

WORLDTOURIST

Switzerland by Rail:

From Top of Europe to Mediterranean lakes in the South



8 days / 7 nights
optional pre-/ post nights

Summer Itinerary

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Summer Itinerary (valid 15 Apr – 22 Oct)

Day 1 - Wednesday: **Zurich - Lucerne**

Arrival to Zurich airport. Today the validity of your Swiss Travel Pass (=STP) starts, that enables you to discover Switzerland by public transport. Take the train from underneath Zurich airport to Lucerne, arrive in the heart of Switzerland in a little over 1 hour.

Time permitting, you may want to include a quick stop at Zurich Hauptbahnhof (main train station) to walk one of the world's most famous shopping streets – Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse stretches for approx. 1.4 km from the main Train station to the lake and is flanked by exclusive boutiques and department stores.

The program starts with Welcome Dinner in a very typical Swiss restaurant, offering local specialities (3-course dinner including cheese fondue), when you meet your fellow travellers and a tour guide who provides you with insides for your tour.

meals: Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant

Hotel: Waldstätterhof or similar

Day 2 - Thursday: **Explore Lucerne and hike on Mount Rigi**

In the morning explore one of the most picturesque cities of the world. Discover the world-famous Chapel Bridge with its Water Tower, the Lions Monument, the Jesuit Church, the little pathways and places of Old Town and the modern KKL (an art and cultural centre) located on the shores of Lake Lucerne by a little city train with multilingual explanations.

From Lucerne you take the boat to cross the lake to Vitznau, where you change into a historic cogwheel train, that takes you up on the first ever European cogwheel tracks to the top of Mount Rigi. The Mountain, also called "The Queen of Mountains", is loved by the Swiss for its majestic views - with clear weather you can see up to 13 lakes – and easy its easy hiking routes. We recommend to take a leisurely hike back down towards Kaltenbad (about 4 km), where you may want to opt for a quick jump into the local mineral bath (at extra charge). Take the Cable car with panorama view to get back down to the village of Weggis, where you either enter the boat or take the train back to Lucerne.

Enjoy your dinner in a traditional restaurant with local music entertainment (3-course meal).

meals: Breakfast at hotel

Hotel: Waldstätterhof or similar

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Day 3 - Friday: **Top of Europe – Jungfrauoch & Interlaken**

A day in snow and ice is waiting for you. Visit the UNESCO Site of the longest glacier of the Alps and stand on the “roof” of Europe. At nearly 3.500 m above sea level, enjoy the amazing view over the glacier towards Swiss Mittelland & Vosges, be impressed by the peaks of Eiger, Mönch & Jungfrau each around 4.000 m above sea level. Dip into the ice-cold air on the glacier and take an optional stroll through the ice palace. You may also want to use the opportunity to stock up on your Swiss chocolate reservoir before enjoying your lunch (main course & 1 beverage) on the Top of Europe. Descend back down to the charming town of Interlaken, located on a plateau in the middle of the Bernese Oberland with stunning views of the surrounding Alpine peaks. Interlaken is also famous for an extensive selection of shops offering the famous Swiss watch brands and it might be worth taking a peek before returning by train to your hotel in Lucerne.

meals: Breakfast at hotel, lunch on Jungfrauoch

Hotel: Waldstätterhof or similar

Day 4 - Saturday: **Lucerne – Lake Lucerne – Gotthard Panorama Express - Lugano**

Leaving Lucerne. Ride the motor or steamboat across Lake Lucerne to Flüelen and take one last look back to the city of Lucerne, before diving deep into Swiss history. Find out what the “Ruetli Meadow” has to do with the Swiss Confederation and its foundation in 1291. Change from the boat to the Gotthard Panorama Express, one of Switzerland Panorama trains and enjoy the alpine views of the Gotthard area and learn about the history of construction of the original famous tunnel which was first opened in 1882. Multilingual travel Guides on the train will explain about the history, point out the most important sights along the route, share curious little anecdotes and are happy to answer any question.

Leaving the Gotthard behind, the train continues into the southernmost Swiss canton of Ticino, through mountains with waterfalls to be spotted along the way into the Mediterranean city of Lugano, where Palm trees and exotic nature is awaiting you. (duration: 5,5 hours without Stop enroute)

meals: Breakfast at hotel in Lucerne, lunch on the boat

Hotel: Hotel Delfino/ Federale or similar

Day 5 - Sunday: **Lugano**

Start the day with the city train and a tour of Lugano, known for its relaxed elegance and Mediterranean lifestyle. Discover the traffic free historic centre, the exclusive museums, the mountains as well as Lugano’s numerous parks and Villas nestled amid subtropical plants along the shores of Lake Lugano.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure for an optional visit to one of the museums, a boat-ride on Lake Lugano, or a hike along the olive tree trail to the historic village of Gandria.

