleaming tile, stainless steel and highly burnished copper.

Braumeister Thomas Klaus is right out of central casting. A huge man with a massive stomach and ruddy, round face, he makes outstanding Export and Pilsner beer twice a week. The latter, according to Herr Klaus, has less hops and is good for *schlaufend* (sleeping). Export, he says, has more malt and makes for big bellies. Be sure to stop for a beer at the Adam, even if you don't stay there.

If you plan to be in Bodenmais for just a day or two, the Adam is our choice. The Riederin is better suited to longer visits.

Kur-und Sport Hotel Adam, Bahnhofstrasse 51, D-8373 Bodenmais, phone 09924/7011, fax 09924/7219. Singles 73 DM (\$44), doubles 136 DM (\$82). No cards.

Hotel Adam: II \$

Hotel Andrea

Though this trip we did not visit a favorite Bodenmais hotel, the 26-room Andrea, we have heard of additions and renovations and know that it is still owned and operated by the hospitable Eichner family.

In previous visits we found a homey, quiet atmosphere and unusually cordial service.

Hotel Andrea, Hölzweg 10, D-8373 Bodenmais, telephone 09924/386, Singles 78 DM to 89 DM (\$47-\$54), doubles 138 DM to 156 DM (\$84-\$95). No cards.

Hotel Andrea: III G (previous rating)



NO RESERVATIONS

Continued from page 1

abide such open-ended madness.

Though we make no judgements about either style of travel, *Gemütlichkeit* favors the former. More than once we have landed in Europe and not decided until we were actually in the rental car whether to first head north, south, east or west. (These trips were always born of spur of the moment urges to escape for a few days to a less structured environment. Throwing a few maps and guide-books in the suitcase was the extent of trip preparation; which is too bad, because planning the trip is one of the most enjoyable aspects of travel. So let's revise that headline to "No Reservations, Loose Itinerary.")

There are several advantages to "winging it," mostly related to flexibility. You can easily extend your stay in a hotel or town that turns out to be more attractive than anticipated. On the other hand, if a place doesn't meet expectations you can vacate it in a hurry. You also can easily and quickly move up or down the luxury ladder. For example, if you've spent several days in simple *Zimmer Frei* lodgings and suddenly get the urge for a night or two of the hedonistic pleasures of one Europe's finest hotels, you aren't encumbered by reservations or previous plans. Of course, the reverse is also true. If you're spending too much money in a chic resort or a major city, it's no problem to head for the simpler, cheaper countryside.

Germany, Switzerland and Austria are compact enough that most spontaneous travel urges can be satisfied in just a few hours. One afternoon a few years ago we were pattering along a back road north of Nürnberg when we began to reminisce about a particularly good time we'd had on a previous trip at the **Gasthof Fraundorfer** in Garmisch-Partenkirchen — lots of good food, beer, music and *gemütlichkeit*. Why not go back? Why not tonight? We called the Fraundorfer to reserve a table,

hopped on the autobahn and were there in just a few hours.

The best part of this kind of travel is the sense of freedom to do exactly as you choose; to be able to give in to the impulse to turn down an inviting country road or to wake up in the morning and know that you may sleep that night in a town you've never heard of before. Another time we decided after lunch to drive Austria's Grossglockner Road which twists its way to a height of 12,457 feet. Following another sudden urge we elected to stay in a hotel at the summit thus turning a summer drive into a winter experience.

Two factors which make this mode of travel so effortless in Germany, Austria and Switzerland are the plethora of hotels in nearly all price categories and the extensive network of excellent, scenic backroads.

Naturally, there are variations on this theme. One doesn't need to be completely unstructured. If you dread looking for a place to stay at four or five in the afternoon you can choose a new destination and hotel a day ahead of time. The hotel where you are currently a guest will gladly phone ahead for a reservation, or you can do it yourself. Even in the summer you'll get your first choice of hotel most of the time. And who knows, you're second or third choice might turn out to be something special. It's been known to happen.

No matter how loose your itinerary, some preparation and certain materials in the way of maps and guidebooks are required.

