



## Swiss Rail Touring Holidays



# Our Swiss Rail Holidays

*Expressions*

Expressions Holidays specialises in luxury, tailor-made holidays and we have created a range of rail holidays in Switzerland which cover the iconic scenic trains such as the Glacier Express and the Bernina Express, grand tours which combine these scenic train journeys and add more with several stays throughout the country and there are single centre holidays by train, based at mountain and lakes resorts and villages from where you can explore using local transport with a combination of trains, cable cars, buses and lake steamers, depending on the location of your hotel.

As with all our holidays these can be booked exactly as they are described or you can adapt them by adding or reducing the nights in various places.

## ICONIC RAIL JOURNEYS

Our selection of iconic Swiss rail touring holidays has been built around famous scenic journeys such as the Glacier and Bernina Express. Reaching out into each corner of Switzerland, these journeys encompass every aspect of beautiful Switzerland, from the icy snow-capped Alps of the Bernese Oberland, the sublime lakes and valleys of Geneva and Lucerne, to the Mediterranean climate of Ticino on the Italian border. All of this and more can be witnessed in the panoramic coaches of these prestigious and memorable trains.

All of these iconic rail journeys can be adapted to your particular requirements, with three, four, and five star hotel options in each of the overnight destinations. First class rail travel can be arranged within Switzerland, and rail travel to/from Switzerland can be upgraded or replaced with flights, depending on your itinerary and time constraints.

## GRAND RAIL TOURS

Our Swiss rail programme features a collection of four grand rail touring holidays, each of which has been handcrafted to reflect a specific aspect of Switzerland. Encompassing the mountains and valleys of the Alps, the well-known and little-known lakes, historic Old Towns and modern cosmopolitan cities, and some of the best-loved and most iconic railway journeys in Europe, these touring holidays provide both cultural breadth and natural beauty, tied together with a selection of our luxury hotels.

All of our Grand Tours can be adapted to your own particular requirements, with three, four, and five star hotel options in each of the overnight destinations. First class travel can be arranged within Switzerland, and rail travel to/from Switzerland can be upgraded or replaced with flights, depending on your itinerary and time constraints.

## SINGLE CENTRE HOLIDAYS BY RAIL

Our Swiss rail programme features a collection of six single centre holidays, each beginning with rail travel, but with the option of flying into Switzerland offered as an alternative. With a particular focus on the merits of each of the individual destinations, these seven night holidays afford visitors the opportunity to learn about each region in depth. We include cultural, natural, and sporting suggestions to help you make the most of your long stay. Choose from the holidays below to explore two of the most iconic Swiss lakes, the chocolate-box villages of the Bernese Oberland, the chic beauty of Valais and the Engadine, or the lesser-known, romantic landscape of the Saanenland.

All of our single centre holidays can be adapted to your own particular requirements, with multiple hotel options in most of the overnight destinations. First class travel can be arranged within Switzerland, and rail travel to/from Switzerland can be upgraded or replaced with flights, depending on your itinerary and time constraints. You may also consider combining two of these holidays for a two-week stay, or appending a trip on one of the iconic rail journeys to the end of the holiday.



The Matterhorn, Valais



Lavaux Vineyards, Lake Geneva



Zurich



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## Bernina Express Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## Bernina Express

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

Zurich

St Moritz

Bernina Express

Lugano



Bernina Express

Spanning the most south-easterly point of Switzerland, the Bernina Express takes you south by train through the canton of Grisons into Italy, past glaciers, mountains, and marvels of railway engineering. Then, the Bernina Express coach takes you west past Lake Como and back into Switzerland to Lugano. After your arrival into Zurich, spend one night at your choice of Zurich hotel before catching a train south to St Moritz. Just outside the Parc Ela and at the foot of the Suvretta Mountain, St Moritz is a picturesque place to spend a night at any time of year. From St Moritz on your fourth day, your experience of the Bernina Express begins in earnest. In less than one day, travel through southern Switzerland into northern Italy, finally stopping in Lugano for the final two nights of your tour.

### ABOUT THE BERNINA EXPRESS

**Route length** 7.15 hours and 268km from Chur to Lugano or vice versa; including 156km rail travel and an optional 112km by bus

**Stops** Chur, Tiefencastel, Davos, Filisur, Bergun, Samedan, St Moritz, Pontresina, Ospizio Bernina, Alp Grum, Poschiavo, Le Prese, Tirano, and Lugano

**Facilities** There is no dining car, but carriages do have panoramic windows

The Bernina Express carriages are perhaps the most distinctive of all the iconic rail journeys. The panoramic windows stretch up onto the roof to allow passengers to admire the view from the lakes and meadows to the highest peaks and glaciers. The track itself features many twists and turns, navigating 360 degree revolutions, tackling dramatic changes in altitudes, and disappearing into the formidable rock faces of mountains.

### PRICES

**From £1,575 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. The section between Tirano and Lugano is done by Postbus which runs only between mid-April and late October.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from UK to Zurich and back from Zurich or Milan 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 Zurich
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in St Moritz
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lugano

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich, St Moritz, Lugano, or one of our Italian Lakes hotels
- 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

### Zurich - St Moritz - Bernina Express - Lugano

Expressions

#### Day one: Arrive in Zurich

Begin this touring holiday with a flight or rail journey into Zurich. Though the flight will drastically cut travelling times, enabling an earlier arrival, we would always recommend taking the scenic railway trip via Paris, Dijon, and Basel, or via Brussels, Cologne, and Frankfurt. This is an excellent way of making the most of your journey, taking in a vast expanse of Western Europe as well as Switzerland upon your arrival.

#### Day two: Zurich to St Moritz

Board the train to St Moritz in the morning, arriving around 3 and a half hours later. This rail journey takes you first along the southern curve of Lake Zurich, passing through Horgen, Wädenswil, and heading inland onto the vast plains of the valley at Lachen. From here, you carry on towards the undulating green shores of Lake Walen, Weesen, and Walenstadt. Follow the paths of the valleys as you continue southeast to the spa town of Bad Ragaz, and cross the border into the canton of Grisons at Landquart. Change trains at Chur, Switzerland's oldest city, and join the pathway of the Bernina Express as it continues briefly west to Tamins, Rothenbrunnen, and Thusis. Notice the sheer white cliffs, hilltop towers, and gorges of the Ruinaulta as you traverse the area around the pretty ochre village of Tiefencastel. The train now sweeps back round to Filisur, passing through the railway town of Bergun, Samedan, Celerina, home to the Cresta Run, and finally arriving in St Moritz. You stay in St Moritz at your choice of elegant hotel. Use the rest of your afternoon to explore the quaint village of St Moritz.

#### Day three: St Moritz

The dry, clear climate of the Upper Engadine Valley makes St Moritz the perfect winter sports resort, but also well-suited to long rambles, walks, and hikes across the undulating mountainside. Perhaps spend an hour or two wandering around the lake shore, admiring the mountains and the waterside, and uncovering shady groves, trickling waterfalls, and hidden caves. It is also possible to navigate higher up the mountains by rail, reaching the vantage points on the Piz Corvatsch and Chantarella at the top of the steep track. At Corviglia, a cable car takes you up to the Suvretta Mountain's most popular viewing point. Those looking for more thrilling and active experiences could partake in the water sports at Lake St Moritz or Lake Sils, or across at the high-altitude Lake Silvaplana, known for being windy.



Landwasser Viaduct, Bernina Express

#### Day four: Lugano to Tirano on the Bernina Express

Board the Bernina Express mid-morning. In one of the distinctive red train carriages, with their tall, angular windows, and comfortable, airy interiors, the Bernina Express will take you from St Moritz to Tirano on the Swiss-Italian border. The Bernina Express takes you around the Montebello Curve, the most photographed section of the journey, which prolongs the breath-taking views of the Morteratsch Glacier. From here, gain altitude until you reach the highest point on the Rhaetian Railway at Ospizio Bernina at 2253m above sea level, with its picturesque, isolated station house. The Bernina Express then takes you to a restaurant that can only be accessed by train, past the grand houses of Poschiavo, through idyllic villages, across a spiralling viaduct, to Tirano, surrounded by vineyards and orchards in Italy. From here, disembark the train and board the dedicated Bernina Express bus which drives past mountain lakes, fertile green agricultural land, and ancient towns and villages to Lugano, the largest town in the Swiss region of Ticino. Stay at one of our luxury hotels in Lugano.

#### Day five: Lugano

Use your fifth day 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 Cassarate, 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 six: Return via Zurich

After two nights in Lugano, board the train back to Zurich for your return flight, or to Milan for a taste of cosmopolitan Italian life before flying back. If you wish to return by rail, we would recommend spending an extra night in Zurich beforehand.

#### OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Zurich, St Moritz, and Lugano, or in one of our hotels situated on the shores of the Italian Lakes.

## HOTELS

At Zurich, St Moritz, and Lugano, you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

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### ZURICH

#### **Hotel du Theatre 3 star**

This three star option in the centre of Zurich offers quirky and good-value accommodation in a hotel that adopts a cinema theme. Rooms are therefore suitably modern, with wholly unique features and excellent access to Lake Zurich and the city's important cultural sites.

#### **Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star**

As a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera prides itself on the high quality of its service, its seasonal and locally-sourced food, and the very particular, serene style of the rooms. It is well-placed for enjoying Lake Zurich, the Limmat River, and the small marina at the end of the street.

#### **Hotel Storchen Zurich 5 star**

Since the beginning of its hospitality 650 years ago, the unique and charming Hotel Storchen Zurich has offered an authentic insight into Swiss culture, design, and lifestyle. A pavement café lines the riverside, and behind the distinctive pink façade are high-ceilinged, tastefully decorated rooms, and the Rotisserie Restaurant, the ceiling of which is decorated in frescoes.

#### **Hotel Baur au Lac 5 star**

Set on the banks of Lake Zurich, the Hotel Baur au Lac is equipped with a Michelin-starred restaurant, extensive tranquil parkland, and a rich, warm interior design. Guests can enjoy the beauty of the lake from the promenade or from a boat cruise, before returning to the hotel to enjoy the serene gardens, the chic luxurious indoor spaces, and the circular restaurant that juts out across the water.

### ST MORITZ

#### **Hotel Hauser 3 star**

This family run hotel is a hub of social activity in St Moritz, providing excellent food on a pretty outdoor terrace that caters for visitors and local residents alike. The guestrooms have a simple elegance, and are the perfect base from which to get out and explore St Moritz.

#### **Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz 4 star**

Dating from over 100 years ago, the Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz is a sophisticated hotel



Giardino Mountain, St Moritz

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 Champfer 5 star superior**

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.

#### **Kempinski Grand Hotel Des Bains 5 star**

The first hotel to be built in St Moritz, the Grand Hotel des Bains was constructed in 1864 at the source of the Mauritius springs. This grand spa hotel offers traditional elegance with an Italian palazzo-style design in a breath-taking Alpine location. Make the most of excellent spa facilities, a range of dining options and golf and tennis facilities.

### 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 Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz



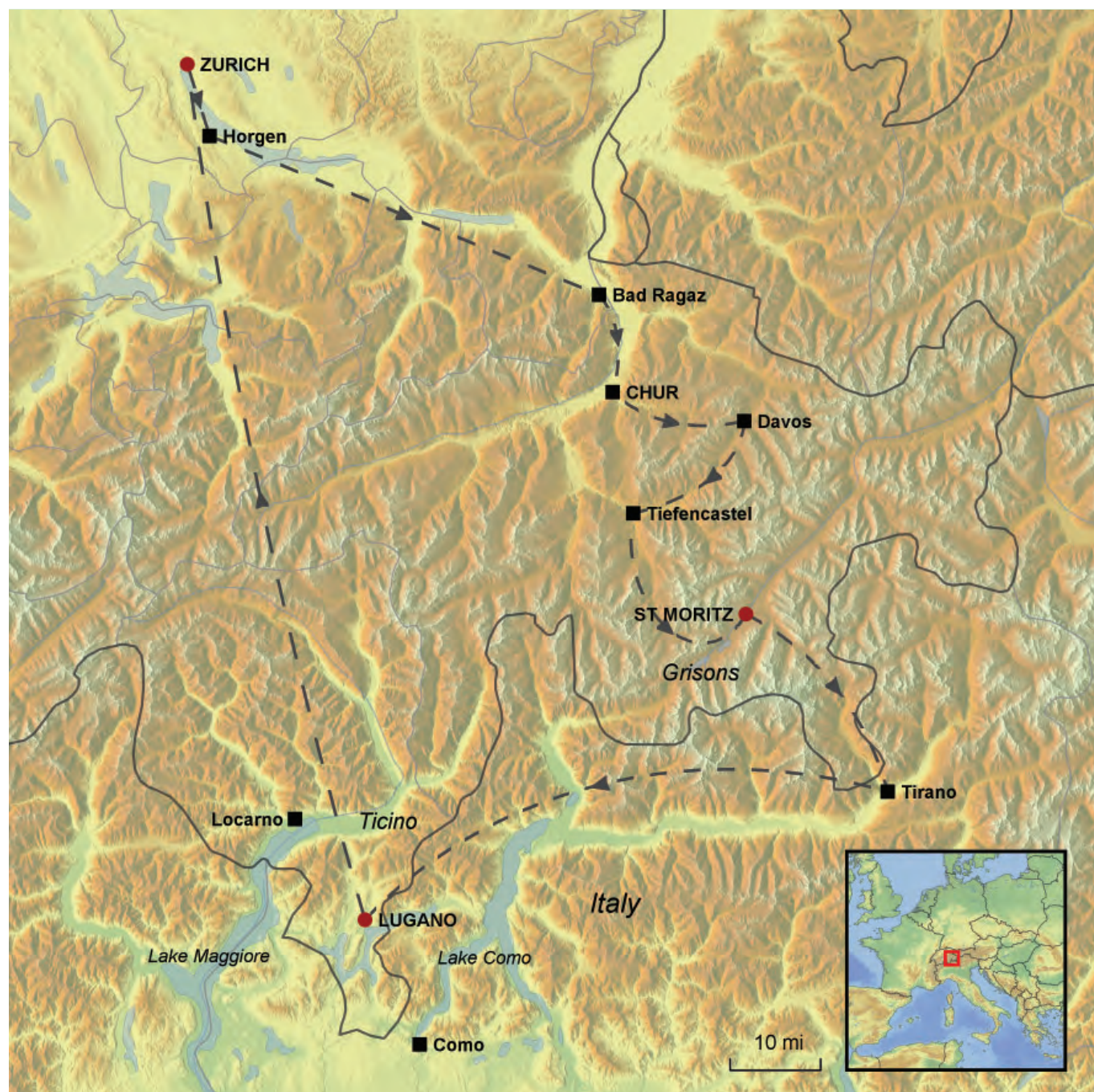
Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano



## MAP OF BERNINA EXPRESS TOURING HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.

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## 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 Holidays, 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 Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, and Hotel Lugano Dante).

From £1,650 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £380 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, and Hotel Lugano Dante).

From £1,610 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 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich, Suvretta House, St Moritz, and Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano).

From £2,100 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £380 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich, Suvretta House in St Moritz, and Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano).

From £2,025 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.

# Rail holidays to Switzerland

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## Glacier Express Holiday



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## Glacier Express

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

Geneva

Zermatt

Glacier Express

St Moritz

Zurich



Glacier Express

Begin this Glacier Express touring holiday by either flying into Geneva, or arriving via train. Then, continue to Zermatt, a picturesque, traffic-free town overlooked by the Gornergrat, the Hornli Ridge, and the Matterhorn. After three nights, board the Glacier Express and hurtle on through enchanting villages punctuated by Alpine chalets which emerge from clusters of green forest. Pass the emblematic castle of Upper Valais, head through the Furka tunnel to Oberwald, traverse the Gotthard Pass, see the Ruinaulta, cast a sweeping gaze over Switzerland's oldest town, and journey through the Albula tunnel, rising and falling with the varied lie of the land, passing glaciers and surreal mountain peaks, until you reach St Moritz. Your return journey takes you via Zurich where, if returning by train, you may wish to stay for an extra night.

### ABOUT THE GLACIER EXPRESS

**Route length** 8 hours, over 291km, from Zermatt to St Moritz

**Stops** Zermatt, St Niklaus, Brig, Fiesch, Andermatt, Disentis, Chur, Thusis, Tiefencastel, Davos, Filisur, Bergun, Samedan, Celerina, St Moritz

**Facilities** On-board restaurant and waiter service, and panoramic carriages

Each distinctive carriage has wide panoramic windows to ensure that guests can fully appreciate the views. 2nd Class carriages are organised with bays of four seats situated around tables on each side of the aisle, while 1st Class carriages have bays of four on one side and two on the other, both with tables. 1st Class offers a quieter travel experience and more space. As an alternative to the on-board restaurant, orders are taken from seats for snacks, drinks, and lunch items throughout the journey, with a wide selection of wines.

### PRICES

**From £1,390 per person**

Based on double occupancy in 3 star hotels, with flights to and from Switzerland, and 2nd class rail travel in Switzerland.

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

Please ask one of our travel specialists about the Excellence Class - new for 2019.

### 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 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)
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Zermatt
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in St Moritz

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, St Moritz, or Zermatt
- 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 - Zermatt - Glacier Express - St Moritz - Zurich

*Expressions*

#### Day one: Geneva to Zermatt

Begin this Glacier Express holiday by travelling to Geneva, either by plane or train. From here, board the train to Zermatt in the early afternoon. Change trains at Visp, and arrive into Zermatt around four hours after departure from Geneva. Your hotel in Zermatt will send a complimentary shuttle to collect you from the station.

#### Days two and three: Zermatt

In an idyllic, car-free zone, known for its popular winter sports, Zermatt is a stunning place to start this memorable trip. A peaceful village in the summer months, Zermatt is a haven for gourmet food lovers, with the highest concentration of gourmet restaurants, serving very typically Swiss cuisine, on the Glacier Express route. Quaint boutique shops are also housed within the chalet houses in the village centre. Take in the views of the icy Matterhorn, and wander along some of the 400km of walking paths that vein the landscape around Zermatt, Tasch, and Randa. Perhaps even enjoy the sights from the smaller railways that can take you as high as 3000m above sea level. The Glacier Paradise cable car will take you up to Europe's highest viewing platform, while the Gornergratbahn, the world's highest open-air cog railway, takes you from Zermatt station up to the Gornergrat where you can view the peaks of 38 surrounding mountains, including the Matterhorn. Consider visiting the famous Hornlihutte, where climbers have stayed for decades before advancing up the sides of the Matterhorn via the Hornli Ridge, the Zmutt Ridge, or through the north wall. To witness more of the sublime and intriguing history of the area, visit the Zermatlantis Matterhorn Museum, an archaeological site that has been faithfully recreated.

#### Day four: Zermatt to St Moritz

After your final night in Zermatt, catch the Glacier Express to St Moritz at around 9 in the morning, with a view to arrive at around 5pm. Some highlights of this route include the phenomenal Stockalper Castle, the icy walls near the Rhone Glacier, the harsh landscape of the Gotthard Pass, the complex network of tunnels, viaducts, and railway tracks of the Oberalp Pass, the winding Rhine River, the panoramas across Chur, the castles and palaces of the Domleschg Region, the curved Landwasser viaduct, and the Cresta Run, just outside St Moritz. Transfers can be arranged from St Moritz station to your hotel.



Glacier Express

#### Day five: St Moritz

At 1856m above sea level, visitors are welcomed by stunning views across the lakes of the Upper Engadine Valley, and the refreshing dry, clear, Alpine climate. Navigate 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. Enjoy the water sports at the sublime Lake Sils and Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana. While staying in St Moritz, it is possible to use this opportunity to explore another of Switzerland's most iconic rail journeys, the Bernina Express. In one of the distinctive red trains, with their tall, angular windows, and comfortable, airy interiors, the Bernina Express rail journey takes you from Chur, the oldest city in Switzerland, south through the winter resorts of Davos and St Moritz to Tirano on the Swiss-Italian border. En-route you pass the dramatic Ruinaulta, or Rhine Gorge, the castles and palaces of the Domleschg Region, and the Morteratsch Glacier, and travel over the Landwasser Viaduct and around the Montebello Curve.

