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Tour Itinerary – to PARMIGIANI Fleurier - “Haute Horlogerie Authentique” - SUMMER 1914 - two full days visit

Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd June

Day of arrival in Neuchatel Thursday 19th June

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 20st June

HOTEL - Breakfast 7.30 to 8.45am

09.00 transport to Fleurier, in the Jura where Parmigiani are located

09.45 arrive in Fleurier at the Headquarters of Parmigiani

10.00 welcome by Monsieur Flavien Gigandet, Director Business Development and his assistants

10.15 the tour starts (maximum number in each group five) starting with the *(restoration department), La Salle de Haute Horlogerie where you will see the skilled “ateliers” working at each bench, diligently assembling each specialist piece.

11.30 return to the Headquarters to view their watch collections

12.15 buffet lunch courtesy of Parmigiani, Fleurier and photographs in the elegant house that is their Headquarters.

13.30 transport to the second manufacturing facility (a modern factory) of Vaucher in Fleurier where you will see the changing of raw metal into watch plates, parts etc a fascinating tour

14.30 transport back to Neuchatel for something special.

Afternoon - as part of Parmigiani’s generous hospitality, we will all enjoy an exclusive visit to a private vintage and veteran car collection hidden in Neuchatel. (This collection is not open to the public). It includes a rare (one of only three in the world) Bugatti Royale from the 1930’s !

Then back to your pavilion when you may want to swim in the lake from your room!

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

Day 2 - Saturday 21nd June

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

12.00 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) with return via a famous chocolate shop in Neuchatel – famed artisanal *chocolate makers !

16.00 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.

16.45 transport back to Neuchatel via *Walder’s chocolate shop in the centre of the old town.

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 22rd June

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).