

## Travel



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## Europe always delights travelers

Switzerland for winter grandeur;  
Germany for carnival merriment

SWITZERLAND: Winter festivities of all kinds are going on for the next several weeks. They may be of special interest to travelers taking advantage of the ski packages offered at 23 Swiss resorts.

Balloonists are already in the air over the Alps in the Gstaad Open Balloon event, which goes on through Jan. 21. It's probably too late for you to plan that, or the horse races that go on this weekend on frozen lakes around St. Moritz, but mark them on your calendar for next year, along with the winter golf championships held on the same frozen lakes (this year Jan. 20-22).

There's plenty of time to get ready for the Engadine Ski Marathon, in which 13,000 people from around the world test their endurance March 11. You can also watch sled-dog racing at Andermatt, ice hockey at Arosa, spring ski-jumping on Mt. Titlis near Engelberg, ski aerobatics at Adelboden and the annual snow sculpture competition at Hoch-Ybrig in Central Switzerland. This year's snow sculpture theme is Olympic Games; it will be held Feb. 16 through 19.

The Swiss National Tourist Office, 608 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10020, will send you information on any of these activities, as well as ski packages ranging from \$150 per person for a seven-day stay in



Grindewald to a luxury one-week vacation in Zermatt for \$1,399 per person. Telephone (212) 757-5044.

Some tour operators offer apartment accommodations as low as \$49 per person for a seven-day land arrangement. Swissair's Alpine Experience offers ground arrangements with guaranteed dollar rates through April 8. Their Cross Country Ski Vacations include varying levels of accommodations in 44 hotels in Crans/Montana, Davos, Engelberg, Grindewald, Gstaad and St. Moritz.

GERMANY: Carnival is in full swing in all its variations. The traditional celebrations, which end with Mardi Gras March 6, have been warming up since before Christmas and will get hotter and hotter during the next month.

Carnival is celebrated in hundreds of

towns throughout Germany but it can be roughly divided into four kinds of madness. Munich has its "Pasching," celebrated with flamboyant costume balls. It climaxes with the Munich Crazy Party held March 4.

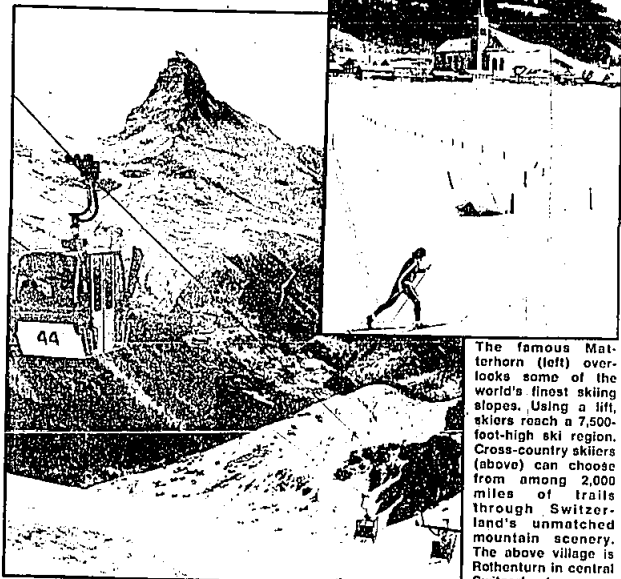
The Karneval of the Rhineland is held mainly in Cologne, Düsseldorf, Aachen, Bonn, Münster and Essen, with huge festival parades ending the merrymaking on Rose Monday, March 5. The Weiberfastnacht street carnival is held in Cologne March 1.

The Black Forest has Fasnet, which dates back to the Middle Ages. The same bell-jangling wooden masks and traditional costumes are used every year to terrify the evil spirits of winter. The Altemannic Fastnacht festivities climax March 1 through 6 in the Black Forest, Upper Swabia and Lake Constance areas.

Finally in Mainz, the capital city of the Rhineland, Palatinat, the whole year is spent preparing programs of satire and burlesque for Fasnacht.

The Traditional Parade of the Guild of Fools is held March 5 and 6 in Rottweil.

Carnival is such an important merrymaking activity in Germany, that private parties are held everywhere in the winter. It is the high point of social life in many areas.



The famous Matterhorn (left) overlooks some of the world's finest skiing slopes. Using a lift, skiers reach a 7,500-foot-high ski region. Cross-country skiers (above) can choose from among 2,000 miles of trails through Switzerland's unmatched mountain scenery. The above village is Rothenturm in central Switzerland.

## Paris was made for women, and shoppers

By Shirley Dow Marthey

PARIS is a woman's city. Its beauty, ambience and pre-eminence as a center of art, culture and fashion all appeal to the feminine gender. Much of this appeal is epitomized in the shops and stores of Paris — and what woman has not dreamed of a shopping spree in the French capital.

Today is a good time to make that dream a reality, what with the American dollar asserting itself against the French franc. Rarely has the exchange been as good; for some months, it has been in the neighborhood of seven francs to one dollar, and that is a very attractive neighborhood to visit when there are so many enticements in the marketplace.

To many fashion-minded women, Paris means haute couture: the designer houses of Chanel, Pierre Cardin, Christian Dior, Givenchy and Yves Saint-Laurent. Here, one needs a good deal of either francs or dollars.

