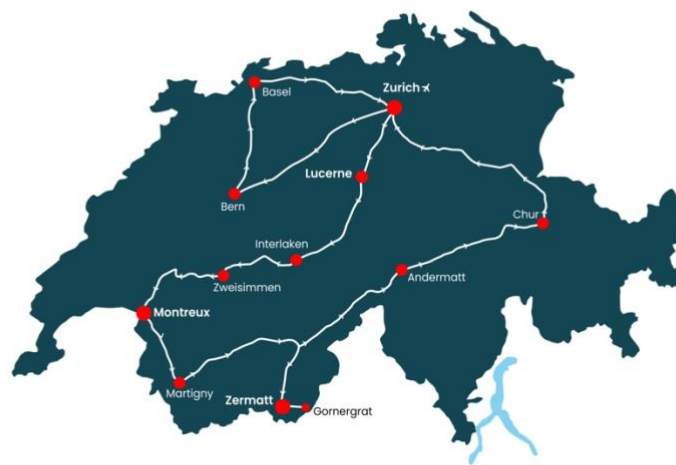


Dates: December 4th to 12th, 2024

Price: from \$5,750

Max number of participants: 16



Day 1 – Lucerne

We will meet at 1 p.m. at the reception of Hotel Waldstätterhof for a 1-hour-long tour briefing.

After the briefing, we will enjoy a 2-hour walking tour around Lucerne's old town. We will visit the most renowned landmarks and learn about the city's history and role today. After the tour, your guide will take you to the Christmas market, which you will be able to enjoy independently.

We will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in the city center at 6 p.m.

Day 2 – Mt. Rigi & Küssnacht

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 3 – Interlaken & Montreux

Today, we will travel from Lucerne to Interlaken and Montreux. After breakfast, we will board the train to Interlaken, traveling on the GoldenPass line tracks. In Interlaken, we will enjoy a stroll around the Christmas market and an immersive chocolate workshop at an artisanal chocolaterie.

After the workshop, we will board the panoramic GoldenPass Express and embark on a stunning 3-hour-long journey through the magical Swiss countryside, passing by the famous villages of Gstaad, Chateau d'Oex, and Zweisimmen – true jewels of Bernese Highlands.

We arrive at beautiful Montreux in the late afternoon. You will have a chance to explore one of the most beautiful Christmas Markets in Europe in Montreux independently before and after dinner.

We will meet around 6 for dinner at a local Swiss restaurant.

Day 4 – Chillon Castle & Vevey

After breakfast, we will board a local train and travel along the picturesque shores of Lake Geneva to the nearby Castle Chillon. We will enjoy a guided visit to this marvelous medieval chateau, followed by a visit to the local Christmas market.

Then we continue to Vevey, just a few miles away, to enjoy another fantastic Christmas market and a stroll along the lakeshore. We will be back in Montreux by late afternoon or early evening, so you can still enjoy the market in Montreux.

Day 5 – Montreux to Zermatt

Today, we will transfer from Montreux to Zermatt. First, we will travel along the shores of Lake Geneva before entering the valley of the Rhône river, famous for its warm and sunny weather, perfect for growing vines. Admire beautiful vineyards, castles, and medieval cities we pass by. In Brig, we will change to another train, taking us up into the magical alpine valley covered in a thick layer of snow. At the end of it lies Zermatt, the goal of this journey.

After arrival, you will have some time to relax and explore the town on your own. We will meet for dinner at 6 p.m.

Day 6 – Zermatt & Gornergrat

Today, we will ride on one of the most scenic trains in Europe, the Gornergrat line. It's the highest open-air train line in the world, offering stunning vistas of the village of Zermatt and the Matterhorn.

After a 30-minute ride up, we arrive at the final station at a staggering 3089 m (10,135 ft) above sea level. Here, you can enjoy a stunning 360-degree alpine panorama featuring the iconic Matterhorn and 29 other peaks, valleys, and glaciers. After enjoying the views, depending on the weather, those who wish to do so can join the guide for an easy winter hike around Riffelalp or Rotenboden stations.

We will be back in Zermatt by early afternoon. You can explore the village, shop for gifts and souvenirs, or relax at your hotel. Your guide will be happy to provide you with suggestions for places to eat, drink, and shop.

Day 7 – Glacier Express to Chur & Zurich

Today, you will enjoy one of the biggest highlights of this trip: a ride on the famous Glacier Express. After an early breakfast, we will board the first-class carriage on this iconic panoramic train for a fantastic 6.5-hour trip to Chur.

We will pass by Andermatt and witness how the train climbs to the highest point of the trip, Oberalp Pass, at an elevation of 2,033 m (6670 ft). Further, we will marvel at the mighty peaks of Sedrun and Disentis, followed by a magical trip through the snow-covered Rhine Gorge, dubbed the Swiss Grand Canyon.

After 6,5 hours, we will arrive in Chur, the capital of Canton Grisons, where we will change to another train to Zurich. Only 1,5 hours later, we should arrive at Zurich's main station. Once we've checked in, you will be free to explore the Zurich Christmas Market in front of the Opera House and enjoy dinner on your own. Your guides will be happy to provide suggestions for places to shop, eat, and drink.

Day 8 – Bern & Basel Christmas Markets

Today, we will embark on a day trip to visit Bern and Basel Christmas Markets.

After breakfast, we will board the train to Bern. Once there, we will explore Bern's impressive Old Town, perched on a cliff above the River Aare. We will pass by the Swiss Parliament and admire the alpine panorama from the terrace just behind it if the weather is good. Here, you will have time to explore the Christmas Market on your own, eat lunch, and buy some last-minute souvenirs.

In the early afternoon, we will board another train to Basel, where we will visit Switzerland's oldest and most beautiful Christmas Market. You will have time to stroll Basel's cobblestone streets, enjoy mulled wine, and even sit around the fire on Münsterplatz, one of Basel's main squares. Enjoy the hustle and

bustle and the joyful atmosphere of this cozy market, the last on your list of Swiss Christmas Markets.

We will return to Zurich by 6:30, where we will convene for the last dinner together.

Day 9 – Departure

Today is departure day.

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