#### Day six: Return via Zurich

If you depart for Zurich in the mid-morning, you will arrive at around half one in the afternoon, which leaves plenty of time to enjoy a few hours in the city before catching a flight home. If you are catching a train from Zurich back to London, we would recommend spending the night in Zurich before your departure.

#### OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, St Moritz, or Zermatt.



## HOTELS

At both Zermatt and St Moritz, you can choose from a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

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### 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.

#### **Parkhotel Beau Site 4 star**

The Parkhotel Beau Site boasts a grand chalet style and stunning views of the Matterhorn from its location to the east of the Matter Vispa. Dine with this magnificent backdrop on the terrace, and enjoy the pool, Hammam, and beauty treatments in the luxurious spa.

#### **Hotel Christiania 4 star**

With large, spacious guestrooms that overlook the snowy landscapes of the mountains around the Matterhorn and the Matter Vispa at the end of the garden, the Hotel Christiania is a modern Spa hotel with elegant touches of tradition. Speciality drinks and food is served in the panoramic restaurant and on the terrace, and the indoor swimming pool is lined with cosy spots for relaxation.

#### **Romantik Hotel Julien 4 star**

Priding itself on its traditional service and style, the Hotel Julien 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 Julien 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.



*Hotel Christiania, Zermatt*

### ST MORITZ

#### **Hotel Hauser 3 star**

This family run hotel is a hub of social activity in St Moritz, providing excellent food on a pretty outdoor terrace that caters for visitors and local residents alike. The guestrooms have a simple elegance, and are the perfect base from which to get out and explore 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 superior**

This chic, luxury hotel is a gem amongst the Engadine hotels and located between St Moritz and Silvaplana. 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.

#### **Kempinski Grand Hotel Des Bains 5 star**

The first hotel to be built in St Moritz, the Grand Hotel des Bains was constructed in 1864 at the source of the Mauritius springs. This grand spa hotel offers traditional elegance with an Italian palazzo-design in a breathtaking alpine location. Make the most of the excellent spa facilities, a range of dining options and golf and tennis facilities.



*Romantik Hotel Julien, Zermatt*



*Giardino Mountain, St Moritz*



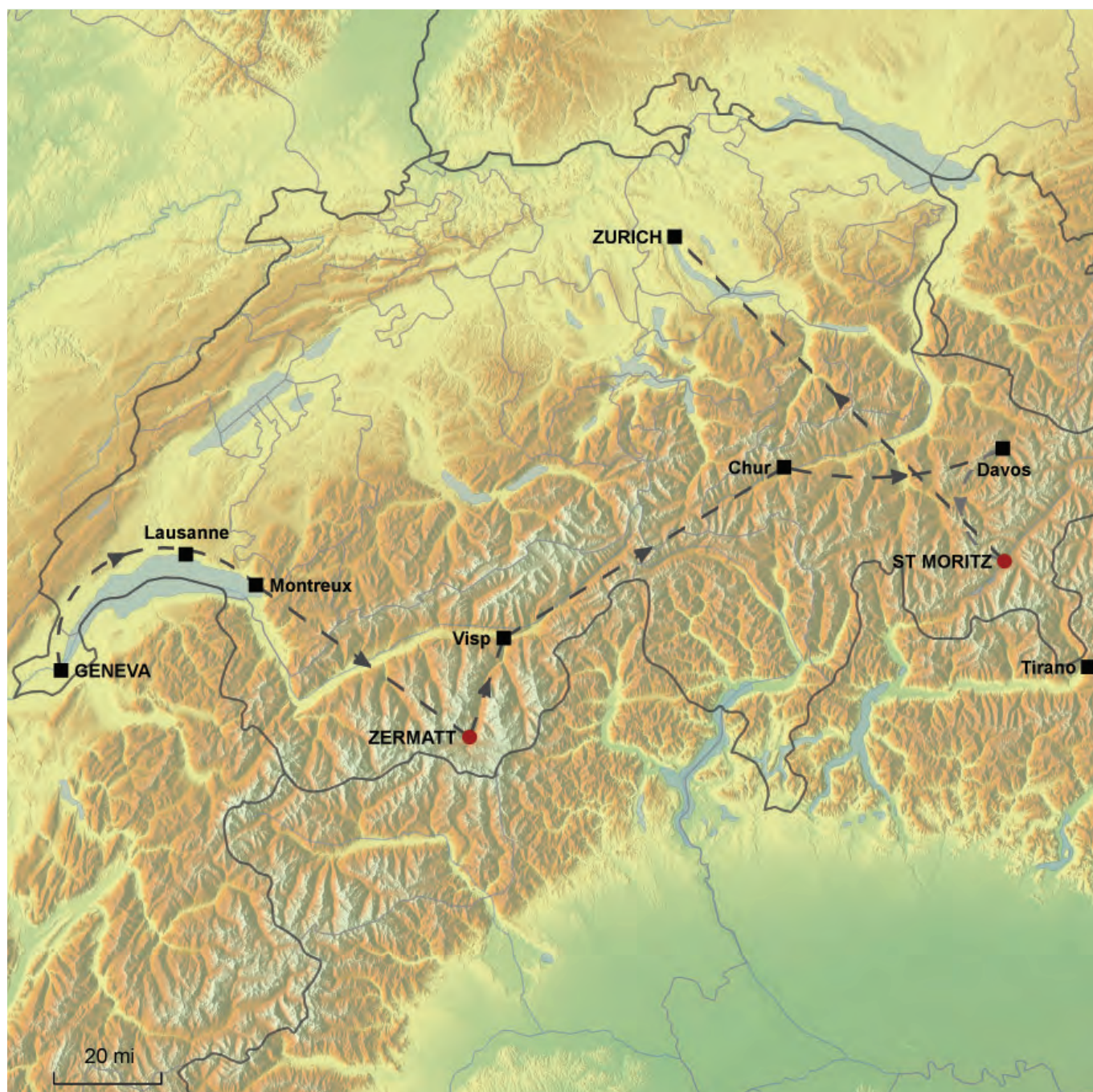
*Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz*



## MAP OF GLACIER EXPRESS TOURING HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*





## 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 Holidays, 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 3 star hotels (eg Hotel Butterfly, Zermatt, and Hotel Hauser, St Moritz).

**From £1,420 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 3 star hotels (eg Hotel Butterfly, Zermatt, and Hotel Hauser, St Moritz).

**From £1,390 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 4 star hotels (eg Parkhotel Beausite, Zermatt, and Hotel Schweizerhof, St Moritz).

**From £1,590 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 star hotels (eg Parkhotel Beausite, Zermatt, and Hotel Schweizerhof, St Moritz).

**From £1,560 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 Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt, and the Giardino Mountain, St Moritz).

**From £2,120 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on the Eurostar and first class on all other trains £370 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 5 star hotels (eg Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt, and the Giardino Mountain, St Moritz).

**From £2,090 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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## GoldenPass Line Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## 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 £1,240 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*



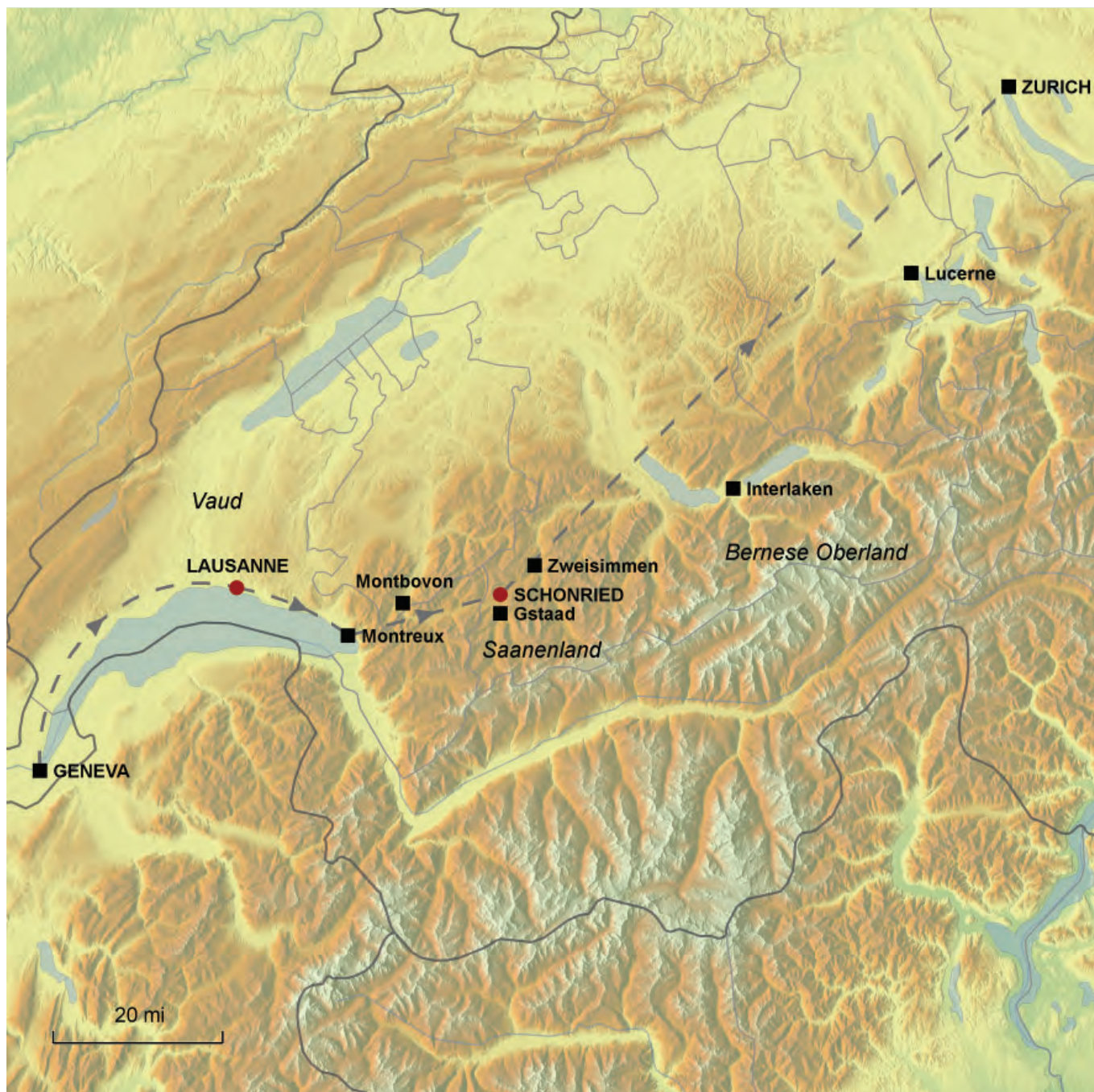
*Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried*



## MAP OF GOLDENPASS LINE TOURING HOLIDAY

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*Expressions*



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## 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 £1,270 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 £1,240 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 £1,710 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 £1,680 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £190 per person

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

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Expressions Holidays  
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## HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

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# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## Gotthard Panorama Express Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217



## Gotthard Panorama Express

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

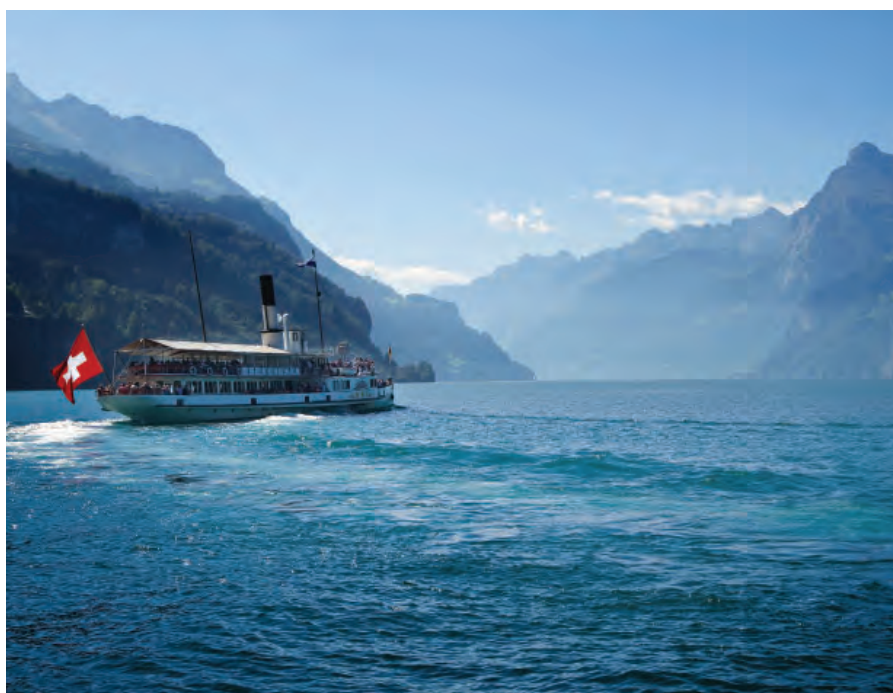
Lucerne

Gotthard Panorama Express

Gotthard

Bellinzona

Lugano



Paddlesteamer on Lake Lucerne

Wilhelm Tell, the Swiss National Hero of Liberty, is one of the best known folk characters in Switzerland. Friedrich von Schiller penned the most popular recounting of Tell's fable in his poem, which is still performed in Switzerland more than 200 years later. Begin your touring holiday with a three-night stay in Lucerne, the City of Lights, before boarding the Gotthard Panorama Express on your fourth day. The route of the Gotthard Panorama Express takes you first zig-zagging across Lake Lucerne in your choice of a steamboat or salon motorboat. Pass the iconic locations mentioned in Schiller's poem, including the Rutli Meadows and Tell's Chapel at Sisikon. When you reach Fluelen on the southern-most shore of the lake, disembark and board the train heading to Locarno. The journey south towards the Italian border is lined with snow-capped peaks, interspersed with dramatic valleys, and broken up by a number of historic, picturesque towns. When you reach Bellinzona, change trains for Lugano, where you will spend two nights before heading into Italy for a return flight from Milan, or back north to Zurich for a return flight or train.

### ABOUT THE GOTTHARD PANORAMA EXPRESS

**Route length** 5.2 hours or 182km from Lucerne to Lugano, part by steamboat or salon motorboat, and part by train

#### Stops

Steamboat – Swiss Museum of Transport Lido, Hertenstein, Weggis, Vitznau, Beckenried, Gersau, Treib, Brunnen, Rutli, Sisikon, Fluelen

Train – Fluelen, Goschonen, Airolo, Faido, Biasca, Bellinzona, Lugano  
Change at Bellinzona for the train to Locarno via Giubiasco, Cardenazzo and Tenerio

**Facilities** Onboard catering is available on both the boat and panoramic train

### PRICES

**From £1,670 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 Zurich and back from Zurich or Milan 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)
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lugano

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich, Lucerne, Lugano, Geneva, or Bern
- 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

Lucerne - Gotthard Panorama Express - Gotthard - Bellinzona - Lugano

*Expressions*

### Day one: Arrive in Zurich and travel to Lucerne

On your first day, fly or catch a train via Paris into Zurich. If time allows, perhaps spend an hour taking in this historic and enchanting city, stopping at the Grossmünster church and climbing the Karlsturm tower. Then board the train and take the short journey south to Lucerne, where you will spend the first part of your rail holiday.

### Days two and three: Lucerne

The so-called City of Light is a bubble of cosmopolitan atmosphere, as well as a place of rich, historic significance. Wander down the pretty streets, taking in the individuality of the boutique shops and quaint cafes, or venture out into the surrounding landscape, visiting the Titlis Glacier, the Alpine meadows, and appreciating the views over the 13 nearby lakes, Swiss Mittelland, and the German and French borders from the Rigi Mountain. The Pilatus Mountain affords climbers and hikers views across more than 70 Alpine peaks, and is steeped in legends of dragons, giants, and royal graveyards. Two cog railways, from Vitznau and Goldau, and a panoramic cable car trip from Weggis offer relaxing ways to take in the scenery. A highlight of your stay in Lucerne will be walking along the Chapel Bridge and seeing the Water Tower, though the river itself has much more to offer. We would encourage using your time in Lucerne as an opportunity to visit many more of the towns and villages on the northern shore of the lake.

### Day four: Lucerne to Lugano on the Gotthard Panorama Express

Heading south from Lucerne, board the Gotthard Panorama steamboat or salon motorboat from the Swiss Museum of Transport's lido. This boat trip takes you across Lake Lucerne, from Lucerne to Flüelen, passing the notable points of interest from Schiller's poem about Wilhelm Tell. Pass the picturesque white villages of Weggis and Vitznau, the bustling town of Brunnen, the Rutli Meadows, and Tell's Chapel in Sisikon, where he reputedly jumped from the bailiff's boat before pushing it back into the storm. Presiding over all of this is the imposing Rigi Mountain. When you reach Flüelen, disembark and board the Gotthard Panorama Express train, which is headed towards Locarno. Follow the pathway of the Reuss River as it slices through wide, flat valleys further inland, before the railway gains altitude as the valleys narrow. Chocolate box villages dot the hillsides, and the railway tracks navigate tunnels and steep curves, such as the Gotthard loop tunnels and the Gotthard



Lucerne

Strassentunnel, as you head further south into Ticino. Waterfalls, twisting streams, and historic chalets steam past the window as you go. An Italianate influence becomes apparent as you reach mid-south Ticino, particularly in Bellinzona, where you will change trains for Lugano. Take in the sight of the two opposing medieval castles, perched on their small hilltops, before continuing south. The landscape here is a patchwork of agricultural fields, with Monte Tamaro erupting out of the smooth land to separate Lake Maggiore from Lugano. Once you arrive in Lugano, disembark for a two night stay at your choice of luxury hotel.

### Day five: 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 Cassarate, 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 six: Travel home

On your final day in Switzerland, you can choose to either continue south into Italy to catch a return flight from Milan or to catch a train north to Zurich, via Bern, for a return rail journey. If you decide on a return journey via rail from Zurich, we would recommend spending one extra night here before departure.

### OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Zurich, Lucerne, Lugano, Geneva, or Bern.



## HOTELS

At both Lucerne and Lugano, 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.

#### **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.



*Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne*

### LUGANO

#### **Hotel Lugano Dante 4 star**

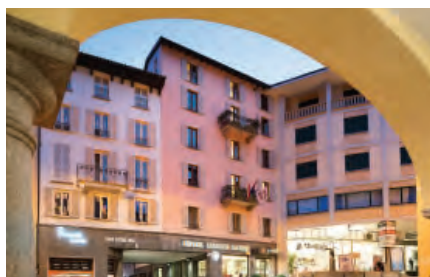
Built around traditional Swiss elements, this hotel provides simplistic luxuries in an area rich with gourmet restaurants. Inside the hotel, guests experience cosy, warm rooms, sleek, monochrome suites, and an unrelenting attention to detail.

