



# Switzerland, Alsace & the Black Forest

12 days | 14 days with Rhine Valley extension

From Switzerland's mountainous landscapes to Germany's mystical Black Forest, impressive views are around every corner in this breathtaking region. See the iconic Matterhorn up close at Gornergrat, wind your way through Colmar's charming streets in Alsace, then venture out into an ethereal land known for its fairy tales and decadent Black Forest cake.



## Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- 3 train rides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Lake Lucerne
- Chillon Castle
- Gornergrat open-air cog railway
- the Matterhorn
- Glacier Express train ride
- Bern
- Petite France
- the Black Forest

## Tour pace

You will walk for about 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, and will reach high elevations on select portions of this tour.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

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## Lucerne Region → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Lucerne via Zurich

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Switzerland! After arriving in Zurich, transfer to your hotel in the Lucerne region to meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

With your guide leading the way, get to know lakeside Lucerne, the most populous city in Central Switzerland.

- Pass hand-painted facades along the cobbled streets of the Old Town
- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built in Switzerland north of the Alps
- Cross the iconic Kapellbrücke, a covered wooden footbridge spanning the Reuss River, and view the Water Tower

Enjoy a free afternoon to explore the Lucerne region on your own or add an excursion.

+ Mount Pilatus

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## Zermatt → 2 nights

### Day 4: Zermatt via Montreux & Chillon Castle

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Pass through the scenic foothills of the Alps today, stopping to visit Chillon Castle and Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. Then, make your way to the car-free mountain town of Zermatt. Upon arrival, follow your Tour Director on a short orientation tour and take in views of the iconic Matterhorn.

Later, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

### Day 5: The Matterhorn Region

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out to explore the mountainous landscapes surrounding the Matterhorn today. Stop along the way to visit Gornergrat, a ridge overlooking the Gorner Glacier.

- Board Europe's highest open-air cog railway for a ride to the summit
  - Take in spectacular panoramic views of the Matterhorn
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## Interlaken → 2 nights

### Day 6: Interlaken via the Glacier Express & Andermatt

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Board the Glacier Express, a famed train with cars specially designed for scenic viewing, and travel north through the Alps to Andermatt. Then, make your way to Interlaken, the gateway to the region's towering mountains and pristine lakes.

Sit down to an included dinner with your group this evening.

### Day 7: Free day in Interlaken

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in Interlaken or add an excursion.

+ Jungfraujoch: The Top of Europe

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## Alsace Region → 2 nights

### Day 8: Alsace Region via Bern

*Included meals: breakfast*

Before crossing the border into France, make a stop in the Swiss capital of Bern for a sightseeing tour led by your Tour Director.

- Cross the Aare River and head to the iconic Bern Bear Park, home to a community of brown bears
- Stroll through the UNESCO-recognized Old Town, making your way past the Cathedral of Bern

Then continue on to the Alsace region of France, known for its storybook villages and sprawling vineyards.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Strasbourg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Explore the Alsace capital city of Strasbourg on a tour with a local guide. Then, take to the river for a short cruise.

- Make your way through the Grande Île neighborhood, passing by Place Gutenberg, Cathédrale Notre-Dame, and Palais Rohan, known as a miniature Versailles
- Continue your tour by boat, admiring the Petite France neighborhood, Barrage Vauban, and Ponts Couverts from the water

This afternoon, enjoy free time to continue exploring Strasbourg on your own or add an excursion.

+ Alsace Wine Tasting & Dinner

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## Black Forest Region → 2 nights

### Day 10: Freiburg via Colmar

*Included meals: breakfast*

En route to the Black Forest region, stop for a guided sightseeing tour of the charming city of Colmar, known for its impeccably preserved old town.

- Discover "Little Venice," an area known for its canals
- Walk through the famous old town, seeing Maison Pfister, the Bartholdi Museum, and Saint Martin Church

Continue on to the German town of Freiburg, known as the entry point into the fabled Black Forest. Here, you'll set out on an orientation of the town with your Tour Director in the lead.

- Enter the Gothic Freiburg Minster cathedral, built during the 13th century
- Pass by the Historisches Kaufhaus, City Hall, and Martinstor city gate

### Day 11: Black Forest Region

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Set out to explore more of the Black Forest region today.

- Visit the Black Forest Open Air Museum to learn about the region's history, culture, and traditions from a local guide
- Try a slice of Black Forest cake, named for the tart cherry liquor that gives it its signature taste

- Marvel at regional artifacts inside the Black Forest Museum during free time
- Admire the world's largest cuckoo clock which was built using traditional century-old blueprints at 60 times the original scale

Later this evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Zurich airport for your flight home or continue your trip to explore the Rhine Valley.

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### + Rhine Valley extension

Take to the countryside and join your Tour Director to discover the charming Rhine Valley, home to some famous wines and storybook scenery. Stop in Heidelberg, then explore the small towns nestled along shores of the famous Rhine River.

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## Rhine Valley → 2 nights

### Day 12: Rhine Valley via Heidelberg

*Included meals: breakfast*

On your way to the Rhine Valley, stop in Heidelberg for a guided sightseeing tour.

- Walk through old Heidelberg, passing Market Square and Heidelberg University
- Take a funicular ride up to Heidelberg Castle and enjoy panoramic views of the Old Bridge and Rhine River

### Day 13: Free day in the Rhine Valley

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day to explore the Rhine Valley on your own or add an excursion.

This evening, sip a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Rhine River Cruise & Wine Tasting

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Frankfurt airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/SBF](https://goaheadtours.ca/SBF) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Mount Pilatus

\$185CAD/\$195CAD\* (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain.

Known for its breathtaking landscapes and architecture from the Middle Ages, the Rhine River Valley is one of Germany's most spectacular sites. Start the day by touring one of this remarkable region's wineries, where you'll learn about cultivation processes and explore either the vineyards or cellars (depending on the season). Afterward, you'll enjoy a tasting of three different wines accompanied by lunch. Then, make your way through this UNESCO-recognized area on a cruise down the Rhine River, passing by six castles on your way from Boppard to St. Goar.

## Day 7: Jungfrauoch: The Top of Europe

\$299CAD/\$309CAD\* (7 hours, departs in the morning)

Take in views of the Eiger's soaring peak as you transfer through Alpine valleys to the picturesque village of Grindelwald, nestled deep in the Swiss Bernese Alps. Here, board a train for a ride up to Jungfrauoch, a UNESCO-listed mountain pass that's popularly known as "the top of Europe," and which overlooks the largest glaciated region in the Alps. You'll have plenty of opportunities to snap photos of the surrounding mountain scenery as you make your way to the summit, more than 11,000 feet above sea level. Once at the top, enjoy free time to have lunch and explore, visiting the observatory, research station, or Ice Palace—a collection of intricately designed ice sculptures. Please note: Please be aware that you will be traveling at altitudes as high as 11,000 feet above sea level. These high altitudes can sometimes cause breathing difficulties for travelers who have heart problems or respiratory ailments.

## Day 9: Alsace Wine Tasting & Dinner

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Drive through the picturesque vineyards that dot the Alsace countryside to the Ribeauvillé and Riquewihr regions, known for their medieval villages. Here, you'll take a tour of a traditional wine cellar before enjoying a tasting of four Alsatian varietals, including flowery Riesling and aromatic Gewürztraminer. Then, sit down to dinner in a local village restaurant for a taste of Alsatian cuisine, famous for its signature blend of German and French influences.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 13: Rhine River Cruise & Wine Tasting

\$185CAD/\$195CAD\* (6 hours, departure time varies)

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)