

# ***SWITZERLAND RAIL TOUR***



**MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE**

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## Switzerland by Train Self-Guided Tour

Duration: 12 days

Departs: 2024 & 2025 select dates

Stay: 11 nights hotels

Travel style: Independent tour

Booking code: SWRT12M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

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# 12 Days Swiss Rail Independent Tour

## About the holiday

This trip is an independent tour using Swiss Rail and seeing the best of Switzerland by world-famous rail journeys.

Explore this dreamy part of the world at your own pace. From the soaring Alps to the picturesque Swiss Riviera - set your sights on an active journey across Switzerland by train. Walk through centuries-old vineyards and taste unparalleled Swiss wine. Soak in views of the Matterhorn from the mountain town of Zermatt. Admire the landscape from your train window as you journey along the country's valleys.

Start with sophisticated Zurich and then see the land-locked country the best way, on world-famous scenic train journeys through the Swiss Alps. Experience the alpine wonderland of Jungfrauoch - Europe's highest railway station, explore cosmopolitan cities, charming Swiss villages and resort destinations like Lucerne, Lugano, St. Moritz, Montreux and Interlaken.

Receive your personal Swiss Travel Pass, granting you entrance into all of Switzerland's 500 museums. Nestled between four countries, you'll discover a world of pastoral splendour, striking mountains and crystalline lakes.

## Why you'll love this trip...

- Enjoy the flexibility of independent travel with all arrangements made for you
- World-famous scenic train journeys through the Swiss Alps, including the spectacular Golden Pass Express, Gotthard Panorama, Glacier Express, Bernina Express
- Visit Jungfrauoch, Europe's highest railway station

## Travel dates:

Departs regularly from April to October

*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date and please ask us for travel at other times of the year.*



## Independent tour includes:

- **Hotels** - 11 nights accommodation in standard rooms, based on twin share
  - 2 nights Zurich
  - 1 night Lucerne
  - 1 night Lugano
  - 2 nights St. Moritz
  - 2 nights Zermatt
  - 1 night Montreux
  - 2 nights Interlaken
- **Meals** - Daily breakfast
- **Rail Pass** - Dedicated rail ticket in 2nd or 1st class, as per the itinerary, including seat reservation on all scenic trains

## Package excludes:

International flights - please contact us for the latest airfare deals

Airport & railway station transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, tipping, WiFi etc.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

***Subject to confirmation by hotels, rail company & local operators.  
Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.***

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call 1300 168 910

## Itinerary:

### Day 1 - Zurich

Welcome to Switzerland. After your arrival at the airport, make your own way to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of day at leisure. As a lakeside "metropolis of experiences", with a magnificent view of the snow-capped Alps on the horizon, Zurich offers a unique mixture of attractions.

Start with the beauty of the city's natural surroundings. If you feel like getting a better view, take the train to the summit of Uetliberg Mountain. From the station, it's a short walk to the peak and the scenery is incredible over Zurich, the lake and the Alps. Or if you're in the Old Town and fancy a vantage point, you can walk up Lindenhof Hill for sweeping views over the

### Day 2 - Zurich

Wake up to a delicious Swiss breakfast, then take a stroll along the famous Bahnhofstrasse - Zurich's shopping paradise. A quick detour will lead you to the narrower cobbled streets of Zurich's Old Town and its smaller, independent artisan shops. Use your included 24-hour Zurich Card for local transport and various discounts across the city. Be sure to not miss the picturesque waterfront promenades!

### Day 3 - Zurich - Lucerne

After breakfast, transfer by rail to Lucerne in Central Switzerland, situated in an enviable location surrounded by a stunning lake and mountain panorama. The historic town of Lucerne attracts visitors globally with its well-preserved old town, countless shops and restaurants. A visit to Chapel Bridge, which has stood the test of time as a traditional crossing for locals, is one of many highlights that are sure to impress.

### Day 4 - Lucerne - Flüelen Gotthard Panorama Express - Lugano

This morning, the Gotthard Panorama Express takes you from the heart of Switzerland, with a journey through Lake Lucerne on a paddle steamer boat. From Flüelen, travel by first-class panoramic train to Lugano, a picturesque lakeside town in Switzerland's Italian-speaking Ticino region.

### Day 5 - Lugano - Tirano Bernina Express St. Moritz

Board the Bernina Express bus after breakfast, and enjoy a scenic drive to Italy-based Tirano where you join the Bernina Express panoramic train across the border back to Switzerland. You will travel over circular viaducts and pass through winding tunnels, with highlights including the Brusio Circular Viaduct and a photo stop at Alp Grüm.

