

„Bei uns ist immer etwas los!“

FEIERTAGE UND FESTE IN DER SCHWEIZ

TEN SURE-FIRE WAYS YOU KNOW IT'S SPRING IN SWITZERLAND

Leaping cows

You have to feel sorry for Swiss cows sometimes. They spend up to five months locked away in stalls. It's no wonder they react like this when they are finally let out:

Traffic jams

While Pentecost, or Whitsunday, means little to people who don't regularly attend church, the festival has a special meaning in Switzerland. That's when thousands of people jump in their cars and spend hours in traffic jams waiting to pass through the Gotthard road tunnel to the promised land – aka the southern, Italian-speaking canton of Ticino, where [lakes, palm trees and ice creams await](#).

The great tyre changeover

Spring means changing the winter tyres on your car over to summer tyres. Or not, as the case may be. While this is a ritual for many people around Easter, there is [actually no legal requirement to do so](#). On the other hand, if you have summer tyres on your car and then cause an accident in winter, you are likely to run up against the wrath of the insurance companies. You have been warned.

Get on your bike (or walk)

Not surprisingly, the Swiss make the most of the better weather to get out into the country's fabulous outdoors. Bicycles are serviced and the trains are suddenly full of people in checked shirts and very sensible shoes (ie. hikers). Here are [some travel tips on where to go this spring](#).

Asparagus time!

Spring heralds a special moment in the Swiss culinary calendar: asparagus time. The season for locally-produced white asparagus in Switzerland lasts from the middle of May to the middle of June. During this time do not expect to eat anything else as entire days are given over to consumption of this delicacy.