ECHO
RAILS & TRAILS

Grand Train Tour Of Switzerland 9 days

Dates: Fixed departure dates
Price: from USD 6,905
Max number of participants: 16

switzerland
Member

DAY 1 – Arriving in Zurich

Welcome to Switzerland!

After your journey, a warm welcome awaits you in **Zurich**. You're probably ready to rest, and we've made sure your first night will be as comfortable as possible.

Your hotel is conveniently located directly at the Zurich Airport, ensuring a quick and hassle-free check in. All necessary details and instructions will be sent to you, ensuring you can settle in effortlessly.

In the Zurich Airport area, you'll find everything you need — ATMs, restaurants, and various services — all within easy reach. Once you arrive at the hotel, take your time to check in and unwind. This is your moment to relax and acclimate, preparing yourself for the exciting Swiss adventure that lies ahead!

Accommodation: Zurich Airport Hotel Hyatt Regency or Place (or comparable lodging).

DAY 2 – Lucerne & Mt. Rigi

Today, your adventure begins with a warm welcome from your Guide at **9:30 am** at Zurich Airport Hotel. There will be an itinerary briefing and a **Q&A session**, providing a perfect opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and clarify any questions you might have about the journey ahead.

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After the briefing, we'll embark on an unforgettable journey to **Mount Rigi**. Our adventure starts with a ride on a historic 140-year-old cogwheel train, taking us up to **Rigi Kulm**. At the summit, you'll be treated to breathtaking 360-degree views of the majestic Alps, glistening glaciers, lush green meadows adorned with grazing cows, and the serene expanse of **Lake Lucerne**.

Following our exhilarating time at the peak, we will embark on yet another scenic cogwheel train ride down to the charming town of **Vitznau**. From there, we'll board a boat and set sail on a serene cruise across the picturesque waters, making our way back to the enchanting city of **Lucerne**.

In the late 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. Leodegar's Church**, and other sites of interest.

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

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 4 hours.

Journey Mode: Train, Rigi Cogwheel Train & Cruise.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: Waldsteatterhof Hotel (or comparable lodging).

DAY 3 - Mt. Pilatus & Cheese Farm Visit

Today we are going to 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, Lake Lucerne, do a short hike, watch a documentary movie about Mt. Pilatus or simply enjoy a cup of coffee.

To descend, we will take a breathtaking gondola ride down to **Kriens**. From there, we will hop on a train and then a bus, journeying through beautiful landscapes on our way to the picturesque town of **Seelisberg**.

At our next stop, we will visit "**Aschwanden**," a charming local cheese farm that has been run by the Aschwanden family for four generations. Here, you'll get a first-hand look at how the farm collaborates with local farmers and learn all about the intricate process of cheesemaking. To top off the experience, you'll have the chance to sample their original "Bergkäse", a delicious mountain cheese.

Depending on the schedule, we may have the chance to visit "Rütli," the legendary birthplace of Switzerland in 1291. Following this visit, we'll board a steamer for a charming **2-hour cruise** back to the enchanting city of Lucerne.

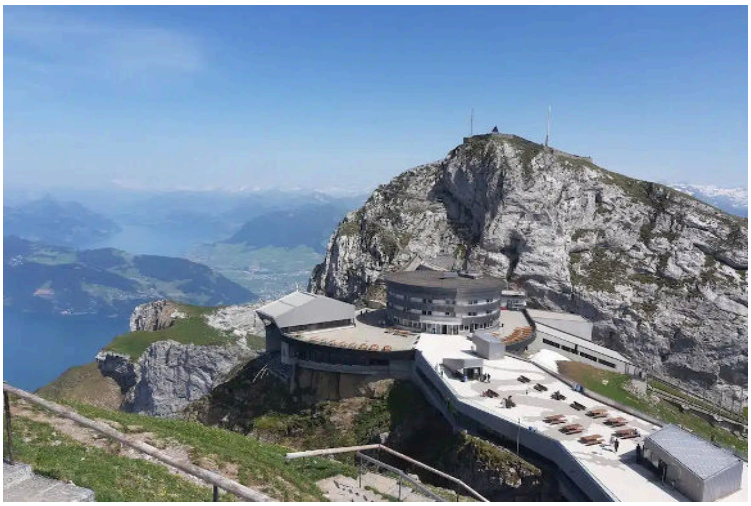
This evening we'll have dinner in the city center.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 5 hours.

Journey Mode: Train, Pilatus Cogwheel Train, Gondola, Bus & Cruise.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: Waldsteatterhof Hotel (or comparable lodging).



DAY 4 - Chocolate workshop and Trümmelbach Falls

Today, we're taking the train to the stunning town of **Interlaken**, nestled between **Lake Thun and Lake Brienz** and surrounded by the towering Swiss Alps. Here, you'll dive into an immersive **chocolate workshop** with a professional chocolatier. You will discover the Swiss influence on the chocolate industry and how to judge its quality. By the end, you'll create your own unique chocolate bar to bring home—if it makes it that far without being devoured!

