

# Rail holidays to Switzerland



## Glacier Express Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## Glacier Express

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

Geneva

Zermatt

Glacier Express

St Moritz

Zurich



Glacier Express

Begin this Glacier Express touring holiday by either flying into Geneva, or arriving via train. Then, continue to Zermatt, a picturesque, traffic-free town overlooked by the Gornergrat, the Hornli Ridge, and the Matterhorn. After three nights, board the Glacier Express and hurtle on through enchanting villages punctuated by Alpine chalets which emerge from clusters of green forest. Pass the emblematic castle of Upper Valais, head through the Furka tunnel to Oberwald, traverse the Gotthard Pass, see the Ruinaulta, cast a sweeping gaze over Switzerland's oldest town, and journey through the Albula tunnel, rising and falling with the varied lie of the land, passing glaciers and surreal mountain peaks, until you reach St Moritz. Your return journey takes you via Zurich where, if returning by train, you may wish to stay for an extra night.

### ABOUT THE GLACIER EXPRESS

**Route length** 8 hours, over 291km, from Zermatt to St Moritz

**Stops** Zermatt, St Niklaus, Brig, Fiesch, Andermatt, Disentis, Chur, Thusis, Tiefencastel, Davos, Filisur, Bergun, Samedan, Celerina, St Moritz

**Facilities** On-board restaurant and waiter service, and panoramic carriages

Each distinctive carriage has wide panoramic windows to ensure that guests can fully appreciate the views. 2nd Class carriages are organised with bays of four seats situated around tables on each side of the aisle, while 1st Class carriages have bays of four on one side and two on the other, both with tables. 1st Class offers a quieter travel experience and more space. As an alternative to the on-board restaurant, orders are taken from seats for snacks, drinks, and lunch items throughout the journey, with a wide selection of wines.

### PRICES

**From £1,440 per person**

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

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

Please ask one of our travel specialists about the Excellence Class - new for 2019.

### 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 Geneva and back from Zurich OR rail travel London to Switzerland and back (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 4 day rail flex pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Zermatt
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in St Moritz

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, St Moritz, or Zermatt
- 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

### Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - St Moritz - Zurich

Expressions

#### Day one: Geneva to Zermatt

Begin this Glacier Express holiday by travelling to Geneva, either by plane or train. From here, board the train to Zermatt in the early afternoon. Change trains at Visp, and arrive into Zermatt around four hours after departure from Geneva. Your hotel in Zermatt will send a complimentary shuttle to collect you from the station.

#### Days two and three: Zermatt

In an idyllic, car-free zone, known for its popular winter sports, Zermatt is a stunning place to start this memorable trip. A peaceful village in the summer months, Zermatt is a haven for gourmet food lovers, with the highest concentration of gourmet restaurants, serving very typically Swiss cuisine, on the Glacier Express route. Quaint boutique shops are also housed within the chalet houses in the village centre. Take in the views of the icy Matterhorn, and wander along some of the 400km of walking paths that vein the landscape around Zermatt, Tasch, and Randa. Perhaps even enjoy the sights from the smaller railways that can take you as high as 3000m above sea level. The Glacier Paradise cable car will take you up to Europe's highest viewing platform, while the Gornergratbahn, the world's highest open-air cog railway, takes you from Zermatt station up to the Gornergrat where you can view the peaks of 38 surrounding mountains, including the Matterhorn. Consider visiting the famous Hornlihutte, where climbers have stayed for decades before advancing up the sides of the Matterhorn via the Hornli Ridge, the Zmutt Ridge, or through the north wall. To witness more of the sublime and intriguing history of the area, visit the Zermatlantis Matterhorn Museum, an archaeological site that has been faithfully recreated.

#### Day four: Zermatt to St Moritz

After your final night in Zermatt, catch the Glacier Express to St Moritz at around 9 in the morning, with a view to arrive at around 5pm. Some highlights of this route include the phenomenal Stockalper Castle, the icy walls near the Rhone Glacier, the harsh landscape of the Gotthard Pass, the complex network of tunnels, viaducts, and railway tracks of the Oberalp Pass, the winding Rhine River, the panoramas across Chur, the castles and palaces of the Domleschg Region, the curved Landwasser viaduct, and the Cresta Run, just outside St Moritz. Transfers can be arranged from St Moritz station to your hotel.



