

Rail holidays to Switzerland



The Grand, Grand Switzerland Rail Tour



The Grand, Grand Switzerland Rail Tour

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS

Lake Geneva

Zermatt

Glacier Express

St Moritz

Bernina Express

Lugano

Gotthard Panorama Express

Lucerne

GoldenPass Line

Saanenland

Montreux



Montebello Curve, Bernina Express

This grand tour of Switzerland encompasses all the highlights of this diverse country. Travel past stunning mountainscapes, sublime lakes, and creaking glaciers on iconic railway lines; stop off in unique, enchanting lakeside cities; and spend cosy evenings in quaint, chocolate-box villages beneath imposing mountains such as the Matterhorn.

This grand tour of Switzerland begins with your arrival into Geneva, by rail or by air. From here, you catch a train along the northern shore of Lake Geneva to Lausanne. Spend your time here exploring the other towns and villages on the lakeside, and perhaps taking a relaxed boat cruise. Then, move on into Valais for time in Zermatt, changing trains at Visp. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the Matterhorn, and to ascend to the summit of the Gornergrat by the funicular railway. From Zermatt, board the Glacier Express first thing in the morning and spend your day travelling to St Moritz, to arrive in the early evening. Stay in St Moritz, visiting the local lakes and reaching the neighbouring mountain peaks by cable car. Travel next from St Moritz south to Tirano on the Bernina Express line, where you disembark and board the dedicated Bernina Express coach for the remainder of the scenic journey by road to Lugano. Enjoy the Mediterranean feel of the Lugano and then head back north to Lucerne on the Gotthard Panorama Express route, first taking a train through Ticino and up to Fluelen, and then changing to a steamboat or salon motorboat. Stay in Lucerne, appreciating monuments such as the Water Tower and Chapel Bridge, before continuing on into the Bernese Oberland. Change trains in Interlaken for the peaceful chocolate-box villages of Grindelwald and Wengen. Leaving

Grindelwald at around lunchtime, take the short journey back down to Interlaken, for a train to Zweisimmen. Here, you join the GoldenPass Line to the Saanenland. Spend time here, enjoying Gstaad's exclusive central promenade, the stunning views across the wide Saanenland valley from the 'sun terrace' of Schoenried, and sampling some alpine specialities. Then, re-join the GoldenPass Line for the short journey to Montreux, the highlights of which are the views as you zig-zag down the mountainside to the lake. From Montreux, visit such historic sites as Chillon Castle and the Lavaux Terraced Vineyards, before heading back to Geneva your return flight. If you wish to return by rail, we would recommend adding another night in Geneva before departure.

PRICES

From £3,935 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from UK to Geneva and back OR rail travel London to Switzerland and back (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 8 day rail flex pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Lausanne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Zermatt
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in St Moritz
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lugano
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Grindelwald or Wengen
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in the Saanenland
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Montreux
- 3-course lunch on the Glacier Express (drinks excluded)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Geneva at either end, Lucerne, Grindelwald, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, or St Moritz
- 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

Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - St Moritz - Bernina Express
- Lugano - Wilhelm Tell Express - Lucerne - GoldenPass Line -
Saanenland - Montreux

Expressions

Day one: Arrive Geneva and train to Lausanne

Travel by rail or by air from London to Geneva on your first day. Perhaps spend an hour or two exploring the city, home to fine watch-making, the headquarters of the UN, and the Jet d'Eau fountain. Wander around the Vieille-Ville, the largest Old Town in Switzerland, stopping at the St Pierre Cathedral. From Geneva, catch a train along the northern shore of the lake to Lausanne. During your time in Lausanne, choose from its many elegant attractions; seek out the impressive historic monuments as well as the new, modern additions. Lausanne Cathedral is believed to be one of Europe's most beautiful Gothic monuments, crowned by spires of unusual purple and orange hues. A brand new Olympic Museum has recently opened in the heart of Lausanne's Old Town; three levels depict Olympic history in all its colourful grandeur. The placement of this new museum comes as a result of the Olympic Committee Headquarters being in Lausanne. The Olympic Park is adjoined to the museum, and is dotted with artworks, sports sculptures, and well-maintained flowers and trees. Beside the Olympic Park is the promenade at Ouchy Harbour, which, when lit up in the evening, will be one of the highlights of your trip. The promenade takes you from the gardens along to the Haldimand Tower, the Bellerive Swimming Pool, the Chateau d'Ouchy, and the port. Enjoy dinner in this beautiful area before returning to your hotel.