Later on, we'll enjoy a relaxing hour-and-a-half lunch break in Interlaken. Your Guide will suggest the best spots to eat, highlight the main streets for a pleasant stroll, and point out the best places where to go shopping for souvenirs.

We will then board a train to **Lauterbrunnen**. Here we will transfer to a postal bus en route to the mesmerising **Trümmelbach Falls**. This natural wonder consists of ten glacier-fed waterfalls concealed within the mountain, accessible via a tunnel-funicular complex built in 1913.

We will continue our journey with one final connection to the enchanting village of **Grindelwald in the Jungfrau region**, where we will arrive in the late afternoon.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 4 hours.

Journey Mode: Train & Post Bus.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Derby (or comparable lodging).

DAY 5 - Jungfraujoch

Today's adventure kicks off with a breathtaking ascent from **Grindelwald Terminal to Eiger Glacier** aboard the ultra-modern panoramic **Eiger Express gondola**. Marvel at the stunning views as the glacier blankets the iconic **"Eiger" mountain**.

Next, we'll hop on the legendary **Jungfraubahn**, an electric cogwheel railway that has been delighting travelers since 1912. This historic train will take us from Kleine Scheidegg to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe.

Perched between the Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, Jungfraujoch offers unbeatable views of Europe's largest glacier, the magnificent **Aletsch Glacier**. Here, a world of activities awaits: explore the enchanting ice palace, ascend the Sphinx tower for panoramic vistas, and delve into the fascinating history of the **Jungfrau Railway**.

In the early afternoon, we'll descend back to **Kleine Scheidegg** and make our way to **Grindelwald**. The remainder of the day is yours to unwind and immerse yourself in the charm of this picturesque alpine village.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 3 hours.

Journey Mode: Eiger Express Gondola & Jungfrau Cogwheel.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Derby (or comparable lodging).

DAY 6 - GoldenPass Line, Montreux & Zermatt

Today, we bid farewell to the stunning village of Grindelwald. Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Switzerland as we ride one of the world's most picturesque railways, the **GoldenPass Line**. Our adventure begins in **Interlaken**, where we'll transfer to the enchanting GoldenPass Line, linking us to **Montreux**, the jewel of the Swiss Riviera.

The GoldenPass Line is celebrated for its breathtaking vistas, winding its way through quaint villages, verdant meadows, and awe-inspiring alpine landscapes. This scenic route crosses three majestic mountain passes, offering passengers unrivaled panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, tranquil lakes, and idyllic vineyards.

Before continuing on to Zermatt, we'll enjoy a delightful stop in **Montreux**, the perfect moment to stretch your legs, stroll along the palm-lined lakeside promenade, and treat yourself to a refreshing artisanal gelato. With the shimmering **Lake Geneva** at your side and the distant Alps framing the horizon, it's an idyllic pause that adds a touch of Riviera charm to your alpine adventure.

From Montreux, we'll make our way to **Zermatt**, completing the final leg of the journey aboard the iconic **Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn**.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 6 hours.

Journey Mode: GoldenPass Line & Train.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: La Ginabelle (or comparable lodging).

DAY 7 - Gornergrat Railway & Matterhorn

Gornergrat Cogwheel Railway is a 125-years-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.

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. Those who wish to do so, can embark on an immersive experience at **Zooom the Matterhorn**. For those ready for adventure, embark on a captivating 1.5-hour hike from Rotenboden to Riffelberg.

After that, the plan becomes wonderfully flexible, adapting to the day's weather.

Post-lunch, the choice is yours: delve into the enchanting streets of Zermatt, indulge in some shopping, or simply unwind and soak in the serene mountain atmosphere. Our guides will be happy to take you on a 1-hour-long guided tour of Zermatt.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 1 hour.

Journey Mode: Gornergrat Cogwheel.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: La Ginabelle (or comparable lodging).

DAY 8 – Glacier Express & Zurich

Today we say adieu to **Zermatt**. In the morning, you'll embark on your journey to Zürich, where your guide will be waiting for you at the main station.

Enjoy a spectacular 5.5-hour journey on the **Glacier Express** from **Zermatt to Chur**, one of the most scenic stretches of the Swiss Alps. Cross the high **Oberalp Pass** at 2,033 meters (6,670 feet) and wind through the dramatic **Rhine Gorge**, often referred to as the "Swiss Grand Canyon." Panoramic windows offer sweeping views of alpine peaks, deep valleys, and crystal-clear rivers—all from the comfort of your seat. It's slow travel at its finest.

Upon arrival in **Zurich**, we'll enjoy a delightful dinner at a local restaurant nestled in the heart of the city. Your guide will also take you on a walk through the charming old parts of Zurich, offering insights and stories that bring the city's history to life.

As the day draws to a close, we'll make our way to Zurich main station to catch the train to our hotel in Zurich airport, where your guide will assist with the check-in process. After ensuring everything is settled, your guide will bid you farewell.

Scenic Journey Duration: approx. 6 hours.

Journey Mode: Train.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner.

Accommodation: Zurich Airport Hotel Hyatt Regency or Place (or comparable lodging).

DAY 9 – Departure day

Today is departure day.

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

Meals included: Breakfast.