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Tour Itinerary - to two watch factories & two watch museums SPRING 2013 - two full days visit

Day of arrival in Neuchatel - Thursday

HOTEL PALAFITTE - Evening drinks reception with local wines, local Mauler sparkling wine, soft drinks and “apero”.

Talk by a local watch historian who will present with slides giving a thorough insight into how the Swiss watch industry developed, to what it is now. After the talk he (or she) will then dine at each table roving around between each course.

Set dinner in the hotel in a private meeting room.

Day 1 - Friday

HOTEL - Breakfast 7.30 to 8.45am

09.00 transport to the Jura mountains for the start of a fascinating day in what is often thought of being the cradle, of Swiss watch making.

09.45 arrive – and greeted by a Senior Member of staff and their Guide. We will be visiting Girard-Perregaux, “Mechanics of Time Since 1871” and JeanRichard, “a Philosophy of Life”. Their dedication to producing fine time pieces will enthral you and how young watch makers display skills you will be pushed to find anywhere else. Innovation and creation are evident everywhere. Even the metal working shop is in a traditional large villa which, if you were just passing, you would not know just what it hides! The large well lit assembly*part is a purpose built room which houses the team of watch makers who diligently put together the impressive watches with their wonderful skills. Then there are the museums. Two to enthral you. The JeanRichard one is in a traditional Swiss watch “Master’s” mansion right in the centre of the town. Elegant and fascinating you will not want to leave.

12.30 light refreshments and viewing of their watch collections

13.00 lunch in the City at a popular local restaurant hidden away from the “tourist trail”.

14.30 the transport will take the visitors back via La Vue Des Alps where views of the lakes & Alps are possible (weather and cloud permitting). Lots of photograph opportunities here and some souvenirs can be bought also.

16.30 transport back to your pavilion at the hotel to relax and reflect on the day. You may want to swim in the lake from your room!

19.00 Drinks reception then a sampler set Swiss dinner in the hotel (five courses plus Swiss cheese) with variety of local wines.

Day 2 - Saturday

BREAKFAST in the hotel from 8.30 to 9.45am

10.00am presentation by Francoise Tschudin, gemmologist with an initial talk and explanation of what “THE FOUR C’s” mean.

Then a workshop when delegates can use “loupes” (jeweller’s eye pieces) to look at actual diamonds.

Talk continues and they will then be told how the watch industry sets diamonds into watch cases (a difficult and time consuming process).

Questions and finish.

11.15 transport to La Chaux-de-Fonds and viewing of the outside of the world famous Corbusier’s, La Maison Blanche and Villa Turque with viewing of the geometric City, high in the Jura mountains

12.30 early lunch at a traditional restaurant for the unmissable cheese fondue !

14.00 Musee de Horlogerie at La Chaux-de-Fonds (the world famous “Museum of Time”). If you have not visited this museum before then you will be enthralled by the history of clocks and time keeping. (Portable multi-lingual audio guides are available in a variety of languages).

16.30 transport back to Neuchatel with return via Walders, a famous chocolate shop in Neuchatel – famed artisanal chocolate makers !

17.30 return to hotel, free time until 19.30

19.30 coach to the restaurant at the Hotel Du Peyrou in Neuchatel an old and historic place, its elegance is well known both locally and anywhere that people live who have visited this hotel.

LAST DAY – Sunday

breakfast from when you want.

Delivery of souvenir photographs of your visit, souvenirs and memorabilia. Bonne Voyage !

We hope to see you again on another (new itinerary)

Swisswatchtour !

A bientot.

* please note that no photographs are permitted – always ask before ! You will have to wear coats to reduce the transmission of dust on clothes and shoes will be covered with dust preventing “bootees” also. (Itinerary is subject to change).