#### **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.



*Palace Luzern, Lucerne*



*Hotel Lugano Dante, Lugano*



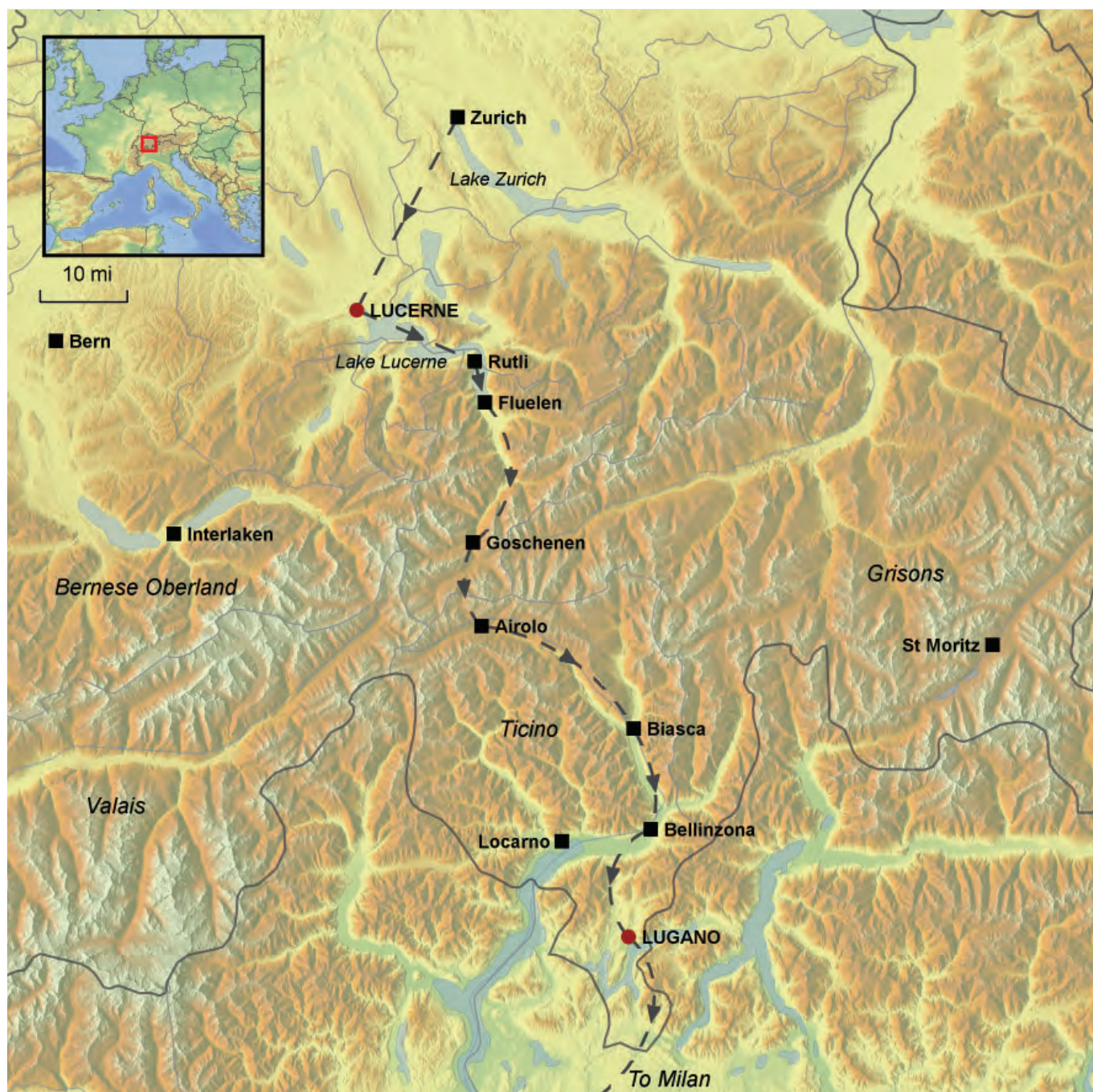
*Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano*



## MAP OF THE GOTTHARD PANORAMA EXPRESS TOURING HOLIDAY

*Expressions*

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.





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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 Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

### OUR TOURS

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### 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
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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.

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### 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 Wilden Mann and Hotel Lugano Dante).

**From £1,670 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 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Wilden Mann and Hotel Lugano Dante).

**From £1,670 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £210 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 Palace Luzern and Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola).

**From £1,990 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 5 star hotels (eg Palace Luzern and Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola).

**From £1,990 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £210 per person

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

## HOW TO BOOK

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**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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## Centovalli Express Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## Centovalli Express

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

Zurich

Locarno

Centovalli Express

Bern



Ticino

Getting its name from the region of the Hundred Valleys through which it passes, the Centovalli Express is one of the most romantic rail journeys in Europe. Take in views of mountains, waterfalls, rich vegetation, vineyards, lakes, colourful glades, and historic villages as you pass, travelling over more than 80 bridges. This tour begins with your arrival into Zurich. Spend one night at your choice of luxury Zurich hotel, taking time to explore this famous city. On your second day, catch a three hour train to Locarno, where you will spend three nights. On day five, board the Centovalli Express from Locarno, through Domodossola, to Brig, arriving three hours later if you do not choose to stop. Perhaps spend a few hours in this historic town before catching another train to Bern, where you will stay for your final night. From Bern, return to Zurich for your journey home.

### ABOUT THE CENTOVALLI EXPRESS

**Route length** Nearly 60km or 2 hours from Locarno or Domodossola

**Stops** Locarno, Ponte Brolla, Tegna, Verscio, Cavigliano, Intragna, Corcapolo, Verdasio, Palagnedra, Camedo, Ribellasca, Re, Malesco, Santa Maria Maggiore, Druogno, Coimo, Marone, Verigo, Trontano, Creggio, Masera, Domodossola

**Facilities** Panoramic coaches on some services

### PRICES

**From £1,450 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 Zurich and back from Zurich OR rail travel London to Switzerland and back via Paris (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 Zurich
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Locarno / Ascona
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Bern

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich, Locarno, Bern, Brig, Zermatt, or Geneva
- 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

Zurich - Locarno - Centovalli Express - Bern

Expressions

### Day one: Arrive in Zurich

Fly into Zurich on your first day, arriving early afternoon, or journey from London by train, arriving in the late afternoon. If time permits, spend a few hours exploring the city. Make sure you have time to visit the Grossmünster Church, perhaps climbing the Karlstrum, one of the church's two iconic towers. Enjoy the pretty streets, cafes, and boutiques of Zurich's old town, and have dinner either at your luxury hotel or in one of the many high-class gourmet restaurants in this area.

### Day two: Zurich to Locarno

Say goodbye to Zurich and board a train south to Locarno in the province of Ticino. This journey will take approximately three hours, ideally arriving mid-afternoon. Once in Locarno, stay at your luxury hotel, using the time to explore the Swiss side of Lake Maggiore and the romantic rolling plains of Ticino.

### Days three and four: Locarno

Locarno is known for having the warmest climate in Switzerland, which propagates a very Mediterranean feel, particularly amongst the palm trees and sand on the lake banks. For a taste of the city's religious heritage, visit one of the many idyllic churches, including the 17th century Church of St Anthony, the 16th century Church of San Francesco, the mid-17th century New Church, and the late 15th century Sanctuary of the Madonna del Sasso, all of which are dotted around the historic streets. Your priority within Locarno is likely to be the brooding Visconti Castle, in which there is a permanent Roman glass exhibition. On one of your days here, venture outside Locarno to see the turquoise, clear waters of the rivers and streams around the lake, to relax on a lake cruise, or to climb up to the Cadada Cimetta, from where you can see both the highest and lowest parts of Switzerland in one glance: the Valais High Alps and Lake Maggiore.

### Day five: Locarno to Bern via the Centovalli Express

In the late morning of your last day in Locarno, board the Centovalli Express to Domodossola; a journey that takes around two hours. You will begin by travelling north into the Maggia Valley, where the Ponte Brolla crosses the turbulent river. Rocks smoothed by centuries of rushing water prove popular with cliff divers, and tunnels and caves offer much in the way of exploration. Grottos hide beneath the rock surface. At the prehistoric ruins of Tegna, the Centovalli Express turns west, passing shallow river beaches, traditional Ticino villages of ramshackle roofs and bright plastered walls,



Lake Maggiore

and imposing hilltop churches. At Cavigliano, the valley opens out; the ground quilted by geometric agricultural fields. Cross a Roman-style bridge and head towards the iron bridges of Intragna, the sparsely populated villages that follow, and Monte Camino and the isolated hamlet of Rasa. The Centovalli Express now crosses the Italian border just before pulling into secluded Ribellasca and Re, home to the impressive and startling Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Blood, which definitely warrants a brief stop for a tour. Pass through more quaint villages on your way to the truly unique Santa Maria Maggiore. Here, the valley becomes narrower and dense with vegetation and forest. A series of small settlements nestle between the steep slopes, seemingly cut off from the larger villages at either end of the valley. In Trontano, the Swiss influence is still visible in the architecture, but it peters out as you pass through Creggio and Masera, and finally arrive in Domodossola. You may like to spend a few hours enjoying the sight of the tall townhouses crowded around the vast squares, and have lunch in a pavement café. Visit the Sacro Monte del Calvario, built by Capuchin Monks, the 14th century Palazzo Silva, and the medieval Motta district. Then, when your exploration is complete, board another train to Brig. This fairly direct route takes less than half an hour and makes very few stops, giving you time to sit back and fully enjoy the views across the mountains and valleys without interruption. Once in Brig, you have the option to take a self-guided tour around the cobbled streets,

stopping at the Stockalper Castle, which is undoubtedly the town's most impressive monument. Your train will then take you north to Bern, the Swiss capital, where you will be staying.

### Day six: Return via Zurich

Bern is tucked away on a meander of the Aare River and home to a beautiful Old Town that is continually popular with artists and writers. Over 100 fountains are dotted around the city, some dating back to the Middle Ages, and some topped with folkloric figures. Key cultural sites in Bern include the House of Parliament, topped by an iconic copper-clad dome, Bern Cathedral, the largest ecclesiastical building in Switzerland, the Bernisches Historisches Museum, housing an Einstein exhibit and several Burgundy tapestries, and the astronomical Zytglogge Clock Tower, with its revolving faces and unique hands. Perhaps extend your stay here to ensure you have time to explore the whole city; otherwise, continue on to Zurich for your return flight to the UK. You may choose to travel home by train, in which case we would recommend spending an extra night in Zurich.

### OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Zurich, Locarno, or Bern. Consider also adding an extra night in Brig on day 5, or extending the holiday in Zermatt before travelling home via air or rail from Geneva.

## HOTELS

At Zurich, Ascona, and Bern, you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

*Expressions*

### ZURICH

#### **Hotel du Theatre 3 star**

This three star option in the centre of Zurich offers quirky and good-value accommodation in a hotel that adopts a cinema theme. Rooms are therefore suitably modern, with wholly unique features and excellent access to Lake Zurich and the city's important cultural sites.

#### **Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star**

As a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera prides itself on the high quality of its service, its seasonal and locally-sourced food, and the very particular, serene style of the rooms. It is well-placed for enjoying Lake Zurich, the Limmat River, and the small marina at the end of the street.

#### **Hotel Storchen Zurich 5 star**

Since the beginning of its hospitality 650 years ago, the unique and charming Hotel Storchen Zurich has offered an authentic insight into Swiss culture, design, and lifestyle. A pavement café lines the riverside, and behind the distinctive pink façade are high-ceilinged, tastefully decorated rooms, and the Rotisserie Restaurant, the ceiling of which is decorated in frescoes.

#### **Hotel Baur au Lac 5 star**

Set on the banks of Lake Zurich, the Hotel Baur au Lac is equipped with a Michelin-starred restaurant, extensive tranquil parkland, and a rich, warm interior design. Guests can enjoy the beauty of the lake from the promenade or from a boat cruise, before returning to the hotel to enjoy the serene gardens, the chic luxurious indoor spaces, and the circular restaurant that juts out across the water.

### ASCONA

#### **Hotel Castello Seeschloss Ascona 4 star**

Possessing all the charm, character, and personalised service of a boutique hotel, this four star option in Ascona looks out across Lake Maggiore with a distinctly Mediterranean façade. This intimate converted castle still has its original tower, in which some of its rooms are held, though the dining room is of a particularly contemporary design.



*Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich*



*Giardino Ascona, Ascona*

#### **Giardino Ascona 5 star**

Between Lake Maggiore and extensive lush parkland, the Giardino Ascona offers a haven of peace beside the city of Locarno. The Roman Baths-style spa, the pretty, flourishing gardens, and the choice between fine and casual dining make this an idyllic place to spend a few days by the lakeside.

### BERN

#### **Hotel Kreuz 3 star**

Well-positioned in Bern, the Hotel Kreuz offers good value for money, convenience, and comfortable accommodation. The cosy restaurant serves up expertly-cooked Swiss delicacies, which can be followed up with relaxing drinks in the lounge bar.

#### **Hotel Bern 4 star**

In the centre of the Swiss capital, the Hotel Bern prides itself on its modern style, sleek minimalist rooms, and glamorous restaurant. Chandeliers add to the romantic feel of the hotel interior, and the striking artworks on the walls continue to add character. This hotel provides excellent value for excellent service.



*Giardino Ascona, Ascona*

#### **Hotel Schweizerhof Bern 5 star**

A sophisticated hotel that blends grandeur with modern style, the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern is a veritable jewel in the capital. Guestrooms and public rooms are lit by flickering fireplaces and the occasional glass chandelier. Warm, neutral colours prevail, be it in the plush sofas, the intricately embroidered bed throws, the guestroom feature walls, or the leather armchairs. An elegant restaurant and well-equipped spa completes the luxury experience.



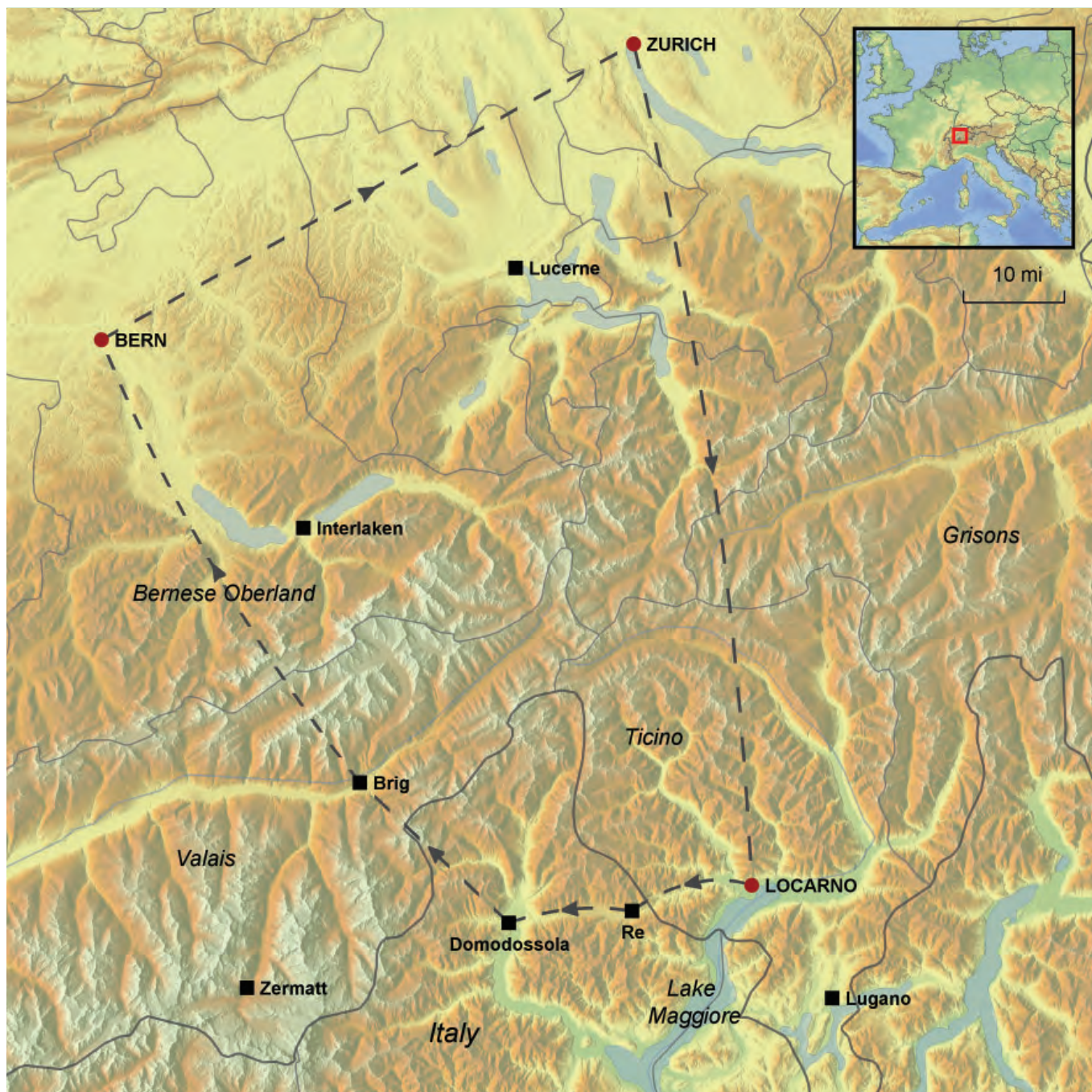
*Hotel Bern, Bern*



## MAP OF THE CENTOVALLI EXPRESS TOURING HOLIDAY

*Expressions*

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**From £1,530 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £380 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Hotel Castello Seeschloos, and Hotel Bern),

**From £1,450 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £170 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Storchen Zurich, Giardino Ascona, and Hotel Schweizerhof Bern).

**From £1,860 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £380 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Storchen Zurich, Giardino Ascona, and Hotel Schweizerhof Bern).

**From £1,830 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £170 per person

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# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## The Grand, Grand Switzerland Rail Tour



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217



## 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 £3,360 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 Zermatt 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 specialties 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 Flüelen. 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 Goschenen. 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 Flüelen, 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  
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*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 Puidoux-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.

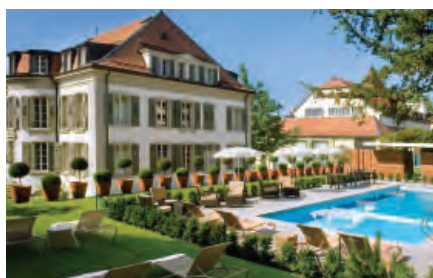
### LUGANO

#### **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

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*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 'stubli' 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

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*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*



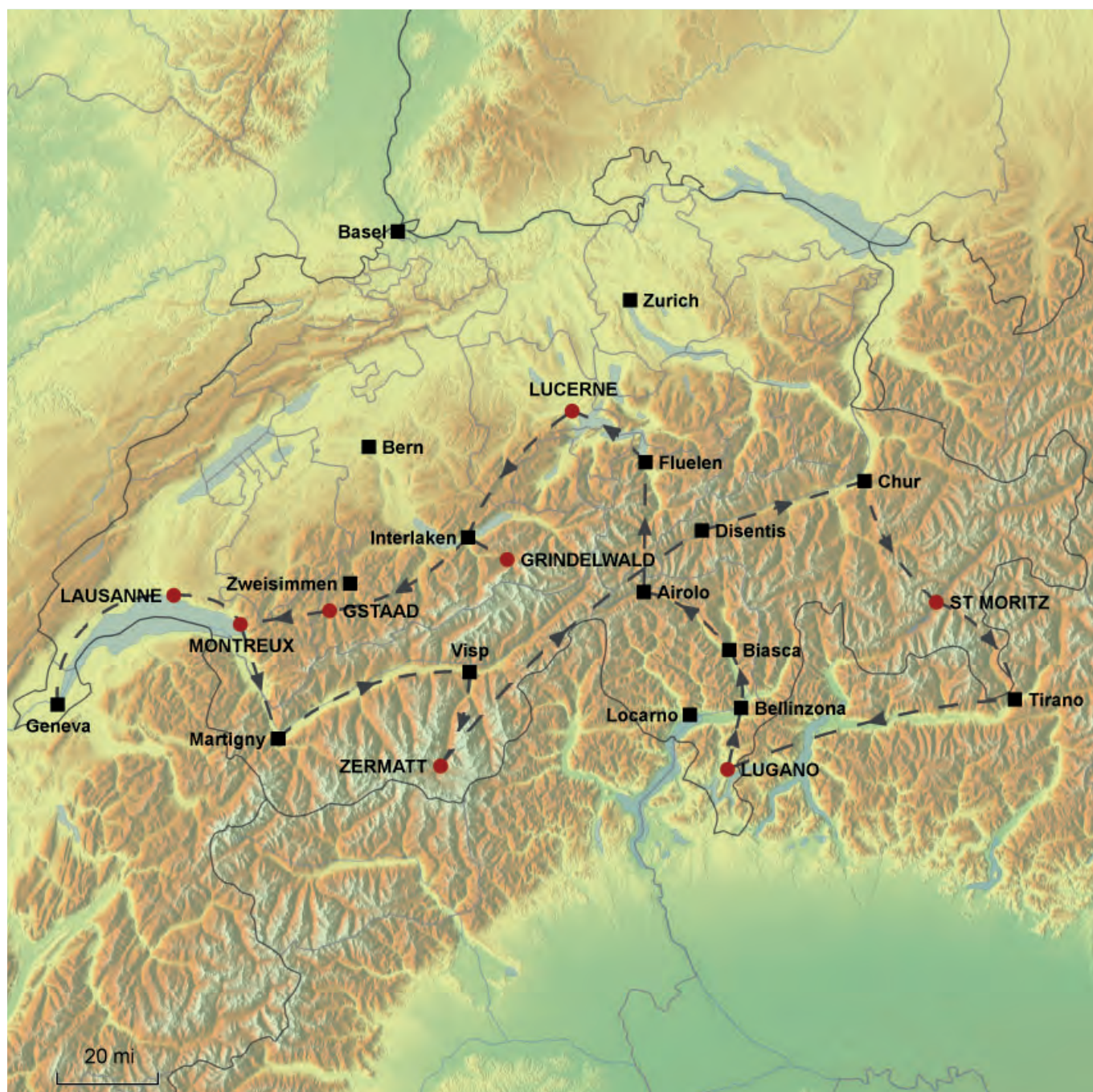
*Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad*



## MAP OF THE GRAND, GRAND SWITZERLAND RAIL TOUR

*Expressions*

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 Holidays, 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 £3,430 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 £3,360 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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## The Grand Heart of Switzerland Mountains Rail Tour



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## The Grand Heart of Switzerland Mountains Rail Tour

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Lake Lucerne

Bernese Oberland

Saanenland

Lake Geneva

Zermatt

Lake Lugano

Bernina Pass

St Moritz



Matterhorn

Travel on three of Switzerland's most iconic railway lines, the GoldenPass Line, the Glacier Express, and the Bernina Express, as you trace the pattern of valleys and mountains all around the country. Spend nights beside the Matterhorn, Suvretta Mountain, the Jungfrau, the Gornergrat, Monte Tamaro, Rigi Mountain, and the Wispile, navigating their dramatic relief via funicular railways, cable cars, and internationally renowned trains.