End the day with a hearty diner at a “Grotto” – a must do experience in Ticino. A “Grotto” is a simple tavern, serving homemade dishes in a very relaxing, usual hideaway atmosphere (3-courses including a glass of local wine/beer or soft drink).

meals: Breakfast at hotel, dinner in a local restaurant

Hotel: Hotel Delfino, Lugano or similar

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Day 6 - Monday: **Locarno & historic Centovalli Train**

In the morning train ride to Locarno, beautifully located on Lago Maggiore, the longest of the central lakes, shared by Switzerland and Italy. In Locarno you board the historic Centovalli Vigezzina train, that takes you on a 52 km long ride, across 83 bridges and through 31 tunnels with views on unbridled nature, deep gorges, wild mountains, rivers and waterfalls, but also through little mountain villages to the Italian mountain village of Domodossola. Stop in in Santa Maria Maggiore to pay a visit to a typical mountain market, selling local produce. After some free time to discover Domodossola, return to Locarno with an optional stop in Intragna (CH) to learn how to bake the famous local mountain bread (with supplement).

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Locarno before returning by train to Lugano.

meals: Breakfast at hotel

Hotel: Hotel Delfino/ Federale or similar

Day 7 - Tuesday: **Lugano – Milan - Lugano**

Explore the Italian metropolis of Milan, city of art, fashion & design. During you Hop on Hop off city tour – see all the not to be missed highlights of the city: the impressive Domus of Milan, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the Opera house “La Scala”, Sforzesco castle, Milans famous “Fashion District” featuring flagship stores of the world’s most renown luxury brands. Discover also the modern part of Milan, with highlights such as the vertical forest, Citylife & Piazza GAI Aulenti. Enjoy the bustling Navigli district and chill out in one of its many little bars and restaurants along the city’s waterways.

Return by train in time for your farewell dinner, served again in a local Grotto in the heart of the beautiful city of Lugano in the company of your fellow travellers and your Tour Guide.

meals: Breakfast & farewell Dinner

Hotel: Hotel Delfino/ Federale or similar

Day 8 - Wednesday: **Lugano – (Rhinefall of Schaffhausen) – Zurich airport**

After breakfast, it is time to say Good Bye to Lugano and take the train for Zurich airport for departure.

Time permitting (takes minimum 3 hours extra), it is recommended to continue by rail to Neuhausen Rheinfall to see Europe’s largest waterfall called “Rheinfall”. The final route of the river Rheine evolved during the Ice Ages and has finally settled as a waterfall with a width of 150 metres, transporting between 250.000 and 600.000 litter/second. Access to the park / possible boat rides / guide to be paid directly at the spot.

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Sample Hotel selection:

Lucerne: ***+Hotel Waldstätterhof or similar <https://waldstaetterhof.lucerne-hotels.com/en/>



Hotel Waldstätterhof, where historic facade meets modern amenities, located in the heart of Lucerne, ideal for evening walks in the picturesque city. The hotel is located about 200 m from the main train station and 350 m from the piers of Lake Lucerne.

Alternative hotels will preferably be located in the centre of Lucerne or within easy reach by public transport.

Lugano: ***+ Hotel Delfino <https://hoteldelfinolugano.ch/en/> / ***+ Hotel Federale <https://www.hotel-federale.ch/en/> or similar



Both hotels are ideally located to explore the city, the lake and its beauty on foot with easy access to the train station.

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Group size

Minimum 10 pax, maximum 24 pax (or less according to available allotment)

What is included?

- ✓ 7 nights in excellent ***+ star hotels, with private bath, AC/heating, WiFi, restaurant, and (mainly) centrally located in Lugano & Lucerne
- ✓ 8-day Swiss Travel Pass 1st class
- ✓ 9 highlights in Switzerland, to name but a few: *UNESCO* Top of Europe – Jungfrauoch, Mount Rigi – Queen of Mountains, Lake Lucerne & Lake Lugano, Panorama Train ride (Gotthard Express, depending on season), Centovalli train, Bread Baking experience, local market, Dinner at a typical “Grotto” a Ticino inside tip
- ✓ Many highlights Italy – Milan, see the business and design hub of Italy (The Dome, La Scala, Vertical Forest, Fashion District...)
- ✓ 7 breakfast(s), 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- ✓ POTORAGE
(valid for Groups with 10 pieces of luggage or more)
 - Included from Hotel in Lucerne to Hotel in Lugano. Otherwise not included.
- ✓ (valid for FIT – up to 9 guests per arrival)
 - In summer included from pier in Lucerne to train station in Lugano. Otherwise not included.

What is not included?

- ✗ All services not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary
- ✗ Meals & beverages not mentioned in the itinerary
- ✗ Entrance fees, unless mentioned
- ✗ City taxes Lucerne / Lugano (roughly between 5-9 CHF pp/n, to be paid directly to hotel upon check out)
- ✗ Expenses of personal nature
- ✗ Tips (guides, housekeeping in hotels, restaurants – if not already included as service charge or coperto)