Day two: Lausanne to Zermatt

Today you travel by train from Lausanne to Zermatt. This train journey takes just shy of three hours, passing the 80 hectares of the stunning Lavaux Terraced Vineyards, Montreux and Chillon Castle, Martigny, and pausing at Visp while you change trains. As you enter Zermatt, the area's crowning glory will make itself apparent: the Matterhorn. Around it, over 400km of walking and hiking paths vein the landscape, allowing you to capture stunning panoramas of both Zermatt and the Matterhorn while uncovering more of the Alpine flora and fauna.

Day three: Zermatt

Small railways from Zermatt take you high up into the mountains, reaching 3000m above sea level, and the Glacier Paradise cable car transports you up to Europe's highest viewing platform. To extend both your experience of the railways of Valais and the mountains, take the Gornergratbahn up to the summit of the Gornergrat, from where you can bask in views of 38 mountain peaks. Consider visiting the Hornlihutte, where for decades climbers



The Glacier Express

have famously stayed as they prepare to climb the Matterhorn, via the Hornli Ridge, the Zmutt Ridge, or the north wall. For something wholly unique, spend an hour or two at the Zermatlantis Matterhorn Museum, a faithfully recreated archaeological site. After a thrilling and busy day exploring this dynamic area, dine in one of Zermatt's abundant gourmet restaurants or back at your chosen hotel.

Day four: Zermatt to St Moritz on the Glacier Express

Travel east from Zermatt to St Moritz on the iconic Glacier Express. Depart before 9am, with a view to arriving just after 5pm. The Glacier Express begins by taking you through small, picturesque villages and past monuments that have become emblematic for Valais, including the Stockalper Castle in Brig. We include a delicious three-course lunch based on a seasonal menu (drinks not included). Tasty specialities from the regions which you pass through are served to you at your seat by the friendly stewards, whilst you enjoy the changing scenery. The train then takes you through the Furka Tunnel of the Furka Steam Railway to Oberwald, weaving its way between traditional alpine chalets, the ice caves of the Rhone Glacier, and the vast panoramas of the mountainsides. Nestled in the indomitable Gotthard Pass, the train stops in the important north-south connection point of Andermatt. Cross the Oberalp Pass network of tunnels and viaducts to reach Disentis, crowned by its own Benedictine monastery. Take in the scenery of the Ruinaulta, and the fairytale rooftops of Chur, Switzerland's

oldest city. The castles and palaces of the Domleschg Region pass your windows as you gain on St Moritz, as well as the ochre-fronted houses and solitary tower of Tiefencastel and the idyllic summer resort of Davos. Join the Bernina Railway Line as you cross the Landwasser viaduct, navigate the loops of the track, and travel through the Albula Tunnel. With St Moritz not far away, pass through Bergun, dedicated to the wonders of Swiss rail, and Celerina, home to the Cresta Run. At 1856m above sea level, visitors to St Moritz are welcomed by stunning views across the lakes of the Upper Engadine Valley, and the refreshing dry, clear, Alpine climate.

Day five: St Moritz

Spend your time in St Moritz navigating the local peaks via railway, reaching the Piz Corvatsch, Chantarella, and Corviglia, where a cable car takes you up to Suvretta's most famous viewing point. If you have time, enjoy the water sports at the sublime Lake Sils and Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana.