Arrive in St. Moritz, a luxury alpine resort town in Switzerland's Engadin valley, and spend the rest of the day at leisure. This luxury alpine resort town, a favourite for celebrities and royals, is surely one of the world's most famous winter sports resorts. This was the first mountain village in the country to have a ski school, a tram and electric lighting. The Winter Olympics have been held here twice. It's a renowned ski destination.

### **Day 6 - St. Moritz**

A full day awaits to explore St. Moritz, where guests from all over the world appreciate the modern Alpine lifestyle. Take advantage of your included guest card to visit the local area. We suggest the nearby mountains of Muottas Murgal or Diavolezza for incredible views that are not to be missed. Various sights including the leaning tower, a remnant of the Mauritius Church from around 1500, or the Segantini Museum, offer unique insight into the city's fascinating history.

### **Day 7 - St. Moritz Glacier Express - Zermatt**

Ride the world-famous Glacier Express to Zermatt today, a gorgeous village near the Italian border. Be enthralled by Switzerland's spectacular scenery, thanks to oversized, panoramic windows that make for an unforgettable experience. Along the deep Rhone valley, the Glacier Express travels through an incredibly fascinating part of the Alps. The route famously takes you through 91 tunnels and 291 bridges, offering unrivalled views. Make sure to have your camera handy! Optionally, you may wish to dine at your seat with a delicious 3-course meal served on your table (additional charges apply).

### **Day 8 - Zermatt**

Zermatt lies at the foot of the iconic Matterhorn peak. The town's touristic development is closely linked to what is arguably the world's most famous mountain. This car-free resort offers guests an abundance of activities such as visits to the local mountains of Gornergrat or the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. It is also home to the highest open-air cog railway in Europe.

### **Day 9 - Zermatt - Montreux**

Continue by train to Montreux, nestled between steep hills and the lakeside of Lake Geneva. The town's promenade is lined with flowers, sculptures, Mediterranean trees and grand Belle Époque buildings. Nearby attractions include the medieval island castle, Chateau de Chillon and the vineyards of the Lavaux region.

### **Day 10 - Montreux - GoldenPass Express - Wilderswil**

Your journey continues by train on the GoldenPass Express through the wild and romantic Pays d'Enhaut, complete with scenic villages and crystal-clear lakes at every corner.

Interlaken is a laidback resort town, presided over by three mighty mountains, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. It makes a great base from which to explore the Bernese Oberland. Unprecedented views of the Swiss Alps give an impression of what is to come during your stay.

Höheweg, the main promenade of Interlaken, is lovely for a stroll. It runs from Lake Brienz to Lake Thun, with flower gardens and parks on one side allowing for a view of the Bernese Alps. On the other side you'll find high-end hotels, boutiques, cafes and the casino.

### **Day 11 - Wilderswil - Jungfrauoch - Wilderswil**

This morning you will embark on a self-guided excursion to the Jungfrauoch, also known as the highest railway station in Europe. You may choose to go via Grindelwald Terminal on the technical marvel that is Eiger Express cable car, or take the traditional route by train from Grindelwald via Kleine Scheidegg. Highlights include the world's highest Lindt Chocolate Shop and the Ice Palace with its impressive ice sculptures.

### **Day 12 - Wilderswil - Zurich**

Today marks the end of your tour through Switzerland. We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed your holiday. Please make your way to Zurich airport for your onward journey.

**Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, rail conditions, road accessibility, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.**

### **About the Glacier Express:**

The Glacier Express is a regular scheduled train between Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn and St Moritz in the Engadin skiing area. Billed as Europe's slowest express, it's a narrow-gauge train which takes 7½ hours to cover just over 290 km (180 miles), at an average of around 24 mph. But you won't mind, as spectacular Swiss mountain scenery unfolds outside the train's panoramic sightseeing windows while you eat lunch accompanied by crisp Swiss white wine (their Johannisberg white wine is wonderful). The Glacier Express is run jointly by two private Swiss railways, the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGB) and the Rhätische Bahn (RhB), who also operate the hourly local trains over the same route. In 2017 they formed a separate company to operate the Glacier Express, Glacier Express AG. There is one daily Glacier Express train in each direction in winter, but up to three daily Glacier Expresses in summer.

## About the Bernina Express:

The fabulous *Bernina Express* is a narrow gauge train with panoramic sightseeing cars run by the Rhätische Bahn between Chur in Switzerland and Tirano in northern Italy. It's perhaps the most scenic Alpine train ride train of all - although the Glacier Express competes for the title - and one of the most scenic train rides in the world. It forms part of an alternative slow scenic route between Zurich and Milan. You can ride it all year round, a completely different experience through Alpine snows in winter and through sunny green meadows in summer. So you should probably ride it more than once!

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### **MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS**

**Please read the following information prior to making your reservation**

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.

3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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