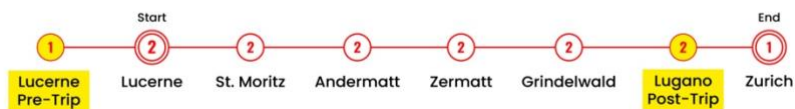


Dates: Fixed departure dates

Price: from \$8,923

Max number of participants: 16



Day 1 – Lucerne & Mt. Rigi

We'll start the day with a trip to Mount Rigi, where we'll board a 140-year-old cogwheel train to Rigi Kulm. At the top, we will have an opportunity to take in the spectacular 360-degree view of the Alps, glaciers, green meadows dotted with cows, and, of course, Lake Lucerne. After that, we will take another cogwheel train to Vitznau. Here, we will board a boat and cruise back to Lucerne in time for lunch.

In the afternoon, we'll take a leisurely stroll around the old town, learning more about the history of Lucerne and its most important sights. We will stop at the historic Chapel Bridge, Lion Monument, St. Ledger's Church, and other sites. Upon interest, we will visit Glacier Garden to learn about Lucerne's ecology & glacier past. Alternatively, we will visit the nearby Transportation Museum, where we can learn more about the fascinating history of one of the world's best public transport systems.

That evening, we'll dine at one of Lucerne's fine restaurants in the city center.

Day 2 – Mt. Pilatus & Cheese Farm Visit

Today, we will visit another famous mountain, Pilatus, where we will board the world's steepest cogwheel train (48% gradient). On the summit, we will have about 1 hour to enjoy all the activities: admire a stunning panorama of the Alps and Lake Lucerne, do a short hike, watch a documentary movie about Mt. Pilatus, or enjoy a cup of coffee.

To descend the summit, we will take a gondola down to Kriens, where we will hop on the train and then bus to Seelisberg. There we will visit "Aschwanden", a local cheese farm run by the fourth generation of the Aschwanden family. Here, you will hear first-hand how the farm cooperates with local farmers, learn about the cheesemaking process, and sample an original "Bergkase", mountain cheese.

Depending on the schedule, we will get to see "Rüetli," where, as the legend has it, Switzerland was founded in 1291. Here, you will be able to enjoy the magnificent Swiss Alps scenery across Lake Lucerne. From there, we will take a steamer for a 2-hour cruise back to Lucerne.

Day 3 – St. Gallen Abbey Library & St. Moritz

Today, we're leaving Lucerne for our next destination: St. Moritz. We will depart on the Voralpen Express, traveling through the rolling landscapes of Eastern Switzerland to St. Gallen, where we'll visit the Abbey Library—one of the oldest libraries in the world. Built in the 9th Century A. D., the library stores priceless manuscript collections from the Carolingian and Ottonian periods.

In the afternoon, we'll continue to Chur, where we will change trains and board one headed to St. Moritz. This is the Glacier Express route, where you can admire several engineering marvels, such as the Landwasser viaduct, Albula line, and a few spiral tunnels.

Once in St. Moritz, we will take the legendary funicular, which will take us to the summit of Muottas Muragl. Here, we will dine at the panoramic restaurant overlooking the peaks and lakes forming the upper Engadine valley.

Day 4 - Bernina Express to Tirano & the Engadin Valley

Today, our group will board the famous Bernina Express to travel across the highest railway in the Alps, a route that offers spectacular views of mountain peaks, glaciers, and waterfalls. These are the Alps at their most impressive.

We will board the train early in the morning and enjoy a spectacular 2-hour ride through the Pontresina Valley up to Ospizio Bernina, located at a staggering 2,253 meters (7392 ft) above sea level. On the way, we will be able to admire the magnificent Morteratsch Glacier before slowly starting our descent to Poschiavo and, finally, crossing the border to Italy with a final stop in Tirano. Here, we will enjoy an authentic north Italian lunch and stroll around the picturesque old town, making sure to pass by the local must-sees such as Santuario Madonna di Tirano and Palazzo Salis.

We will take the train back early in the afternoon. After a 2-hour journey, we will be back in St. Moritz. Here, depending on the group's preference, we can go for a short guided hike, take a trip to Piz Corvatsch, where you can admire amazing views of the Engadine Valley, or relax at the hotel.

Day 5 - Glacier Express to Andermatt

Today, we will travel on the famous Glacier Express from St. Moritz to Andermatt. During this breathtaking journey, you can admire countless natural and man-made wonders. From circle tunnels and impossibly high viaducts to the Rhein Gorge (dubbed Swiss "Grand Canyon") and sky-high peaks around Oberalp Pass at (2033 meters/6000 feet), Glacier Express provides unforgettable experience through many Swiss UNESCO National Heritage Sites.

We will arrive at Andermatt in the early afternoon. After checking into the Crown Hotel in the center of the village, you will have options for things to do. You can relax at the hotel, walk around the village of Andermatt, explore the Chedi Hotel, or take the train to the famous Devil's Bridge.

The Devil's Bridge, built from wood in the 13th century and replaced by a stone bridge in about 1585, provides access to the Schöllenen Gorge today and carries traffic across the Gotthard pass from north to south and vice versa. The stone bridge has been replaced and extended several times over the years. The newest bridge dates back to 1956.

Day 6 – Furka Steam Train & Gotthard Military Bunker

In the morning, we'll take a yellow Postal Bus up to the Gotthard Pass summit. After a 25-minute ride we will take a short walk from the station to the recently declassified military bunker built during WWII to protect Switzerland's southern flank from invading forces. We will enjoy an exciting 1-hour guided tour led by a Swiss military historian.