Day six: St Moritz to Tirano on the Bernina Express and Bernina Express PostBus to Lugano

You depart from St Moritz on the journey across northern Italy from St Moritz to Lugano. Board the distinctive red carriages of the Bernina Express train and first travel through the Val Benina, stopping in the quaint village of Pontresina. Then, the Bernina Express takes you around the Montebello Curve, which not only tackles the changing altitude in an innovative way, but allows you plenty of time

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - St Moritz - Bernina Express
- Lugano - Wilhelm Tell Express - Lucerne - GoldenPass Line -
Saanenland - Montreux**

Expressions

to take in the views of the Morteratsch Glacier. The train then hurtles on, gaining altitude once more until it reaches the highest point on the Rhaetian Railway, Ospizio Bernina, at 2253m above sea level. You will next pass Alp Grum, the only restaurant that is accessible exclusively by rail. Passing through grand and elegant Poschiavo and the small village of Le Prese, the Bernina Express finally brings you over the border into Italy. In Tirano, you have an hour to enjoy the charming combination of Italian architecture and Alpine backdrop. Perhaps stop off at the Santuario della Madonna di Tirano on the quiet central square, or seek out the historic monuments and paintings dotted around the town. Then, board the Bernina Express dedicated coach across to Lugano. Pass fertile green agricultural land, ancient towns and villages, flourishing green vineyards, and Lake Como on your way.

Day seven: Lugano

Use your time in Lugano to explore this cultural lakeside town, which is quintessential of the Ticino region. Lugano's Old Town will be one of the highlights of your stay here, with its relaxed café culture influenced by both the Italian border and the prominent Swiss towns to the north. Pay a visit to the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, which sits at the top of the gently stepped Via Cattedrale. This Roman Catholic cathedral was founded in the Middle Ages, but was drastically rebuilt in the late 15th century. Its tower still rises high above Lugano, crowned by a distinctive green dome. For a further, more rounded, insight into Swiss cultural history, visit the waterside pink-fronted Museum of Cultures. Lake Lugano is perfect for a final sweeping boat trip, or for sampling the local water sports. The peak of nearby Monte Bre can be reached by funicular railway from Casserate, from where you can take in the sublime views, seek out the forested beauty spots, and embark on a hiking trail. San Salvatore can also be reached by funicular railway from Lugano, and offers an alternative, but no less stunning, perspective.

Day eight: Lugano to Lucerne on the Gotthard Panorama Express

You will next embark on a route shaped by the legend of the Swiss National Hero of Liberty: Wilhelm Tell. Begin this journey by catching a train to Bellinzona, home to three of Switzerland's best-preserved Medieval castles, where you may need to change for Fluelen. This train journey weaves its way along the valleys of Ticino, passing the waterfalls of Biasca, the Italianate architecture of Faido, a series of historic isolated chalets, and the town of Airolo. On your way out of Ticino, you will pass through the Gotthard Strassentunnel, as well as the complex network of rail lines



Lake Lucerne

in Goschonen. Navigate the Gotthard Loop Tunnels as you travel through the canton of Uri towards the southernmost point of Lake Lucerne. The railway track follows the course of the Reuss River, across flat, wide valleys as it loses altitude. In Fluelen, disembark the train and make your way to the nearby marina. Board the Gotthard Panorama Express steamboat or salon motorboat as you begin the true exploration of Wilhelm Tell's story. Pass the Rutli Meadows, where Friedrich Schiller's telling of the tale is set, and which was also the site on which a treaty was signed in 1291 between Lake Lucerne's neighbouring cantons. The boat also stops off in Sisikon, home to Tell's Chapel and Tell's Slab, where Wilhelm Tell reputedly jumped from the bailiff's boat and pushed it back into the stormy lake waters in the original story. Disembark from the boat at the lido of the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne where you stay next.

Day nine: Lucerne

An essential visit on any stay in Lucerne is the Chapel Bridge, the city's main landmark and the most photographed monument in Switzerland. Walk along the bridge, taking in the views of the Reuss River, the so-called Water Spike, and the Water Tower. For both historical significance and architectural beauty, visit the 17th century Jesuit Church, which overlooks the water and is topped by two droplet-shaped domes. Above the city is the Musegg Wall, a 14th century structure that once protected the city within. Though the city now sprawls outside of this wall, the nine defensive towers still remain, three of

which are open to the public. Enjoy lunch in a pavement café on the Kornmarkt Square, beside the colourful Pfister Guildhall, the Hirschenplatz Square, or the Weinmarkt Square, where Lucerne swore its federal oath with Schwyz, Uri, and Unterwalden. To see some exemplary Swiss culture, visit the prestigious KKL Luzern gallery, the Rosengart Collection of works by Picasso and Klee, the Wagner Museum in Tribschen, and the Swiss Museum of Transport. Finish your days with a sumptuous dinner back at your hotel, or in one of Lucerne's many gourmet restaurants.

