

Rail holidays to Switzerland



By Rail to Saanenland Holiday



By Rail to Saanenland Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Schoenried

Gstaad

Lauenen

Wispile

Rellerli

Horneggli

GoldenPass Line



View of Horneggli

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Geneva, and then on to Montreux to join the GoldenPass Line for the remainder of the journey to the Saanenland. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Schoenried; a peaceful, mountainside village with stunning views across the five converging valleys. Less than 2 miles away is Gstaad, the popular winter and summer sports destination, known for its main street lined with chalet houses and boutique shops. Rustic restaurants populate the villages and undulating green slopes; streams navigate their way between the mountains; and cable cars, railways, and hiking paths guide you across this fantastic landscape. Use your Swiss rail pass to travel around the villages and towns, stopping in Gstaad, Lauenen, and Zweisimmen.

DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

Day one

Travel from London to Gstaad and Schoenried by rail on your first day; or fly into Geneva and travel the rest by rail. The Eurostar leaves in the early morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train, arriving into Geneva in the mid-afternoon. Here, change for Montreux, and then change again for the GoldenPass Line to Gstaad, arriving in the evening. Check into your resort hotel.

Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Saanenland, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the surrounding villages and valleys.

Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from Gstaad back to Montreux, Geneva, and Paris. Spend up to two hours in Paris before catching your connection back to London, arriving in the early evening.

CHOICE OF HOTELS

Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried 4 star
Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad 5 star

PRICES

From £1,755 per person

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

1st class rail travel can be added for a supplement.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year, however hotels often close between the winter and summer seasons. Rail 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

- Rail travel from London to Switzerland via Paris and back in standard/ second class (first class can be booked at a supplement), OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Geneva
- 8 day Swiss rail pass
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- 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.

ABOUT THE RESORT

Schoenried sits on the so-called 'sun terrace' above Gstaad.

Expressions

This collection of beautifully traditional chalet houses offers a peaceful, quaint alternative to accommodation within Gstaad, and remains popular with those looking to primarily appreciate the natural landscape of the Saanenland. Nature walks, hiking trails, cable cars, and mountain railways provide a relaxing and insightful range of activity for a seven night stay, topped off each night with a gourmet dinner and an aperitif in your cosy hotel.

Places of interest in Saanenland

- **Schoenried central square** – named after the world champion, Olympic medallist, and World Cup winner in Giant Slalom, Mike von Grunigen
- **Hauptstrasse** – the main street in Gstaad, lined with boutique shops, chic bars, and stunning chalets
- **Outdoor fondue** – at one of the authentic restaurants serving alpine dairy products
- **Cable cars** in the area take you from Zweisimmen to Rinderberg, Schoenried to Rellerli, Gstaad to Wispile, Rougemont to La Videmanette, Chateau-d'Oex to La Braye, Gsteig to Sanetsch, Reusch to Oldenegg, and Col du Pillon to Glacier 3000
- **Glacier 3000** – the only glacier area in the Bernese Oberland
- **Guided tours** of Saanen, Zweisimmen, and Rougemont
- **Museums of local history** at Saanen and Zweisimmen
- **Cheese-tasting and cellar tours** at La Maison de l'Etivaz
- **Fondation de l'Espace Ballon** at Chateaux-d'Oex
- **Swiss Open** – this tennis tournament is held in Gstaad at the end of July each year
- **Yehudi Menuhin Festival of Classical Music** – hosted each year in the 15th century Mauritius Church in Saanen and a dedicated marquee in Gstaad

Local sports

- Tobogganing at Rellerli
- High-altitude hiking from the Rinderberg to the Horneggli
- Flower trail on the Horneggli
- Hiking from Rellerli to Sparenmoos
- Hiking from Mount Wispile to Lake Lauenen
- Climbing at La Videmanette, the Gstaad Dolomites
- Walking along the shores of the reservoir at Sanetsch
- Flora and fauna hike at Oldenegg
- Glacier 3000 walking trail
- Rafting on the River Saane



Gstaad Hauptstrasse

- Horse-riding in Gstaad
- Cycling through Gstaad
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Curling on Gstaad's own curling rink

The abundance of available activities, from cultural and historic tours to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Saanenland area is unique and memorable. This seven night rail holiday allows you to make the most of this variety and get to know the region in-depth.

OPTIONAL

Combine this holiday with one of our Iconic Swiss Rail Journeys or another long stay in a different part of the country.