Hotel Guides

In Germany, the *Michelin Red Guide* is essential. If the Michelin folk were a little more contemporary in the way they market their products this book would be called "10,000 Good Places to Eat and Sleep in Germany." That's right, about 10,000; all listed and rated, with prices, phone and fax numbers plus extensive information communicated through symbols on the facilities and features of each establishment. The

meaning of the symbols is provided in several languages. This book has so many terrific features we can't list them all but here are a few:

- **Maps of the larger towns (nearly 150).** On them are spotted the hotels and restaurants listed in the guide, and in a major city like Munich that can be 200 or more. (By comparison, *Frommer's Germany* contains less than 100 hotel and restaurant listings for Munich. And, of course, Michelin rates establishments in literally hundreds of small towns and villages that simply aren't even mentioned by Frommer or Fodor or any of the rest of the well-known, all-purpose guidebooks.) You can imagine how handy it is to have a map of a city you're driving into for the first time, with the location of your hotel marked on it.

- **Distance tables in kilometers for the major cities in both Germany and Europe.** In addition to the tables, the listing for each town, even the smallest, shows the distance to three or four important cities in the region. Under Heidelberg, for example, is the distance to Stuttgart (122 km), Darmstadt (59 km), Karlsruhe (59 km) and Mannheim (20 km). This can be very useful in locating small towns on maps and for determining driving times. For example, to determine the distance from Frankfurt to Garmisch-Partenkirchen (about 489 km), start with the table in the back of the book which shows 397 km from Frankfurt to Munich. Under Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the main body of the book one sees the distance from G-P to Munich is 89 km. A look at a map shows one can choose to drive the autobahn virtually all the way. At a moderate speed of, say, 130 km/hour, allowing for traffic in the Munich area, one could safely predict a driving time of around four hours for the 489 km. Of course, if you follow the drift of this story, a sensible driving time is more like four days than four hours.

- **Locator maps for special hotels and restaurants.** In the front of the book are several pages of

maps which display the names of towns where Michelin finds notable hotels and restaurants. A person on the road using the guide can thus quickly determine which of these special places are within easy driving distance of his or her location. It is then a simple matter to lookup the hotel or restaurant's phone number under the town listing and call for a reservation.

• **Restaurant finder.**

In France, winning a third Michelin star (three stars is the highest), is a restaurant's greatest honor and a virtual guarantee of success. On the other hand, to lose a rosette is to be disgraced. While Michelin is famous for rating expensive restaurants, of even greater value to the ordinary traveler is its marking of simpler restaurants which serve good food. In the listings, restaurants with the word "Menu" in red type indicate "moderately priced menus that offer good value for money and serve carefully prepared meals, often of regional cooking." Other restaurants, which "serve simple meals for less than 25 DM" (\$15) are marked with a black bullet.

• **City information.**

In Germany, Michelin lists about 2500 cities, towns and villages and supplies a wealth of information for each: postal code, telephone area code, altitude, population, number of chair and ski lifts, location of the tourist office, availability of recreational activities such as golf courses and a listing of the major sites are just some of the notations for each town.

Unfortunately, Michelin only publishes guides for France, Italy, Spain/Portugal, Great Britain and the Benelux countries as well as a

guide for the major cities of Europe; so we must make do with other resources in Austria and Switzerland.

The tourist offices of both countries (Germany, too, for that matter) are be happy to provide travelers with free hotel guides. These guides contain extensive lists

information is provided about each hotel.

If you arrive in town without a reservation the local tourist office is usually ready to help arrange accommodations that fit your budget or, of course, you can always find a *zimmer frei* sign on a likely looking house and simply knock on the door.

Typical Map Scale Ratios

A map's scale is the ratio of distance on the map to actual distance.

Kompass Walking Map - Berlin Forest

Scale: 1:15,000
1 centimeter = .3 kilometers or 1 inch = .46 miles

ADAC City Map of Munich

Scale: 1:20,000
1 centimeter = .4 kilometers or 1 inch = .6 miles

ADAC Karte for Germany

Scale: 1:150,000
1 centimeter equals 1.5 kilometers or 1 inch = 2.3 miles

Mairs Die General Karte Maps for Ger., Aus. & Switz.

