

SWISS CULTURE FROM HOME



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Mid-August 2024

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

As the final days of summer approach, we look forward to more athletic achievements at the upcoming 2024 Paris Paralympics, and especially to seeing Swiss athletes excel! Meanwhile, in Switzerland one of the most anticipated global cinematic events dazzled spectators with some fantastic new films. Keep reading to learn more about this year's winner. And finally, to soak in those last few summer days with a road trip, we have our latest Swiss *Rendez-Vous* to share with you.

Please continue to check our website, social media channels, and events calendar, where we are providing regular updates, for more cultural content. Have you found something we're missing? What would you like to see more of? Let us know – [we would love to hear from you.](#)

We hope you continue to enjoy, and take care!

Sports



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Source: [Swiss Paralympic](#)

Switzerland at the 2024 Paris Paralympics

August 28 – September 8, 2024

We hope you enjoyed the 2024 Paris Olympics as much as we did. Now we're looking forward to the 2024 Paralympics, which begin August 28. This year, 27 Swiss athletes will compete in Paris. Though Switzerland is participating in the Paralympics for the 17th time, there are still some exciting firsts to celebrate. For example, this year marks the first time Switzerland is sending a female rower to the Paralympics. Claire Ghiringhelli has stated that her goal is to help develop para-rowing in Switzerland, where she is currently the only elite rower with a disability. And, did you know that Franz Nietlispach is the most decorated Swiss athlete of all time? In 2016, he was inducted into the International Paralympic Committee's Hall of Fame and is one of the most prominent figures in Swiss disability sports. In athletics and cycling, he has won 14 gold medals at the Paralympic Games and is a 20-time world champion. To learn more about Switzerland's athletes and the Paralympics, check out the Swiss Paralympic Team [Instagram](#) for fun interviews and updates and stay tuned for an updated medal count on our [Swiss Impact website](#).

Meanwhile in Switzerland...



Source: [Vogue Italia](#)

2024 Locarno Film Festival

August 7-17, 2024

77th Edition of the Locarno Film Festival

Locarno, Switzerland

Swiss Film Club fans, this one is for you! One of the most exciting events of the year in Switzerland is the Locarno Film Festival, which wrapped up its 77th edition last week. The festival offers over 450 film screenings, talks, events, conferences, concerts, and exhibitions. Every evening, up to 8,000 people gather on the *Piazza Grande*, Europe's largest outdoor film venue, to watch premieres under the stars on a massive screen. This year, the festival attracted over 152,000 spectators. Swiss films were well represented at this year's event with five shown on the Piazza Grande, three in the International Competition, and many others in other sections of the festival. The best film in a given year's International Competition receives the *Pardo d'oro*, or Golden Leopard, one of the most prestigious awards in the world of independent cinema. This year's award went to the Lithuanian film *Akiplėša (Toxic)*. Check out the festival's [website](#) to learn about the many films shown and the 2024 winners.

Your Swiss *Rendez-Vous* Road Trip



Source: [Steven L Markos, National Park Planner](#)

Gallatin House
Friendship Hill National Historic Site
223 New Geneva Rd
Point Marion, PA 15474

Our last Swiss road trip of the summer is dedicated to Swiss founding father Albert Gallatin (1761-1849). A strong fascination with the American Revolution led Gallatin to emigrate from Geneva to the United States as young man. After becoming a U.S. citizen, Gallatin pursued a political career, serving in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. In 1801, he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury, a position he held for 13 years. During his tenure, he reduced the national debt, oversaw the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, and funded the Lewis & Clark expedition. Afterwards, Gallatin served as a diplomat to Europe, where he notably contributed to the negotiation of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. During his time as a senator representing Pennsylvania, Gallatin set up a country residence at Friendship Hill. A 3.5-hour drive from DC and just over an hour south of Pittsburgh, you can explore his former residence and its 661-acre park, which also includes ten miles of nature trails. If you prefer to stay closer to home, you can look for the marker for Gallatin's former [residence](#) on Capitol Hill, where he lived during his tenure as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Albert Gallatin passed away in 1849, leaving a lasting and positive legacy in American diplomacy, finance, and government.

Stay connected for more glimpses of the Swiss *Rendez-Vous* – and share your discoveries with us!

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