This grand tour of Switzerland begins with your arrival into Zurich, either by rail or by air. From here, you catch a train southwest to Lucerne, staying beside the lake, taking in the most popular cultural sights, including the Chapel Bridge and Water Tower. Then, move on into the Bernese Oberland in the chocolate box villages of Grindelwald or Wengen in the Lutschine Valley. This is the perfect opportunity to ascend the Jungfrau by rail to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe. Next, continue west into the Saanenland, staying in either Schoenried or Gstaad. Here, five valleys meet to create a wide, picturesque bowl of green plains between countless mountain peaks. You then catch the GoldenPass Line from the Saanenland to Montreux beside Lake Geneva. Travel south into the Valais to Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn. Spend a couple of days under the brooding stare of Switzerland's most famous mountain before continuing on via the Glacier Express to Lugano in Ticino. The icy Alpine landscapes of Valais here blur into the lush green Mediterranean fields and hills of Ticino. Lugano will be your host while you explore the eponymous lake and nearby Monte Tamaro. You round off your holiday to Switzerland in St Moritz, after

taking the Bernina Express bus and train via Lake Como and Tirano in northern Italy. On your last day, re-board the Bernina Express to Chur, where you change trains for Zurich. Should you wish to return to the UK by rail, we would recommend spending an extra night in Zurich before departure, though flights can be arranged on the same day.

### PRICES

#### From £2,610 per person

Based on double occupancy in 3 and 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 Zurich and back from Zurich 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)
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Grindelwald or Wengen
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Saanenland
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Montreux
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Zermatt
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Lugano
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in St Moritz

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Zurich 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 Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland  
- Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina  
Express - St Moritz**

*Expressions*

### Day one: Travel to Lucerne via Zurich

Choose to either arrive in Zurich by air or to travel by rail via Paris and Basel to Lucerne, depending on time constraints and preferences. If travelling via Zurich, either spend an hour or two exploring this crisp, historic city, or immediately board the train to Lucerne. This short train journey leaves you plenty of time to explore the city before retiring to your choice of luxury hotel.

### Day two: 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 three: 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 four: 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



Lake Lucerne

of the Bernese Oberland. Travel by funicular railway up to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway 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 five: 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 six: 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 seven: Saanenland to Montreux on the Golden Pass 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 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, where you will stay for one night on the banks of Lake Geneva. During your stay in Montreux, we would recommend exploring the railway history of the area, taking the Vineyard Train (S31) through the

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland  
- Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina  
Express - St Moritz**

*Expressions*

Lavaux Terraced Vineyards between Vevey and Puidoux-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 eight: Montreux to Zermatt

Today you travel by train from Montreux to Zermatt. This train journey takes around two and a half hours, passing 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 nine: 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 Hörnlihütte, where for decades climbers have famously stayed as they prepare to climb the Matterhorn, via the Hörnli 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 ten: Zermatt to Lugano via the Glacier Express

Today you board one of the distinctive carriages of the Glacier Express to Andermatt, where you change trains on your way to Lugano. This short stretch of the Glacier Express takes you first through the enchanting village of St Niklaus, defined by its rustic chalet houses with peaked roofs, and then onto Brig, where the 17th century Stockalper Castle stands proudly at the centre of the Old Town, crowned by unusual onion domes. The Glacier Express then takes you through the Furka Tunnel of the Furka Steam Railway, past the ice caves of the Rhone Glacier, and over the



*In the Bernese Oberland*

bridge in Oberwald. At Andermatt, you cease journeying east and turn immediately south into the province of Ticino. Follow a single main valley as the environment becomes gradually more Mediterranean and the climate becomes warmer. Trickling waterfalls spill out of the mountainsides, and sparsely populated villages spread across flat valley floors. This train passes through Bellinzona, the most Italianate town in Switzerland. Here, three castles stand opposite each other on green bluffs, forming a single well-preserved UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lake Maggiore is visible in the distance as you continue further south past Monte Tamaro towards Lake Lugano and your destination. Arrive in the afternoon and if possible take the funicular railway up to the summit of Monte Bre from Cassarate, or simply sit back and enjoy the Mediterranean feel of the waterside in this colourful city.

### Day eleven: Lugano to St Moritz on the Bernina Express coach and train

You depart Lugano by yet another mode of transport: the Bernina Express coach. The Bernina Express bus from Lugano to Tirano in Italy leaves at around 10am, arriving three hours later and passing Lake Como and the picturesque villages of northern Italy on its way. 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, embark on the final part of your Bernina Express journey, ready to arrive into St Moritz two hours later. This stretch takes you past thriving orchards and vineyards, over the unique Brusio viaduct as it spirals back on itself to compensate for the changing altitudes, and into Le Prese over the Swiss border. Continue on through the Bergamo Alps, through grand and regal Poschiavo and the Val Poschiavo, passing Alp Grum, the only restaurant to be exclusively accessible by rail. The Bernina Express now begins its ascent to the highest point on the Rhaetian Railway in Ospizio Bernina. Before arriving into St Moritz, you will pass two of the most famous sights on this railway: the Montebello Curve and the Morteratsch Glacier. The Curve itself allows you plentiful time to appreciate the views of the glacier. Arrive into St Moritz in Switzerland, perhaps using your time here to reach the best viewing point of the Suvretta Mountain by cable car, or to visit Lake Sils, Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana. The neighbouring mountains, including the Piz Corvatsch, Chantarella, and Corviglia, can all be explored by rail.

### Day twelve: St Moritz to Zurich via Chur

You depart Lugano by yet another mode of transport: the Bernina Express coach. The Bernina Express bus from Lugano to Tirano in Italy leaves at around 10am, arriving three hours later and passing Lake Como and the picturesque villages of northern Italy on its



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Lucerne - Bernese Oberland - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland  
- Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Lake Lugano - Bernina  
Express - St Moritz**

*Expressions*

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### OPTIONAL

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



*The Bernina Express*

## HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich 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.

### 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 'stübli' 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.



*Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald*

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



*Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne*



*Hotel Alpenrose, Schoenried*



*Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Montreux*



## HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

*Expressions*

### **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.

## 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.

## 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.



Giardino Mountain, St Moritz

### **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.

## 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**

An authentic chalet hotel with a white-washed façade and large secluded garden, the Giardino Mountain is a luxurious five star option with fantastic views across the mountains and Lake St Moritz. The indulgent spa, traditional 'stubli'-esque restaurant, and modern guestrooms make this a supremely comfortable option.

## CHUR

(Alternative to St Moritz)

### **Romantik Hotel Stern 4 star**

This timeless townhouse is situated within easy reach of Chur's famous Old Town. White shutters frame the tall windows, and the combination of pink and white stucco gives this building a very pretty aspect. Guests here are treated to a real taste of authentic Switzerland, in the light, yet rustic bedrooms, and in the 'stubli' restaurant, which serves a range of Alpine delicacies.



Romantik Hotel Julen, Zermatt



Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano



Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt

## HOTELS

At Lucerne, the Bernese Oberland, the Saanenland, Montreux, Zermatt, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

*Expressions*

### ZURICH

(Optional additional night)

#### **Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star**

As a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera prides itself on the high quality of its service, its seasonal and locally-sourced food, and the very particular, serene style of the rooms. It is well-placed for enjoying Lake Zurich, the Limmat River, and the small marina at the end of the street. [read more](#)

#### **Hotel Storchen Zurich 5 star**

Since the beginning of its hospitality 650 years ago, the unique and charming Hotel Storchen Zurich has offered an authentic insight into Swiss culture, design, and lifestyle. A pavement café lines the riverside, and behind the distinctive pink façade are high-ceilinged, tastefully decorated rooms, and the Rotisserie Restaurant, the ceiling of which is decorated in frescoes. [read more](#)

#### **Hotel Baur au Lac 5 star**

Set on the banks of Lake Zurich, the Hotel Baur au Lac is equipped with a Michelin-starred restaurant, extensive tranquil parkland, and a rich, warm interior design. Guests can enjoy the beauty of the lake from the promenade or from a boat cruise, before returning to the hotel to enjoy the serene gardens, the chic luxurious indoor spaces, and the circular restaurant that juts out across the water. [read more](#)



*Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich*



*Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad*



*Hotel Waldstaetterhof, Lucerne*



*Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, St Moritz*



## MAP OF THE GRAND HEART OF SWITZERLAND MOUNTAINS RAIL TOUR

*Expressions*

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 Holidays, 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 3 and 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, Villa Toscane, Hotel Butterfly, Hotel Lugano Dante, and Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz).

**From £2,680 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £410 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 3 and 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Wengener Hof, Hostellerie Alpenrose, Villa Toscane, Hotel Butterfly, Hotel Lugano Dante, and Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz).

**From £2,610 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £260 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Palace Luzern, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Le Grand Bellevue, Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Romantik Hotel Julen, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Giardino Mountain).

**From £3,600 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £410 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Palace Luzern, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Le Grand Bellevue, Fairmont le Montreux Palace, Romantik Hotel Julen, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Giardino Mountain).

**From £3,530 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £260 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.

# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## The Grand Lakes of Switzerland Rail Tour



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217



## The Grand Lakes of Switzerland Rail Tour

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Lake Geneva

GoldenPass Line

Saannenland

Bernese Oberland

Lake Lucerne

Gotthard

Gotthard Panorama Express

Lake Lugano

Bernina Express

Bernina Pass

Lake Zurich



Jet d'Eau in Lake Geneva

Linking together the most breath-taking and sublime lakes in Switzerland, this grand tour stops off beside the four main Swiss lakes, plus the lesser-known lakes of St Moritz, Sils, Silvaplana, Fallboden, Thun, and Brienz. We aim to capture in this rail touring holiday the various sides to these lakes as well as the diverse villages, towns, and cities that line their shores.

This This grand tour of Switzerland's lakes begins with your arrival by aeroplane or by train into Geneva. From here, you catch a train to Lausanne for your first stay beside Lake Geneva, what might be Switzerland's most popular lake. Then, move on into the Bernese Oberland via the GoldenPass Line and stay in the chocolate box village of Grindelwald. This is the perfect opportunity to ascend the Jungfrau by rail to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe. Next, this tour takes you north via spectacular Interlaken to Lake Lucerne. Take in the impressive cultural sites, including the Chapel Bridge, the Water Spike, and the Water Tower. Enjoy a lake cruise, from which you can view the many picturesque villages that line the shores. Board the Gotthard Panorama Express boat to Fluelen from Lucerne, and then the Gotthard Panorama Express train from Fluelen to Bellinzona, and then on to Lugano. Enjoy the Mediterranean feel of Ticino, exploring the nearby mountain peaks as well as the colourful city itself. Then, you join the Bernina Express as the dedicated coach takes you across northern Italy, past Lake Como to Tirano. Board the Bernina Express train here and journey north to St Moritz at the foot of the Suvretta Mountain, and just a stone's

throw from many picturesque lakes. You now re-join the Bernina Express railway as it heads towards Chur, the oldest town in Switzerland, where you change for a direct train to Zurich. Relax in your choice of luxury Zurich hotel after visiting the Grossmünster Church and appreciating the crispness of this historic area before returning to the UK by air or rail.

### PRICES

From £2,920 per person

Based on double occupancy in 4 and 5 star hotels, with flights to and from, and rail travel within Switzerland in 2nd class.

1st class rail travel and additional 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

- Scheduled flights from the UK to Geneva and Zurich to the UK OR rail travel from London to Switzerland and back via Paris

(first class can be booked at a supplement)

- 8 days Swiss rail flexi pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lausanne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Grindelwald
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lugano
- 1 night bed and breakfast in St Moritz
- 1 night bed and breakfast in Zurich

### OPTIONAL

Extra nights in Geneva at the beginning of your tour, or Saanenland between Lake Geneva and Grindelwald. Additional nights can also be added in any of your stopovers.

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Geneva at the beginning of your tour, Saanenland between Lake Geneva and Grindelwald, or at any other stopover
- 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 - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland - Bernese Oberland -  
Lake Lucerne - Gotthard - Gotthard Panorama Express - Lake Lugano -  
Bernina Express - Bernina Pass - St Moritz - Lake Zurich**

*Expressions*

### Days one and two: Geneva 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 three: Lausanne to Grindelwald via the GoldenPass line

The next leg of your journey takes you to the eastern point of Lake Geneva, in Montreux, home to Chillon Castle, Switzerland's most popular historical monument. In Montreux, change trains to the GoldenPass Line and zig-zag your way up to higher ground as you begin the journey to Grindelwald in the Bernese Oberland. The distinctive golden carriages of the GoldenPass Line take you first through the villages above Montreux, where the houses become sparser and have more individualistic architecture. Pass the turquoise waters and wooden bridges of Montbovon and enter Saanenland in Chateau d'Oex, where the mountain chalets begin to become more prominent. Emerge from a gently curving valley into the flat plains around Gstaad that are formed by the convergence of five valleys. Ascend to Schoenried, and then to Zweisimmen, the so-called 'gateway' to the Saanenland. The landscape here becomes jagged as severe bluffs and mountain peaks burst out of areas of thick, rich forest. The Stockhorn Rock between Boltigen and



*Lake Thun in the Bernese Oberland*

Erlenbach im Simmental marks your entrance to the Bernese Oberland. Pass through flourishing natural beauty in the Nature Park of Diemtigtal and trace the shores of Lake Thun before you reach Interlaken, where you change trains for Grindelwald. The journey takes around three hours in total, bringing you into Grindelwald in the early afternoon.

### Day four: Grindelwald

Grindelwald is an enchanting chocolate box village, scattered across the gentle green slopes of the Lutschine Valley. The nearby village of Wengen, accessible via two cable cars, by bus, or by train, sits at the base of the Jungfrau. Your stay in Grindelwald is therefore perfectly placed for enjoying the most iconic attraction of the Bernese Oberland. Travel by funicular railway up to Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe, to appreciate the stunning views. For hiking trails, take cable cars up 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 five: Grindelwald to Lucerne

Leave Grindelwald around midday, changing trains at Interlaken, to arrive into Lucerne at around 3pm. This journey takes you along the extension of the GoldenPass line, a scenic journey past many of the sparkling lakes of central Switzerland.

### Days six and seven: 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 Pfistern 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 eight: Lucerne to Lugano on the Gotthard Panorama Express

Heading south, you adopt a different form of transport in order to cross Lake Lucerne. The Gotthard Panorama Express begins with either a salon motorboat or a steamboat, which docks at various places mentioned in the legend of the Swiss National Hero of Liberty, Wilhelm Tell. See the site where Tell reputedly jumped from the bailiff's ship before pushing it



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Geneva - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland - Bernese Oberland -  
Lake Lucerne - Gotthard - Gotthard Panorama Express - Lake Lugano  
- Bernina Express - St Moritz - Bernina Pass - Lake Zurich**

*Expressions*

and its crew back into the stormy lake waters, and the meadows of Rutli, where Friedrich Schiller set his popular recounting of the tale. When you reach Fluelen, perhaps take the time to wander along the narrow promenade that separates the harbour from the lake, before boarding the Gotthard Panorama Express train on your way to Lugano. Here, the railway track runs along the Reuss River, across wide, flat valleys until the track gains altitude and chocolate box villages dot the hillsides. Navigate the Gotthard Loop Tunnels, passing through the complex rail network of Goschenen, and entering the province of Ticino at Airolo through the Gotthard Strassentunnel. The train now follows the River Ticino past the waterfalls of Biasca, the Italianate architecture of Faido, and the historic solitary chalets. When you reach Bellinzona, disembark for the train to Lugano. This is the most Italianate town in Switzerland, distinctive because of its three medieval castles that stand on hilly bluffs and form a united UNESCO World Heritage Site. The journey from Bellinzona to Lugano is an incredibly short one, bringing you into Lugano at around half two in the afternoon.

### Day nine: 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 ten: Lugano to St Moritz on the Bernina Express coach and train

You depart Lugano by yet another mode of transport: the Bernina Express coach. The Bernina Express bus from Lugano to Tirano in Italy leaves at around 10am, arriving three hours later and passing Lake Como and the



Lugano

picturesque villages of northern Italy on its way. 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, embark on the final part of your Bernina Express journey, ready to arrive into St Moritz two hours later. This stretch takes you past thriving orchards and vineyards, over the unique Brusio viaduct as it spirals back on itself to compensate for the changing altitudes, and into Le Prese over the Swiss border. Continue on through the Bergamo Alps, through grand and regal Poschiavo and the Val Poschiavo, passing Alp Grum, the only restaurant to be exclusively accessible by rail. The Bernina Express now begins its ascent to the highest point on the Rhaetian Railway in Ospizio Bernina. Before arriving into St Moritz, you will pass two of the most famous sights on this railway: the Montebello Curve and the Morteratsch Glacier. The Curve itself allows you plentiful time to appreciate the views of the glacier. Arrive into St Moritz in Switzerland, perhaps using your time here to reach the best viewing point of the Suvretta Mountain by cable car, or to visit Lake Sils, Lake St Moritz, or the windy Lake Silvaplana. The neighbouring mountains, including the Piz Corvatsch, Chantarella, and Corviglia, can all be explored by rail..

