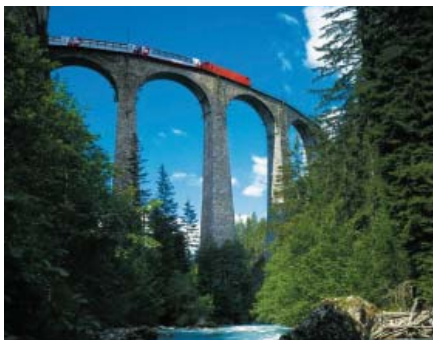


Rail holidays to Switzerland



The Grand Heart of Switzerland Mountains Rail Tour



The Grand Heart of Switzerland Mountains Rail Tour

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Lake Lucerne

Bernese Oberland

Saanenland

Lake Geneva

Zermatt

Lake Lugano

Bernina Pass

St Moritz



Matterhorn

Travel on three of Switzerland's most iconic railway lines, the GoldenPass Line, the Glacier Express, and the Bernina Express, as you trace the pattern of valleys and mountains all around the country. Spend nights beside the Matterhorn, Suvretta Mountain, the Jungfrau, the Gornergrat, Monte Tamaro, Rigi Mountain, and the Wispile, navigating their dramatic relief via funicular railways, cable cars, and internationally renowned trains.

This grand tour of Switzerland begins with your arrival into Zurich, either by rail or by air. From here, you catch a train southwest to Lucerne, for two nights beside the lake, taking in the most popular cultural sights, including the Chapel Bridge and Water Tower. Then, move on into the Bernese Oberland for two nights in the chocolate box villages of Grindelwald or Wengen in the Lutschine Valley. This is the perfect opportunity to ascend the Jungfrau by rail to Jungfrauoch, the highest railway station in Europe. After two nights, continue west into the Saanenland, staying another two nights in either Schoenried or Gstaad. Here, five valleys meet to create a wide, picturesque bowl of green plains between countless mountain peaks. Next, catch the GoldenPass Line from the Saanenland to Montreux for one night beside Lake Geneva. On Day Eight, travel south into Valais to Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn. Spend two nights under the brooding stare of Switzerland's most famous mountain before continuing on via the Glacier Express to Lugano in Ticino. The icy Alpine landscapes of Valais here blur into the lush green Mediterranean fields and hills of Ticino. Lugano will be your host for two nights while you explore the eponymous lake and nearby

Monte Tamaro. Your final night in Switzerland is spent in St Moritz, after taking the Bernina Express bus and train via Lake Como and Tirano in northern Italy. Spend one night beside the Suvretta Mountain in a luxury hotel of your choice. On your last day, re-board the Bernina Express to Chur, where you change trains for Zurich. Should you wish to return to the UK by rail, we would recommend spending an extra night in Zurich before departure, though flights can be arranged on the same day.

PRICES

From £2,940 per person

Based on double occupancy in 3 and 4 star hotels, with flights to and from, and rail travel within Switzerland in 2nd class.

1st class rail travel and five star hotels can be added for a supplement.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week. For more information regarding rail services to and within Switzerland, view our train guide.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from UK to Zurich and back from Zurich OR rail travel London to Switzerland and back (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 8 day rail flex pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Grindelwald or Wengen
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Saanenland
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Montreux
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Zermatt
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Lugano
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in St Moritz

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich at either end, Lucerne, Grindelwald, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, or St Moritz
- Transfers in Paris
- Transfers in Switzerland station to hotel unless offered by your hotel

A luggage transfer service is available within Switzerland, please contact us for further details.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Lake Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland
- Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina
Express - St Moritz

