



KEY ITINERARY ELEMENTS

- Your Swiss Rail Pass provides unlimited first-class travel with generous discounts on mountain lifts.
- On many excursions, there are opportunities to either walk or take a mountain lift. Your Travel Director will always explain your options.
- Admire majestic views from either the towns we will visit or from the mountaintops. If you take the mountain lift to the top of a peak, you'll most likely find a restaurant that offers not only refreshments, but an excellent vantage point for photographs.
- From Lucerne to Montreux and Bern to Locarno, enjoy traveling throughout Switzerland. You'll even venture into Italy during one of the most thrilling train rides in Europe.



SWISS RAIL PASSES

The Swiss Federal Railway system provides a most convenient and comfortable way to conquer Switzerland's peaks, arrive at trailheads and reach dramatic viewing points anywhere in the country. And your first-class Swiss Pass offers the best way to utilize this system. The Swiss Federal Railway was initiated on New Year's Day in 1902, and has run like "Swiss clockwork" ever since. Today the railway, or SBB, is comprised of an extensive transportation network. Your first-class Swiss Pass provides you with unlimited travel throughout the country by train, bus and boat, as well as through local transportation services in 37 towns. The Swiss Pass also provides discounts on many gondola, funicular, cable car and private railways, and permits you free access to many guided city tours and 450 museums. Traveling first class, you will enjoy more comfortable seating and there will be no need to compete with crowds. You'll experience privacy, peace and room to stretch your legs as you travel between destinations.

ACCOMMODATIONS



ALPIN SHERPA HOTEL Meiringen

The first-class Alpin Sherpa Hotel is ideally situated in the center of the quaint, mountain village of Meiringen, surrounded by the breathtaking landscape of the Bernese Oberland. After blissful days of Alpine exploration, relax in front of the hotel fireplace or in the bar. Gather with friends on the rooftop terrace or unwind in the sauna, solarium or whirlpool. Guest rooms, appointed in Swiss-chalet style, include a hair dryer, a safe, direct-dial telephone, a radio, a TV and other modern amenities. Dine on delicious traditional cuisine in the hotel restaurant. The Alpin Sherpa Hotel is family owned and managed, which assures both comfort and friendly Swiss hospitality.



Above: Hiking along Lake Oeschinen
Far Left: Bernese Oberland, Grindelwald
Above Right: Riding along the Swiss Rail



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TRAVEL AS THE SWISS DO ON THIS FLEXIBLE JOURNEY

DISCOVER SWITZERLAND



Once upon a time in Switzerland, residents of one valley would rarely travel to the next. The very majestic Alpine peaks that make Switzerland one of the most beautiful countries in the world also made travel within the country arduous and challenging. The Swiss responded with inimitable Swiss style and engineering know-how to build one of the world's most sophisticated and comprehensive transportation systems. Today, Switzerland's magnificent splendor can be enjoyed on walks and hikes, by cable car, by rail and funicular, by boat and by local bus. All are united in one spectacularly organized system so you can easily transfer from one mode of transport to another in an almost seamless fashion.

We have built this flexibility into the heart of our Discover Switzerland program. Each day, Swiss Rail Pass in hand, we will take advantage of the many transportation options to embark on our guided excursions. Your guide will take you on hikes and walks that offer a range of difficulties. Those who want to experience it all by foot can do so. Others may prefer to combine some hiking with cable cars and mountain lifts. Maybe you'll take a funicular up the mountain and join the walkers on their downhill hike. Even travelers who want to minimize their walking can make full use of the many transportation options available to enjoy a full day of exploring. Our local expert will be there with you to provide all the information you will need to create a day that is right for you.

Your Swiss Rail Pass provides unlimited travel during the program period. Passes are accepted on all trains, lake steamers, postal buses and city transportation. In addition, Swiss passes provide a 50% discount on most cable cars, lifts and funiculars.

Combining guided group excursions with the flexibility to design your own Swiss adventures, the Discover Switzerland program offers the best of both experiences. Along the way, you will visit many of Switzerland's incredible travel destinations: Lucerne, Zermatt, Bern, Montreux, Grindelwald, Zürich, Interlaken and Thun. Discover sparkling blue lakes, thundering waterfalls, lush green valleys and charming villages. You will travel to glacier-formed Rosenlauri Gorge and thundering Reichenbach Falls. You'll see the whimsically named trio of iconic Alpine peaks: *Eiger*, ogre; *Mönch*, monk; and *Jungfrau*, maiden. You will hike serene mountain paths and sail on beautiful mountain lakes. In the end you might agree that Switzerland is the most beautiful country in the world.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience a flexible program that **welcomes explorers of all ages**.
- Exclusive **Small Group Experience** accommodates a maximum of 28 travelers.
- Unpack once and reside for 14 days in the beautiful mountain village of **Meiringen** set amid the splendor of the **Hasli Valley**.
- Relax at the **Alpin Sherpa Hotel** in the heart of Meiringen and just across the street from the train station — your convenient gateway to the rest of Switzerland.
- Enjoy a **comprehensive meal program**, including Swiss breakfast and local specialties for dinner each day in the hotel.
- Explore many of **Switzerland's most spectacular destinations** with the opportunity to **customize the experience** with individual activities.
- Journey out by rail, funicular, cable car, lake steamer, bus and mountain lift with an **included first-class Swiss Pass**.
- Participate on **included walks designed for all ages** that will inspire you amid stunning Alpine beauty.
- Discover storybook **Swiss villages and towns**.
- Cruise the tranquil waters of **Lake Thun, Lake Brienz** and **Lake Lucerne**.
- Travel to the resort town of **Zermatt** and admire the towering **Matterhorn**.
- Climb aboard the Simplon Alpine railway and visit the Italian towns of **Domodossola** and lakeside **Locarno**.
- **Learn from local experts** who will add an insider's knowledge to your experience, including lively talks on Swiss history, culture, languages and their unique government.