Day ten: Lucerne to Bernese Oberland

This touring itinerary then takes you southwest from Lucerne into the Bernese Oberland. The train journey takes you along the western shore of Lake Lucerne, Lake Sarnen, Lake Lungern, and north around Lake Brienz. Change trains at Interlaken, perhaps spending an hour admiring the stunning location of this town, and move on up the steeper cog railway to Grindelwald or Wengen.

Day eleven: Bernese Oberland

The enchanting chocolate box villages of Grindelwald and Wengen afford stunning views of the surroundings from your location at over 1,000m above sea level. The two nearby villages are connected by two cable cars, by bus, or by train, and both sit at the base of the Jungfrau. Your stay here is therefore perfectly placed for enjoying the most iconic attraction of the Bernese Oberland. Travel by funicular railway up to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - St Moritz - Bernina Express
- Lugano - Wilhelm Tell Express - Lucerne - GoldenPass Line -
Saanenland - Montreux**

Expressions

station in Europe, to appreciate the stunning views. For hiking trails, take cable cars up to the Monch and the Eiger, or simply follow the softer trails that lead out of Grindelwald. The picturesque Lake Fallboden makes for idyllic and relaxing afternoon and evening walks. Complete or begin your stay in Grindelwald with a self-guided stroll between the rustic wooden chalet houses.

Day twelve: Bernese Oberland to Saanenland

At around lunchtime, board the train from Grindelwald back to Interlaken, on to Zweisimmen, and then to Schoenried or Gstaad along the first section of the GoldenPass Line.

Day thirteen: Saanenland

On the border between the cantons of Bern and Vaud, the Saanenland marks the surreal convergence of five individual valleys. Schoenried itself sits on slightly higher ground than its famous neighbour, Gstaad. The area is known for its delicious Alpine dairy products, which are served in many of the 100 gourmet restaurants that line Gstaad's main promenade in the form of fondue or raclette. The boutique shops and quaint cafes housed inside these iconic chalets are well worth a few hours of your time as they capture a great deal of Swiss authenticity. The Molkerei Gstaad allows visitors to taste a selection of the 3,000 cheeses produced in the Saanenland. We would recommend spending a few hours in the Saanenland joining the dots between the traditional farmhouses that surround the fields outside Gstaad, and perhaps venturing further out on one of the hundreds of Alpine trails and paths. Adventurous visitors will want to take a trip up to Glacier 3000 to take in the views of 24 of the surrounding mountains that measure above 4000m. In the evenings, retire to your hotel in Schoenried or Gstaad for a gourmet dinner and a drink beside the cosy fireplace.

Day fourteen: Saanenland to Montreux on the GoldenPass Line

In the late morning, board one of the panoramic coaches of the GoldenPass Line for the two hour journey from Schoenried to Montreux. After Gstaad, the GoldenPass Line crosses the border into Vaud, stopping first in Rougemont, and then Chateau-d'Oex. Here the mountainscapes are dotted with quaint chalets, small churches, and petit castles; an image that is very typical of the Pays-d'Enhaut. The villages you will pass next all retain their own individual architectural character, emerging out of plumes of evergreen trees. In Rossiniere and Montbovon, passengers can view the startling translucent



Rinderberg and Saanenland

turquoise water that runs in rivers crossed by ancient wooden bridges. At Les Avants, the train begins to wind its way down the hillside towards Montreux.