Scale: 1:200,000
1 centimeter = 2 kilometers or 1 inch = 3.1 miles

Michelin Map of Switzerland (#427)

Scale: 1:400,000
1 centimeter = 4 kilometers or 1 inch = 6.2 miles

Michelin Map of Germany (#984)

Scale: 1:750,000
1 centimeter = 7.5 kilometers or 1 inch = 11.7 miles

German Tourist Office Map of Germany

Scale: 1:900,000
1 centimeter = 9 kilometers or 1 inch = 14.2 miles

Exxon Map of Oregon & Washington

Scale: 1:1,310,000
1 centimeter = 13 kilometers or 1 inch = 21 miles

Michelin Map of Europe (#970)

Scale: 1:3,000,000
1 centimeter = 30 kilometers or 1 inch = 46 miles

The Right Maps

As we have said many times before, if you intend to travel the backroads of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, you must have suitable maps for the job at hand. These countries are a maze of country lanes and to rely on a map that doesn't show every one of them is a mistake. For off-the-autobahn driving we recommend maps of the scale of 1:200,000 (1 centimeter equals 2 kilometers or one and a quarter miles).

Mairs publishes such maps for Germany, Austria & Switzerland and Michelin has them for France. The *ADAC Karten* for Germany are scaled are at 1:150,000. Obviously at this scale it takes several maps to cover an entire country and you may spend more for maps than you planned. Maps less detailed than the foregoing are suitable for planning

purposes only, though the 1:400,000 will do in a pinch.

The maps published by Mairs, for example, can be particularly helpful to the wandering traveler with no set itinerary. They display all roads, from autobahns to footpaths. We find the most interesting to be those marked in yellow. According to the legend they are "main roads." Red or "federal roads" are more direct and carry much more traffic, particularly trucks. Autobahns are marked in orange. What the legend refers to as

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NO RESERVATIONS


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"minor roads" are marked by parallel gray lines. These roads can also be tremendously enjoyable though sometimes you'll wind up on a gravel surface.

Here are some of the important features of the Mairs maps:

- Scenic roads are edged in green and panoramic views along the way are marked with a purple rosette. A wine route has the word *Weinstraße* in purple.
- The names of picturesque towns are enclosed in a purple box.
- Places of interest are marked by a purple dot. Some are coded as being of "particular interest" and others of "considerable interest." What the legend refers to as "other curiosities" are simply printed in purple.
- There are many other symbols used to mark such things as golf courses, chair lifts, rack railways, youth hostels, waterfalls, churches, cemeteries, toll roads, tunnels, bridges and so on.

Legends on ADAC, Mairs and Michelin maps are in English. On the reverse side of most Mairs maps are color photos of important sights and towns along with some descriptive text in German.

With the proper maps, enough reference materials to help locate your style of accommodations and a willingness to fly a just little bit blind, winging it on the backroads of Germany, Austria and Switzerland can be a wonderfully rewarding and relaxing travel experience. 

INTERLAKEN

Continued from page 1

hums with considerable tourist activity, though a few blocks off the Höheweg the older part of town retains its village character.

For additional information about Interlaken we recommend

the *Michelin Green Guide for Switzerland* and contacting the Swiss Tourist Office, 222 No. Sepulveda, #1570, El Segundo CA 90245, telephone 310/35-5980, fax 310-335-5982.

Interlaken Hotels

Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau

There is no hotel experience quite like that found at the greatest, grandest Swiss hotels. To this point in the six-year plus history of *Gemütlichkeit*, greatest and grandest has meant the **Beau Rivage Palace** in Lausanne, Geneva's **Le Richmond**, and **Les Sources des Alpes** in Leukerbad, in no particular order.

Let's make it a foursome. Victoria Jungfrau in Interlaken. The most lavish spa we've ever seen; sumptuously furnished guest rooms; ornate, exquisitely Victorian public rooms; a magnificent restaurant; four indoor and three outdoor tennis courts; faultless service and, right there framed in your window, floating in and out of the clouds, the imposing mountain for which it is named.