Glacier Express

#### Day five: St Moritz

At 1856m above sea level, visitors are welcomed by stunning views across the lakes of the Upper Engadine Valley, and the refreshing dry, clear, Alpine climate. Navigate the local peaks via railway, reaching the Piz Corvatsch, Chantarella, and Corviglia, where a cable car takes you up to Suvretta's most famous viewing point. Enjoy the water sports at the sublime Lake Sils and Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana. While staying in St Moritz, it is possible to use this opportunity to explore another of Switzerland's most iconic rail journeys, the Bernina Express. In one of the distinctive red trains, with their tall, angular windows, and comfortable, airy interiors, the Bernina Express rail journey takes you from Chur, the oldest city in Switzerland, south through the winter resorts of Davos and St Moritz to Tirano on the Swiss-Italian border. En-route you pass the dramatic Ruinaulta, or Rhine Gorge, the castles and palaces of the Domleschg Region, and the Morteratsch Glacier, and travel over the Landwasser Viaduct and around the Montebello Curve.

#### Day six: Return via Zurich

If you depart for Zurich in the mid-morning, you will arrive at around half one in the afternoon, which leaves plenty of time to enjoy a few hours in the city before catching a flight home. If you are catching a train from Zurich back to London, we would recommend spending the night in Zurich before your departure.

#### OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, St Moritz, or Zermatt.

## HOTELS

At both Zermatt and St Moritz, you can choose from a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

*Expressions*

### 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.

#### **Parkhotel Beau Site 4 star**

The Parkhotel Beau Site boasts a grand chalet style and stunning views of the Matterhorn from its location to the east of the Matter Vispa. Dine with this magnificent backdrop on the terrace, and enjoy the pool, Hammam, and beauty treatments in the luxurious spa.

#### **Hotel Christiania 4 star**

With large, spacious guestrooms that overlook the snowy landscapes of the mountains around the Matterhorn and the Matter Vispa at the end of the garden, the Hotel Christiania is a modern Spa hotel with elegant touches of tradition. Speciality drinks and food is served in the panoramic restaurant and on the terrace, and the indoor swimming pool is lined with cosy spots for relaxation.

#### **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.

#### **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.



*Hotel Christiania, Zermatt*

### ST MORITZ

#### **Hotel Hauser 3 star**

This family run hotel is a hub of social activity in St Moritz, providing excellent food on a pretty outdoor terrace that caters for visitors and local residents alike. The guestrooms have a simple elegance, and are the perfect base from which to get out and explore 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.

#### **Giardino Mountain 5 star superior**

This chic, luxury hotel is a gem amongst the Engadine hotels and located between St Moritz and Silvaplana. Traditional alpine style architecture is balanced with stylish accommodation, authentic and modern dining, an indulgent spa and a fantastic central location for summer sports as well as laid-

back relaxation. The Giardino Mountain closes for several months between the main winter and summer seasons.

#### **Kempinski Grand Hotel Des Bains 5 star**

The first hotel to be built in St Moritz, the Grand Hotel des Bains was constructed in 1864 at the source of the Mauritius springs. This grand spa hotel offers traditional elegance with an Italian palazzo-design in a breathtaking alpine location. Make the most of the excellent spa facilities, a range of dining options and golf and tennis facilities.



