

## OFF TO SWITZERLAND!

Hi everybody! How is it going? I sure miss everyone!!!

It's still very cold and snowy here in upstate New York, even though it's supposed to be spring by now! I was very glad to hear about all the tulips blooming back home!

I had the most fun trip to Geneva, Switzerland on March 19 through 20. It was the tiniest bit warmer there and the daffodils were blooming! Here is some information about where we're going to be staying in Geneva, Switzerland.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/gvacchi-hilton-geneva-hotel-and-conference-centre/>





Geneva is right on a big lake called-- guess what-- LAKE GENEVA! There is a HUGE water fountain spouting out of the lake (unless the weather is too windy). The fountain shoots VERY high into the air. 130 meters-- it is the tallest fountain in Europe. You know what else? at 7 PM they TURN IT OFF! I guess they don't want to leave the water running all night, ha ha.

Here are some pictures of me looking out at the lake. In one of the pictures you can see a Swiss flag. You might be able to see Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain in Europe in the background. It looks like a glowing orange dome. The French alps are in the distance on the other side of the lake. They are very pretty. Mont Blanc looks shorter than they are, but that's because it's so far away.



We did a lot of walking around. When my hooves got too worn down, the Pollys carried me in a backpack. Here's me in the backpack, but I was taking a nap. How many different types of fruits and vegetables do you recognise?



How about this funny little yellow car?  
Looks like it was made...just for stuffies!!



We also went to a candy store (yes, I am bringing some home for YOU!)



Another thing Switzerland is famous for is cuckoo clocks! On the hour, all sorts of weird things happen!!!! On some of them, a little door opens and a funny little mechanical bird pops out and CUCKOOS the number of hours!!!! On some other ones, another door opens and a group of dancing couples comes out and twirls around and then goes back inside! Here is a wall full of these unusual clocks.





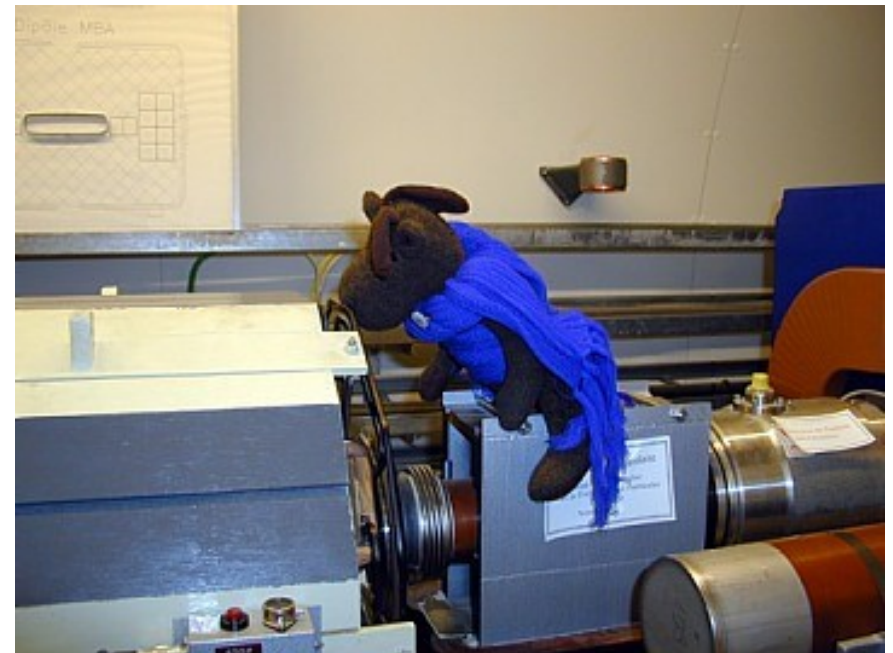
We visited CERN, which is an international physics lab, visited by scientists from 21 member countries. Physicists come from all over the world to smash teeny tiny atomic particles into each other to see what happens. [Our Mission | CERN \(home.cern\)](http://home.cern) CERN is also where the World Wide Web was INVENTED!

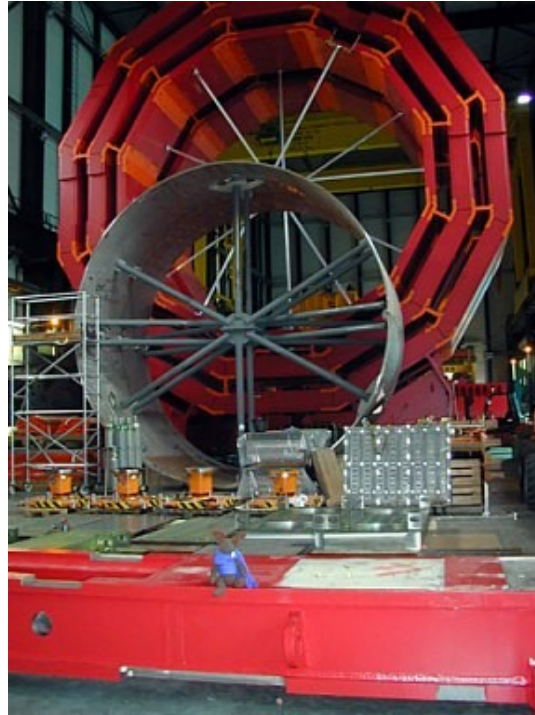


Before they crash these teeny particles into each other, they have to accelerate them almost to the speed of light. They race them around a HUGE underground track that is 27 KM long.

When they are going fast enough, they are speeding around the 27 km TEN THOUSAND TIMES A SECOND! I can't even imagine going that fast. Just thinking about it got my antlers in quite a spin. Here is a photo of a photo of what it looks like in the tunnel that houses the track. Every so often they have a detector on the track to see if there have been any collisions.

Here I am, inspecting for quarks! (they are little teeny tiny particles inside an atom.) You can't really see them, but I told the scientists that moose COULD see them. Ha ha ha!





But you know what? This "super collider" as it is called is not working right now.

They are taking it apart to build a NEW one that is even BIGGER! Since the only way they can "steer" atomic particles around is by magnets, what they are building is the world's BIGGEST magnet. Here I am in front of it. It's bigger than our whole classroom!!!!

Eventually this whole thing (and even more) will be underground in huge caverns.

I also got to play with this cool "plasma ball" at CERN. Don't I look magical???

[So How Exactly Does a Plasma Ball Work? - Physics |  
enceBriefss.com](http://ScienceBriefss.com)



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I saw a really neat carousel, which I did NOT get to ride on because this little kid wouldn't get out of the plane. But Stephen and I played video games together in the hotel later on and I cheered right up. On the way home I was wide awake at first. But later on I got tired of watching Pinocchio on the movie screen and put on my Swissair eyeshades and went to sleep. (I'll bring them home so you can try them on.)

I got a few postcards but pretty soon it was time to get on another plane and fly back to where the Pollys live, near Syracuse.

I'm bringing home the postcards and some souvenir pins I've been collecting everywhere I go. I was looking forward to putting my hooves up for awhile, but Mrs Polly had other plans and a couple days later it was back in the backpack for a quick trip to Washington, DC!!

In my next letter I'll tell you about my trip to the National Air and Space Museum!!!!!!

Love, Monty



[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1\_img.jpg\) Back to Monty Moose](#)