

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Travelling in Style

COUNTRY ROADS OF SWITZERLAND





KEY


1 Central
Hotels + Nights

① Scenic
Hotels + Nights


● Place Visited

○ Optional Place
Visited

||||| Trip Option

 Cruise

 Train

 Join/Leave Options

 Included Flights

 UNESCO
Heritage Site

Day 1 | Welcome to Lucerne



Welcome to Switzerland, a land of snow-capped summits and romantic lakes that has attracted poets, musicians and travellers for centuries. Arrive into Zürich airport and transfer to your hotel in Lucerne. Meet your Travel Director and travel companions for a pleasant Welcome Dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

Day 2 | Ascend the summit of Mount Stanserhorn



Explore Mount Stanserhorn on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, as an open-top cable car powered by solar panels take you up the summit. Admire unrivalled views of the surrounding mountains and, on a clear day see as far as Alsace in France and the Black Forest in Germany. Walk along beautiful scenic pathways, keeping an eye out for marmots and other native animals, with the chance to hear a conservation talk by a Swiss ranger, to learn about local wildlife and flora. Return to the beautiful 14th century city of Lucerne to see its storybook wooden bridges, baroque church and sorrowful Lion Monument. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure to walk along the lake or perhaps shop for a special timepiece or chocolate.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Astoria, Lucerne.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Carriages & Countryside - In a typical rural community, meet local farmers for a delightful horse-drawn ride. Clip-clop your way through bright green pasture, where the angular spire of a traditional white church shoots skyward and rickety old wooden storehouses still dot the landscape. Call in at a local farm where a wonderful spread of homemade drinks and snacks is served.

Adult: 77.00 CHF

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

Lake Lucerne Cruise - A chance to take in the wonderful mountain scenery from a different perspective. Enjoy a leisurely lake cruise, for fine views of the town and its surroundings. The serene beauty of Lake Lucerne on a summer's day is a joy to behold, made even more enjoyable by the encompassing snow-capped mountains, green pastures and dense forests.

Adult: 45.00 CHF

Swiss Evening - There's nothing better than convening with friends around a pot of bubbling fondue with a glass of chilled white wine and having a good yodel! Join us for a tasty Swiss meal in a typical restaurant. While you dine, enjoy a lively folklore show of flag throwing, yodelling, Alpenhorn blowing and other great Swiss entertainment.

Adult: 109.00 CHF

Day 3 | Bern, Gruyères and Montreux



In Bern, your Local Expert, a local English teacher, shows you the Cathedral of St. Vincent, Federal Palace and floral displays. Gather at the clock tower to watch the mechanical procession of painted figures before viewing the Ogre Fountain. Your travels continue into the wide, green valleys of the Vaud Alps with snowy summits filling the horizon. Continue through vineyards and alpine meadows to the fortified town of Gruyères, that gives its name to the well-known cheese. Enjoy time on your own to explore the pretty main street and 13th century castle.

From Montreux, travel along the shores of Lake Geneva to visit a winery. Admire the stunning panorama overlooking the lake and savour a tasting of tantalising, local wines. Delight in a delicious Farm-to-Table light dinner, made from locally sourced produce, and learn how the family is preserving the estate for future generations on this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic, Montreux.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Secret Switzerland - Incredibly, Switzerland provides all its citizens protection in case of nuclear disaster or war. Go behind the scenes for a unique tour of one of the world's biggest civilian fallout shelters! Cold War secrets of the Swiss will be revealed by our expert guide.

Adult: 51.00 CHF

Day 4 | Lake Geneva and the Swiss Countryside



On the western bay of Lake Geneva, visit Chillon Castle for a special tour of the former home to the Dukes of Savoy, immortalised by Lord Byron's 'Prisoner of Chillon.' Keep a look out for where the writer is rumoured to have left his mark. Return to Montreux where the rest of the day is free for you to explore on your own or relax as you wish at your quayside hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic, Montreux.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Charlie Chaplin's World - Tread in the footsteps of the "Little Tramp" at the genius's former mansion, perched breathtakingly amongst the vineyards over Lac Lemman. All our senses are indulged as we take a journey through replica sets of his greatest films at the Hollywood-style studio. Then, we'll spend time in his family home and round it off with a peaceful walk in the glorious gardens.

Adult: 64.00 CHF

Lausanne Fondue Evening -

First we'll enjoy a drive along the Swiss Riviera, pausing at the stunning Olympic Museum Gardens in Ouchy. Next, the ancient city centre of Lausanne, with its huge gothic cathedral and quaint old town square featuring the "Scales of Justice" fountain. Finally, our hosts Willy and Heike treat us to a wonderful Swiss feast, including Fondue Bourguignonne in lively company.

Adult: 106.00 CHF

Day 5 | Geneva and Scenic Lake Cruise



Follow the shores of the lake to the international city of Geneva, seeing the Jet d'Eau and Floral Clock. Next, relax in first-class comfort on the waters of Lake Geneva during a highlight cruise. This evening, enjoy time at leisure on the promenade of your lakeside resort.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic, Montreux.

