

Possible NRHS Trip to Switzerland

I am seeking the thoughts of the Board and Advisory Council regarding a possible NRHS-sponsored railroad trip to Switzerland.

One of our members, Mr. Stuart Werner of White Plains, NY, had suggested we sponsor a tour to Switzerland. He went ahead and communicated with a tour operator there. Once he obtained a proposal, I took it over for some fine tuning. The result was a proposal for a 7 day trip with land arrangements costing approximately US\$3000. This would include hotels, some meals, train fares and some coach (bus) travel where necessary. I went back to the company to suggest much more train travel and they agreed that could be worked in. Some of the highlights would be a trip to the Jungfrau, the steam operated seasonal line of the former RhBahn over Furka Pass and a visit to a freight container facility.

Here is where I would like some input. It seems to me that there are two possible markets. One is the rail enthusiast who wants to travel by train and local public transport wherever possible. The other is a tour oriented person who prefers to ride in a bus and be escorted around. For example, such persons might prefer a chartered coach to travel from the Lucerne rail station to the Swiss Transport Museum which is easily accessible by trackless trolley. My personal preference is for the "rail enthusiast" type trip but each has its advantages. Perhaps we could attempt some combination of the two or as an "add on" to a trip.

So I would like to know whether we should pursue something along these lines. If so, when and what is viewed as the maximum cost for 7 days or 10 days land arrangements. My wife and I recently were in Switzerland and I have family there and can tell you it is not a cheap country for Americans to visit. On the other hand, the rail system is phenomenal, especially for those who have never seen it. I served as Study Leader for a Smithsonian rail tour of Switzerland and most of the participants were amazed at what they saw.

Back in November 2011 we operated a railroad trip to Israel. The trip was successful from both the financial and educational standpoints. However, a number of members said they would like to have gone but could not because of the relatively short notice period. Thus I believe to do a successful trip we should have perhaps a year's lead time.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.