

Grand Train Tour of Switzerland

From £2,749 per person // 16 days



From east to west and top to bottom, take an epic tour of Switzerland by rail, including stunning mountain vistas, lakefront resorts and some of the country's most famous scenic rail journeys.

The Essentials

- Take a stunning loop through the best of Switzerland with return rail travel from the UK
- **Golden Pass Route** from the shores of Lake Geneva to Interlaken in the Bernese Oberland
- The full journey aboard the spectacular **Glacier Express** from Zermatt to St Moritz
- The full journey aboard the **Bernina Express**, including the Bernina bus route to Lugano (February to November)

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations where required
- 15 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- City maps and 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

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

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 Zurich

Catch a Eurostar service from London St Pancras and transfer in Paris onto the high-speed TGV service to Zurich. You'll arrive into Cologne in the mid-afternoon and check in at the Hotel Adler (or similar) for an overnight stay. Spend the rest of the day exploring this lovely city, located on the River Reuss where it flows into Lake Zurich. Don't miss an apero in the lively Lindenhof district, Zurich's Old Town area.



Day 2 - Zurich To Interlaken

After breakfast at your hotel this morning, return to the station and catch a train to Lucerne. Here, there's an easy change onto the Luzern-Interlaken Express, a stunning 2-hour journey into the heart of Switzerland, past waterfalls, crystal clear lakes and the majestic Brünig mountain pass. Once you arrive into Interlaken Ost station, disembark for short walk to the Hotel Interlaken (or similar), where you will be staying for the next 2 nights.



Day 3 - Interlaken

Interlaken is a popular base for exploring the surrounding mountains of the Bernese Oberland. Why not take a mountain railway up to the top of one of the nearby peaks, such as the famous Jungfrau Railway or the steam-hauled Brienz Rothorn? There are also plenty of other mountain excursions to choose from, such as the Schilthorn, one of filming locations for On Her Majesty's Secret Service. Alternatively, for a relaxing afternoon, why not take a cruise on nearby Lakes Brienz or Thun?



Day 4 - Interlaken To Montreux With The Golden Pass

Leave Interlaken this morning and make your way to the Ost station for a scenic journey down via Spiez and Zweisimmen to Montreux on the Swiss Riviera. The last leg of this journey can be made either aboard a modern train with panoramic windows, or by vintage style 'Belle-Epoque' carriages. Let us know which you would prefer! On arrival in Montreux, head to the conveniently located Suisse Hotel Majestic (or similar), where you will be spending the next 2 nights.



Day 5 - Montreux

Enjoy a day at leisure on the Swiss Riviera, where you can walk, swim, cruise or even paddle-board around Lake Geneva, with its fantastic backdrop of snow-capped mountains. From Montreux, you can walk along a promenade fringed with flowers to the lovely Chateau de Chillon (pictured) which is free to enter with your Swiss Pass. You can also take a boat to other lakefront towns including Vevey, Lausanne and Geneva. If you fancy another day on the rails, there's also a scenic train, the Rochers de Naye, taking you up into the hills for sweeping panoramic views of the lake, mountains and nearby vineyards.



Day 6 - Montreux To Zermatt

It's time to leave Lake Geneva today and head through the Swiss canton of Vaud and then across into the canton of Valais. After a quick change in Visp, the Matterhorn-Gotthard Bahn will take you up to 5,250 feet above sea level and the mountain-ringed village of Zermatt. You will be spending 2 nights here, at the Hotel Pollux (or similar). Settle into your centrally located hotel before heading out to eat in one of Zermatt's many restaurants.



Day 7 - Zermatt

You have a free day today in the resort town of Zermatt, which is a haven for skiers and snowboarders in the winter and a base for other outdoor pursuits like hiking and mountain biking at other times of the year. You can take the opportunity to climb aboard the Gornergrat Mountain railway so that you can get up close to the distinctive peak of the Matterhorn. Alternatively, enjoy a walk on one of the well-signposted hiking trails or simply relax and enjoy the stunning scenery.