*Romantik Hotel Julen, Zermatt*



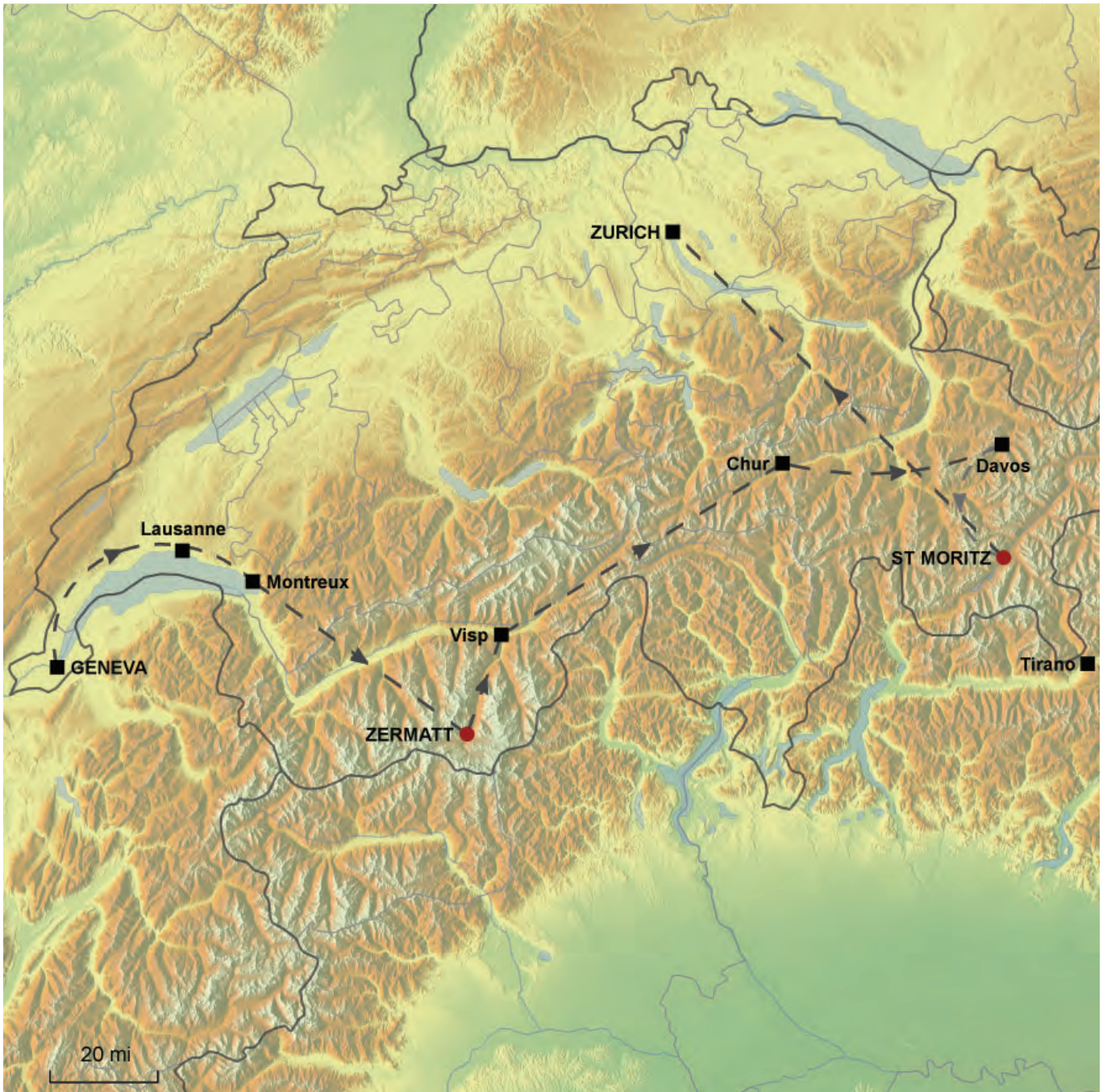
*Giardino Mountain, St Moritz*



*Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz*

# MAP OF GLACIER EXPRESS TOURING HOLIDAY

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 Holidays, 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 star hotels (eg Hotel Butterfly, Zermatt, and Hotel Hauser, St Moritz).

**From £1,440 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 3 star hotels (eg Hotel Butterfly, Zermatt, and Hotel Hauser, St Moritz).

**From £1,440 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £190 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at 4 star hotels (eg Parkhotel Beausite, Zermatt, and Hotel Schweizerhof, St Moritz).

**From £1,590 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 star hotels (eg Parkhotel Beausite, Zermatt, and Hotel Schweizerhof, St Moritz).

**From £1,560 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £190 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at 5 star hotels (eg Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt, and the Giardino Mountain, St Moritz).

**From £2,120 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on the Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 5 star hotels (eg Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt, and the Giardino Mountain, St Moritz).

**From £2,090 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £190 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.



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## 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. 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.