Expressions

Days one to two: Zurich to Lucerne

Choose to either arrive in Zurich by air or to travel by rail via Paris and Basel to Lucerne, depending on time constraints and preferences. If travelling via Zurich, either spend an hour or two exploring this crisp, historic city, or immediately board the train to Lucerne, where you will spend two nights. This short train journey leaves you plenty of time to explore the city before retiring to your choice of luxury hotel for the first of your two nights. This short train journey leaves you plenty of time to explore the city before retiring to your choice of luxury hotel for your first night. An essential visit on any stay in Lucerne is the Chapel Bridge, the city's main landmark and the most photographed monument in Switzerland. Walk along the bridge, taking in the views of the Reuss River, the so-called Water Spike, and the Water Tower. For both historical significance and architectural beauty, visit the 17th century Jesuit Church, which overlooks the water and is topped by two droplet-shaped domes. Above the city is the Musegg Wall, a 14th century structure that once protected the city within. Though the city now sprawls outside of this wall, the nine defensive towers still remain, three of which are open to the public. On your second day, enjoy lunch in a pavement café on the Kornmarkt Square, beside the colourful Pfistern Guildhall, the Hirschenplatz Square, or the Weinmarkt Square, where Lucerne swore its federal oath with Schwyz, Uri, and Unterwalden. To see some exemplary Swiss culture, visit the prestigious KKL Luzern gallery, the Rosengart Collection of works by Picasso and Klee, the Wagner Museum in Tribschen, and the Swiss Museum of Transport. Finish your days with a sumptuous dinner back at your hotel, or in one of Lucerne's many gourmet restaurants.

Days three to four: Lucerne to Grindelwald

This touring itinerary then takes you southwest from Lucerne into the Bernese Oberland. The train journey takes you along the western shore of Lake Lucerne, Lake Sarnen, Lake Lungern, and north around Lake Brienz. Change trains at Interlaken, perhaps spending an hour admiring the stunning location of this town, and move on up the steeper cog railway to Grindelwald or Wengen. Spend two nights in these enchanting chocolate box villages, admiring the views afforded by your location at over 1,000m above sea level. The nearby two villages are connected by two cable cars, by bus, or by train, and both sit at the base of the Jungfrau. Your stay here is therefore perfectly placed for enjoying the most iconic attraction



Lake Lucerne

of the Bernese Oberland. Travel by funicular railway up to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe, to appreciate the stunning views. For hiking trails, take cable cars up to the Monch and the Eiger, or simply follow the softer trails that lead out of Grindelwald. The picturesque Lake Fallboden makes for idyllic and relaxing afternoon and evening walks. Complete or begin your stay in Grindelwald with a self-guided stroll between the rustic wooden chalet houses.

Days five to six: Grindelwald to Saanenland

At around lunchtime on your fifth day, board the train back to Interlaken, on to Zweisimmen, and then to Schoenried in a panoramic coach of the GoldenPass Line. On the border between the cantons of Bern and Vaud, the Saanenland marks the surreal convergence of five individual valleys. Schoenried itself sits on slightly higher ground than its famous neighbour, Gstaad. The area is known for its delicious Alpine dairy products, which are served in many of the 100 gourmet restaurants that line Gstaad's main promenade in the form of fondue or raclette. The boutique shops and quaint cafes housed inside these iconic chalets are well worth a few hours of your time as they capture a great deal of Swiss authenticity. The Molkerei Gstaad allows visitors to taste a selection of the 3,000 cheeses produced in the Saanenland. We would recommend spending one of your two days in the Saanenland joining the dots between the traditional farmhouses that surround the fields outside Gstaad,

and perhaps venturing further out on one of the hundreds of Alpine trails and paths. Adventurous visitors will want to take a trip up to Glacier 3000 to take in the views of 24 of the surrounding mountains that measure above 4000m. In the evening, retire to your hotel in Schoenried or Gstaad for a drink beside the cosy fireplace.

Day seven: Saanenland to Montreux

In the late morning of your seventh day, board the GoldenPass Line for the two hour journey from Schoenried to Montreux. After passing through Gstaad, the GoldenPass Line crosses the border into Vaud, stopping first in Rougemont, and then Chateau-d'Oex. Here the mountainscapes are dotted with quaint chalets, small churches, and petit castles; an image that is very typical of the Pays-d'Enhaut. The villages you will pass next all retain their own individual architectural character, emerging out of plumes of evergreen trees. In Rossiniere and Montbovon, passengers can view the startling translucent turquoise water that runs in rivers crossed by ancient wooden bridges. At Les Avants, the train begins to wind its way down the hillside towards Montreux, where you will stay for one night on the banks of Lake Geneva. On this brief stop, we would recommend exploring the railway history of the area, taking the Vineyard Train (S31) through the Lavaux Terraced Vineyards between Vevey and Puixdoux-Chexbres, the train through the meadows to Rochers-de-Naye (on which you can sometimes see the Jet d'Eau in Geneva),

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

Lake Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland - Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina Express - St Moritz

Expressions

and the Chocolate Train to the Maison Cailler chocolate factory and museum. The highlight of your visit to Montreux, however, may well be Chillon Castle, perched on a rocky outcrop and seemingly emerging out of the water. This is Switzerland's most popular historical landmark, and, with its fairy-tale beauty, it is easy to see why. Enjoy the luxuries of your four or five star Montreux hotel, before moving on again on Day Eight.