### Day eleven: St Moritz to Zurich via Chur

We recommend spending the morning in

St Moritz and then departing by rail around lunchtime to Zurich via the oldest town in Switzerland: Chur. This route takes you first to Chur, past the Cresta Run in Celerina, the Albula Railway Museum in Bergun, the towering Landwasser viaduct in the Domleschg Region, the popular resort of Davos, the stone bridges and ochre houses of Tiefencastel, and the sublime Ruinaulta, before arriving in the 'Alpine City.' Change to a direct train to Zurich, which takes just over an hour and skirts around Lake Walen and Lake Zurich on the way. Stay in a luxury Zurich hotel, perhaps taking a river or lake cruise, enjoying a drink in a Badi-Bar on the lakefront, and climbing to the top of the Karlsturm, one of the Grossmünster Church's two iconic towers. The oldest district in Zurich, and home to the silk-making industry, is Schipfe; perhaps enjoy the luxuries at one of the bathhouses here or seek out the boat-builders' workshops. Visit the Lindenhof District to see the site of a 4th century Roman Fort as well as Charlemagne's grandson's 9th century palace. Complete your stay in Zurich with dinner in an authentic restaurant in the Niederdorf District, a ride on the Little Red Train up to the Polyterrasse, a visit to the Kunsthaus Art Museum, or a walk around the city joining the dots between some of the 1,200 water fountains.

### Day twelve: Return to the UK

On your final day, enjoy a relaxing morning at your choice of hotel before heading to Zurich International Airport for your return flight or to the station for your rail journey home.

## HOTELS

At Lausanne, Grindelwald, Lucerne, Weggis, Lugano, St Moritz, and Zurich, 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.



*Palace Luzern*

### 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 'stübli' 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.

### 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.

#### **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.

### 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.



*Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald*



*Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne*



*Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne*



## HOTELS

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*Expressions*

### 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.

### ZURICH

#### **Hotel du Theatre 3 star**

This three star option in the centre of Zurich offers sophisticated and quirky accommodation in a hotel that adopts a cinema theme. Rooms are therefore suitably glamorous, with wholly unique features and excellent access to Lake Zurich and the city's important cultural sites.

#### **Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4 star**

As a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera prides itself on the high quality of its service, its seasonal and locally-sourced food, and the very particular, serene style of the rooms. It is well-placed for enjoying Lake Zurich, the Limmat River, and the small marina at the end of the street.

#### **Hotel Storchen Zurich 5 star**

Since the beginning of its hospitality 650 years ago, the unique and charming Hotel Storchen Zurich has offered an authentic insight into Swiss culture, design, and lifestyle. A pavement café lines the riverside, and behind the distinctive pink façade are high-ceilinged, tastefully decorated rooms, and the Rotisserie Restaurant, the ceiling of which is decorated in frescoes.



*Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, Lugano*

#### **Hotel Baur au Lac 5 star**

Set on the banks of Lake Zurich, the Hotel Baur au Lac is equipped with a Michelin-starred restaurant, extensive tranquil parkland, and a rich, warm interior design. Guests can enjoy the beauty of the lake from the promenade or from a boat cruise, before returning to the hotel to enjoy the serene gardens, the chic luxurious indoor spaces, and the circular restaurant that juts out across the water.



*Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera, Zurich*



*Hotel Storchen, Zurich*



*Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz*



## MAP OF THE GRAND LAKES OF SWITZERLAND RAIL TOUR

*Expressions*

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 Holidays, 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.

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## OUR PRICES

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## 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 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Lugano Dante, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, and Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera).

**From £2,980 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hotel Lugano Dante, Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, and Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera).

**From £2,920 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £260 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at 4 star deluxe and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Beau Rivage Palace, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Palace Luzern, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Hotel Storchen Zurich).

**From £3,710 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 star deluxe and 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Beau Rivage Palace, Hotel Schweizerhof Grindelwald, Palace Luzern, Grand Hotel Villa Castagnola, and Hotel Storchen Zurich).

**From £3,690 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £260 per person

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

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

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**01392 441217**

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# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## The Grand Romantic Swiss Rail Tour



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## The Grand Romantic Swiss Rail Tour

8 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS

Lake Geneva

Zermatt

Glacier Express

Centovalli Express

Gotthard Panorama Express

Lake Maggiore

Gotthard

Lake Lucerne

GoldenPass Line

Saanenland



Chillon Castle, Lake Geneva

Travel via some of the most scenic and charming rail routes in Europe, passing forested valleys, Alpine meadows, sublime lakes, and historic old towns. This romantic touring holiday takes you from Lake Geneva, down into Mediterranean-style Ticino, back up to Lake Lucerne, and then into the lush countryside of the Saanenland.

Begin this touring holiday with a rail or air journey into Geneva, from where you travel on to Lausanne for your first night in Switzerland. Choose from our selection of luxury Lausanne hotels for this night, before catching a train the next morning to Montreux. Here, you change trains and head for Visp, where you change for Zermatt. Spend a few nights in Zermatt, taking in the sights of the Matterhorn, and a ride on the Gornergratbahn. Then the Glacier Express takes you to Brig, where you change for Domodossola to join the Centovalli Express. This iconic train journey is one of the most romantic in Europe, and takes you through to Locarno. Enjoy Lake Maggiore and the colourful streets here, before heading north to Lucerne on the Gotthard Panorama Express train and boat. Your time in Lucerne allows you to explore the lakeside, and perhaps travel further northeast to Zurich for a few hours. From here, travel down to Zweisimmen, where you join the GoldenPass Line for the remaining journey into the Saanenland. Your last stop is Gstaad or Schoenried before traveling once again by the GoldenPass Line into Montreux, and then on to Geneva for your return flight. If you intend to return home by train, we would recommend spending another night in Geneva before departure.

### PRICES

#### From £2,095 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 additional 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 Locarno / Ascona
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Lucerne
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in the Saanenland

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights in Geneva at the end of your tour, or at any other stopover
- 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 - Centovalli Express - Gotthard Panorama Express - Lake Maggiore - Gotthard - Lake Lucerne - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland**

*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



Lake Lucerne

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 Zermatt 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 Locarno/Ascona on the Glacier Express and Centovalli Express

You board the Glacier Express at Zermatt and travel through the enchanting village of St Niklaus, punctuated by alpine chalets, rustic houses, and golden and green trees, to Brig. Here you might catch a glance of the 17th century Stockalper Castle, the emblem of Upper Valais and the largest 17th century private building in Switzerland. Change trains for Domodossola, where the Centovalli Express railway begins in earnest. Reputedly one of the most romantic train journeys in Europe, the train will take you through picturesque small villages in both northern Italy and southern Switzerland. The journey will take you through Re, home to the imposing Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Blood, which stands perched on the edge of a sheer cliff, before crossing over the border. Gently sloping valleys are interspersed with narrow gaps, tunnels, and bridges that reach across channels of thrashing white and turquoise water. In Ticino, the Centovalli Express ends in Locarno.

### Day five: Locarno/Ascona

Your hotel is located in the peaceful adjacent town: Ascona. Here you can appreciate the Mediterranean feel of this canton, but with the bustle of Locarno at a distance. In Locarno, however, you may wish to visit one of the many 16th and 17th century churches, the 15th century Sanctuary of the Madonna del Sasso, or the Visconti Castle and its permanent exhibition of Roman glass. Should your visit fall on a Thursday, attend the local market to sample a few delicacies and watch the streets really come to life with colour and enthusiasm. Outside Locarno, adventurous guests may attempt to climb the Cadada Cimetta, from which you can see both the highest and lowest points of Switzerland simultaneously: the Valais High Alps and Lake Maggiore. In the evenings, return to Ascona to reclaim your bubble of peace and serenity.

### Day six: Locarno to Lucerne on the Gotthard Panorama Express train and boat

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,

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

**Lake Geneva - Zermatt - Glacier Express - Centovalli Express - Gotthard Panorama Express - Lake Maggiore - Gotthard - Lake Lucerne - GoldenPass Line - Saanenland**

*Expressions*

as well as the complex network of rail lines in Goschenen. 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 seven: 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 eight: Lucerne to Saanenland on the GoldenPass line

The first part of your next journey takes you to Interlaken via the Brunig Pass. Here, you can choose to stop off and spend a few hours enjoying the town's remarkable location before boarding another train to Zweisimmen via the Simmental, where you catch the GoldenPass Line for the remainder of the journey to the Saanenland. The distinctive golden carriages



GoldenPass Line

of the GoldenPass Line take you from Zweisimmen, the gateway of the Saanenland, to Schoenried and Gstaad where you stay next.

### Day nine: 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 nine: Saanenland

Board the GoldenPass Line for the two hour journey from Schoenried to Montreux. After passing through 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 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, where you catch an additional train to Geneva for your return flight. If you intend to travel home by rail, we would highly recommend spending an extra night in Geneva to break up the journey.

### OPTIONAL

Extra nights in Geneva at the end of your tour, or in any other stopover.



## HOTELS

At Lausanne, Zermatt, Ascona, Lucerne, Weggis, the Saanenland, and Geneva, 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.



*Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Lausanne*

### 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 3 star**

A history, 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.

### ASCONA

#### **Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss 4 star**

Possessing all the charm, character, and personalised service of a boutique hotel, this four star option in Ascona looks out across Lake Maggiore with a distinctly Mediterranean façade. This intimate converted castle still has its original tower, in which some of its rooms are held, though the dining room is of a particularly contemporary design.

#### **Eden Roc Hotel 5 star superior**

Offering the ultimate feeling of luxury in Ascona, the Eden Roc Hotel sits right on the shore of Lake Maggiore and has its own private beach. Water sports, waterside barbecues, luxurious spa facilities, a range of varied dining options, and striking designer rooms ensure that a stay of a few nights here will be thoroughly enjoyable and memorable.

### 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.



*Romantik Hotel Julen, Zermatt*



*Eden Roc Hotel, Ascona*



*Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne*

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*Expressions*

### **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.

### **Hotel Schweizerhof 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.

## 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.



Palace Luzern, Lucerne

## GENEVA

### **Hotel Bristol Geneva 4 star deluxe**

This glamorous and traditionally-inspired hotel sits close to the banks of the Rhone River. The deceptively contemporary façade gives way onto gracefully appointed rooms. Dimpled red leather sofas populate the bar beneath authentic portraits and large mirrors, and the Cote Square restaurant captures the best of sophisticated dining. At the end of a day's exploration, relax in the hotel's well-equipped spa.

### **Hotel Beau Rivage Geneva 5 star**

This luxurious property on the banks of Lake Geneva has its own Michelin-starred restaurant, a Thai restaurant, regal bedrooms, and an enviable location in the city. On the outside, French balconies are decorated with blue flowers, and inside an authentically recreated Roman atrium provides a wholly unique place to relax.



Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad



Hotel Beau Rivage, Geneva



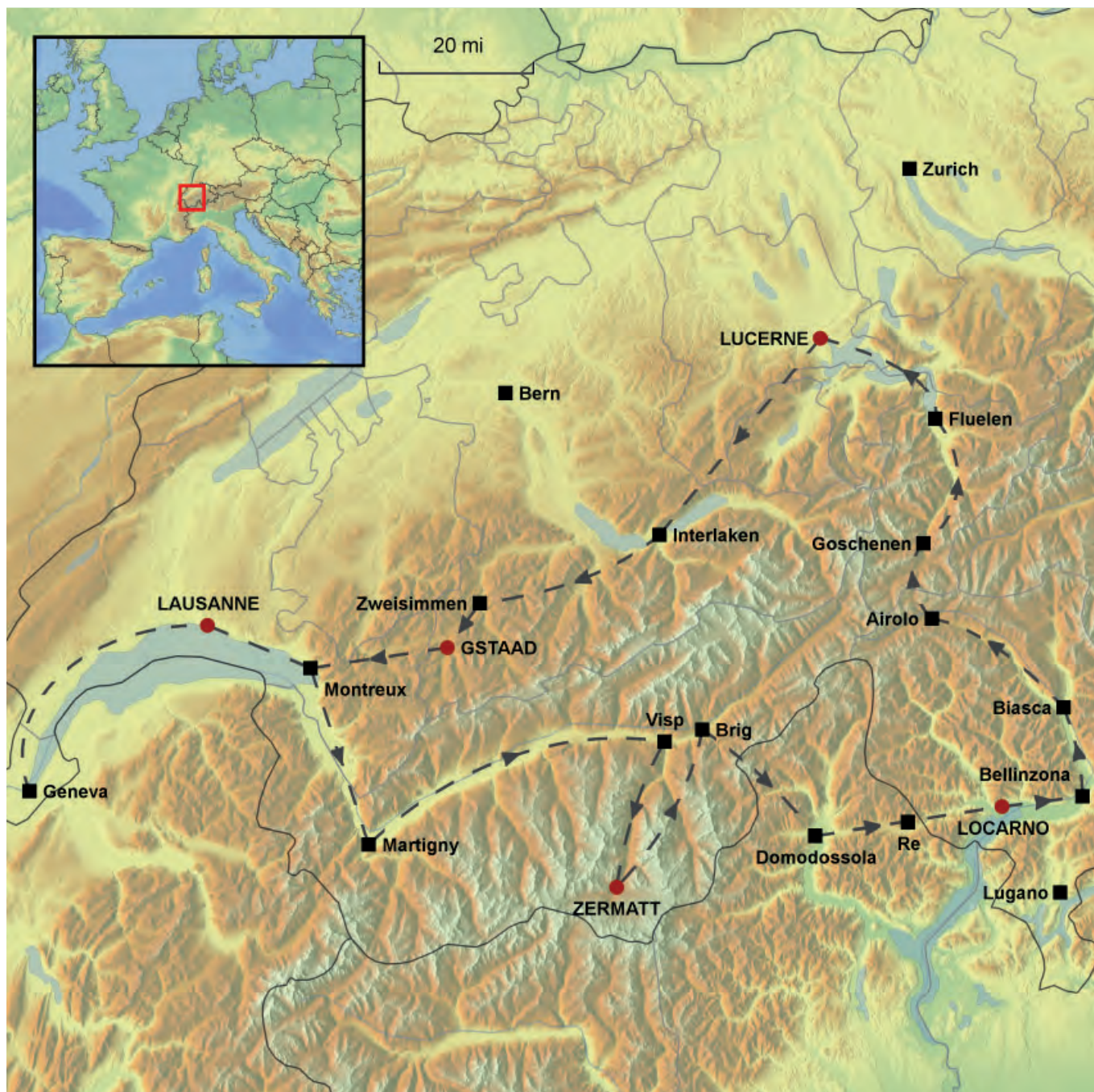
Hotel Bristol Geneva



## MAP OF THE GRAND ROMANTIC SWISS RAIL TOUR

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*



## 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 Holidays, 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

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## 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 Julien, Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hostellerie Alpenrose, and Hotel Bristol Geneva).

**From £2,330 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £450 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 4 star hotels (eg Hotel Angleterre et Residence, Romantik Hotel Julien, Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss, Hotel Wilden Mann, Hostellerie Alpenrose, and Hotel Bristol Geneva).

**From £2,060 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £270 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, Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Eden Roc Hotel, Palace Luzern, Le Grand Bellevue, and Hotel Beau Rivage Geneva).

**From £3,540 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £450 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Beau Rivage Palace, Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Eden Roc Hotel, Palace Luzern, Le Grand Bellevue, and Hotel Beau Rivage Geneva).

**From £2,800 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £270 per person

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

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# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to Lake Lucerne Holiday





## By Rail to Lake Lucerne Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Brunnen

Lake Lucerne

Lucerne

Mount Rigi

Mount Pilatus



Lucerne

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Basel, and then on to Lake Lucerne, though return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Brunnen (or another resort on the lake or Lucerne itself if you prefer) on the banks of Lake Lucerne, facing across to the stunning skyline of the Rutli and Schillerstein mountains. Lucerne itself is one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland: overlooking the stunning lake, and populated by colourful, quirky townhouses. Historic monuments stand in the lake and river waters, on the green terraces of the mountainsides, and emerge proudly from the city streets. Outside the city, vantage points that grant sweeping panoramas across the water and mountains are waiting to be discovered. Use your Swiss rail pass to travel around the lake to villages and towns such as Sisikon, Fluelen, Weggis, and Schwyz, and to take in the views across the many phenomenal sights of natural beauty, including the alpine meadows at Rutli, and Rigi, the Queen of the Mountains.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to Brunnen by rail on your first day; or fly into Zurich and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves a little before seven in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Basel. Here, change for a train south-east to Lake Lucerne, arriving in the early evening. It is possible to take the train to Lucerne and make the last stretch of the journey by boat across the lake although this is slower. Check into your chosen resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of Lucerne and the lake, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the area by train, boat and mountain cablecars.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from Brunnen back to Basel. Take the TGV back to Paris to meet the Eurostar here and

cross the Channel, arriving in London in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

**Seehotel Waldstaetterhof Brunnen** 4 star

### PRICES

**From £1,935 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. 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 class (first class can be booked at a supplement), return OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Zurich
- 8 day Swiss rail pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- 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.

## ABOUT THE RESORT

The village of Weggis sits low on the banks of Lake Lucerne, sheltered by one of the large rocky outcrops.

*Expressions*

Brunnen is located on the shores of Lake Lucerne and enjoys stunning views not only of the lake but of the beautiful Alpine mountains as well. The resort is accessible by railway, bus, motorway and boat and is also served by a cable car that goes up the Urmiberg, the eastern foothill of the Rigi. It is an ideal location from which to enjoy excursions in central Switzerland.

### Places of interest around Lake Lucerne

- **Rigi Mountain** – known affectionately as ‘Queen of the Mountains;’ the summit is popular for watching the sunrise
- **Mount Pilatus** – accessible via a thrilling rack railway, this is reputedly the final resting place of Pontius Pilatus and the mythical former home of a dragon; from the top, you can see 73 alpine peaks
- **Stanserhorn** – a hiking excursion, or funicular railway and cable car ride, takes you up to the summit from Stans, from where you can see the Jungfrau, Mount Titlis, and the northern hills and lakes
- **Chapel Bridge**, Lucerne – the most iconic monument in the area, and the most photographed in Switzerland; it was named after St Peter’s Chapel. Visit also the Water Tower that marks the bridge’s sharp corner
- **Spreuer Bridge**, Lucerne – an ochre-coloured bridge that also crosses the Reuss River, and has miniature red turrets
- **Jesuit Church**, Lucerne – an imposing baroque church built on the water’s edge in the 17th century with iconic turquoise droplet-shaped domes
- **Musegg Wall**, Lucerne – built in the 14th century, nine of the city’s original defensive towers remain; three of which are open to the public
- **Historic squares**, Lucerne – in particular, visit the Kornmarkt Square, home to the Pfister Guildhall, and the Weinmarkt Square, where Lucerne swore a federal oath with its neighbouring cantons in the 14th century
- **Dying Lion Monument**, Lucerne – one of the most moving memorials in Lucerne, this rock carving commemorates those who lost their lives in the attack on the Tuileries at the end of the 18th century
- **Lucerne art galleries** – visit the Rosengart Collection of works by Picasso and Klee, the Wagner Collection in Tribtschen, and the KKL Luzern
- **Wilhelm Tell Express** steamboat or salon motorboat – departing from the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne, this boat takes you to the most important points in the legendary story of the Swiss National



Lucerne waterfront

Hero of Liberty: Tell’s Slab and Tell’s Chapel in Sisikon and the Rutli Meadows

- **Fluelen** – a riverside, picturesque town with mountainside churches and a pretty marina promenade; Fluelen also marks the end of the Wilhelm Tell Express boat ride
- **Funicular Railway** from Stoos to Fronalpstock – this is the steepest railway
- **Panoramic cableway** from Weggis to Rigi Kaltbad at 1450m above sea level
- **Rigibahn** – this rack railway leads up from Rigi Kaltbad to Rigi-Kulm; once at the summit, you can see 13 lakes, the entire Swiss Mittelland, and the French and German borders
- **Quay** – lined with colourful flowers and an idyllic promenade
- **Paddlewheel steamers** on Lake Lucerne
- **Kurplatz** – musicians play on this picturesque square every day in the summer, bar Mondays
- **Mark Twain Trail** – stretches across 12km from Weggis to Rigi Kulm
- **Cruise to Lucerne** – taking 45 minutes
- **Rose Festival** – originating in 1926, the Rose Festival offers authentic food stalls and entertainment in July

### Local sports

- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Para-gliding off Mount Pilatus
- Hot air ballooning on Mount Pilatus
- Hiking
- Cycling
- Fishing
- Sailing, water-skiing, river-rafting, and windsurfing in Brunnen

The abundance of available activities, from cultural and historic tours to water sports and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Lake Lucerne 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

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay at the Hotel Park Weggis. Other options in the Lake Lucerne area are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### SEEHOTEL WALDSTAETTERHOF BRUNNEN

#### 4 star

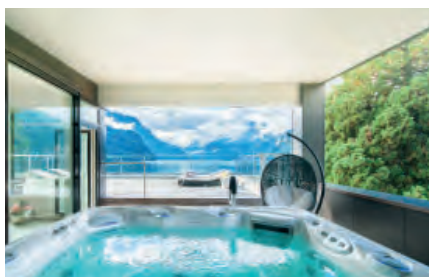
The four star Seehotel Waldstaetterhof in Brunnen stands on the banks of Lake Lucerne, a mere 40 minute drive from the city of Lucerne and a stone's throw away from Brunnen ferry terminal. Overlooking the lake, the hotel enjoys breathtaking views of alpine peaks and is set in a private park. Its location lends itself to the ethos of 'wellness' and benefits from a very peaceful atmosphere. Relaxing strolls can be had along the shores of the lake or into the quaint town of Brunnen, while taking in the sign of the sunset across the water. The Seehotel Waldstaetterhof is a traditional hotel that has benefited recently from the addition of brand new spa areas, which have been designed with a specific focus on wellness. The hotel has a sauna and relaxation area, swing chairs, a gym and a wide range of beauty and wellness treatments. The room are adorned with rich furnishings and elegant décor, and the hotel's newly renovated restaurant with a view awaits you with classic international dishes and exclusive wines. Activities in the surrounding area include, but are not limited to, golf, snow sports, mountain biking, hiking and fishing. The Seehotel Waldstaetterhof is well-suited to those embarking on a rail touring holiday around Switzerland, as well as those looking for a longer, lakeside break. The hotel's emphasis on wellness makes it a particularly good destination for those looking for a relaxing holiday.



