

Rail holidays to Switzerland



GoldenPass Line Holiday



GoldenPass Line

4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS

Geneva

Lausanne

Montreux

GoldenPass Line

Gstaad

Simmental

Zurich



GoldenPass Line

The GoldenPass Line travels a relatively short distance of 191 kms but encompasses a variety of experiences: two languages, five Swiss cantons, and eight lakes as well as providing views of some of the most varied and beautiful scenery in Switzerland. Begin in Geneva, after your arrival from the UK. Take a train to Lausanne for your first night. Next morning, travel past the Lavaux Vineyards to Montreux, board the GoldenPass Line, and make your way to Gstaad and Schoenried in the Saanenland. Spend two days and three nights enjoying the scenery, the chic boutique shops and cafes, and the abundant walking and cycling paths in this area. On your fifth day, re-board the GoldenPass Line and travel to Zweisimmen, from where you catch a separate train to Zurich for your return flight or train.

ABOUT THE GOLDENPASS LINE

Route length 5.08 hours or 190km from Lucerne to Montreux

Stops Lucerne, Sarnen, Sachseln, Giswil, Kaiserstuhl OW, Lungern, Brunig-Hasliberg, Meiringen, Brienz, Interlaken Ost, Interlaken West, Spiez, Wimmis, Oey-Diemtigen, Erlenbach im Simmental, Boltigen, Zweisimmen/ Saanenmoser, Schonried, Gstaad, Saanen, Rougemont, Chateaux-d'Oex, Rossiniere, Montbovon, Les Avants, Chamby, Chernex, Montreux

Facilities A dining car is available between Zweisimmen and Montreux.

PRICES

From £1,890 per person

Based on double occupancy in 4 star hotels, with flights to and from, and rail travel within Switzerland in 2nd class.

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

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.

Please note that the hotels in Saanenland sometimes close between seasons ie winter to summer and summer to winter.

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)
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Lausanne
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Schoenried or Gstaad

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux, Gstaad, Zurich, the Bernese Oberland, or Lucerne
- 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 - Lausanne - Montreux - GoldenPass Line - Gstaad - Simmental - Zurich

Expressions

Day one: Geneva to Lausanne

Begin your GoldenPass touring holiday by arriving into Geneva, either by air or via Paris by rail. Take an hour or so to explore the old town of this beautiful city and to see the Jet d'Eau erupting out of the waters of Lake Geneva. Then, board a train to Lausanne, where you will spend your first night. Perhaps spend the rest of your day or part of the next morning taking in the sight of the fine cathedral, the old town, and port area of Ouchy, home to the Olympic Museum, numerous restaurants, and a scenic waterside boulevard. If staying longer in the area, you can take boat trips on the lake, or rail journeys along the shore, both of which provide an excellent means of viewing the famous Chateau Chillon, jutting out from the rocks across the water's surface.

Day two: Lausanne to the Saanenland on the GoldenPass Line

In the late morning of your second day (around 11am), take the short train journey from Lausanne to Montreux, ready to board the GoldenPass Line around 45 minutes later. Choose from the panoramic coaches that allow exceptional views or the Belle Epoque classical carriages that provide an authentic Swiss experience. This train zig-zags up from the lake, passing the Chamby steam railway, and reaching higher ground at Les Avants, passing through the mountains, and into forested valleys. As you get closer to Gstaad, Schoenried, and the convergence of the five valleys, you will pass startling turquoise water and old wooden bridges in Montbovon, the idyllic Chateau d'Oex set against imposing mountainscapes, and numerous creaking glaciers. Finally, pass the delightful chic resort of Gstaad, before reaching Schoenried, at around 13:14, where you will spend the next three nights. A more detailed description of the route can be found on the "About the Train" section.

Days three and four: Saanenland

Spend the next two and a half days enjoying all that this beautiful area has to offer. Explore the Alpine meadows on foot, trail the hiking paths across the slopes, and seek out the hidden waterfalls and streams that vein the landscape. From Schoenried, you can enjoy all this, and more, in one sweeping glance. Visit the glacier at Les Diablerets, and take the cable car up to the Rellerli or the chairlift up to the Horneggli for a long, satisfying walk. In Gstaad, make the most of the menagerie of unique boutique shops and try out many of the gourmet restaurants, styled on the traditional Swiss chalets.



GoldenPass Line

Day five: Return via Zurich

On your fifth day, after three nights in Gstaad and Schoenried, re-board the GoldenPass Line for the short journey to Zweisimmen, the gateway from the Saanenland into the Bernese Oberland. From here, change trains and head north to Zurich for your return journey. Either catch a flight on the same day, or stay for an extra night in Zurich ready for a returning train the following day.

OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux, Gstaad, Zurich, the Bernese Oberland, or Lucerne.

HOTELS

At both Lausanne and the Saanenland, you can choose from a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

LAUSANNE

Hotel Angleterre et Residence 4 star

This timeless hotel sits opposite the green portside, and is surrounded by buildings reminiscent of Swiss chateaux. Guests here can choose between fairytale, traditional style and strikingly contemporary accommodation, thanks to the four hotel buildings. With many dining options, including the best Italian restaurant in Lausanne, tennis courts, two swimming pools, and spa facilities, this is the perfect stop-off point when staying on Lake Geneva.