The town's main street, the Höheweg, is dominated by the V.J.'s long, *Belle époque* facade, striped awnings over every window, and commanded by a square Victorian tower.

Once inside the hotel you'll walk down high, wide corridors past 10-foot high beveled glass doors with dark wood frames that open onto elegant salons, past marble fountains and under dazzling crystal chandeliers. The term "swimming pool" doesn't begin to adequately describe the V. J.'s extravagant natatorium of Roman opulence and Art Deco ritz. Under an arching roof that opens to the sky, azure columns rise from the water. Each narrows to a black cylinder that supports a white, basketball sized, light globe. Nearby are the hotel's four indoor tennis courts. Outside are three more.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Our junior suite, Number 414, on two levels, was beautifully decorated and equipped. Both in the upstairs sleeping area and downstairs in the living area we found bathrooms, TVs and a kind of security phone-a-vision that allows the room's occupants to both talk to and see, on a small TV screen, someone knocking at the door. The spacious upper bath had a shower separate from the large Jacuzzi-style tub.

The 228-room hotel, which marked its 125th birthday in 1990, has two restaurants, the **Jungfrau-Stube**, which serves an upscale but traditional Swiss cuisine, and the more formal **Le Terrasse**. The hotel's orchestra plays in the **Victoria Bar**, a tinkling piano sets the cocktail hour atmosphere in the **Intermezzo Bar** and, at the **Racket Club/Tennisbar**, snacks, beverages, coffee and cakes are served throughout the day.

Dinners in Le Terrasse were the best European meals of the last 12 months.

The best dish of the four or five we tried was slices of veal served in a light roquefort sauce with sauteed fennel and buckwheat crepes. Almost as good was thick, pink duck breast in a spicy curry / chutney sauce accompanied by a variety of winter vegetables. The cheese cart had approximately 20 offerings and the three or four we chose were served with walnuts or grapes and a dark bread from the Valais. But no sooner had the cheese-mobile pulled away, than the dessert cart glided to a halt in front of our table. Profiteroles filled with chocolate mousse, fresh strawberries and whipped cream, and a mousse of both white and dark chocolate were just two of some 15 cart choices. Without beverages the per person price averaged about \$55 and was worth every penny.

For some reason, a fleeting, revealing glance as we passed Le

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This route begins as an interesting cross country drive from

Bamberg east to Weiden, and then joins the **Bayerische Ostmarkstrasse** running north and south the length of the **Bavarian Forest**. The journey is a bit

lengthy for leisurely travel and those who prefer to stop to explore what interests them along the way are advised to allocate two days. We did it in five hours on a Sunday, including a 30-minute stop for lunch.

We used *Mairs Die Generalkarte* #17 and #20.

Leave Bamberg on red road 505, following signs to Bayreuth. At about 18 kilometers bear right onto red road #22 and follow the signs to Würgau.

At Steinfeld the terrain is rolling forests and farmland with occasional, sudden rocky outcroppings. Continue through the Wiesenttal toward Hollfeld.

Pass through Treunitz and at Wiesentfels notice on your left the church built on a sheer cliff. After Loch, the vegetation and forest are beautifully thick and lush. At Rheinfels is another church built on a rocky hill. You leave this narrow valley at Neidenstein.

At the intersection in the center of Hollfeld go right toward Waischenfeld on yellow road #377. Just outside of town is the attractive **Restaurant-Hotel Bettina**. A few kilometers later the road rises and affords some pretty views. At Plankenfels the road drops steeply back into the forest and you are soon winding through a narrow valley beside a small river.

Waischenfeld, built into the side of a rocky hill, has some interesting half-timbered houses. The river that runs through this rich valley is green and beautiful, slow moving and full of reeds and moss.