*Seehotel Waldstaetterhof, Brunnen*



*Restaurant by the lake*



*Whirlpool*



*Bedroom*

## MAP OF BY RAIL TO LAKE LUCERNE HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*





## 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 Holidays, 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 the Seehotel Waldstaetterhof Brunnen.

**From £1,995 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

**Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland** at the Seehotel Waldstaetterhof Brunnen.

**From £1,935 per person**

Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £210 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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to Swiss Lake Maggiore Holiday



## By Rail to Swiss Lake Maggiore Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Ascona

Locarno

Monte Tamaro

Bellinzona

Lugano



Lugano

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Ascona, via Paris, Zurich and Bellinzona. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Ascona, Locarno's more peaceful neighbour, in the canton of Ticino. This region is the warmest in Switzerland, with a near-Mediterranean climate. Palm trees grow on the shoreline of Lake Maggiore, in front of the colourful houses, and behind the rows of quaint fishing boats. On the southern side of the water, opposite Locarno and Ascona, stands the impressive and green Monte Tamaro. Hiking trails and walking routes have a different tone here to further north, with panoramic summery vistas of bright flowers and wildlife. During your week here, explore the Italianate towns, such as Bellinzona and Lugano, seek out the waterfalls on the River Ticino, and visit the medieval castles. A stay on Lake Maggiore offers visitors a wholly different experience to that offered by the Bernese Oberland, by the northern cities, or by the Engadine.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to Ascona by rail on your first day; or fly into Zurich and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Basel. Here, change for Locarno, and travel into Ticino. Check into your resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of Lake Maggiore, first making the most of your three day rail pass to explore the lakeside towns and villages, the mountains, and the Mediterranean feel.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board an early morning train from Locarno back to Basel and Paris. Spend up to two hours in Paris before catching your connection back to London, arriving in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

**Eden Roc Hotel** 5 star superior

**Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss** 4 star

### PRICES

**From £1,790 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. 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 London to Switzerland via Basel in standard/second class (first class can be booked at a supplement) return, or scheduled return flights from the UK to Geneva
- 3 days Swiss rail pass for travel on 3 consecutive days
- 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

At just 192m above sea level, Ascona and Lake Maggiore mark the lowest altitude point in Switzerland.

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This accounts for the warm climate and the rich greenness of the environment. Home to just over 5,000 people, Ascona marks the fine balance between urban cultural experience and rural seclusion; and with Locarno just across the Maggiore River, guests here are at their leisure to determine just how much of the bustling marketplaces and lively lakefront they would like to experience. Ascona itself is also recognised as a centre for the arts as it has an abundance of galleries and craft shops nestled down quiet alleyways.

### Places of interest on Lake Maggiore

- **Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna** – housed in the Palazzo Pancaldi, exhibiting works by local artists as well as famous artists connected with Ascona, including Paul Klee
- **Casa Anatta Museum**, Monte Verita – dedicated to the 'back to nature' enthusiasts from the beginning of the century
- **Settimane Musicali** – this international festival of classical music is held between August and October each year in Ascona
- **Festa New Orleans** – a Jazz Festival held at the end of June on open-air stages
- **Isles of Brissago** – accessible by boat and known for their botanical gardens
- **Ronco** – famous for its cigars
- **Madonna del Sasso**, Locarno – the sanctuary has an enviable hillside position, from which you can look down across Locarno and Ascona; inside, famous paintings are exhibited in the church, and unique statues line the stairway
- From the sanctuary, take a **cable car** up to Cardada, and then to Cimetta at 1672m above sea level
- **Locarno's Old Town** – rich with Italianate squares and arcaded townhouses; this is also the best place to seek out some pre-17th century churches
- **Castello Visconti**, Locarno – this 15th century castle houses a Roman and bronze age exhibition
- **Locarno International Film Festival** – for two weeks in August, since 1948, the Piazza Grande is taken over by this festival every evening
- **Giardini Jean Arp**, Locarno – a lakeside park populated by surrealist sculptures
- **Bellinzona** – the capital of Ticino and home to three medieval castles; each has its own museum
- **Grand Castle**, Bellinzona – the middle of the three castles; dates from the 6th century
- **Montebello Castle**, Bellinzona – raised above the town
- **Sasso Corbaro Castle** – higher on the hillside, and therefore requires more of a walk



Lake Maggiore, Ticino

- **Bellinzona Saturday Market** – on the main street
- **Piazza Blues**, Bellinzona – an open-air Blues festival that lasts for three days at the end of June
- **Lugano's Old Town** – full of winding alleyways and quaint piazzas; every Tuesday in the summer, a free guided walk is conducted by the Tourist Office
- **St Lawrence Cathedral** – this cathedral has a Renaissance façade and three elegant doorways; frescoes from the 16th century decorate the interior
- **Alprose Chocolate Museum**, Lugano – tour the factory of Switzerland's largest chocolate manufacturer and learn about the history of chocolate production
- **Lido**, Lugano – offering beaches and swimming pool
- **Primavera Concertistica** – a series of classical music concerts held in Lugano during April and May
- **Monte San Salvatore** – bearing an uncanny resemblance to the Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro
- **Monte Bre** – take the funicular railway from Casserate to reach the summit
- **Centovalli Express** – take this two hour journey from Locarno to Domodossola in northern Italy, passing many pretty villages and striking historic buildings: including the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Blood in Re

### Local sports

- Walking and hiking on Monte Tamaro, Monte Bre, and Monte San Salvatore
- Swimming in Locarno and Lugano
- Water sports on Lake Maggiore or Lake Lugano

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque waterside towns and villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days on Lake Maggiore 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

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay at the Eden Roc Hotel in Ascona. Other options in Ticino are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### EDEN ROC HOTEL

#### *5 star superior*

The five star superior Hotel Eden Roc proudly sits on the banks of Lake Maggiore in Ascona, Ticino. This area of Northern Italy is known for its stunning natural beauty, as green mountains rise on either side of the deep blue waters of the Italian and Swiss Lakes, separated from the tranquil hotel swimming pool by a row of swaying palm trees. Behind the yachts and private boats of its own personal marina, the Hotel Eden Roc is a modern building with an abundance of large windows and long balconies. Divided into the Hotel Eden Roc and the Eden Roc Marina, the vast selection of room types are split across two main areas, and linked by a low-rise lobby and public area. Gardens, trees, sun loungers, and parasols extend right up to the water's edge, providing idyllic, verdant spaces in which to relax and enjoy the sunshine.

Inside, a traditional grandeur is introduced in a sleek, sophisticated fashion. In the Eden Roc Marina, the dining room is decorated with intricate chandeliers, floral curtains, and vases in the centres of tables. The radiant white colour scheme, minimalist furniture designs, and double-storey windows, bring these traditional features up to date. Guests can enjoy the fresh mountain air while dining on one of the restaurant terraces, in the walled waterside courtyard at La Casetta, or in the pretty poolside garden at the Restaurant Eden Roc. During the day, guests are encouraged to indulge further at the ultra-modern Wellness Centre and Spa. The main spa rooms are lit by an ethereal blue light, with a choice between a crescent-moon-shaped dipping pool and a larger half-indoor half-outdoor swimming pool. Enjoy a range of personalised treatments, before relaxing in the spacious lounge, the sauna, or enjoying a beauty treatment.

At the end of a relaxing day, retire to your room. Each guestroom has been individually appointed, with quirky, colourful features and bold artworks which inspire a themed colour scheme. All are spacious, with textured, tactile fabrics, and large windows and balconies that open up onto unbeatable views. For the ultimate Ascona experience, upgrade at the time of booking to a room with a direct lake view. The area around Ascona is perfect for day excursions, with plenty of cultural activities



*Eden Roc Hotel pool*

in neighbouring Locarno, and excellent train connections to cities such as Lugano, and Italianate Bellinzona.

### ROMANTIK HOTEL CASTELLO SEESCHLOSS

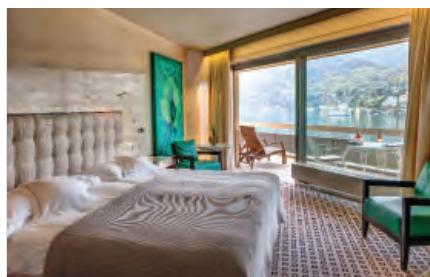
#### *4 star*

The four star Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss Ascona overlooks the waters of Lake Maggiore from its position in Locarno's peaceful neighbouring town. The most striking feature is the 13th century castle tower, which will be the first thing you see as you approach. Vines creep up the pale plastered walls, curving around the shuttered arched windows, and folding over onto the balconies towards the top. A weathervane crowns the tower. In the gardens either side of the front entrance, palm trees create shady tropical spaces, which give the hotel a slightly Mediterranean look. Move past the grand façade into interior spaces that blend classical themes with stylish modern design. In the dining room of Ristorante al Lago, for example, a stone wall tinged green by the reflection of the trees through the wall-to-ceiling glass windows adds exception character, though the tables

and chairs are simple, wooden designs, with the hotel logo embossed into the upholstery. Here, guests can indulge in exquisite Mediterranean cuisine, or enjoy coffee and cake in the afternoon. At Ristorante Locanda de'Ghirigioni, traditional Ticino dishes, particularly pasta dishes, are served in a pretty courtyard amongst flowers, trees, and beside the pillars of the castle. For the true experience of staying in a 13th century castle, with all the original opulence and charm, we would recommend staying in a Castle Room. Every room at this hotel, however, has been lovingly and carefully appointed with the colourful town of Ascona and the building's prestigious history in mind. Complete your stay at the Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss Ascona with a unique experience of aperitifs and tapas-style snacks on the rooftop terrace of the castle tower. Ticino white wine, Prosecco di Valdobbiadene from Venice, Franciacorte Brut, and Laurant Perrier Champagne can all be enjoyed alongside the magnificent views across the brightly coloured houses of Ascona, Locarno, and the tranquil waters of Lake Maggiore.



*Terrace*



*Guestroom*



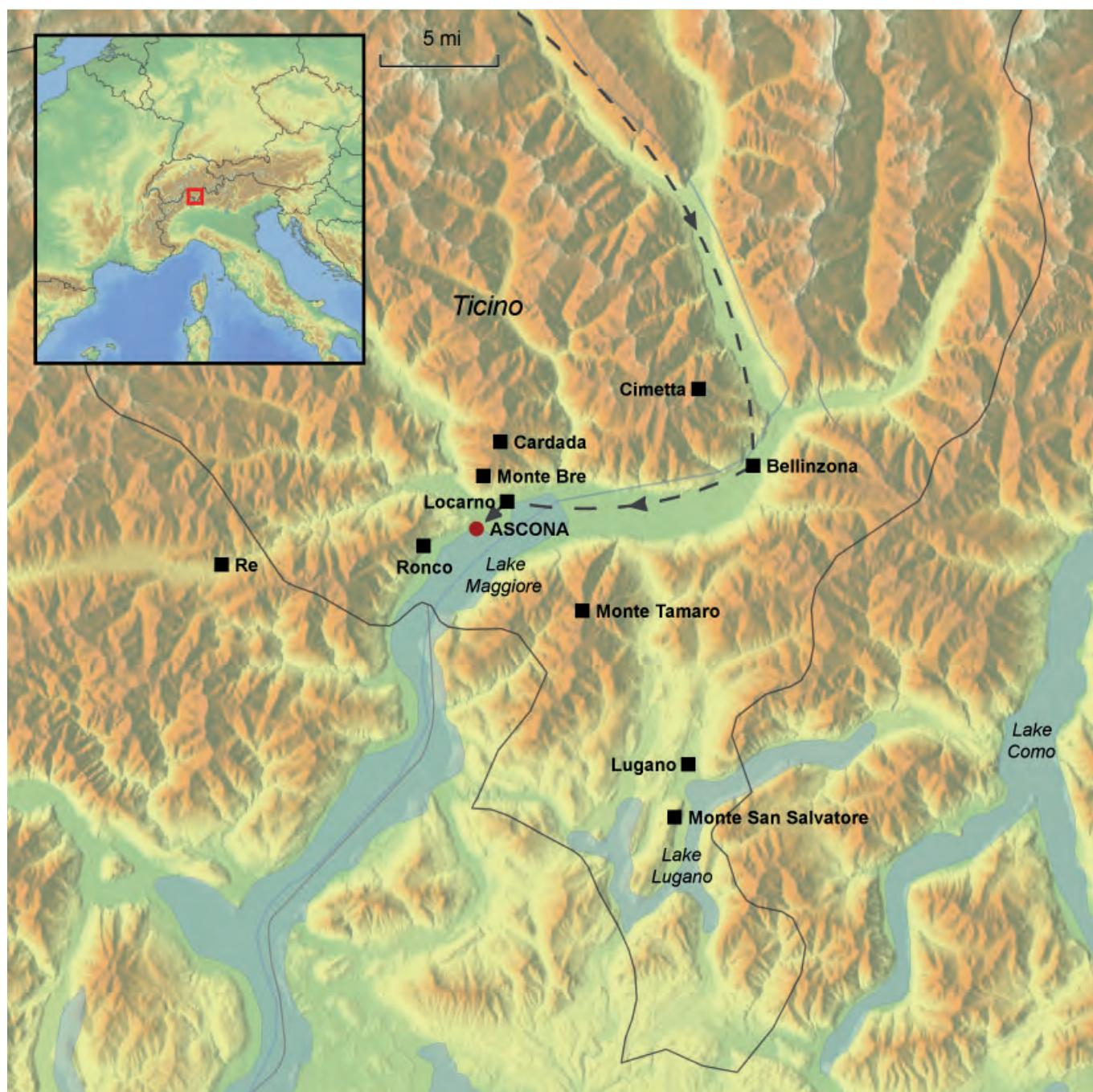
*Exterior*



## MAP OF BY RAIL TO SWISS LAKE MAGGIORE HOLIDAY

*Expressions*

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.

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### 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

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#### **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
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- Children under the age of 16 travel free of charge when accompanied by at least one parent holding the Swiss Family Card

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### 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.

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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 Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss), from £1,910 per person  
Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 4 star hotels (eg Romantik Hotel Castello Seeschloss), from £1,790 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 Hotel Eden Roc), from £2,860 per person  
Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

Flights to/from Switzerland and second class rail travel in Switzerland at 5 star hotels (eg Hotel Eden Roc), from £2,740 per person  
Supplement: First class rail in Switzerland £240 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.

# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to the Bernese Oberland Holiday





## By Rail to the Bernese Oberland Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Grindelwald

Wengen

Interlaken

Lauterbrunnen

Eiger

Monch

Jungfrau



Bernese Oberland

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Grindelwald, via Paris, Basel, and Interlaken. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Grindelwald, in the shadow of the Jungfrau and just a stone's throw from other picturesque villages such as Wengen and Lauterbrunnen, and the perfectly poised town of Interlaken. Use your time here to explore the surrounding mountain peaks on foot or by funicular, rack railway, or cable car, taking in the views across the Swiss Mittelland and Valais and Ticino south of the Jungfrau. The peaks of the Monch and the Eiger, the caves around Interlaken, the undulating green hills and agricultural fields, and the chocolate box villages nestled in the narrow valleys provide plenty of sporting and cultural activity to populate your stay here. This region of Switzerland is arguably the most scenic, and a stay of any less than seven nights would undoubtedly require an extension.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to Grindelwald by rail on your first day; or fly into Zurich and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves early in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Basel. Here, change for Interlaken, and then join the cogwheel railway up the mountainside to Grindelwald. Check into your resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Bernese Oberland, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the surrounding villages, lakes and mountains.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from Grindelwald back to Interlaken and Basel where you board the high-speed TGV to Paris. Meet the Eurostar here and cross the Channel, arriving in London in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

#### Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald

5 star (4 star options are available in neighbouring Wengen)

### PRICES

#### From £2,590 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. 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 class (first class can be booked at a supplement), OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Zurich
- 8 day Swiss rail pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- 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.

## ABOUT THE RESORT

Grindelwald sits in the eastern of the two valleys below Interlaken, Lake Brienz, and Lake Thun.

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With the Eiger directly to the south east, Grindelwald is not only enveloped in phenomenal views, but over 90km of hiking paths for all abilities. The Schwarzer Lutschine River runs to the south of the main street, which adds to the idyllic feel. To the west of the Grindelwald Valley is the Lauterbrunnen Valley, unusually square in shape, and sculptured over time by glaciers. Here, you will find waterfalls that cascade over the entrance to caves, as well as more hiking paths and the village of Wengen.