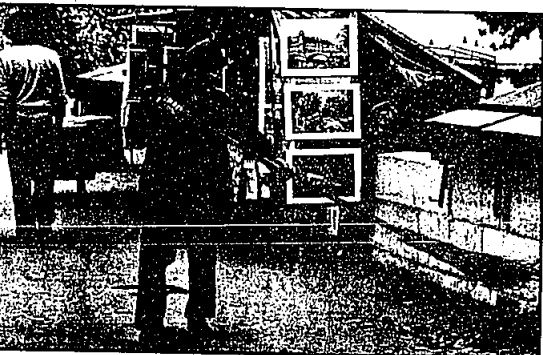
The price of a gown or suit from the collection is prohibitive to many of us, but most of the houses also have boutiques offering separates, accessories and other less expensive items from the pret-a-porter, or ready-to-wear, group.

A STREET known for its boutiques and for shop windows so spectacular that an annual competition is held to determine the best is the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore. It is on the Right Bank and runs northwest from the Rue Royale for less than a mile and a half in the eighth arrondissement. Don't confuse it with the Rue Saint-Honore, which is on the east side of the Rue Royale.

Among the designer boutiques on it's Faubourg side are Valentino, Ted Lapidus, Pierre Cardin, Jean-Louis Scherrer, Louis Feraud, Tan Giudicelli, Courmies, Saint-Laurent, Guy Laroche and Lanvin.

The Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore is also the home of such famous names as Helene Algout, Jaeger, Gucci, Roger & Gallet (sportswear and accessories as well as soaps and scents), Hermes (the only Paris location of this noted firm), and Charles Jourdan.

No introduction to Paris shopping would be complete without a visit to a department store, or grand magasin. The two major ones, Galeries Lafayette and Printemps — are near one another on the boulevard Haussmann (Right Bank, north of the Opera House).



Each of the small square stalls in the ground-floor departments features a different manufacturer, and it is easy to compare dollars and cents.

Few of the department store clerks speak English, but each of the firms mentioned here has a welcome counter staffed by multilingual personnel who are both knowledgeable and helpful with your shopping questions. This is a good place to have explained to you the export discount to which you are entitled if you buy a specific amount in an individual store.

Two things to remember: You will need your passport with you to obtain the discount (it's a good idea to carry it with you always, anyway) and you must, as you are leaving the country, turn in to customs the envelope given to you by the store.

IF DEPARTURE is by air, there is a special window at the airport for doing this; departure by rail or car presents different problems. Watch for a customs officer or office. In either case, the refund will be mailed to you at home.

In the market for antiques? Try the Left Bank, where you can meander from shop to shop in one of the loveliest sections of old Paris. Strolling is one of the most pleasant ways to see the city, and the four-block-square area known unofficially as the "Carre Rive Gauche" is a delightful place to stroll, or flaneur, as the French say.

There are approximately a hundred dealers in this small section of what was originally, 400 years ago, an aristocratic residential area and today is still a prestigious address in the seventh arrondissement.

These dealers include some of the most respected in France; among them, Helene Fourrier-Guerin at 25 Rue des Saints-Pères, an authority on 18th- and 19th-century porcelain and faience; Charles and Philippe Boncard at 25 Rue du Bac, who specialize in

pewter (etain); and Gerard Horowitz at 14 Rue de Beaune, who is a third-generation expert in fine 18th-century furniture and objects.

Horowitz is the president of the area's dealers' association, which every spring stages a five-day event featuring

ling the finest in antiques.

THE CARRE RIVE GAUCHE is directly across the Seine from the Louvre end of the Tuilleries Gardens. To reach it, cab to the Quai Voltaire or walk from the Right Bank over the Pont

Royal. Then, in either case, stroll south away from the river. The streets other than those already named are Lifle, Universite and Verneuil, all of which are east-west.

This area is also dotted with galleries offering paintings and prints. Notable are Mortier-Valat & Cie, 13 Rue des Saints-Pères; for paintings, R. Breheret, 9 Quai Malaquais for inexpensive prints; and the Proscenium, 38 Rue de Seine, for the work of Erte. Other good streets for gallery-browsing are Bonaparte, Jacob and Beaux-Arts — all just east of the Carre Rive Gauche.

If you are in the area and are interested in a gift for an infant or child, don't miss the delightful Petit Faune at 33 Rue Jacob.

FOR BOTH buyers and browsers, Paris has wonderful bookstores — libraries, they are called. Among the best of the English/American shops are Gallipani and Smith & Son. The former was founded in 1800 and moved to its present location at 224 Rue de Rivoli 50 years later.

It is the prototype of genteel traditionalism in bookselling, but it offers

all the best and latest. Great place to browse. Near it, at 218 Rue de Rivoli, Smith & Son offers coffee-table beauties on Paris and France, bestsellers, paperbacks, tourist guides, magazines, greeting cards — all this, and a delightful scones-and-cucumber-sandwich English tearoom on the upper floor.

Your first purchase in Paris — at most any bookstore or news stand — should be a map of the city. The best is the "Plan de Paris," which sells for about \$1.50 and includes information on the Metro (subway), monuments and restaurants, by area. It's one of the real bargains in Paris, and invaluable to both the shopper and the sightseer.

TOP OF THE LINE: One of the best-kept secrets of Paris is that it is relatively easy to attend a showing of the haute couture collection at a major design house. When the semiannual collections are shown to the press and commercial buyers during two-week periods in the spring and fall, no one without the proper credentials gets in.

At other times, however, the concierge at one's hotel can usually obtain tickets for visitors.

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