

male outfits on sale at the club, mostly made from rubber, leather or latex.

The locker rooms are a little small but there are several of them and the staff tend to give the keys out in such a way as to avoid M25-style congestion. Each couple is given two lockers, since they are normally only used by single males and quite small.

Towels will be exchanged free of charge at any time during your visit without question, and the club also provides hairdryers, lubrication fluids, condoms, and body lotion free of charge. You can also hire bath towels and slippers at very reasonable prices.

A 'must-see' feature

Now at this point you have to 'pop to the loo'. Yes, I know you went before you left the hotel, but you have to go again – trust us. But girls, don't ask where the 'ladies' are – it's a gay sauna, and they are all the same. And, 'the same' is clean, pleasant-smelling, equipped with what you need ... and when you flush ... a little machine will come out of the wall and clean the lid. That's right – it's a male-dominated establishment, not a female in sight 90% of the time – but you will never find the seat left up and it's always washed, wiped and scented after use.

OK, so kiddie games over and we're out of the loos and into the bar. My only complaint comes here – the bar is high and the stools of a matching tallness, and my little five-foot-nothing frame does struggle at this point. Thank goodness for seven-inch heels and some helping hands! The bar is oval shaped, so you can sit in the no-smoking area (yes that's right folks you can still smoke in Swiss clubs!) opposite people you may wish to chat to. The bar can probably accommodate about 60 people, sitting or standing, at it at any one time, so there's no push and shove to get served.

Starting at the bar

A reasonably priced and extensive snack menu is available and alcohol is sold at normal bar prices (that's Swiss bars, mind!). The staff are wonderfully polite and helpful, and understand your attempts at French. Remember your European protocol: whenever you enter a Swiss establishment of any kind they will always say 'hello' to you and they expect the same in return ('bonjour' for daytime, 'bonsoir' for nighttime, bon après midi' in the afternoon and so on – but if you stick with 'bonjour' they will appreciate your attempt.

Above the bar they have flat screen televisions showing porn for all seasons – or rather all tastes. There is the bondage screen with various BDSM movies, the extreme screen – lots of anal and cum shot movies, or

there's the lesbian screen with lots of girl-on-girl action.

Your guided tour

Moving away from the bar, you start your trip through the corridors – first into a social area where you can sit and chat to people, then on to another social area – but this time with television and all the Swiss, French, German and Italian standard channels. You go off to the left and you can already hear people splashing about in the Jacuzzi. Take a peek through the peepholes to see if there is any space left – and if not move on to pass through the gym area and to the first of the social areas and a wet area full of showers, footbaths, steam rooms and so forth, to the foot of the stairs.

Here a magnificent staircase takes you to a maze of corridors and upstairs playrooms. All areas of the club are tastefully decorated, clean and full of places to sit and chat or relax – or even top up on the condoms – but the upstairs area is all of that and efficient too. There are lots of glory-hole walls for the intimate blowjob from an unknown stranger who will forever remain unknown; lots of cubicles with sliding doors to sneak off to for fun and games; a cubicle with a dentist's chair, a dungeon area, a massage table and even a luxury room that can be hired by the hour, complete with silk sheets, Wurlitzer juke-box and lots of other little luxuries – including a large double bed. It's a great place to go for some privacy with that special couple you meet at the bar or in the Jacuzzi...

As you meander round the corridors past all the rooms – and we mean meander – an estimate after many visits to the club would be that there are more than 100 private rooms available – perhaps even double that, but certainly not less. Almost all of them have their own flat screen tv showing more 'mood-swinging porn' (pun totally intentional).

Private accommodation

Now, it has to be said that the rooms are a little on the small side – after all, they are normally occupied by a couple comprising two single men not two couples, but they are adequate and some are larger than others (ain't that the truth, girls?).

The corridors are generally wide and the couples wander about them throughout the night – a smile here a wink there. The Swiss let you know when they are interested – many speak a little English but this is the French-speaking sector of the country and they don't like to speak German in this area. (it's a Suisse thing).

The Pink Beach management can

recommend some nearby guest houses and hotels which are certainly gay-tolerant, so you would expect them to be equally hetero-swinger tolerant, but then that's Europe in general for you, isn't it?

Enjoy Lausanne

While in Lausanne, don't forget to book a trip on the lake – you can visit many of the towns and cities on the lakeside, including those in France, or use a boat-trip to get back to Geneva. Best souvenirs – fluffy St Bernard dogs, cuckoo clocks, locally made pen-knives (the Swiss army knife) and cows in all shapes, sizes and materials – but best of all ... Swiss Chocolate... mmmmmmm.

In summary, The Pink Beach is a fantastic club – such a shame it's not open to couples or mixed clientele more often. Even though now, after several years living in Switzerland, we are back living in England, we'll be flying out to The Pink Beach to visit it again. We've spent many fun nights there. It is immaculately clean, very well equipped to cater for all tastes; it's absolutely huge both in size and its facilities and staffed by really helpful and pleasant people – and the clientele are friendly too.

BASICS

You'll find all you need to know to prepare for a visit to The Pink Beach on their excellent website –
www.pinkbeach.ch

Select the English option and you can find location details, opening times, admission costs (including group rates), special events and weekly timetables – check the 'Hetero' area and 'Events' for couples' information.

Phone: 0041 (0) 21 311 6969

'Mixte Days'

Tuesday and Wednesday –
gay, bi and hetero 12 am – 11 pm
Admission: Men – 30,- chf
Women 10,- chf

'Mega Mixte'

One Saturday a month –
gay, bi and hetero
12 am Saturday – 6 am Sunday
(after this time, it's gay only)
Admission: Men – 30,- chf
Women 10,- chf

'Erotica Night'

Two Fridays a month 11 pm – 3 am
Admission: 65,- chf per couple