HOTELS

We include seven nights at the Hotel Alpenrose in Schoenried or at the Grand Hotel Bellevue in Gstaad. Other options in Saanenland are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

Expressions

HOTEL ALPENROSE

4 star

The four star boutique Hotel Alpenrose is situated just outside Gstaad, and has a traditional warm chalet feel and appearance. Wooden panelled exterior walls emerge from behind evergreen trees and support the peaked chalet roof. Inside, this style, synonymous with Switzerland, is continued into rooms with wooden floors, walls, and ceilings. The gourmet Azalée Restaurant serves traditional Swiss delicacies in an effortlessly elegant setting. Windows look out onto the iconic glacier-capped slopes of the Alps, while white table cloths and pink and red flowers preserve a more summery feel. On Thursday nights, dinner is accompanied by live piano music. Alternatively, guests can dine in Sammy's Grill Restaurant on grilled meats, fondue, or Italian dishes. The lively Sammy's Bar offers a relaxed place to unwind in the evenings. Perhaps begin your day at the boutique Hotel Alpenrose with a few hours in the rustic spa; enjoy a massage from a Swiss expert, a dip in the Jacuzzi, or twenty minutes in the sauna. The guestrooms hold an abundance of authentic Swiss charm. Soft sheets and mattresses are accompanied by floral, intricate patterns and large windows, some of which have views on the nearby glaciers. Hotel Alpenrose welcomes families, offering cosy family apartments with mezzanine floors for the children. A self-contained chalet, sleeping groups of up to eight people, is situated just 200m from the main hotel building, tempting larger groups with the ultimate feeling of secluded privacy. All rooms, however, are identified by their comfortable 'country' atmosphere and design. The attractive Hotel Alpenrose is in an ideal location for a stopover near Gstaad as part of a Swiss rail holiday.



Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad

LE GRAND BELLEVUE

5 star

The five star Le Grand Bellevue sits just a stone's throw away from the boutique shops, cafes, and gourmet restaurants of Gstaad's main street. Against the dark wood chalets of the village, this building in particular stands out. Its pale yellow walls, tiled roofs, and towers make it seem palatial in comparison, but no less identifiably Swiss. Pass the lush green lawns of its grounds to reach the front entrance, where large arched windows let you look into the cosy lounges beside the lobby. Here, distinctive and bold wallpaper, accompanied by tastefully mismatched plush sofas and armchairs and the painted panelled ceiling, give the hotel a boutique feel, though it has the excellent spa and dining facilities of a much larger hotel. The guestrooms continue this sense of individual character. The hotel bar returns to the colour scheme of the lounges, with worn leather sofas, elegant purple chairs, and tall stools pulled up to the bottle green bar. As the evenings get cooler, a fire is lit in the black marble hearth. In Le Petit Chalet restaurant, wooden panelled walls, a vaulted wooden ceiling, and authentic benches and

tables recreate the chalet-feel that Gstaad is known for. Fondue, raclette, and other Alpine delicacies are served with a touch of fine-dining. For something truly unique, however, dine in the stylish Leonard's Restaurant, which holds a Michelin star. In the afternoons, a light afternoon tea can be enjoyed in the Lounge or in the Garden Lounge outside, which proves to be the perfect place to soak up the summer Swiss sunshine; or sip an aperitif in Bouquet, or sample some sushi in the Sushi Bar. To complete your experience of Le Grand Bellevue, pamper yourself in the world-class Le Grand Spa. The spa features 11 treatment rooms managed by skilled specialists, a rippling indoor pool, Jacuzzi, and yoga and Pilates classes. Guests of Le Grand Bellevue invariably leave feeling refreshed and recuperated, but with the additional experience of exploring the sublime landscapes of the Saanenland.



Terrace at the Alpenrose



View from the Alpenrose



Guestroom at the Alpenrose

MAP OF BY RAIL TO SAANENLAND HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with 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 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Alpenrose, Schonried), from £1,755 per person
Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £400 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Alpenrose, Schonried), from £1,755 per person
Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £240 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 Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad), from £2,710 per person
Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £400 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 5 star hotels (eg Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad), from £2,640 per person
Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £240 per person
(standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains) from London and throughout back to London at the Hotel Alpenrose.
From £1,860 per person
Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £390 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at the Hotel Alpenrose.

From £1,780 per person

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £230 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.