Day fifteen: Montreux

During your stay in Montreux, we would recommend exploring the railway history of the area, taking the Vineyard Train (S31) through the Lavaux Terraced Vineyards between Vevey and Puixdoux-Chexbres, the train through the meadows to Rochers-de-Naye (on which you can sometimes see the Jet d'Eau in Geneva), or the Chocolate Train to the Maison Cailler chocolate factory and museum. The highlight of your visit to Montreux, however, may well be Chillon Castle, perched on a rocky outcrop and seemingly emerging out of the water. This is Switzerland's most popular historical landmark, and, with its fairy-tale beauty, it is easy to see why.

Day sixteen: Depart Geneva to UK

On your final day, enjoy a relaxing morning beside the waterfront on Lake Geneva before making your way back to the UK.

OPTIONAL

If you are arriving from or returning to the UK by rail, we would recommend spending an extra night in Geneva at the beginning or end of your tour. It is also possible to add additional nights in any of the destinations mentioned.

HOTELS

At Lausanne, Zermatt, St Moritz, Lugano, Lucerne, Weggis, Grindelwald, Wengen, Saanenland, and Montreux, you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

LAUSANNE

Hotel Angleterre et Residence 4 star

In the sought-after area of Ouchy, the Hotel Angleterre et Residence combines the cosiness of an English cottage, the sleek stylishness of contemporary modern design, and the charm of a Swiss chateau. Each of its buildings is strikingly different from the outside, but with the same elegant interiors and fantastic service. L'Accademia is reputedly the best Italian restaurant in Lausanne.

Hotel Beau Rivage Palace 5 star

This elegant spa hotel has a stunning, palatial façade, beautifully grand, ornate rooms, and convenient tennis facilities. Diverse internationally-inspired dining options provide plenty of indulgent options for evening meals. From the outdoor pool, guests can see Lake Geneva, and the mountains on the other side. This hotel is just a short walk from Ouchy Harbour.

ZERMATT

Hotel Butterfly 3 star

The Hotel Butterfly is a very traditional Swiss chalet, positioned on the sloped outskirts of Zermatt, with exterior wooden panels, hanging plants draped over the balconies, and murals on the bedroom walls. The hotel has its own restaurant, piano bar, and several indulgent wellness facilities to help you relax after a day exploring.

Romantik Hotel Julen 4 star

Priding itself on its traditional service and style, the Hotel Julen is a dark wood chalet adorned with Swiss red shutters and colourful flowers. Spa facilities, warm lounges, and wooden-panelled rooms keep guests comfortable for their whole stay. The Romantik Hotel Julen sits at the heart of Zermatt.

Grand Hotel Zermatterhof 5 star

A historic, chic property, the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof may well be the most prestigious hotel in Zermatt. Positioned in the centre of the village, it is just a minute's walk from the main church, a park, the best restaurants in Zermatt, and the Matter Vispa. The rooms blend state-of-the-art comfort with regal charm.



Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt

ST MORITZ

Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz 4 star

Dating from over 100 years ago, the Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz is a sophisticated hotel built in the Belle Epoque style. Fresh, bright, and luxurious rooms are accompanied by multiple dining options, including a picturesque garden and a selection of relaxing spa facilities.

Giardino Mountain 5 star

This chic, luxury hotel is a gem amongst the Engadine hotels. Traditional alpine style architecture is balanced with stylish accommodation, authentic and modern dining, an indulgent spa and a fantastic central location for summer sports as well as laid-back relaxation. The Giardino Mountain closes for several months between the main winter and summer seasons.

LUGANO

Hotel Lugano Dante 4 star

Built around traditional Swiss elements, this hotel provides simplistic luxuries in an area rich with gourmet restaurants. Inside the hotel, guests experience cosy, warm rooms, sleek, monochrome suites, and an unrelenting attention to detail.

Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola 5 star

Housed within a late 19th century mansion, the Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola channels aspects of Mediterranean culture in its pale-peach façade, its summery garden, and the dining experiences on offer. Guestrooms have wholly unique touches to ensure that every stay here is different, and the swimming pool, lounges, and bars encourage guests to keep returning.



Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne



Romantik Hotel Julen, Zermatt



Hotel Schweizerhof, St Moritz

HOTELS

At Lausanne, Zermatt, St Moritz, Lugano, Lucerne, Weggis, Grindelwald, Wengen, Saanenland, and Montreux, you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

LUCERNE

Hotel Waldstaetterhof 3 star

This centrally-located hotel offers sleek, bold accommodation that strikingly contrasts the fairy-tale appearance of its 20th century townhouse exterior. Polished wooden floors, white walls and bedsheets, and bold reds, blues, or greens create a very warm feel, which is complemented by the sharp lines, feature colours, and unique ornaments of the restaurant and bar.

Hotel Wilden Mann 4 star

Hotel Wilden Mann has been hosting guests for over 500 years; first as a bar, then as a tavern, and now as a luxury hotel. Inside, the original winding corridors and traditional elements remain, adding further quirkiness to the building that clings to the edge of the river. The lovingly decorated rooms have antique furnishings, abundant character, and a very classical style.

Palace Luzern 5 star

The lakefront Palace Luzern is in a very prestigious area, flanked by houses equally as palatial as the hotel itself. Light airy rooms follow either a traditionally elegant style, an art deco design, or are sleek and modern. Higher category rooms feature works by Miro, Kandinsky, and Chagall. The gourmet restaurants are unique in Lucerne; one serving exclusively seafood. A highlight is the tempting and luxurious spa. This hotel closed for refurbishment in Autumn 2017 and will re-open in 2019.

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern 5 star

This luxury hotel enjoys a central location on the lakefront close to the historic Old Town. The Schweizerhof has seen many a famous face stay here and is now run by the fifth generation of the family. The hotel offers a wellness and beauty area with stunning views of the lake as well as two on-site restaurants.



Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald

GRINDELWALD

Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof 5 star

This attractive, traditional hotel has an abundance of authentic Swiss character, from the dark wood chalet exterior, to the rich, cosy colours of the interiors. A 'stubi' style restaurant serves guests a range of Swiss specialities, a comfortable lounge and a picturesque garden provide hours of relaxation, and the idyllic spa offers a place to relax after a day exploring the mountains of the Bernese Oberland.

WENGEN

(Alternative to Grindelwald)

Hotel Wengener Hof 4 star

With easy access to both the Jungfrau and the Lauterbrunnen Valley, this chalet-style hotel offers a charming and homely four star option. A garden of trees and flowers leads you up to the front door, and inside, traditional Swiss decoration and design takes precedence. Guests here can also access the spa and dining facilities at the sister hotel, the Hotel Silberhorn.



Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne



View from Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried



Hotel Wengener Hof, Wengen

HOTELS

At Lausanne, Zermatt, St Moritz, Lugano, Lucerne, Weggis, Grindelwald, Wengen, Saanenland, and Montreux, you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

Expressions

SAANENLAND

Hotel Alpenrose 4 star

A boutique property housing cosy and elegant accommodation, 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.



Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Montreux

MONTREUX

Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic 4 star

This stylish hotel in Montreux is a stunning palatial property with beautiful views of Lake Geneva. Enjoy an evening here relaxing at the bar and taking in the stunning views from the vast terrace. Accommodation is in elegant rooms appointed in minimalist style with classical touches. Opt for a lake view room here for an extra luxurious touch. [read more](#)

Fairmont le Montreux Palace 5 star

This startling luxury hotel stands right on the banks of Lake Geneva. The Willow Stream Spa, the 3 restaurants and 4 bars, and the beautifully appointed rooms make this hotel a highly rewarding five star option for stays in Montreux. The Belle Epoque design reflects the building's history, while setting the tone for the sophistication and elegance that lies within.