Days eight to nine: Montreux to Zermatt

At midday, begin the two and a half hour train journey from Montreux to Zermatt, changing at Visp. This journey takes you first down to Martigny in Valais, and then northeast towards Visp through the Naturpark Pfyn-Finges. The train sometimes culminates in Tasch, from where alternative transport will need to be arranged to get you into the centre of the traffic-free village of Zermatt. As you enter Zermatt, the area's crowning glory will make itself apparent: the Matterhorn. Around it, over 400km of walking and hiking paths vein the landscape, allowing you to capture stunning panoramas of both Zermatt and the Matterhorn while uncovering more of the Alpine flora and fauna. Small railways from Zermatt take you high up into the mountains, reaching 3000m above sea level, and the Glacier Paradise cable car transports you up to Europe's highest viewing platform. To extend both your experience of the railways of Valais and the mountains, take the Gornergratbahn up to the summit of the Gornergrat, from where you can bask in views of 38 mountain peaks. Consider visiting the Hornlihutte, where for decades climbers have famously stayed as they prepare to climb the Matterhorn, via the Hornli Ridge, the Zmutt Ridge, or the north wall. For something wholly unique, spend an hour or two at the Zermatlantis Matterhorn Museum, a faithfully recreated archaeological site. After a thrilling and busy day exploring this dynamic area, dine in one of Zermatt's abundant gourmet restaurants, or back at your chosen hotel, where you will be staying for two nights.

Day ten: Zermatt to Lugano

On Day Ten, board one of the distinctive carriages of the Glacier Express to Andermatt, where you change trains on your way to Lugano. This short stretch of the Glacier Express takes you first through the enchanting village of St Niklaus, defined by its rustic chalet houses with peaked roofs, and then onto Brig, where the 17th century Stockalper Castle stands proudly at the centre of the Old Town, crowned by unusual onion domes. The Glacier Express then takes you through the Furka Tunnel of the Furka Steam Railway, past the



In the Bernese Oberland

ice caves of the Rhone Glacier, and over the bridge in Oberwald. At Andermatt, you cease journeying east and turn immediately south into the province of Ticino. Follow a single main valley as the environment becomes gradually more Mediterranean and the climate becomes warmer. Trickling waterfalls spill out of the mountainsides, and sparsely populated villages spread across flat valley floors. This train passes through Bellinzona, the most Italianate town in Switzerland. Here, three castles stand opposite each other on green bluffs, forming a single well-preserved UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lake Maggiore is visible in the distance as you continue further south past Monte Tamaro towards Lake Lugano and your destination. Spend one night in Lugano, after your late afternoon arrival. If possible, take the funicular railway up to the summit of Monte Bre from Cassarate, or simply sit back and enjoy the Mediterranean feel of the waterside in this colourful city.

Day eleven: Lugano to St Moritz

On your final full day in Switzerland, begin the last of this tour's iconic rail journeys: the Bernina Express. The Bernina Express bus from Lugano to Tirano in Italy leaves at around 10am, arriving three hours later and passing Lake Como and the picturesque villages of northern Italy on its way. In Tirano, you have an hour to enjoy the charming combination of Italian architecture and Alpine backdrop. Perhaps stop off at the Santuario della Madonna di Tirano on the quiet central square, or seek out the historic monuments and paintings dotted around the