Day 6 | Martigny, Sion and Zermatt



Journey into the upper Rhône Valley to Martigny to view the Roman Amphitheatre. Continue to the town of Sion, dominated by two rocky peaks, each crowned with episcopal fortresses, and see the cathedral and Old Town Hall. Complete your journey via cogwheel train to the traffic-free mountain resort of Zermatt. This evening, take your pick from a selection of local restaurants for your Dine-Around Evening. Perhaps you will delight in the typical Swiss dining experience of fondue?

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Resort Hotel Alex, Zermatt.

Day 7 | Zermatt at Leisure



Zermatt in the summertime offers many leisure possibilities: try swimming, hiking or relaxing in the fresh alpine surrounds. Perhaps take a trip to the Klein Matterhorn, see the Matterhorn from the church bridge or sample the delicious cakes known as Kuchen?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Resort Hotel Alex, Zermatt.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Klein Matterhorn Excursion - A unique electric taxi service will drive us to the foot of Zermatt's highest and most spectacular mountain ride. You'll enjoy stunning views as we ascend to Furi and Trockener Steg, before boarding Europe's highest cable car to 3883m (12,740 ft) to view the magnificent snow-capped top of the world.

Adult: 130.00 CHF

Day 8 | The Italian Lake District to Baveno



Descend to Täsch for a scenic drive to Brig, where you'll commence your ascent of the Simplon Pass, taking in magnificent views over the Alps from the 2,000-metre summit. Cut through northern Italy, stopping along the shores of Lake Maggiore. The afternoon is at your leisure. Perhaps join an experience to the stunning Isola Bella?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Simplon, Baveno.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Lake Maggiore Experience - A short hop on our private motor launch brings us to the world-renowned hanging gardens of Isola Bella, where white peacocks preen. In the Borromean Palace, our local expert reveals the grottoes and masterpieces lovingly nurtured by this wealthy Italian dynasty. Our island hopping continues to the quaint Fisherman's Island where we are treated to a typically local Italian meal - Buon Appetito!

Adult: 99.00 EUR

Day 9 | The Glamour and Glitz of St. Moritz



Journey along the shores of Lake Maggiore, and head north to the three Fortifications at Bellinzona to meet your Local Expert, for a fascinating insight into this UNESCO World Heritage Site. These castles are enchanting examples of fortified medieval architecture of the Alps.

Your travels continue through the Grisons Region, travelling via San Bernardino and the town of Tiefencastel, as you follow the young Rhine River. Head east towards the Julier Pass and the glamorous resort of St. Moritz, set in the Engadine Valley with the majestic Grisons Alps towering above.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Crystal Hotel / Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz.

Day 10 | Leisure Time in St. Moritz



Enjoy a day at leisure to jostle with the jet-setters in this elegant resort or perhaps take an exciting train journey over the Bernina pass. To help you make the most of your day, your Travel Director will provide you with a mountain railways pass, offering free travel on all cable cars, funiculars and chairlifts (when available) in Engadine St. Moritz.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Crystal Hotel / Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Bernina - Express Excursion - Enjoy one of the most exciting train rides in Switzerland as you cross the Bernina Pass to the Alp Grum. Spectacular views of the Alpine peaks, glaciers, waterfalls, green valleys and mountain villages. We then descend to Poschiavo to reboard our touring coach.

Adult: 58.00 CHF

Day 11 | The Glacier Express



Step aboard the Glacier Express to experience one of the world's great railway journeys. Cross the Landwasser Viaduct before heading down through the Oberalp Valley to rejoin the coach at Andermatt. Drive through the dramatic Schöllenen Gorge passing the Devil's Bridge. Marvel at the Wetterhorn Peaks as you travel along the Grindelwald Valley. Follow the sparkling Lütschine River to Lauterbrunnen, at the head of the Valley of Waterfalls, and see the Staubbach Falls plunge 300 metres from the plateau above.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald.

Day 12 | Grindelwald at Leisure



Enjoy a day at your leisure to explore Grindelwald further. Perhaps take a cogwheel train ride to the summit of the Jungfrau mountain?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Jungfrau Excursion by Cogwheel - A once in a lifetime chance to travel to the Top of Europe. Our round trip cog railway trip will take us from Grindelwald, through the world famous Eiger Mountain, to Europe's highest railway station at 3,454 m (11,332 ft)! Enjoy spectacular views and explore the Ice Palace which is carved inside the biggest glacier in Europe!

Adult: 220.00 CHF

Day 13 | Rural Switzerland to Zürich



Take in the spectacular lake views, as you journey to Brienz, famous for its woodcarving traditions. Visit the Jobin Swiss Woodcarving Centre to trace the history of the trade back to the early days of the 19th century. Continue over the Brünig Pass and drive alongside the lakes of Lungern and Sarnen to return to Zürich. See the Bahnhofstrasse, Grossmünster, River Limmat and Frauenmünster on an orientation of the city with your Travel Director. Join your travel companions at a local restaurant. Your Celebration Dinner is accompanied with wine - raise your glass to toast to your adventures.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Renaissance Zurich Tower Hotel / Opera Hotel

Day 14 | Depart Zürich



Your Swiss adventures come to and end this morning, with a transfer to Zürich airport.

Meals: Breakfast