### Places of interest in the Bernese Oberland

- **Jungfrauoch** – the ‘top of Europe,’ this is the highest railway station in Europe, at 3,454m above sea level, and is accessible via a narrow cog railway
- **Aletsch Glacier** – the longest glacier in Europe
- **First** – hiking routes from First will take you to Schwarzhorn, Grosse Scheidegg, the Upper Glacier, Lake Bach, Faulhorn, or back to Grindelwald in under three hours each way; a longer hike of over five hours will take you to Schynige Platte
- **Upper Glacier** – accessible on foot in an hour and a half, or by postbus, with ice grottoes naturally decorated with ice bubbles that create colourful patterns; a track and a series of wooden ladders from the grottoes allow you to walk alongside the ice
- **Glacier Gorge** – within walking distance of Grindelwald
- **Cable cars** in the local area facilitate access to Pfingstegg and the local mountain summits
- **Pfingstegg** – offers the option of shorter hiking trails and access to the Lower Glacier
- **Yodelling Festival** – held in Grindelwald in July each year
- **Staubbach Falls**, outside Lauterbrunnen
- **Trummelbach Falls** – best viewed from inside the mountain, where the water is illuminated; rocks have been sculpted by the huge amount of water
- **Schilthorn** – at 2970m, the Schilthorn offers fantastic views across the mountains and valleys below, and the summit can be reached by the Stechelberg cable car; it was here that the famous scenes from On Her Majesty’s Secret Service were filmed
- **Piz Gloria Restaurant** – a revolving restaurant set on the hiking path up to the summit of Birg; breaks up the long hike
- **Lake Thun and Lake Brienz** – head to Thun, Brienz, or Interlaken to begin a lake cruise



Jungfrauabahn

- **St Beatus Caves** – impressive rock formations and a museum lie within
- **Harder Kulm** – a funicular railway takes you up past the panoramas on the way to the summit
- **Chasdorfli** – this dairy near Hoheweg offers demonstrations during the summer for visiting groups
- **Big Pintenfritz** – Europe’s longest toboggan run

### Local sports

- Hiking and walking along the many hiking trails
- Water sports – Interlaken, Faulensee, Darligen, and Gunten are good destinations for water sports
- Tobogganing outside Interlaken

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Bernese Oberland 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

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay in Grindelwald. Other options in the Bernese Oberland are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

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### ROMANTIK HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF

5 star

A five star property in the chocolate box village of Grindelwald, the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof is an authentic and charming option in the Bernese Oberland. Jagged icy mountains and towering pine forests provide an imposing and sublime backdrop to the very traditional main hotel building, adorned with Swiss flags, red shutters, and carved wooden balconies. Flanking this grand, authentic chalet are several smaller luxury chalets, connected to each other and to the main building by underground passageways, which are built out of modern light wood, and house bright, contemporary guestrooms within. 'Mittellegi,' 'Ostegg,' and 'Rotstocki,' are the affectionate names of these chalets, which can be booked as a whole for large groups, or by floor for couples or families seeking large suites. In Chalet Rotstocki, look out from your Superior Suite furnished in cutting-edge Italian design onto the Eiger North Wall and its neighbouring mountain peaks. In the main 'Residence' hotel building, the rooms have a much more traditional air. Rich fabrics and colours contrast the neutral palette of the chalets. Wooden furnishings, all of which have been beautifully finished, sit beside plush, regal armchairs and coffee tables topped with fruit baskets. Those travelling with children and who still prefer the traditional style have the option of the two or three bedroom suites in the 'Residence.' The Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof has three main restaurants, the Schmitte, the Gaststübl, and the Alpterrassen. Each has its own unique character. Schmitte serves a varied a la carte menu in a colourful setting, and is represented in the Michelin guide by three forks. Gaststübl serves very authentic and hearty Grindelwald and Bernese Oberland specialties in a homely dining room reminiscent of the famous Swiss stübls. The Alpterrassen restaurant serves a complimentary mix of regional and international dishes in a very light and airy



*Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof*

setting. In the summer, guests can also dine in the Schweizerhof Gardens, or on the romantic terrace. Hot drinks, aperitifs, and cocktails are served in the Hotel Bar throughout the day. The specially crafted Swiss wood seen on the exterior and in the rooms is used again in the bar to create the warm, welcoming feel of a mountain lodge. The Schweizerhof Spa is a chic haven of tranquillity, centred around the relaxing pool. Whirlpools and saunas, with atmospheric mood-lighting, are tucked into steamy corners, and indulgent massages and beauty treatments are administered in private treatment rooms. With two different hotel styles, which both channel two aspects of Swiss culture, the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof has something to offer each of its guests. Luxurious accommodation, food, and spa facilities come together to create a truly special five star hotel.



*Gaststübl Restaurant*



*Hotel lobby*

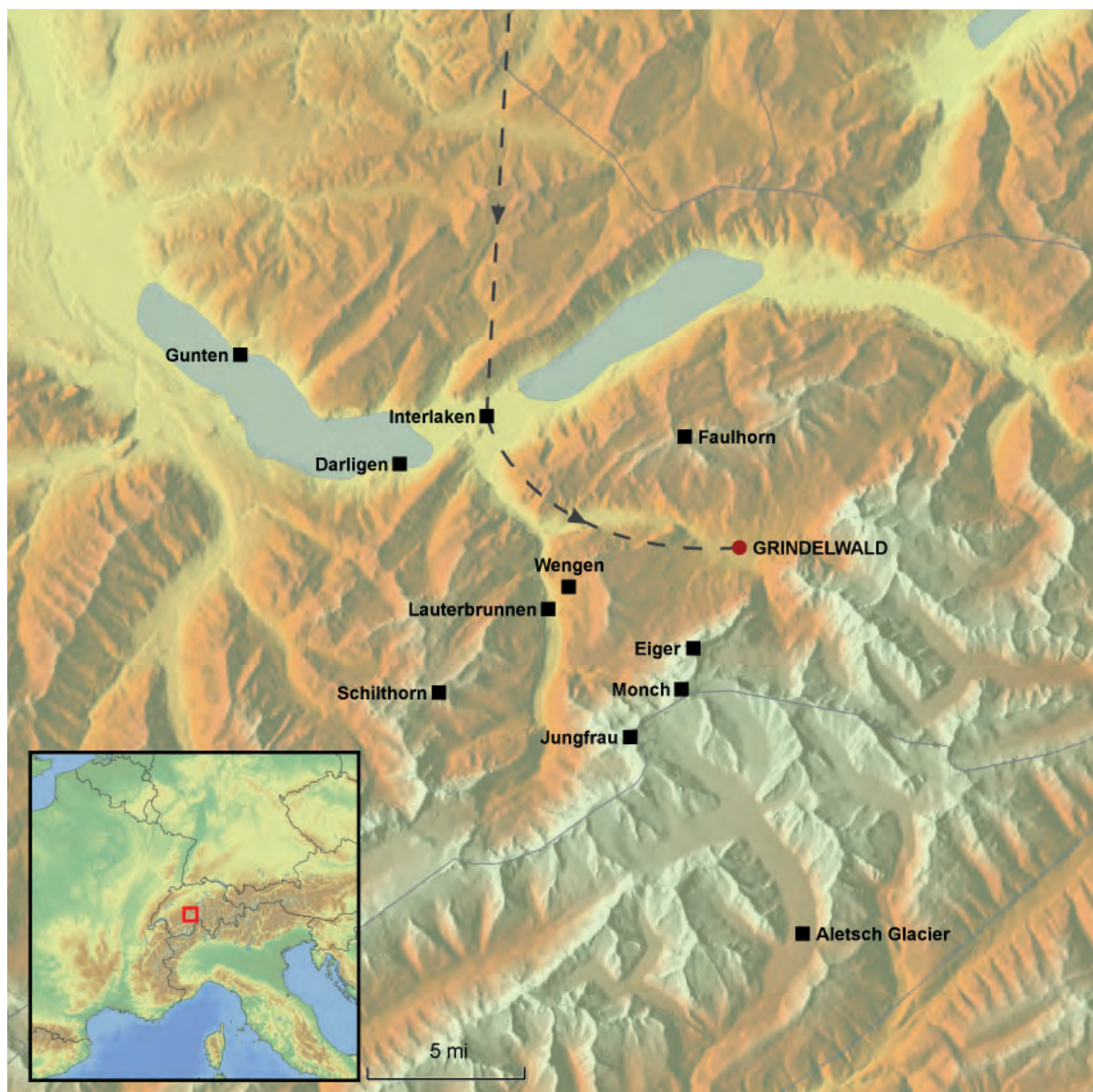


*Guestroom*

## MAP OF BY RAIL TO THE BERNESE OBERLAND HOLIDAY

*Expressions*

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 Holidays, 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 the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £2,650 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £2,590 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 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

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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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to the Engadine Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## By Rail to the Engadine Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

St Moritz

Suvretta Mountain

Lake St Moritz

Chur

Silvaplana



View over St Moritz

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to St Moritz, via Paris, Zurich, and Chur. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is St Moritz, in the shadow of the Suvretta Mountain and on the shores of the startlingly beautiful Lake St Moritz. Use your time here to explore the surrounding mountain peaks on foot or by funicular, rack railway, or cable car, taking in the views across the Engadine Valleys, the castles perched on high rocks, and the small villages almost completely hidden by forested mountain slopes. St Moritz itself has always been a particularly popular Swiss winter destination, but its value extends into the summer months, as the snow thaws to reveal a network of hiking trails and transforms the town itself into a chic collection of boutique shops and cafes, and gourmet restaurants. One of the highlights of your stay here will be the fantastic rail journeys that sit just on your doorstep, be it the local services that meander through the valleys or the grand Bernina Express, one of the most iconic rail journeys in Europe.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to St Moritz by rail on your first day; or fly into Zurich and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves early in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Zurich. Here, change for Chur, and then join the Bernina railways line to St Moritz. Check into your resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Bernese Engadine, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the surrounding villages, lakes and mountains, and taking a trip on the iconic Bernina Express.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from St Moritz back to Chur and Zurich where you board the high-speed TGV to Paris. Board the Eurostar here, arriving in London in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains 5 star  
Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz 4 star

### PRICES

#### From £1,910 per person

Based on double occupancy in a 4 star hotel, 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. 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 class (first class can be booked at a supplement) return OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Zurich
- 8 day Swiss rail pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- 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.



## ABOUT THE RESORT

St Moritz is situated in the southeast of Switzerland, in Grisons and the Engadine.

*Expressions*

At 1,822m above sea level, it is easy to see why St Moritz is popular in the winter; yet, this altitude also means excellent access to breath-taking vantage points and high-altitude rocky pathways, without compromising on proximity to three sublime lakes and a modern, chic town centre. Its population of only just over 5,000 people suggests the great extent to which St Moritz has retained its authentic Swiss character and peaceful atmosphere.

### Places of interest in the Engadine

- **Via Serlas** – the main shopping street in St Moritz
- **St Moritz's leaning tower** – a remnant from the Mauritius Church, which was built in the 1500s
- **Engadine Museum** – insight into regional architecture as well as history
- **Segantini Museum** – dedicated to a local artist
- **Piz Nair** – standing at 3,057m above sea level, the summit offers fantastic views of the lakes and valleys; it can be accessed by a three hour hike or by funicular railway followed by cable car
- **Piz Corvatsch** – accessible via cable car from Surlej
- **Celerina** – home of the Cresta Run, and just a 30 minute walk from St Moritz; the bobsleigh run is the oldest in the world
- **Silvaplana** – on a stretch of land that separates two lakes, Silvaplana is a hub for water sports
- **Sils** – separated into two parts, 'Baselgia' and 'Maria,' Sils was a favourite of Friedrich Nietzsche (the Nietzsche Haus is open to the public)
- **Corviglia** – a funicular railway will take you from St Moritz, through Chantarella, to Corviglia, where there are a number of gourmet restaurants and great access to the Piz Nair
- **Muottas Muragl** – the site of the first funicular railway in the Engadine, built in 1905
- **Zuoz** – comprised of typically Engadine houses with sgraffito designs, with a very historic central square; the key to the town's prison tower can be borrowed from the tourist office
- **Mustair** – home of the 8th century Abbey of St John the Baptist, which holds unique Carolingian paintings
- **Guarda** – very well preserved village with narrow cobbled streets, sgraffito houses, and fantastic views
- **Tarasp Castle** – on the way to Scuol; it rises majestically on top of a rocky bluff in the very middle of a verdant valley.
- **Bernina Express** – take a trip on the iconic



St Moritz

Bernina Express, travelling north to Davos and Chur, Switzerland's oldest city, or south across the Italian border to the secluded small town of Tirano

- **Swiss National Park** – 169sqkm of spectacular mountain and wooded scenery; perfect for observing animals and birdlife, including Ibexes and Marmots; visitors must stick to the paths at all times; the village of Zernez is known as the 'Gateway to the Swiss National Park,' and so makes an excellent starting point
- **Staz forest** – romantic carriage rides take you through the forest and around the town

### Local sports

- Hiking and walking along the 120km of hiking trails
- Tennis and Squash in St Moritz
- Horse-riding in St Moritz
- Water sports – windsurfing is best on windy Lake Silvaplana, but also available on Lake St Moritz
- Inn Valley gorges – these winding waterways are perfect for rafting in the summer months
- Golf – on the 18-hole course in Samedan
- Fishing – permits available from the Hotel Eden
- Tobogganing in Cresta
- Ludains Ice Arena – this rink is open throughout the summer

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Engadine 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

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay at one of the hotels below. Other options in the Engadine are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### KEMPINSKI GRAND HOTEL DES BAINS

5 star

The luxurious five star Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains was the first hotel to be built in St. Moritz. It was constructed in 1864 at the source of the Mauritius springs, used since Mediaeval times for their therapeutic benefits and which inspired the early development of this now famous spa resort. Offering traditional elegance in a breath-taking Alpine location, the hotel is spectacular and exhibits exquisite attention to detail in every aspect of its Italian palazzo-style design. Set against the imposing backdrop of the eternally snow-capped mountains, the turrets and two main towers of this fairytale castle strike a dramatic silhouette against the clear blue skies. Antique furniture and paintings, intricate cornicing detail and delicate chandeliers heighten the sleek grandeur and ambience of the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains. The impressive lobby has high ceilings, marble floors, and white stucco detailing worthy of a palatial residence, and the restaurant and bar Enoteca La Vigna features a 19th Century tiled stove and original frescoes which have been carefully restored to their original beauty, based on the photographs and etchings that similarly informed all of the restoration work on the hotel. Classicism and modernity have been seamlessly blended with the creation of the new Spa building, which also houses 14 suites. The extensive 2500 square metre St. Moritz Spa pays homage to the therapeutic powers of the Alpine environment in every aspect of design. Wood, water, stone, and natural lighting in every treatment room create a truly organic ambience which is similarly echoed in the styles and characteristics of the therapies. The swimming pool, heated to an inviting 29 degrees Centigrade and classically designed with an Art Deco edge to the simple black and white colour scheme, backs onto the imposing rock face of the mountainside. Fine dining is an essential feature of the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains. 'Les Saisons' offers international and seasonal cuisine; guests can select from an appetising array of a la carte dishes or from the gourmet menu which changes daily. 'Ca



*Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains*

d'Oro,' awarded an impressive 15 Gault Millau points, specialises in innovative variations on traditional Italian dishes. Its combination of traditional sophistication, superior service, contemporary furnishings, and vibrant modern paintings creates an ambience which is both comfortable and stylish. The guestrooms are modern and welcoming, using the warm tones of cherry wood and a soft colour palette to soothe and contrast with the brilliance of the natural landscape outside. For the ultimate indulgent experience there are two opulent suites; located in the towers of the hotel, they are flawlessly appointed in refined colour schemes of golden tones, rich reds, and champagnes befitting royalty. The Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains offers the discerning guest a luxurious pampering experience in an idyllic location throughout the year.



*Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains  
Guestroom*



*Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains dining*



*Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains spa*



## HOTELS

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay at one of the hotels below. Other options in the Engadine are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF ST MORITZ

**4 star**

Designed in the Belle Epoque style, the four star Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz has been hosting guests for over 100 years. Ever the popular destination, the hotel allows you to make the most of the fresh Alpine air, stunning panoramas, and plethora of cultural and sporting activities on offer in St Moritz. Inside, the interior design is kept simple to keep the focus on the rich blues and greens of the views, with elements that hark back to the hotels' origins and elements that suggest cutting-edge style. The guestrooms revolve around a neutral palette, with large windows that flood them with light, around which, in higher category rooms, cosy seating areas cluster. In all rooms, furnishings crafted from rich Swiss wood add classical warmth and a touch of local tradition. All of this is brought together by the bold red or blue of the bed throws and a little of what the hotel owners call 'St Moritz glitz.' In Restaurant Acla, which again blends classical wooden pieces with sleek monochromatic furniture, regional specialities are served alongside flavoursome international dishes. Try the Tafelspitz, made famous by the Habsburgs; aromatic coffee in the Acla Giardino; a grand breakfast between the high walls and beside the vast windows of the Segantini Saal; or Alpine specialities in the homely Alphutte Clavadatsch mountain lodge when it starts to get cooler. One of the highlights of your stay here will be the use of the relaxing spa facilities. Sit back in the solarium, taking in the views, in the sauna after a long day out, or enjoy a massage to revitalise your muscles after a brisk hike across the mountainsides. Finish off your day with a walk around the open-air rooftop terrace, which offers unrivalled views across the lake, the mountains, and the town of St Moritz itself.



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz lobby



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz terrace

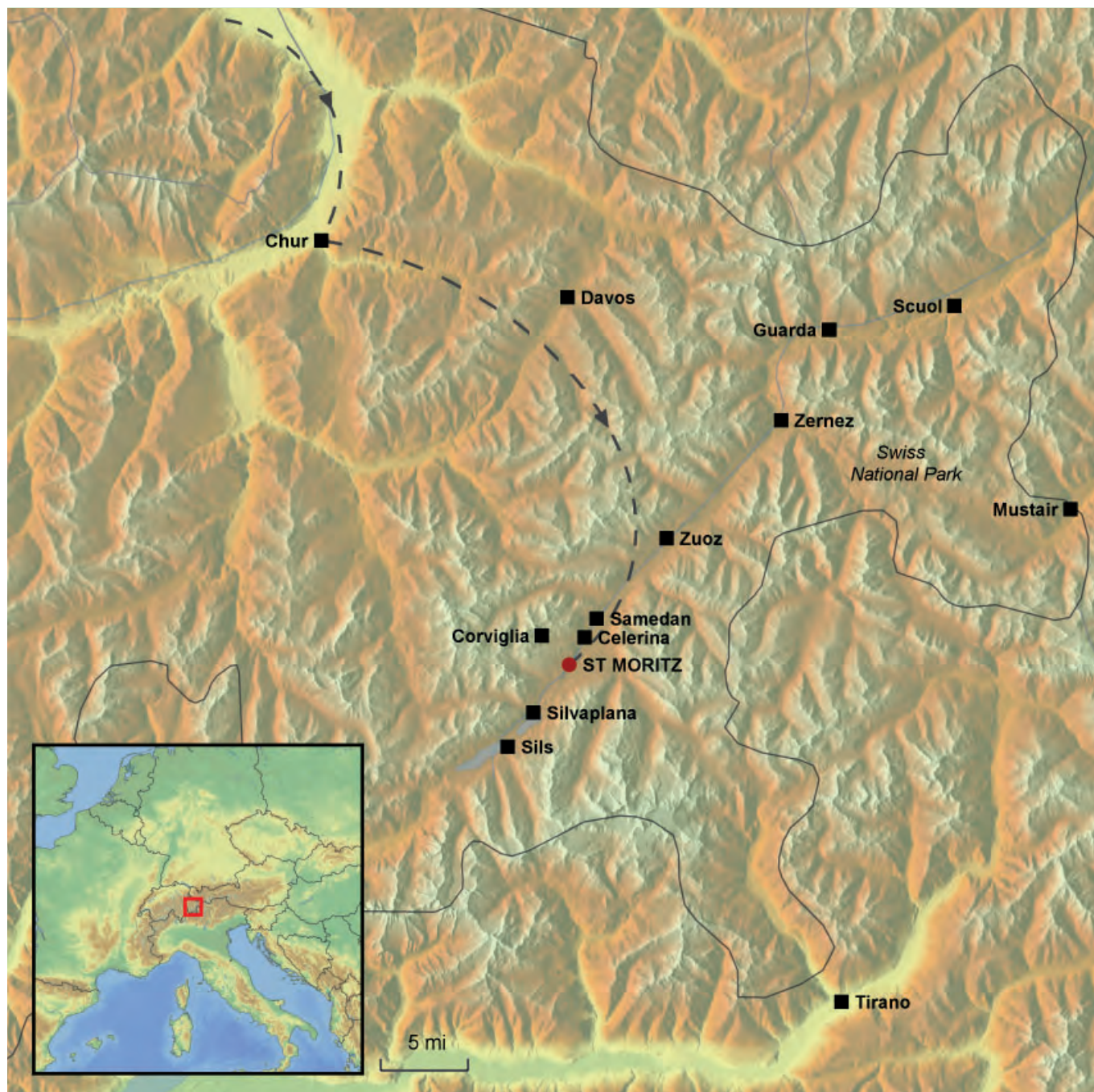


Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz spa terrace

## MAP OF BY RAIL TO THE VALAIS HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*





## 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.

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#### 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 the Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £2,020 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £1,910 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains.