town. Then, embark on the final part of your Bernina Express journey, ready to arrive into St Moritz two hours later. This stretch takes you past thriving orchards and vineyards, over the unique Brusio viaduct as it spirals back on itself to compensate for the changing altitudes, and into Le Prese over the Swiss border. Continue on through the Bergamo Alps, through grand and regal Poschiavo and the Val Poschiavo, to Alp Grum, the only restaurant to be exclusively accessible by rail. If time permits, perhaps stop here for a light lunch before continuing with your tour. The Bernina Express now begins its ascent to the highest point on the Rhaetian Railway in Ospizio Bernina. Before arriving into St Moritz, you will pass two of the most famous sights on this railway: the Montebello Curve and the Morteratsch Glacier. The Curve itself allows you plentiful time to appreciate the views of the glacier. Arrive into St Moritz for your final night in Switzerland, perhaps using the time to reach the best viewing point of the Suvretta Mountain by cable car, or to visit Lake Sils, Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana. The neighbouring mountains, including the Piz Corvatsch, Chantarella, and Corviglia, can all be explored by rail.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

Lake Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland
- Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina
Express - St Moritz

Expressions

Day twelve: Return via Zurich

On what may be the final rail journey of your holiday, travel from St Moritz to Zurich via the oldest town in Switzerland: Chur. This route takes you first to Chur, past the Cresta Run in Celerina, the Albula Railway Museum in Bergun, the towering Landwasser viaduct in the Domleschg Region, the popular resort of Davos, the stone bridges and ochre houses of Tiefencastel, and the sublime Ruinaulta before arriving in the 'Alpine City.' Change to a direct train to Zurich, which takes just over an hour and skirts around Lake Walen and Lake Zurich on the way. Round up your touring holiday with an hour or two in Zurich before your return flight or train. Those planning to travel home by train are encouraged to spend an extra night in Zurich after the journey from St Moritz.

OPTIONAL

If you are arriving from or returning to the UK by rail, we would recommend spending an extra night in Zurich at the beginning or end of your tour. It is also possible to add additional nights in any of the destinations mentioned.



The Bernina Express

HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

LUCERNE

Hotel Waldstaetterhof 3 star

This centrally-located hotel offers sleek, bold accommodation that strikingly contrasts the fairy-tale appearance of its 20th century townhouse exterior. Polished wooden floors, white walls and bedsheets, and bold reds, blues, or greens create a very warm feel, which is complemented by the sharp lines, feature colours, and unique ornaments of the restaurant and bar. [read more](#)

Hotel Wilden Mann 4 star

Hotel Wilden Mann has been hosting guests for over 500 years; first as a bar, then as a tavern, and now as a luxury hotel. Inside, the original winding corridors and traditional elements remain, adding further quirkiness to the building that clings to the edge of the river. The lovingly decorated rooms have antique furnishings, abundant character, and a very classical style. [read more](#)

Palace Luzern 5 star

The lakefront Palace Luzern is in a very prestigious area, flanked by houses equally as palatial as the hotel itself. Light airy rooms follow either a traditionally elegant style, an art deco design, or are sleek and modern. Higher category rooms feature works by Miro, Kandinsky, and Chagall. The gourmet restaurants are unique in Lucerne; one serving exclusively seafood. A highlight is the tempting and luxurious spa. [read more](#)

GRINDELWALD

Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof 5 star

This attractive, traditional hotel has an abundance of authentic Swiss character, from the dark wood chalet exterior, to the rich, cosy colours of the interiors. A 'stubi' style restaurant serves guests a range of Swiss specialities, a comfortable lounge and a picturesque garden provide hours of relaxation, and the idyllic spa offers a place to relax after a day exploring the mountains of the Bernese Oberland. [read more](#)



Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald

WENGEN

(Alternative to Grindelwald)

Hotel Wengener Hof 4 star

With easy access to both the Jungfrau and the Lauterbrunnen Valley, this chalet-style hotel offers a charming and homely four star option. A garden of trees and flowers leads you up to the front door, and inside, traditional Swiss decoration and design takes precedence. Guests here can also access the spa and dining facilities at the sister hotel, the Hotel Silberhorn. [read more](#)

SAANENLAND

Hotel Alpenrose 4 star

A boutique property housing cosy and elegant accommodation, the Hotel Alpenrose is a consistently popular option for clients staying in the Saanenland. Rustic facilities compliment the Alpine setting, making the spa, restaurant, bar, and guestrooms all the more homely and comfortable. [read more](#)