To the left across the river, about

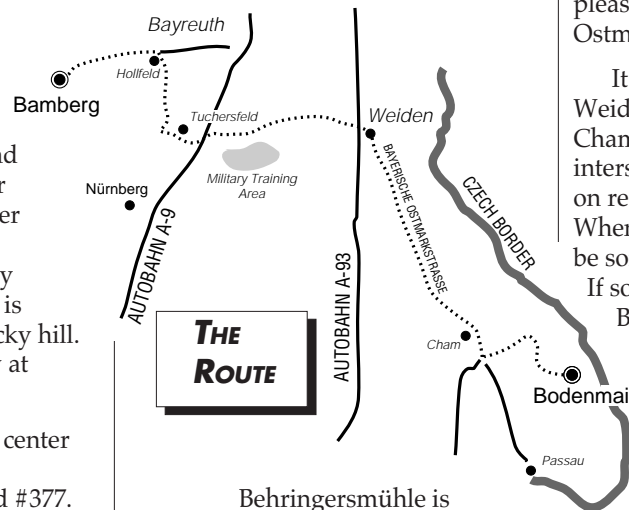
Yellow Roads

BAMBERG TO BODENMAIS

three kilometers after Waischenfeld, is an opportunity to take a picture of **Schloss Rabenstein**.

At Doos, you can choose a detour from this drive and take the road to Muggendorf and the **Hotel Feiler**, where the specialty of the Feiler's marvelous restaurant is wild mushrooms picked personally by the owner. The damp, lush forests make this great mushroom country.

The valley narrows at Schottermühle and there seems only to be room for the road and the river.



Behringersmühle is about 24 kilometers from Hollfeld and you go left onto red road # 470, following the river Puttlach and the signs to Weiden and Pegnitz.

At Tucherfeld, strange rock columns rise several stories straight out of the ground and are topped by a few square feet of vegetation.

There are many attractive campsites along this road.

In a few kilometers the river widens to become a lake and a bit further on is the **Teufelhöhe**. Guided tours through the caves are offered

everyday from April through October and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays during the rest of the year.

The road runs onto a plateau at Wannberg and on a clear day you'll be able to see a good distance. At the intersection of #470 and #2 continue toward Weiden.

Near Neudorf, turn onto red road #85 and cross under the autobahn. Just prior to Auerbach, turn north and east on red road #470 — again toward Weiden.

In a few kilometers you will begin to notice the forest on your right is marked by signs which include the phrase "Danger to Life - Military Training Area." On the map this region is marked with narrow pinkish stripes. It is not a place to go mushroom hunting.

This part of the drive is a pleasant transition to the Ostmarkstrasse.

It is a little tricky getting through Weiden. We found just one sign to Cham and it was beyond the main intersection. You want to wind up on red road #22 heading south. When leaving Weiden there should be some soccer fields on your right. If so, you have joined the Bayerische Ostmarkstrasse.

At the turnoff to Kaimling is the **Gasthof Golder Löwe**, run by the Forster family, where we stopped for a light lunch. Two *leberknödelsuppen*, a plate of *pommes frites*, a beer and a mineral water cost 11 DM (\$6.66).

Back on the road just after Michldorf is **Schloss Leuchtenberg**. Guided tours are available from March through November.

The Ostmarkstrasse is no narrow mountain track, but two wide lanes running through forested hills and verdant fields. It avoids most towns and villages. The onion dome churches are evidence that you are moving toward southern Bavaria.

Continued on page 8

DRIVE TO BODENMAIS

Continued from page 7

At 75 kilometers after Weiden is Cham. Just beyond the town, turn east on red road #20 and then almost immediately head back south on #85 paralleling the river Regen. A few kilometers after Cham you'll head east on another red road toward Kötzing. The first village is Miltach.

In another approximately 20 kilometers is an opportunity to turn south and take a more direct route to Bodenmais or continue east as we did.


After Kötzing the road rises fairly steeply into the forest, at 104 kilometers is a steep downgrade with a fine view.

Just past Arrach turn right to Arnbruck. This is a yellow road with hairpin turns going up into the forest.

At the summit (844 meters) you can stop for the view or get a bite to eat at the **Berg Gasthof**.