Beau-Rivage Palace 5 star

On the banks of Lake Geneva in Lausanne, the Beau-Rivage Palace is a building equally as stunning as its location. Just a short distance from Ouchy, and with beautifully regal interiors, multiple dining options, and a well-equipped spa, this is the ultimate luxury address in Lausanne.

SAANENLAND

Hotel Alpenrose 4 star

A boutique property housing cosy and elegant accommodation in Schoenried, the Hotel Alpenrose is a consistently popular option for clients staying in the Saanenland. Rustic facilities compliment the Alpine setting, making the spa, restaurant, bar, and guestrooms all the more homely and comfortable.

Le Grand Bellevue 5 star

Just a short walk from Gstaad's main boutiques, cafes, and restaurants, Le Grand Bellevue is a highly convenient hotel immersed in the picturesque lifestyle of the Saanenland. Its pale yellow façade is palatial in design, with a distinctive tower that shapes some of the hotel suites. Equipped with a Michelin starred restaurant and an indulgent spa, this is a luxurious property in which to spend two or three nights while you explore the Saanenland.



Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad



Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne



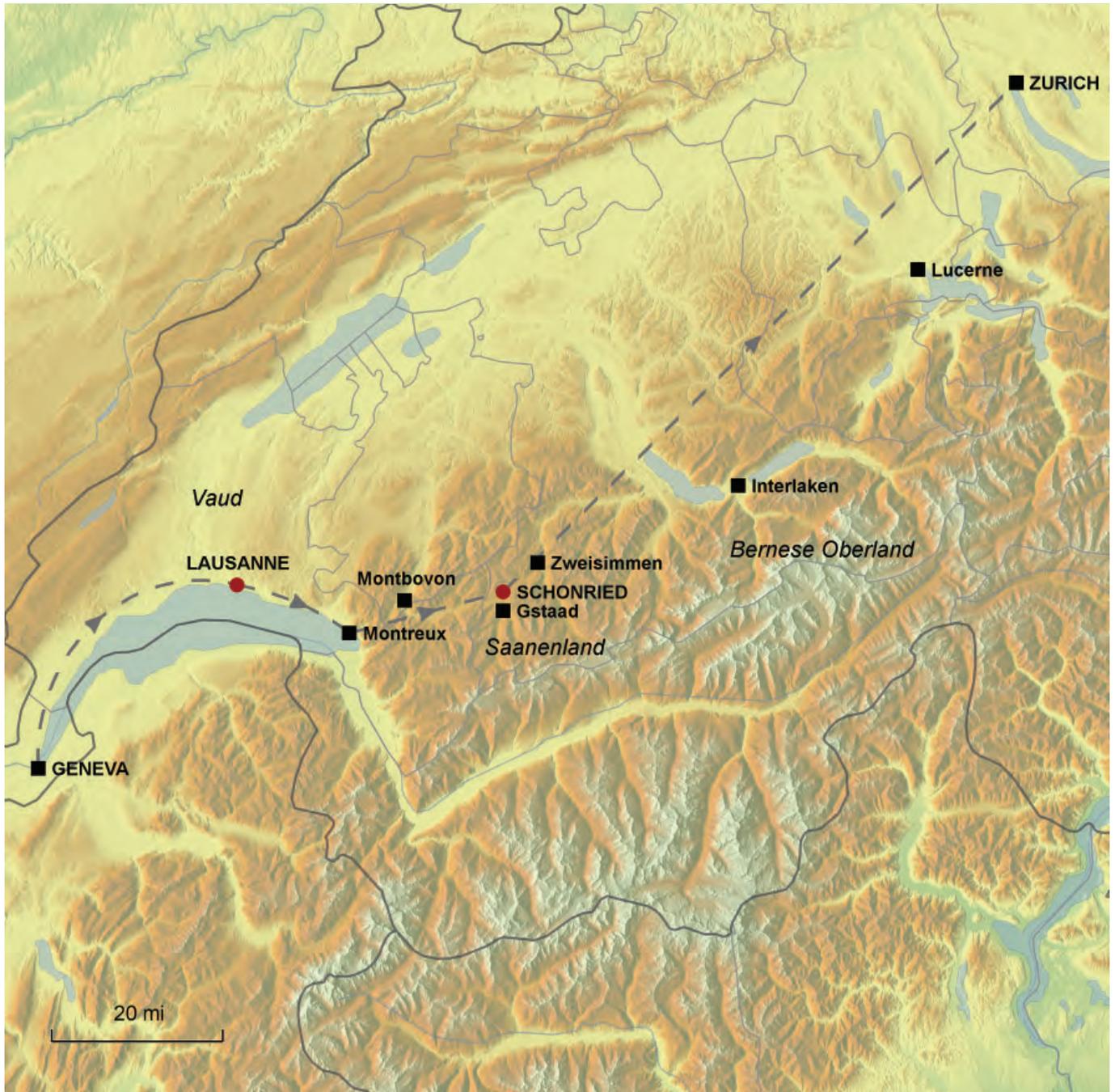
Beau Rivage Palace, Lausanne



Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried

MAP OF GOLDENPASS LINE 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, 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 Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne, and Hostellerie Alpenrose, Schoenried).

From £1,890 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £350 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne, and Hostellerie Alpenrose, Schoenried).

From £1,890 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 Hotel Beau Rivage Palace, Lausanne, and Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad).

From £1,890 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £350 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Beau Rivage Palace, Lausanne, and Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad).

From £1,890 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.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

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.