Le Grand Bellevue 5 star

Just a short walk from Gstaad's main boutiques, cafes, and restaurants, Le Grand Bellevue is a highly convenient hotel immersed in the picturesque lifestyle of the Saanenland. Its pale yellow façade is palatial in design, with a distinctive tower that shapes some of the hotel suites. Equipped with a Michelin starred restaurant and an indulgent spa, this is a luxurious property in which to spend two or three nights while you explore the Saanenland. [read more](#)

MONTREUX

Villa Toscane 4 star

This waterfront hotel in Montreux offers a boutique experience, but with the use of the excellent spa and dining facilities at the Villa Toscane's sister hotel, the Royal Plaza Montreux & Spa. The art nouveau façade is defined by its pillars, arched windows, and dormer windows, and is surrounded by an abundance of plants. Inside, the rooms are light, airy, and welcoming, with subtle, colourful touches. [read more](#)



Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne



Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried



Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Montreux

HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

Fairmont le Montreux Palace 5 star

This startling luxury hotel stands right on the banks of Lake Geneva. The Willow Stream Spa, the 3 restaurants and 4 bars, and the beautifully appointed rooms make this hotel a highly rewarding five star option for stays in Montreux. The Belle Epoque design reflects the building's history, while setting the tone for the sophistication and elegance that lies within. [read more](#)

ZERMATT

Hotel Butterfly 3 star

The Hotel Butterfly is a very traditional Swiss chalet, positioned on the sloped outskirts of Zermatt, with exterior wooden panels, hanging plants draped over the balconies, and murals on the bedroom walls. The hotel has its own restaurant, piano bar, and several indulgent wellness facilities to help you relax after a day exploring. [read more](#)

Romantik Hotel Julen 4 star

Priding itself on its traditional service and style, the Hotel Julen is a dark wood chalet adorned with Swiss red shutters and colourful flowers. Spa facilities, warm lounges, and wooden-panelled rooms keep guests comfortable for their whole stay. The Romantik Hotel Julen sits at the heart of Zermatt. [read more](#)

Grand Hotel Zermatterhof 5 star

A historic, chic property, the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof may well be the most prestigious hotel in Zermatt. Positioned in the centre of the village, it is just a minute's walk from the main church, a park, the best restaurants in Zermatt, and the Matter Vispa. The rooms blend state-of-the-art comfort with regal charm. [read more](#)

LUGANO

Hotel Lugano Dante 4 star

Built around traditional Swiss elements, this hotel provides simplistic luxuries in an area rich with gourmet restaurants. Inside the hotel, guests experience cosy, warm rooms, sleek, monochrome suites, and an unrelenting attention to detail. [read more](#)



Giardino Mountain, St Moritz

Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola 5 star

Housed within a late 19th century mansion, the Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola channels aspects of Mediterranean culture in its pale-peach façade, its summery garden, and the dining experiences on offer. Guestrooms have wholly unique touches to ensure that every stay here is different, and the swimming pool, lounges, and bars encourage guests to keep returning. [read more](#)

ST MORITZ

Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz 4 star

Dating from over 100 years ago, the Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz is a sophisticated hotel built in the Belle Epoque style. Fresh, bright, and luxurious rooms are accompanied by multiple dining options, including a picturesque garden and a selection of relaxing spa facilities. [read more](#)

Giardino Mountain 5 star

An authentic chalet hotel with a white-washed façade and large secluded garden, the Giardino Mountain is a luxurious five star option with fantastic views across the mountains and Lake St Moritz. The indulgent spa, traditional 'stubli'-esque restaurant, and modern guestrooms make this a supremely comfortable option. [read more](#)

CHUR

(Alternative to St Moritz)

Romantik Hotel Stern 3 star

This timeless townhouse is situated within easy reach of Chur's famous Old Town. White shutters frame the tall windows, and the combination of pink and white stucco gives this building a very pretty aspect. Guests here are treated to a real taste of authentic Switzerland, in the light, yet rustic bedrooms, and in the 'stubli' restaurant, which serves a range of Alpine delicacies. [read more](#)



Romantik Hotel Julen, Zermatt



Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano



Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt

HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

ZURICH

(Optional additional night)