**From £2,350 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains.

**From £2,240 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 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.



# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to Saanenland Holiday



[www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)  
01392 441217

## 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 £1,520 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.

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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.

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### 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*



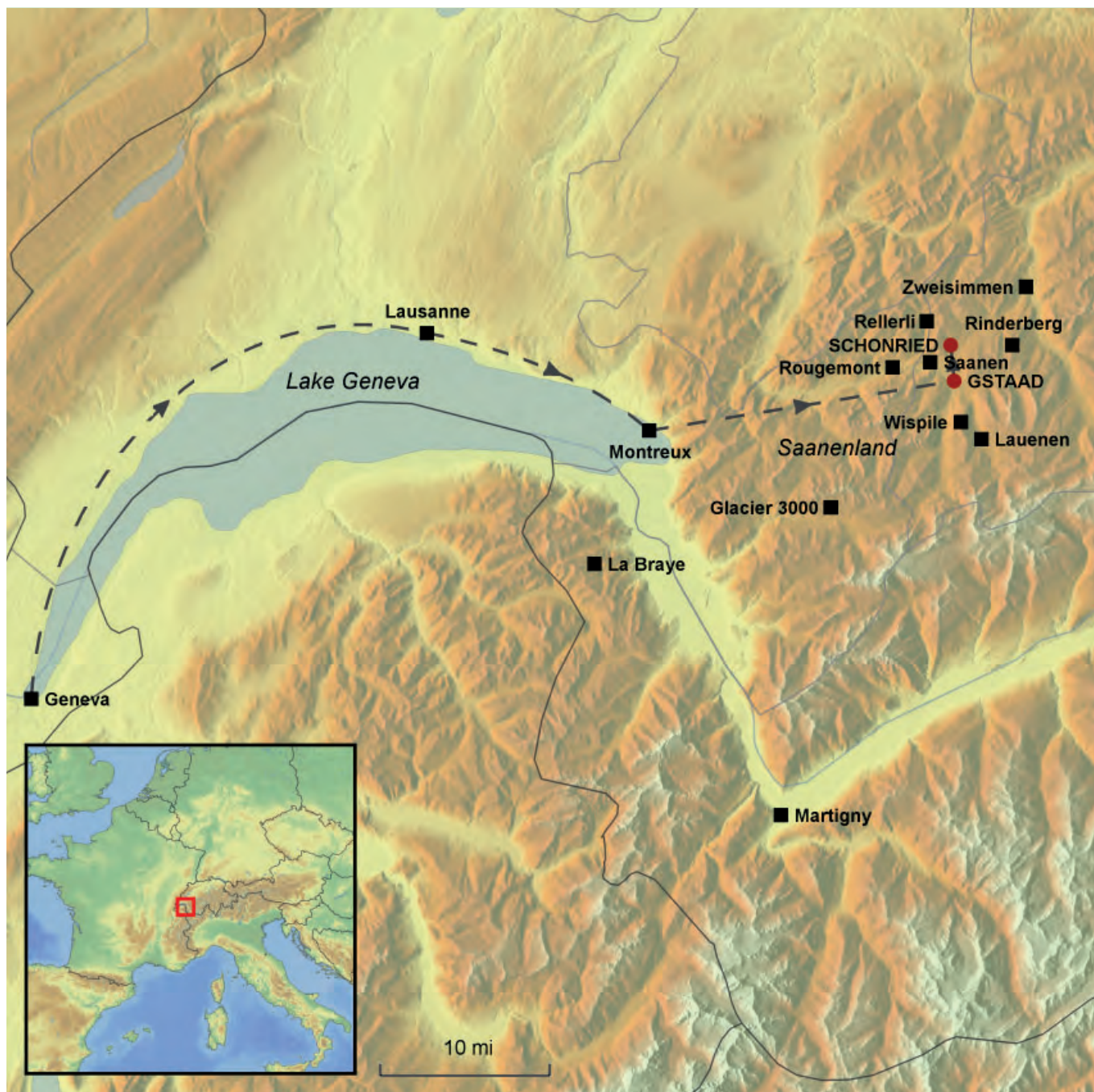
*Guestroom at the Alpenrose*



## MAP OF BY RAIL TO SAANENLAND HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*



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## 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 £1,590 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 £1,520 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

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# Rail holidays to Switzerland

*Expressions*



## By Rail to the Valais Holiday





## By Rail to the Valais Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Zermatt

Matterhorn

Gornergrat

Aletsch Glacier

Riffelhorn

Vineyards



Matterhorn

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Zermatt, via Paris, Lausanne and Visp. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Zermatt, nestled between the rocky sides of an Alpine valley, and home of the Matterhorn. This town is unendingly popular during the winter for ski holidays, though sits so close to the Italian border that during the summer it makes the perfect sunny hiking destination. Glaciers remain intact on the creaking slopes between mountain peaks, high-altitude pathways offer sensational and unforgettable views, vineyards to the south produce some of the best wine in the country, and the picturesque streets of Zermatt are laden with chic bars, characterful chalet houses, and gourmet restaurants. A seven night stay here proves to be the ideal length for any in-depth exploration, allowing guests to enjoy the treasures of the region at their own pace.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to Zermatt by rail on your first day; or fly into Geneva and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves a little before seven in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Lausanne. Here, change for a train along Lake Geneva to Visp in northern Valais. Finally, change for a direct train to your destination, Zermatt, arriving in the early evening. Check into your chosen resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Valais, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the mountains, the glaciers, and the hidden towns and villages.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board an morning train from Zermatt back to Visp and Lausanne. Take the TGV back to Paris to meet the Eurostar here and cross the Channel, arriving in London in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

**Hotel Butterfly** 3 star

**Romantik Hotel Julien** 4 star

**Grand Hotel Zermatterhof** 5 star

### PRICES

**From £1,520 per person**

Based on double occupancy in a 3 star hotel, 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. 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 class (first class can be booked at a supplement), return OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Geneva
- 3 day Swiss rail pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- 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.

## ABOUT THE RESORT

Under the imposing stare of the Matterhorn, Zermatt is a charming Alpine resort immersed in Switzerland's most stoic and sublime landscape.

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At over 1,600m above sea level, Zermatt offers excellent access to Valais' 8000km of hiking and walking paths, which weave between mountains, through valleys, and around crystal clear lakes and white glaciers. Zermatt is now a haven for elite sports visitors and the glamorous who want to experience the luxury hotels and excellent restaurants. The town centre is car-free, so retains a real sense of peace and serenity, without sacrificing its sophisticated, exclusive feel. Nature lovers will also find themselves at home here, with exceptional examples of Alpine flora, fauna, and panoramas in abundance.

### Places of interest in Valais

- **Matterhorn** – Zermatt's main attraction; hike or take the cable car up to visit the glacier
- **Matterhorn Museum** – on the slopes of the Matterhorn, this museum is divided into 14 huts that mimic the style of the original mountain villages
- **Gornergratbahn** – a cogwheel railway that takes you up to Gornergrat at 3100m, from where you can walk to the Gorner Glacier and take in the views across 38 mountains
- **Gornergrat** – the village itself holds a great deal of historic significance, with a Parish Church containing intriguing murals, a collection of very old timber houses, a cemetery that is the final resting place of many mountaineers, and the Alpine Museum
- **Parrotspitze** – on the Monte Rosa Massif, this almost perfectly-conical summit looks particularly beautiful when it emerges through the layer of clouds
- **Findel Glacier** – to the east of Zermatt, this glacier is reportedly gaining mass
- **Trockener Steg Mountain Station** – accessible by cable car, you can then walk to a nearby glacier and collection of shallow pools
- **Schwarzsee** – the Black Lake is a small expanse of water not far from Zermatt that offers sublime views, and is named after the colour of its water when reflecting the dark surrounding rocks; it is accessible via cable car
- **Stausee Mattmark** – a large lake with easy walk and trickling waterfalls
- **Lac de Moiry** – contained by the Barrage de Moiry, the waters of this lake are incredibly blue
- **Glacier Paradise Cable Car** – takes you up to Europe's highest viewing platform
- **Hornlihutte** – the restaurant and inn where climbers have stayed for decades before advancing up the Matterhorn
- **Alpine Folklore Parade** – held on 15th August each year, and involving over 1200 participants



Gornergratbahn above Zermatt

- **Ice Pavilion**, Saas Fee – an underground museum that informs visitors of the importance of glaciers and how they are formed; above ground is a revolving restaurant
- **Aletsch Glacier** – a river of ice; the longest glacier in the Alps, and reaching from the Jungfrau to the Rhone River; to the south is the Aletschwald, one of the highest pine forests in Europe and an excellent location for summer hikes
- **Riederalp** – home to an Alpine dairy and an Alpine museum
- **Brig** – further north in Valais is the city of Brig, home to the 17th century Stockalper Castle, built out of granite and volcanic rock and recognisable for its onion domes; it is the emblem of Valais
- **Brigerbad** – this town has the most open-air thermal baths in Switzerland, suited to those seeking the curative properties as well as more leisurely visitors
- **Leukerbad** – home to the hottest springs in Switzerland, Leukerbad was once a Roman settlement
- **Mauvoisin Dam** – a stunning piece of engineering, the dam is wedged in the narrow Bagnes Valley, and holds back 180 million cubic metres of water; public transport to this area is infrequent, so the trip requires a long hike
- **Sierre** – home to many beautiful Chateaux and surrounded by vineyards; the Chateau de Villa holds a wine museum

### Local sports

- Hiking – hikers may wish to tackle the challenges of the Matterhorn, the Hohtalli, the Unterrorthorn, the Breithorn, the Theodul Pass, the Riffelhorn, and the Gornergrat
- Hang-gliding and paragliding in Verbier
- Golf at Crans-Montana and Verbier
- Summer skiing on the Matterhorn – the Klein Matterhorn has the highest cable station in Europe, at 3820m.

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque historic towns and villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in Valais 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

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay at your choice of 3, 4, or 5 star hotel. Other options in Valais are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### HOTEL BUTTERFLY

#### 3 star

The three star Hotel Butterfly is nestled into a steep mountain valley in Zermatt, Switzerland. A popular destination for skiers, this town is often shrouded in a surreal snowy blanket. The Hotel Butterfly, therefore, has been designed with all the romantic features of a traditional ski chalet in mind. This picturesque wooden building has balconies across its full width, a shallow and sometimes snow-dusted roof, and colourful hanging baskets. Inside, the rustic feel is continued with the roaring fire and dim lamps of the lounge. Cosy armchairs, stone floorings, and dark wood furnishings welcome guests at the end of the day. The warm and homely restaurant serves delicious breakfasts and evening meals, and has an adjoining piano bar that will make your after-dinner drink that bit more relaxing. The rooms are equipped in a suitable, in-keeping way, with comfortable furnishings built out of the same dark wood as is so prevalent downstairs and intricate illustrations across the walls. Balcony rooms offer phenomenal views across Zermatt, wooded areas, and the jagged mountains beyond. This hotel works well as a one- or two-night stop-over on a longer rail touring holiday.



Hotel Butterfly

### ROMANTIK HOTEL JULEN

#### 4 star

A traditional wooden building, with a homely, welcoming ambience, the four star Romantik Hotel Julen captures the best of Swiss hospitality near the centre of Zermatt. This family-run business still carries the ethics and values of its founder, Meinrad Julen, who put the wellbeing and comfort of his guests at the forefront of his ambition. The dark wood panelled façade, complete with red shutters and colourful window boxes, introduces you to the traditional style of the interior, inspired by the 'Tradition Julen' that the owners pride themselves on. The rooms have a distinct chalet feel, with wooden walls and ceilings, colourful carpets, and rich textures and fabrics. Warm, golden lighting illuminates the space around the beds, and wide windows offer views across the mountains and icy peaks in the distance. Higher room categories

have more individual details, such as wrought iron candle holders and emerald tiled chimney breasts. The Julen Spa provides guests with a sanctuary in which to unwind after a day hiking across the mountains or exploring the pretty streets of Zermatt. A pool, equipped with waterfall and bubble bench is refreshing after a spell in the Finnish dry sauna. A caldarium relaxes muscles with its hot, bubbling water, and a laconium offers a cooler alternative to the sauna. On the walls, scenes of the ancient Egyptian landscape have been painted to contrast the turquoise tranquillity of the pool. Guests can also enjoy the atmospheric spa at the Hotel Alphenhof, which has additional Kneipp basins. Restaurant Julen, on the ground floor of the hotel, proves continually popular with local residents, serving snacks and light lunches until 2pm, and gourmet cuisine in the evenings. We would recommend reserving a table to ensure you are able to dine here during your stay. The decoration of the restaurant reflects the homely, friendly atmosphere of the hotel, with embroidered cushions, characterful details, and rustic

wooden tables. Guests are also free to use any of the restaurants and bars at the Julen family's other Zermatt hotels: the Hotel Alphenhof, and the Hotel Daniela. The brand new Papperla Pub, just across the road from Hotel Julen, for example, is the perfect place to spend the evenings, with live music, international guests, and a lively atmosphere. The Romantik Hotel Julen offers an authentic and memorable taste of traditional Swiss lifestyle, with many quirky characteristics and a very welcoming vibe.



Romantik Hotel Julen bar



Romantik Hotel Julen Guestroom



Romantik Hotel Julen

## HOTELS

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*Expressions*

### GRAND HOTEL ZERMATTERHOF 5 star

The five star Grand Hotel Zermatterhof in Zermatt is possibly the most prestigious address in the town. Its majestic façade, flanked by the hotel wings, has been rendered a pale cream. Accompanied by the wooden frames of its windows and the balconies, the building achieves a faintly French impression that sets it apart from others in Zermatt. This grand image is topped with gold lettering and fluttering red flags. Traditional themes, with French and Swiss flare, are continued inside. The dining room of the Prato Borni Gourmet Restaurant reflects the excellent Alpine ingredients that it serves. Beautiful crafted wooden chairs and tables are dressed with white and natural green cloth, while glass chandeliers hang above. An open kitchen allows guests to watch the impeccable design of their food come together under the hands of expert gourmet chefs. Brasserie Lusi enhances the French touch, but with the influence of the meaning of its name: in Zermatt, 'Lusi' is the name for the lantern that climbers used to take with them up the mountainside. The restaurant is therefore light, airy, and fresh, with mirrored walls framed by light polished wood and lilac flowers in the centre of the tables. To taste the most authentic local cuisine imaginable, enjoy the fondue at the dedicated Cheese Restaurant, which celebrates the most prosperous product of the Alps. In the two hotel bars, guests can choose between old-world Swiss style and bright modern interior design while they enjoy a specially crafted cocktail or a glass of wine from the vineyards of Valais' southern border. The guestrooms have the kind of individual detail and luxurious comfort that is associated with five star hotels, as each one seems to have been taken from a regal Swiss stately home. Warm-hued wooden furnishings are accompanied by neutral bed covers, bold golden cushions, rich fabric curtains, and subtle, homely ornamentation. Large windows look out onto wrought iron French balconies decorated with pink flowers. The overall effect is one of warmth, comfort, and light. There is space enough here to spend a few hours enjoying peaceful, private relaxation



*Grand Hotel Zermatterhof*

at the end of a day exploring Zermatt. The Alpine Spa is perfect for whiling away a few hours one afternoon or morning; equipped with swimming pool and waterfalls, soothing treatment rooms, a cosy lounge, an intriguing ice grotto, and a range of saunas that promote different aspects of wellbeing. Guests are sure to finish their stay here feeling rejuvenated and revived. The Grand Hotel Zermatterhof is recommended for those looking for a relaxing, indulgent few nights at the foot of some of Switzerland's most popular mountains.



*Grand Hotel Zermatterhof lobby*



*Grand Hotel Zermatterhof pool*



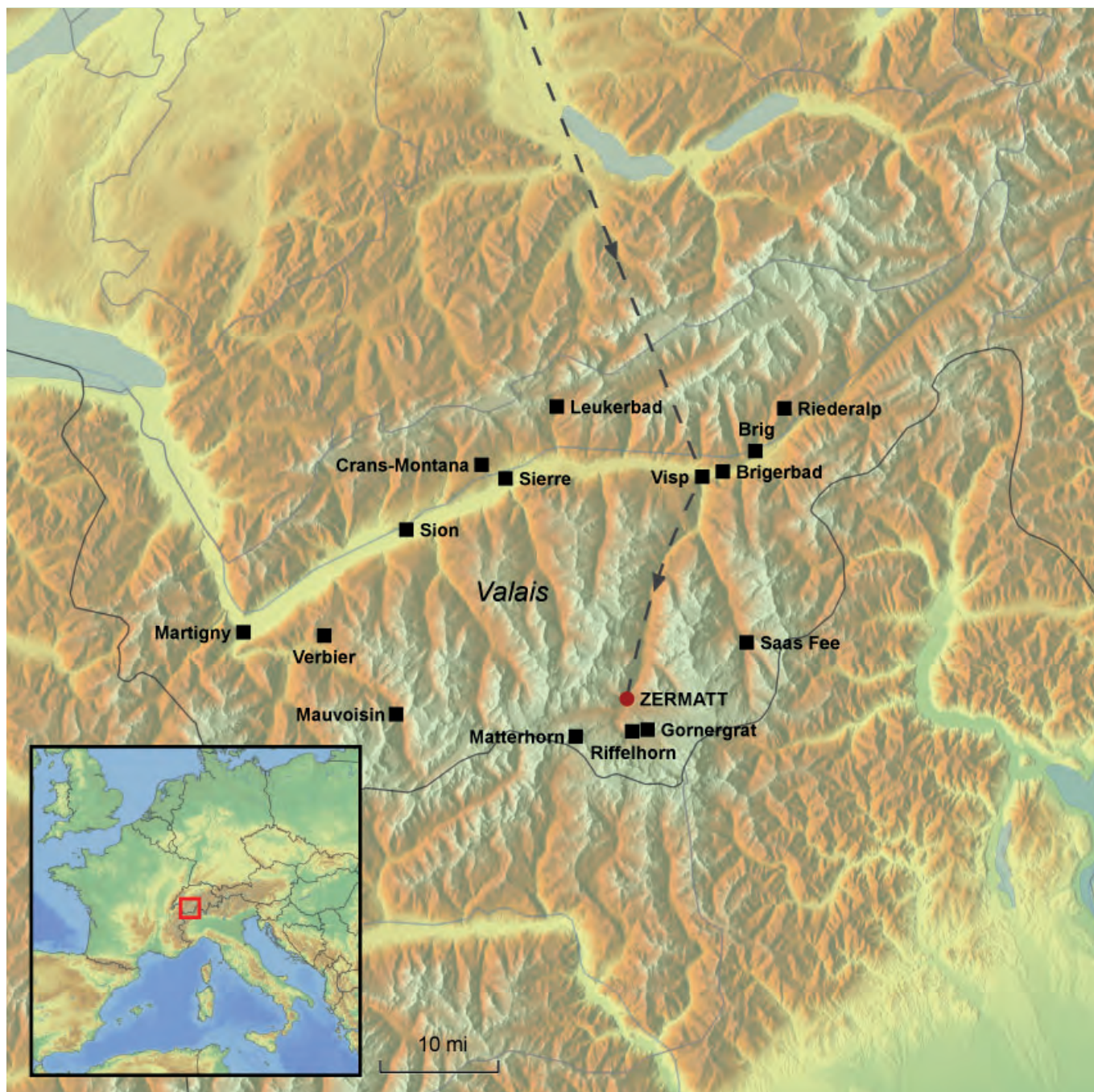
*Grand Hotel Zermatterhof Deluxe Double Room*



## MAP OF BY RAIL TO THE VALAIS HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with places of interest highlighted.

*Expressions*



## 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 Holidays, 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 the Hotel Butterfly.

**From £1,580 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Hotel Butterfly.

**From £1,520 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at the Romantik Hotel Julien.

**From £1,980 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Romantik Hotel Julien.

**From £1,920 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 per person

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof.

**From £2,070 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

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**From £2,010 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 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.

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