Day 8 - Zermatt To St Moritz With The Glacier Express

Board the Glacier Express this morning for your stunning journey across Switzerland to St Moritz. Watch from the panoramic windows as the train snakes alongside the the Rhône at its source, and across to Andermatt, before climbing to over 6,560 feet at the Oberalp Pass. You will follow the course of the Rhine as you make your way into St Moritz. Commentary is provided along the way and a lunch is served on board (payable locally). On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the San Gian Hotel (or similar), with the rest of the afternoon at leisure in St Moritz.



Day 9 - St Moritz To Lugano With The Bernina Express

After breakfast this morning, it's time for another beautiful journey as you head south to Tirano, just across the Italian border. After time for lunch here, return to the station for the second stage of your journey, which takes you past Lake Como and the picturesque landscape of Valtellina to Lugano. During December and January, you can make this last stretch of the journey by train. On arrival in Lugano, check in for a 2-night stay at the Villa Sassa Hotel & Spa (or similar). ?



Day 10 - Lugano And Ticino

Lugano is located on the lake of the same name, which becomes Lake Maggiore across the Italian border. This sunny corner of Switzerland has a distinctly Mediterranean feel, with palm trees, lovely piazzas and al fresco dining. For breathtaking views of the lake and mountains, take a funicular train to the top of Monte Bré or Monte San Salvatore. Alternatively, you can easily reach other lakefront resorts like Locarno or Ascona by rail and other public transport.



Day 11 - Lugano To Lucerne

Your last stop on the Grand Tour takes you to the shores of Lake Lucerne. Catch a train back across the Alps to Lucerne, where you will have 2 nights at the Waldstaetterhof Hotel (or similar). Enjoy a full day at leisure here. Explore the cobbled streets of the Old Town and the city's famous wooden bridges, take a cruise on the lake or perhaps visit the stunning Lion Monument, which commemorates the massacre of the Swiss Guards during the French Revolution.



Day 12 - Lucerne

During your stay in Lucerne, you will receive a complimentary Visitor Card, giving you discounted rates on attractions such as city tours and the Titlis Mountain Railway. It also gives you free rail, bus and tram travel throughout the city and its immediate environs. The city itself is set stunningly against the backdrop of its lake (known locally as Vierwaldstättersee), and one of its main highlights is the Kapellbrücke (Chapel Bridge) crossing the River Reuss, which is beautifully decorated on the interior with various paintings, some of which date back to the 17th century.



Day 13 - Lucerne To St Gallen

The Voralpen-Express starts along the banks of Lake Lucerne against the backdrop of the prominent Alpine panorama of Central Switzerland. It then crosses Lake Zurich and passes through Rapperswill before crossing Switzerland's highest railway bridge, the Sitter Viaduct just before reaching St Gallen. On arrival, check in for a 2-night stay at the Sorell Hotel City Weissenstein (or similar).



Day 14 - St Gallen

Located close to three international borders (Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein), St Gallen is a cultural centre and travel hub for Eastern Switzerland. The main attraction here is the spectacular, UNESCO World Heritage listed Abbey of St Gaul, founded around 720AD. The abbey boasts an ancient library, with books dating back to the 9th century. In the evening, you may like to wander around the charming, traffic-free Old Town with its pretty cobbled streets and houses with colourful oriel windows. Visit in the winter and you'll most likely see some snow as St Sallen is the highest city in Switzerland.



Day 15 - St Gallen To Basel

Take the train today from the historic city of St. Gallen through pastoral rolling scenery towards Lake Constance. The train line follows the shore of the lake for over 30 miles before joining the Rhine down to Schaffhausen. We recommend a stop here for lunch and possibly even a visit the famous Rhine Falls, before you re-board the train for the 2-hour journey to Basel. On arrival, check in at the Essential by Dorint Basel City (or similar) for an overnight stay. Take a wander into town this evening and enjoy dinner in Basel's pretty Old Town, straddling both banks of the Rhine.



Day 16 - Basel To London

It's time to leave Switzerland today and make your way back to the UK via Germany. In fact, once you are at Basel Bad station, you have already crossed the German border! Catch a train via Cologne to Brussels, where you head for the Eurostar check-in and your final journey back to the UK.

Pricing

From £2,749 per person

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