Of Easter Hags, Nötenscheten, and Easter Swings – Easter Traditions Worldwide

Darmstadt, March 30, 2017 *** Hunting for Easter eggs is part of the yearly rhythm in Europe just like opening Christmas presents. Green Pearls® Unique Places took a closer look at various traditions around the world. These include the egg bringing bilby (to Europeans a hardly known marsupial) or the Swedish “Easter hags,” Påskkärring, going from door to door collecting sweets in empty coffee pots – partially little known and bizarre traditions. Latvians love their so called “Easter Swing” to protect themselves from mosquitoes the following summer and to bless their livestock and grain.
East Frisia has many unique Easter traditions, like Nötenscheten and Hicken-Bicken Sönndag. Nötenscheten translates to something like “firing nuts,” a game similar to boccia. Six players try to flick a walnut-sized stone or item into a marked area.

The East Frisian island Juist, in Lower Saxony’s Wadden area, is home to traditions like Osterfüür (Easter fire) or Eiertrüllen. In the latter case, everyone rolls eggs down hills, dikes, or dunes. The eggs’ task is to be as fast as possible and reach the bottom unscathed. Afterwards the eggs are eaten, thus making this a sustainable tradition. Since Juist is a destination set to be climate-neutral by 2030. Being “green” is not a trend for Juist, but a permanent strategy.
Italian Love Handles with Papal Blessing

The rooms at the small hotel Relais del Maro are not housed in the same building but rather spread throughout the historic buildings of the small village of Borgomaro, not far from the French Riviera. Guests concerned with sustainability can enjoy Easter here since environmental friendliness is the hotel’s main priority. Irresistible Italian Easter delicacies such as the Colomba Pasquale, a sweet almond cake in form of a dove, the Torta Rustica, a savory cake, and giant chocolate eggs can be enjoyed at the hotel. It goes without saying that only regional ingredients are used here. The guests will be able watch the pope’s traditional blessing “urbi et orbi” with Elena and her family on the television.
Silent Church Bells and Mourning Hags

Just as varied as the Swiss cantons are their Easter traditions, more diverse than most customs worldwide. In the western cantons “mourning hags” walk the streets. Dressed in all black they carry the instruments of Christ’s torture on a scarlet pillow accompanied by prayers and hymns. In Geneva locals decorate fountains with twigs, ribbons, and eggs. St. Gallen’s traditions can be witnessed at Schloss Wartegg. Church bells are silent from Good Friday to Easter Mass, as is custom in the Catholic faith, and everyone joins in on a boccia-like game with sticks. Guests in the beautiful castle can enjoy the traditional Easter walk on bikes through the many lanes the hotel has created for cyclists.
Easter Egg Hunting in the Caribbean

Why not escape the daily hassle to the Caribbean for Easter? Guests can relax and leave all the everyday stress behind at the sustainable Morena Eco Resort. On Curaçao you don't have to forgo all things Easter, because the majority of the Caribbean is Christian and, therefore, celebrates Easter. The traditions are similar to those in Central Europe, only the search for Easter treats and decorations will be futile. On Easter Sunday you can join the locals in a Caribbean style Mess. Due to its African influences, church here involves a heavy amount of singing, making services livelier than those in Europe.

The German Green Pearls GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, destinations and restaurants in a global data source.
Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls® Unique Places, are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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