

TRAVELLING WITH TARGET

PART V OF V

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TOURING EUROPE

... In Geneva, Switzerland

Day Two: The Walkabout In Geneva

Breakfast at Hôtel Les Armures was a very quiet affair because, among other things, being very close to Christmas, the hotel must have been sparsely populated by tourists.

The Swiss, traditionally, stayed at home with their families at this festive time of the year.

TARGET was the only guest at this breakfast.

Breakfast consisted of a variety of items, from breakfast cereals, to eggs, to smoked salmon, to cold cuts, to breads, and to slices of pies.

After the fifth cup of English Breakfast Tea, **TARGET** said au revoir to the lone serving staff, a young, rather plump Portuguese lady, and made our way back to the Suite 207 in order to plan a walkabout of the Old Town.

The walkabout lasted a good four hours and included a tour of the beautiful Old Town and the staid, newest-international hotels that lined the promenade along the waterfront, overlooking the lake.

At about one o'clock, noting a restaurant, specialising in seafood, **TARGET** dropped in only to discover that it was standing room, only, in this French-styled eatery.

As luck would have it, though, there was one table that suddenly became available, a table that could easily accommodate this medium's three intrepid travellers.

The restaurant Manager, noting this, signalled to us to be seated quickly.

TARGET gratefully acquiesced without a second thought in spite of the fact that other hungry parties had arrived at the restaurant before us.

We were tired, due to the walkabout, and, in a storm, any port is a safe one.

At Café du Centre, this medium ordered a lovely bottle of Brouilly, Vintage 2015, Foie Gras, Soupe de Poissons and Plateau du Fruit du Mare

The cost of the above luncheon with the dessert was 306.40 Swiss francs (about \$HK3,064).

The meal, which had lasted about four hours, topped off by a banana split with a mountain of whipped cream, and **TARGET**'s team, now considerably heavier after having eaten this huge meal, made a move to return to Hôtel Les Armures, a hot shower and, then, a good night's sleep in a very comfortable bed.

Day Three: Leaving Geneva

The last day of **TARGET**'s stay in Geneva started with a bit of a shock: The hotel's management, for some unknown reason, determined not to charge for the non-service that that transportation outsourcer had tried to claim.

There was no protest from **TARGET** – naturally – and this medium made no attempt to understand the rationale that the fat man at the reception counter had made a complete turnabout with regard to trying to squeeze 125 Swiss francs out of this medium for a service that had never been rendered.

The cost of the three days and two nights at this hotel was 2,153.50 Swiss francs.

Instead of taking a taxi to the train station, **TARGET** walked across one of the bridges of Lake Geneva for about 15 minutes and, there, at the end of the road, was the railway station.

At 1339 hours, **TARGET** was comfortably installed in the First-Class Compartment, bound for Milan, but, once again, travelling for four hours without the benefit of a luncheon.

However, the myriad, ever-changing views from the train of the Swiss topography were sufficient sustenance for **TARGET** and for anybody who enjoys, being mesmerised by natural majestic beauty.

Looking back at the three-day stay in Switzerland, compared with the city of Milan, Geneva has much more grace and charm.

It is, also, a much-cleaner city than is Milan.

The streets of Geneva are spotlessly clean, quite unlike the streets of the second, most-populous city of Italy, where dog faeces and urine can be found on most major roads, including the popular shopping centre of Corso Buenos Aires where 350 shops vie for customs.

Also, no beggars lined roads, holding out their grubby hands for cash from passing tourists, while chain-smoking cigarettes and stroking their dogs.

The differences on viewing Milan and Rome and most Swiss cities (**TARGET** has, also, visited Bern and other Swiss cities) is, really, quite striking.

* End *

While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published, TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*