Villa Toscane, Montreux



Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano

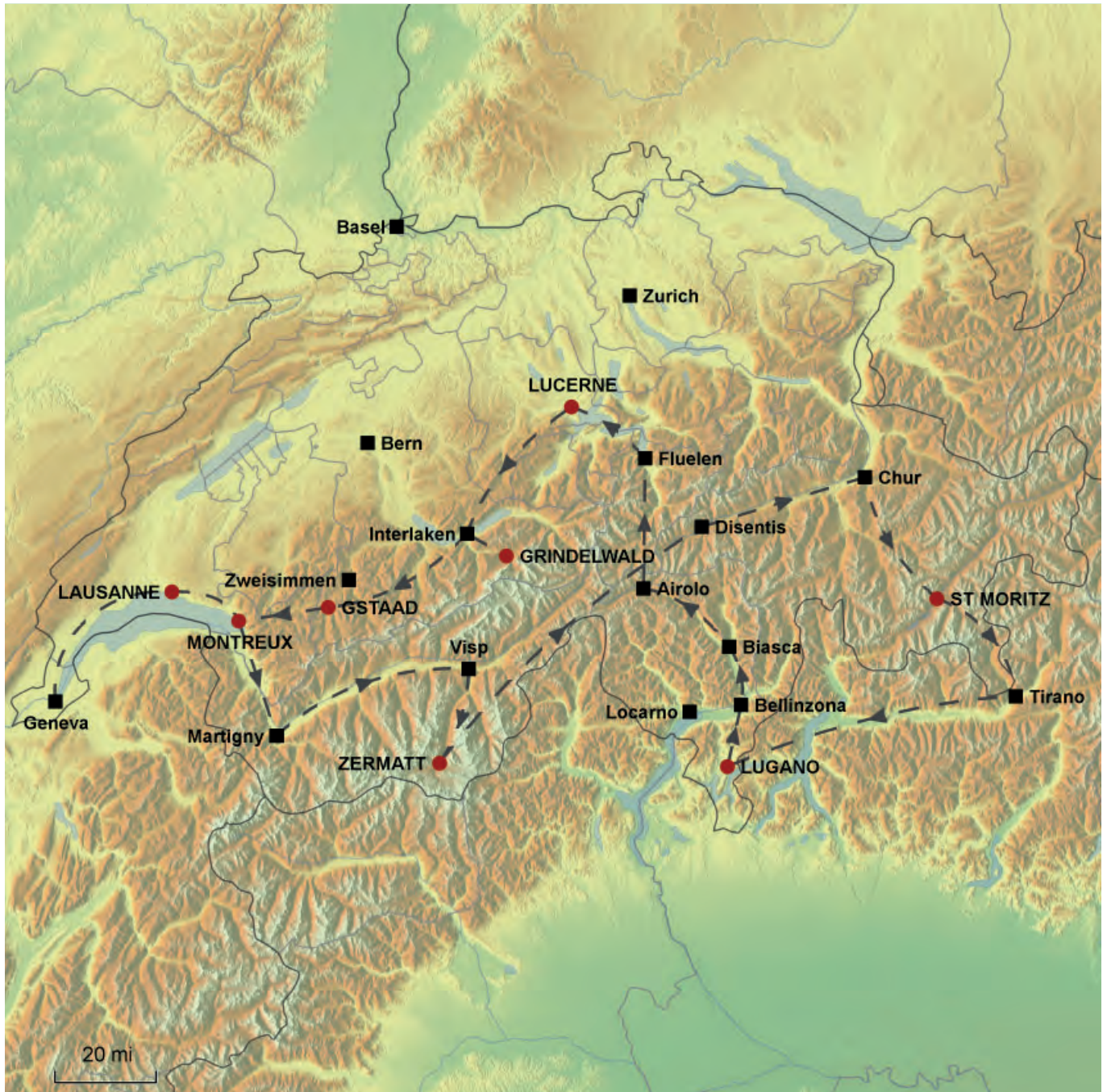


Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad

MAP OF THE GRAND, GRAND SWITZERLAND RAIL TOUR



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, Romantik Hotel Julen, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, Hotel Lugano Dante, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, and Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic).
From £3,935 per person
 Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £510 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 3 and 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Romantik Hotel Julen, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, Hotel Lugano Dante, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, and Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic).
From £3,935 per person
 Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £360 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 Beau Rivage Palace, Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Giardino Mountain, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Palace Luzern, Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Le Grand Bellevue, and Fairmont le Montreux Palace).
From £4,695 per person
 Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £510 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 5 star hotels (eg Beau Rivage Palace, Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Giardino Mountain, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Palace Luzern, Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Le Grand Bellevue, and Fairmont le Montreux Palace).
From £4,625 per person
 Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £360 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.