After a short lunch break, the group will take a 45-minute ride to Realp, where the day's main attraction will await: a 2-hour trip on on a historic steam Furka railway. This original cogwheel train will take you on an exciting tour from Realp to Oberwald, through the second highest rail crossing in Europe, after the Bernina. The Furka steam train offers unparalleled views of the Rhone and Mutt glaciers.

Day 7 – Furka tunnel to Zermatt

Today, we say adieu to Andermatt and travel through the Furka Tunnel, which links the German-speaking region of Switzerland to the Canton of Valais, where both Swiss German and French are spoken. Notably, the Swiss German dialect in Valais is renowned for its complexity, often proving a challenge to understand.

The Furka Base Tunnel, an integral part of the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn's Furka–Oberalp railway line, facilitates the east-west railway connection between the cantons of Valais and Uri.

Our destination is the renowned charming Zermatt, where we'll arrive early enough to leisurely explore the town, where views of the iconic Matterhorn await at every turn. You'll even have time for some shopping and the opportunity to indulge in the wellness offerings at our hotel.

Day 8 – Matterhorn & Gornergrat Railway

Experience breathtaking views of Mt. Matterhorn and the Alps in an excursion that combines a cogwheel train ride with an optional easy-to-moderate day hike.

Gornergrat Cogwheel Railway is a 125-year-old narrow gauge line that's Europe's second-highest railway and the highest open-air railway on the continent. It climbs up to 10,134 feet (3089 meters) and offers incredible views of the Matterhorn along the way.

We will board the Gornergrat line in the early morning to enjoy a more peaceful experience. At the top of Gornergrat, we will have a selection of activities to do. Our group will walk up to the 360-degree platform area, providing a panoramic view of 29 alpine peaks higher than 13,123 feet (4000 meters), including the world-famous Matterhorn. From there, those who wish to do so will go for a 1.5h hike from Rotenboden to Riffelberg. The path leads along the sign-posted trail of an alpine nature reserve featuring awe-inspiring views of the Matterhorn mirrored in pristine alpine lakes.

From here the itinerary is flexible and depends on the weather. The guides can suggest the best places for lunch up in the mountains or in Zermatt. After lunch, you can explore Zermatt on your own, go shopping or relax.

Our guides will be happy to take you on a 1-hour-long guided tour of Zermatt: learn more about how people lived here more than 200 years ago and visit Zermatt's "Old Village".

Day 9 - GoldenPass Line to Grindelwald

Today we will travel through the lush green cantons of Fribourg and Bern with one of the world's most picturesque Swiss railways, the GoldenPass Line.

After leaving Zermatt, we will travel through the canton of Valais, famed as one of the most important vine-growing regions in Switzerland. After arriving in Montreux, the capital of the Swiss Riviera, we will change trains to the Goldenpass Line connecting Montreux with Interlaken.

We continue on the GoldenPass Line through the Préalps of the canton of Fribourg and through the beautiful Simmental Valley, known for the sturdy brown and white cows and the world-famous resort town of Gstaad, home to many Hollywood stars.

In Interlaken, we will stop for an immersive chocolate workshop with a professional chocolatier. Here, you will learn all about the Swiss impact on the chocolate industry, the art of chocolate making, and how to attest to the quality of chocolate. At the end, you will create your own unique chocolate bar you can bring home. From there we will continue our journey with one last connection to Grindelwald in the Jungfrau region, where we will arrive in the early evening.

Day 10 - Jungfrauoch & Trümmelbach Falls

Today our journey begins with an ascent from Grindelwald Terminal to Eiger Glacier with an ultra-modern panoramic Eiger Express gondola. Here we will be able to admire Eiger Glacier covering the hills of the famous "Ork" mountain.

Here we will board the famous Jungfraubahn, an electric cogwheel railway that opened in 1912 to connect Kleine Scheidegg and Jungfrauoch, the highest railway station in Europe.

Jungfrauoch, a mountain pass nestled between the Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, offers unparalleled views of Europe's largest glacier, the Aletsch Glacier. The Jungfrauoch station offers an endless list of activities, from visiting the ice palace to climbing up the Sphinx tower and learning about the origin of the Jungfrau Railway.

In the afternoon, we will descend from Jungfrau to Kleine Scheidegg, where we will board a train to Lauterbrunnen. Here we will transfer to a postal bus en route to the mesmerizing Trümmelbach Falls. This natural wonder consists of ten glacier-fed waterfalls concealed within the mountain, accessible via a tunnel-funicular complex built in 1913. These falls cascade

with the force of up to 20,000 liters (5283 gallons) of glacier meltwater per second, crashing over 20,000 tons (over 40 mln pounds) of boulders, creating a continuous spectacle that resonates with the sheer magnificence of nature.

Day 11 - Reichenbach Valley & Zurich

Today, we are going to leave Grindelwald and head to Zurich. In the morning, we will board the Postal Bus in Grindelwald for a scenic ride over the Grosse Scheidegg. We will ride past alpine meadows and chalets to reach the Schwarzwaldalp. Here, we will change buses with time to visit the old Schwarzwaldalp sawmill.

Continuing our journey, we pass by the renowned Reichenbach Falls, famously featured in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Final Problem" as the dramatic setting for the climactic showdown between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty.

Once in Meiringen, we transfer to the Central Railway and travel over the Brünig Pass to Lucerne, connecting to the train to Zurich.

In Zürich, we will have lunch at a local restaurant in the heart of town. Afterward, there will be time for your guide to provide a walk-through of the old parts of Zürich. Towards evening, we will head to the Zürich main station, take the train to our Zürich airport hotel, and check you in.

Day 12 – Zurich & Beyond

Today is departure day.

We wish you a safe onward journey to your next destination.