After that the road descends through the trees, emerging above Arnbruck, where you will begin to see the traditionally painted stucco houses of southern Bavaria. Shortly you will bear left at the fork in the road.

At Drachselsried note the onion dome church with the stone tower.

After Ober-Ried and Unter-Ried you will join the yellow road you have been paralleling and continue into Bodenmais, about 136 kilometers from Weiden. 

INTERLAKEN

Continued from page 6

Salon Rouge — one of the hotel's "meeting rooms" — sticks in the mind. It took less than a second for our eyes to invade and record the scene: a prosperous looking family of six or seven gathered around a long, well-set table for a Saturday luncheon. They appeared at ease in such elegant surroundings, though the big room and table seemed almost to miniaturize

them. Men and boys wore coats and neckties. A beautifully coiffed and dressed little girl of five or six ran around the table. At one end lounged the patriarch, a black haired, slightly portly man of about 40. Perhaps a banker from Zürich. Maybe a gentleman farmer who had brought his family to Interlaken for the weekend. Or possibly a local family who decided to rent the best room in town to celebrate a birthday. Whatever the event, it was a scene from a hundred years ago. The Victoria Jungfrau is that kind of hotel. *Gourmet* magazine recently said,

Interlaken

Population 4,852
Altitude 570 meters / 1,860 feet
Distance from:
Zürich 130 km - 81 miles
Lucerne 72 km - 45 miles
St. Moritz 264 km - 164 miles
Geneva 204 km - 127 miles

Interlaken Tourist Office
Höheweg 37
CH-3800 Interlaken
Phone: 036/222121
Fax: 036/2252221

"with the single most breathtaking view of the Jungfrau, it is the jewel in the crown of Interlaken."
Agreed.

Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau, CH-3800, Interlaken, telephone 036/271111, fax 036/273737. Singles 200 SFr. to 295 SFr. (\$131-\$193), doubles 310 SFr. to 480 SFr. (\$203-\$314). Rates do not include breakfast and are discounted for longer stays.

Victoria-Jungfrau: V G
Restaurant La Terressa: ☆☆

Gasthof Hirschen

This richly weathered Bernese country-style house is located a good 10-minute walk from the center of town on a busy corner where Jungfraustrasse and Parkstrasse come together. Furniture, walls and ceilings inside are knotty pine. Guest rooms are large

enough, though a bit worn, but the bathrooms are small and some have claustrophobic stall showers. A tepid recommendation.

Gasthof Hirschen, CH-3800 Matten-Interlaken, telephone 036/221545, fax 036/233745. Singles 70 SFr. to 95 SFr. (\$46-\$62), doubles 130 SFr. to 180 SFr. (\$85-\$118). Major cards.

Gasthof Hirschen: I - II

Hotel Post Hardermannli

As close to a bargain as we found in Interlaken. Located in the older part of town on Hauptstrasse. You'll be charmed by the ornate, flower bedecked facade and pleasant entrance. Number 31 is a cozy single with skylight and slanting ceiling. Ask for it. The recommended double is #11 with a small sitting area. All 22 rooms have been refurbished within the past two years. No TV, no phone. Very informal, caters to families. One rarely-found guest feature is a self-service laundry with washer, dryer, iron and ironing board.

Hotel Post Hardermannli, CH-3800 Interlaken, telephone 036/228919, fax 036/220028. Singles 60 SFr. to 85 SFr. (\$39-\$56), doubles 110 SFr. to 150 SFr. (\$72-\$98). Major cards.

Hotel Post Hardermannli: II \$

Hotel Interlaken

On the same street as the Victoria-Jungfrau, the Höheweg, but not in the same league. Close to the eastern railway station. Regular doubles are somewhat drab and cost 210 SFr. (\$137). It is worth the extra 40 SFr. (\$26) to reserve one of the hotel's "antique" chambers, such as the Mendelsohn room.

Hotel Interlaken, CH-3800 Interlaken, phone 036/212211, fax 036/233121. Singles 110 SFr. to 138 SFr. (\$72-\$90), doubles 172 SFr. to 226 SFr. (\$112-\$148). Major cards.

Hotel Interlaken: II 