Hotel du Theatre 3 star

This three star option in the centre of Zurich offers sophisticated and quirky accommodation in a hotel that adopts a cinema theme. Rooms are therefore suitably glamorous, with wholly unique features and excellent access to Lake Zurich and the city's important cultural sites. [read more](#)

Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star

As a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera prides itself on the high quality of its service, its seasonal and locally-sourced food, and the very particular, serene style of the rooms. It is well-placed for enjoying Lake Zurich, the Limmat River, and the small marina at the end of the street. [read more](#)

Hotel Storchen Zurich 4 star deluxe

Since the beginning of its hospitality 650 years ago, the unique and charming Hotel Storchen Zurich has offered an authentic insight into Swiss culture, design, and lifestyle. A pavement café lines the riverside, and behind the distinctive pink façade are high-ceilinged, tastefully decorated rooms, and the Rotisserie Restaurant, the ceiling of which is decorated in frescoes. [read more](#)

Hotel Baur au Lac 5 star

Set on the banks of Lake Zurich, the Hotel Baur au Lac is equipped with a Michelin-starred restaurant, extensive tranquil parkland, and a rich, warm interior design. Guests can enjoy the beauty of the lake from the promenade or from a boat cruise, before returning to the hotel to enjoy the serene gardens, the chic luxurious indoor spaces, and the circular restaurant that juts out across the water. [read more](#)



Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich



Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad



Hotel Waldstaetterhof, Lucerne

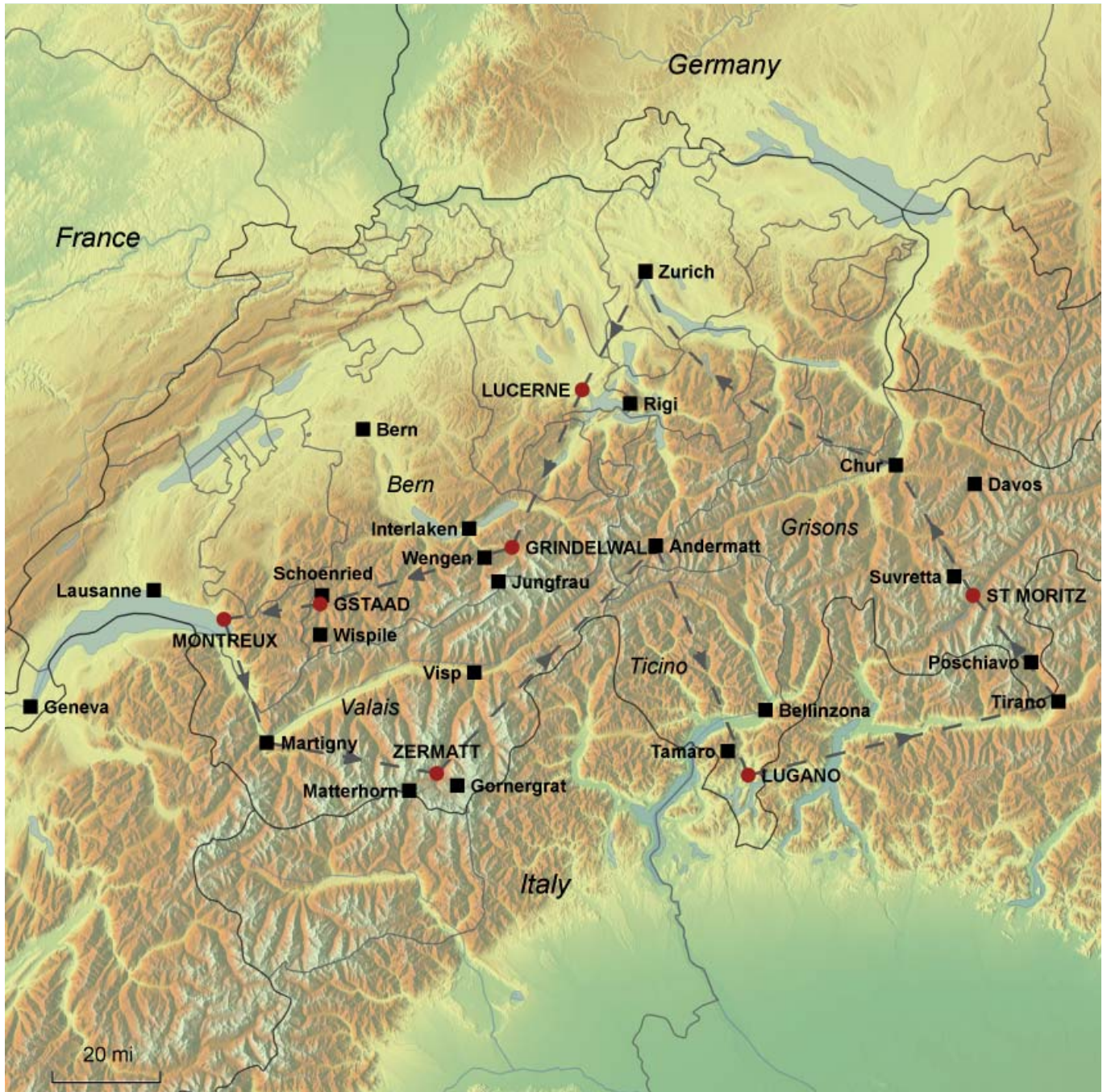


Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, St Moritz

MAP OF THE GRAND HEART OF SWITZERLAND MOUNTAINS RAIL TOUR



The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This rail holiday is one of several suggested rail holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

The logo for Expressions, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

FLEX PASS INCLUDED

We include travel to and from your first and last hotel but also a Flex pass is included for the rest of the holiday, depending on its length. For example, on a long stay we would include an 8 day Flex pass. This gives you 8 non-consecutive but selected days of travel within a one-month period.

The pass gives you a choice that includes

- Unlimited travel by rail, road and waterway on your selected days of validity, including most panorama routes and public transport in 75 towns and cities
- Free admission to more than 490 museums on the selected days of validity
- Children under the age of 16 travel free of charge when accompanied by at least one parent holding the Swiss Family Card

If we have included a panoramic route in your holiday, we will automatically include any applicable supplements for that train.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the TGV trains from France to Switzerland, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. Within Switzerland, first class gives you again more space and more comfortable seats, often with a quieter environment. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

LUGGAGE TRANSFER SERVICE

Swiss rail operates an efficient transfer service for your luggage. This works in a number of ways:

For travel to Switzerland by air, you can check-in your baggage with any airline, from any airport in the world and it will be forwarded to our destination station in Switzerland from Zurich, Bern or Geneva airports. Simply collect your baggage from the station at your destination.

For departure from Switzerland if flying with Swiss, you can check-in for your flight at the train station the day before you fly (major stations only). You receive your boarding pass and your seat allocation and your baggage will be transported onto the aircraft.

For departure from Switzerland with other airlines eg British Airways or Easyjet, you can have your baggage transported to the airport train station ie Zurich or Geneva and you collect it from there to take it to check-in as usual. Just allow enough time for the luggage to reach the airport station, so well before you travel. Your station will be able to advise a day or two beforehand.

Within Switzerland you can transfer your luggage from one location to another. The Fast Baggage service is available between 45 destinations. You just have to check-in your luggage before 9am at your departure station and collect it by 6pm on the same day at your destination (or sometimes the following day, depending on the actual destination). The cost of this service is approximately £17 per item.

TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi. In Switzerland, depending on the location, hotels sometimes have their own transfer vehicles that they will send to collect you if we advise them in advance (eg in St Moritz and Zermatt this is usual) but elsewhere some hotels are within walking distance and others are a short taxi ride away.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains) from London and throughout back to London at 3 and 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, Villa Toscane, Hotel Butterfly, Hotel Lugano Dante, and Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz).

From £3,080 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £410 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 3 and 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, Villa Toscane, Hotel Butterfly, Hotel Lugano Dante, and Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz).

From £2,940 per person

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £250 per person

Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains) from London and throughout back to London at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Palace Luzern, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Le Grand Bellevue, Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Romantik Hotel Julen, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Giardino Mountain).

From £4,510 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £410 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Palace Luzern, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Le Grand Bellevue, Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Romantik Hotel Julen, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Giardino Mountain).

From £4,370 per person

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £250 per person

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441217

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. No handling fee is charged on deposits up to £1000. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.