

Rails & Trails - 13 Day Tour

Swiss Rail Adventure
with
Guided City and Alpine Walks



10 great rail journeys with 3 cable car ascents

- Furka Steam Train – restored 1920s steam train over the 7,270 ft Furka pass ride
- Glacier Express – Classic narrow gauge railway with panoramic windows
- Bernina Express – journey up to the 7,391 ft Ospizio summit
- Centovalli Railway – an Italian-Swiss railway and hidden gem of the railway world
- Golden Pass Line – travel in Belle Epoque style
- Voralpen Express – gateway to scenic Eastern Switzerland
- Zermatt Matterhorn Gornergrat – a mountain rack-rail launched in 1898
- Jungfrauoch mountain rack-rail – 1912 incredible tunnel engineering through the Eiger
- Mr. Rigi – narrow gauge from 1871; first cogwheel train in Europe
- Mt. Pilatus – 1889 narrow gauge - steepest cogwheel train in the world at 48% gradient

2 night stays at great lodges with dinner & breakfasts

Lucerne

Lucerne is the ideal, central location, to begin your Swiss Alps Adventure. It's a modern city with medieval roots surrounded by a lake and picturesque mountains.

We do a leisurely informative walk around the old town and take cogwheel trains & cable cars to the tops of Mt. Rigi & Mt. Pilatus where you see over 600 Swiss Central Alps peaks.

From Lucerne we take the Voralpen Express via St. Gallen with a visit to one of the oldest libraries in the world followed by a stop at Heidi's original village followed by the Glacier Express to St. Moritz

St. Moritz

St. Moritz is world famous where you see style, elegance and class surrounded by beautiful Swiss mountains. Here you can explore on your own:

Delicious chocolates

Exquisite Shopping

Locally grown foods

First Class Dining

We stay at a centrally located 4th generation family hotel with great cuisine, enjoy cable car rides to the scenic vistas + the Bernina Express to the Alp Grüm summit + optional panorama hikes.

We depart St. Moritz via the Glacier Express to Andermatt



Andermatt

Andermatt is the watershed of Europe where the mighty rivers of the Rhine & Rhone arise and strategically one of Switzerland's most important places. In 1235, the passage of the Gotthard pass became Europe's most used north & south trade route.

Today the Gotthard pass is still one of Europe's most strategic north & south transit routes and the new 40 mile / 57 km Gotthard Base Tunnel is the world's longest.

Geographically we are in the heart of the Swiss Alps and surrounded by mountains. The village is cobble stoned with narrow streets lined with chalets. We ride up the Gotthard Pass summit and walk through one of Switzerland's largest military bunkers. Followed with an afternoon 2-hour 1st class, nostalgic Furka steam train ride over the Rhone & Mutt glaciers.



We depart Andermatt, heading south to Lugano via the Gotthard Tunnel. It opened in 1882. At that time it was the longest tunnel in the world. This was the first large scale construction project using dynamite.



Lugano

We are now in the Italian speaking Canton of Ticino where everything sounds Italian but you are still in Switzerland. You will enjoy the fashion, gorgeous mountain scenery, fun lakeside spots, along with fine tasting local food & wines.

We take an afternoon walk through Lugano & Olive Nature lakeside trail followed with boat ride to our dinner at an outdoor Grotto, with local wines and food over-looking the lake, the villas and the magnificent mountain scenery.

The next day we explore Lake Como in Italy and depart Lugano via the Centovalli, translated means "hundred valleys", railway to Zermatt



Zermatt

World famous Zermatt lies at the base of the Matterhorn, Switzerland's iconic mountain. You quickly see & sense the alpine "buzz" of this Chalet laced "car free" zoned place.

We take the Gornergrat Railway up to 10,134 ft where you are surrounded by 13,000 ft stunning Swiss breathtaking alps. You will enjoy haute-cuisine at our 4 star family resort hotel.



Afterwards we depart, parallel the Rhone river, see miles of vineyards and ride the Golden Pass line in nostalgic "Epoch Era" cars from french speaking Montreux to our final Grindelwald.



Grindelwald

Nestled in a green valley within the Jungfrau region, is Grindelwald. The mountain views of the world famous Eiger, Mönch & Jungfrau peaks combined with numerous scenic things to see make it a wonderful destination.

We take 3 mountain train rides up to the top of 13,371 ft. Jungfraujoch. Then travel by train inside a tunnel built within the Eiger Mountain. Afterwards we travel to the Lauterbrunnen valley and visit Trümmelbach Falls, the world's only glacier waterfalls that are accessible underground by lift, galleries, tunnels, paths and platforms.

The last day we have a leisure morning. Take a lake steamer on Lake Thun and then ride the last train to Zürich's airport.

top of the Jungfrau - out on the snow

