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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Across the Spine of the Alps

From £2,099 per person // 13 days



Travel from Zermatt, in the shadow of the Matterhorn, through the best of the Swiss and Austrian Alps, to picture-perfect Lake Bled in Slovenia's Julian Alps.

The Essentials

- Travel from Zermatt in Switzerland to Lake Bled in Slovenia
- The world-famous Glacier Express in Switzerland.
- Arlberg Pass from Switzerland into Austria
- Lake Bled: picturesque Slovenian village resort
- Overnight stop on the return journey in the charming city of Heidelberg

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 12 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, hotel vouchers and other documentation
- All credit card surcharges and complimentary delivery of your travel documents

PLEASE NOTE: The Glacier Express does not run between mid-October and mid-December. Between these dates, you can still make the journey of the Glacier Express using public trains.

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Zermatt

Depart London St Pancras in the morning bound for Paris. After a comfortable journey, you will transfer across the busy city to Gare de Lyon, where you will take a connecting service down to Basel in northern Switzerland. Here, you change onto the Swiss network for the scenic journey south to the resort-town of Zermatt. Check in at the Garni Testa Grigia Hotel (or similar) for a 2-night stay, at the foot of the Matterhorn. TMR RECOMMENDS: If you have far to travel to pick up the Eurostar at the start of your journey, why not consider stopping for a night in Paris en route? We can also arrange flights to Geneva, Zurich or Basel if you would prefer.



Day 2 - Zermatt

One of the Alps' premier resorts, Zermatt is popular year round with skiers, hikers, mountain bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The resort is equipped with a range of lifts, which are popular with hikers in summer and skiers in winter. The huge peak of the Matterhorn looms large over the town, which marks your most westerly point of the mountain range. You can also take a trip on the Gornergrat Mountain Railway, offering panoramic views of not only the Matterhorn but also the surrounding ranges.



Day 3 - Glacier Express To Chur

You will be treated to stunning scenery as you depart on the Glacier Express, the world's slowest express train, for the journey to Chur. You will be able to gaze out of the panorama windows that stretch across the roof of the train and sample delicious local cuisine served to your seat, while you enjoy commentary on headphones that complement your journey. On arrival in Chur, make your way to the Ambiente Hotel Freieck (or similar) where you will stay for 3 nights.



Days 4 & 5 - Chur And The Bernina Express

Chur is one of the oldest settlements in Switzerland, with a history dating back to the third millennium BC. The restaurants, boutiques and galleries of the medieval Old Town give the city a Mediterranean feel. On one of your two days here, you will have a return trip on the Bernina Express, which runs down to Tirano in Italy before returning in the afternoon. You'll travel across viaducts, alongside rivers and through some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere in Europe.



Day 6 - Chur To Innsbruck

Depart Chur after breakfast and head back to the station for your next rail journey, making an easy change at the small station of Sargans to connect with an Austrian RailJet train, which takes you through the tiny principality of Liechtenstein and over the dramatic Arlberg Pass, a trading route for thousands of years. Arriving into the Tyrolean capital, Innsbruck, you will check into your hotel, the Hotel Innsbruck (or similar) for a 2-night stay.



Day 7- Innsbruck

Spend a full day exploring the city and surrounding area. Wander the cobbled lanes and charming open squares of the old town centre, or strike out to the surrounding hills in what is unofficially dubbed "the capital of the Alps". TMR RECOMMENDS: DAY TRIP TO GARMISCH. Take the ultra-scenic ride through the Austrian Tyrol to the German ski resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The train passes through some of the Alps' finest scenery and an array of shops, bars and restaurants await you in Germany's premier mountain resort.



Day 8 - Innsbruck To Lake Bled

One of Europe's lesser known scenic rail journeys takes you east this morning from Innsbruck, through Tyrolean villages and alongside lakes and glacial streams, connecting with the main line at the junction station of Schwarzach-St Veit. The subsequent service, an Intercity train from Salzburg and Munich, whisks you through the heart of the Austrian Alps and through the Karawanken Tunnel into Slovenia. Shortly after emerging into Slovenia, your train will pull into the town of Lesce Bled, where you will transfer through to the Hotel Lovce (or similar) on Lake Bled, for a 3-night stay.



Days 9 & 10 - Lake Bled

One of the most picturesque spots in Europe, Lake Bled covers only half a square mile, but features a beautiful island complete with 17th-century church. The lake is popular with swimmers, fishermen and boat-lovers, who flock from Slovenia and neighbouring countries during the summer. A number of hikes are possible in the nearby Triglav National Park, which contains over 340 square miles of protected flora and fauna. Try the local custard and cream cake, Kremšnita, as well as fresh fish from the lake. 1906 Restaurant in the Hotel Triglav, is an eatery well-worth a visit during your stay!



Day 11 - Lake Bled To Graz

Return to Lesce Bled station this morning and catch a regional train to Slovene capital Ljubljana. Here, transfer onto a direct service which takes you along the banks of the Sava River, through stunning Slovenian countryside and across the Austrian border to Graz. The terrain becomes more mountainous as you head into Austria. On arrival into Graz, make your way to the Grand Wiesler Hotel (or similar) where you have an overnight stay. Graz is a pretty town with a hilltop castle, which commands sweeping views over the surrounding area.



Day 12 - Graz To Stuttgart

Enjoy a leisurely start today, with plenty of time to continue your exploration of Graz. Perhaps enjoy a walk along the river or browse the boutiques in the Old Town area. Just before lunch, return to the station and catch a direct train which will take you through dramatic Alpine scenery, across the German border to Stuttgart in the south-east of the country. Here, you'll check in for an overnight stay at the Arcotel Camino (or similar).



Day 13 - Stuttgart To London

Depart Stuttgart late this morning for a last scenic journey, as your train twists and turns along the beautiful Rhine Gorge route, past the Loreley Rock and a plethora of castles and charming villages. An easy platform change at the cathedral city of Cologne delivers you to the Eurostar terminal at Brussels, where you connect with your final train, transferring you back to London St Pancras in just under 2 hours.

Pricing

From £2,099 per person

Prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. The price includes Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations as necessary and the best available fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.