Previous page: Thun; Steg observatory, Zermatt; Berne
Above: Lucerne; Cheese fondue; Lake Thun; Grindelwald

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart your gateway city for Zürich aboard scheduled jet service.†

DAY 2 ~ MEIRINGEN

Upon arrival, transfer† to Meiringen and the Alpin Sherpa Hotel.

Enjoy a walking tour of the village. Gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner*.

DAY 3 ~ MEIRINGEN/ MAGISALP/BRIENZ

Educational Focus: “Why Meiringen?”

Excursion: Magisalp. Board a cable car to Magisalp, a high mountain plateau above Meiringen. Enjoy majestic views of the Haslital.

Excursion: Brienz. From Brienz, climb aboard a lake steamer and cruise Lake Brienz to Interlaken.

DAY 4 ~ KANDERSTEG/ LAKE OESCHINEN

Excursion: Kandersteg. Visit the mountain village of Kandersteg. Ride the cable car to Lake Oeschinen, a spectacular Alpine mountain lake.

DAY 5 ~ INTERLAKEN

Excursion: Interlaken. Discover scenic Interlaken nestled between two magnificent Swiss lakes.

DAY 6 ~ THUN/BERNE

Excursion: Thun. Journey to Interlaken, take a lake steamer and cruise to Thun, with its quaint Old Town, shops and neo-Gothic castle.

Excursion: Berne. Explore Berne, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Seminar: Switzerland 101.

DAY 7 ~ GRINDELWALD

Excursion: Grindelwald. Visit Grindelwald, situated at the base of the Jungfrau, Mönch and Eiger mountains. Ride a cable car to the high mountain station of First*.

DAY 8 ~ MEIRINGEN

The day is at leisure to pursue individual interests in Switzerland.

Seminar: Climbing the Matterhorn.

DAY 9 ~ ZERMATT/FINDELN

Excursion: Zermatten Valley.

Board a train for a scenic journey through the Zermatten Valley to Zermatt at the foot of the mighty Matterhorn. After a scenic walk,

board a funicular to the station at Sunnegga*. Delight in breathtaking views. Stroll down the mountain to the village of Findeln.

DAY 10 ~ LUCERNE

Excursion: Lucerne. The day is at leisure in picturesque Lucerne.

DAY 11 ~ DOMODOSSOLA

Excursion: Domodossola.

Journey from Switzerland to the Italian town of Domodossola through the Simplon Alpine railway tunnel. Then, climb aboard a narrow-gauge railway train that carries you to the lakeside town of Locarno.

DAY 12 ~ MEIRINGEN

Excursion: Rosenlauri Gorge.

Follow a rushing mountain stream as it cuts a narrow path through the slate and limestone cliffs of Rosenlauri Glacier Gorge. Continue to Reichenbach Falls, setting of the literary showdown between Sherlock Holmes and his arch nemesis, Professor Moriarty.

DAY 13 ~ LUCERNE

Excursion: Lake Lucerne.

Cruise Lake Lucerne. Then, take a tranquil lakeside walk or a funicular ride up to Mount Rigi*.

DAY 14 ~ MONTREUX

Excursion: Montreux. Travel to historic Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. By boat, set off for the Castle of Chillon made famous by the poetry of Lord Byron.

DAY 15 ~ MEIRINGEN

The day is at leisure.

Tonight, attend a *Farewell Reception and Dinner and Awards Ceremony*.

DAY 16 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the Zürich airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Your Travel Director will describe the length and difficulty level of each walk. You may choose to participate or ride the mountain lifts. Your rail pass provides unlimited first-class travel on trains and boats and up to a 50% discount on mountain lifts.

† Provided for Air Program participants.

*A surcharge, discounted with your rail pass, will apply.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Fourteen nights** in **Meiringen, Switzerland**, at the first-class **Alpin Sherpa Hotel**.

Transportation

- First-class Swiss Rail Pass.

Activities and Events

- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a festive **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather with fellow travelers for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner and Awards Ceremony**.

Meals

- Enjoy 14 breakfasts and 14 dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Take advantage of **leisure time** to try the **local cuisine** independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **AHI Travel Director** during your trip.
- A **Campus Corner**, a designated lounge area, reserved specially for participants.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

