GO AHEAD TOURS



Switzerland by Train: Lucerne to Zurich

12 days | 14 days with Lugano extension

Whether it's the mountainous landscapes or lakeside vineyards, impressive views are around every corner in Switzerland. You'll soak in the scenery aboard trains that will take you from the city to the countryside and back again. See the iconic Matterhorn from Zermatt, pass snow-capped peaks while riding the famed Bernina Express, and cap off your tour in Zurich where you'll wind your way through the city's charming streets.



Your tour package includes

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

Included highlights

GoldenPass Railway ride
Lavaux Vineyards wine tasting
Chillon Castle
The Matterhorn
Glacier Express train ride
Bernina Express train ride

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets. You will also reach high elevations on select portions of this tour.

Group size

15–28

TICO-2395858 | CPBC-73991 | OPC-702373
© 2024 EF Education First

Switzerland by Train: Lucerne to Zurich

12 days | 14 days with Lugano extension

Overnight flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

Lucerne Region → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Zurich & transfer to Lucerne Region
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Switzerland! Transfer to your hotel in the Lucerne region. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne
Included meals: breakfast
A local guide introduces you to the charming lakeside city of Lucerne.

- Explore Lucerne's Old Town
- View the sandstone lion statue commemorating the Swiss Guards
- Stroll over Chapel Bridge, a 17th-century covered footbridge, for views of Lake Lucerne and the Alps

Enjoy a free afternoon in Lucerne or add an excursion.
+ Mount Pilatus

Interlaken → 2 nights

Day 4: Train to Interlaken
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Take your seat aboard the GoldenPass Railway and pass spectacular Alpine scenery. Peer out the panoramic window to spot Mount Pilatus, Lake Lucerne, Lake Sarnen, Lake Lungern, and more en route to Interlaken in the Bernese Oberland region.
Upon arrival in Interlaken, set out on a short walk with your Tour Director through the quaint streets worn by time while taking in views of the surrounding alpine vistas.
Later, sit down to an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Free day in Interlaken
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Interlaken or add an excursion.
+ Jungfraujoch: The Top of Europe

Lake Geneva Region → 1 night

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Bern & Lavaux Vineyards
Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting
Set out for the Lake Geneva Region today, stopping to visit the Swiss capital of Bern and Lavaux Vineyards on the way.

- 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
- Head to the Lavaux wine region, located on the terraced shores of Lake Geneva
- Walk through the UNESCO-protected Lavaux Vineyards
- Step inside the wine cellar to enjoy a wine tasting paired with cheese and sausage

Continue on to the shores of Lake Geneva that's known for its cultural events and festivals.

Zermatt → 2 nights

Day 7: Chillon Castle & train to Zermatt
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Visit Chillon Castle on the shores of Lake Geneva this morning. Then, pass through the scenic foothills of the Alps to Visp, where you'll board a train 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.
Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 8: Free day in Zermatt
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Zermatt or add an excursion.
+ Gornergrat Railway & Matterhorn Museum

St. Moritz → 2 nights

Day 9: Glacier Express train ride
Included meals: breakfast, lunch
Board the Glacier Express, a famed train with cars specially designed for scenic viewing. You'll make your way through a picturesque portion of the Alps including the Albula Line, Rhine Gorge, and Oberalp Pass.
Enjoy an included lunch during the ride before arriving in St. Moritz, a prestigious Swiss resort town and hub of wintertime sports.

Day 10: Bernina Express train ride
Included meals: breakfast
Board the Bernina Express and enjoy a scenic ride on the highest railway across the Alps. You'll wind through bridges and tunnels along the stunning, UNESCO-recognized landscapes en route to Tirano, Italy. Enjoy free time in Tirano before traveling back to St. Moritz.
Please note: You will need to present your passport on board the train when crossing from Italy to Switzerland.

Zurich → 1 night

Day 11: Transfer to Zurich & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Travel to Zurich and set off on a sightseeing tour to get to know Switzerland's largest city with your Tour Director.

- Walk through the medieval Altstadt, the Old Town, and soak in views of Lindenhof park
- Pass by St. Peter Church and the old town hall which dates back to the 1690s
- Walk over the historic Münsterbrücke footbridge which crosses the Limmat river

Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to Zurich Airport for your flight home or continue on to Lugano.

+ Lugano extension

Spend a few more days alongside your Tour Director as you explore Lugano, a prominent Swiss city.

Lugano → 2 nights

Day 12: Train to Lugano & sightseeing tour
Included meals: breakfast
Board the EuroCity train and pass through the Gotthard Base Tunnel, the longest tunnel in the world, en route to Southern Switzerland's Italian-speaking region of Ticino.
Then, arrive in lakeside Lugano. Explore the city near the Italian border on a scenic walking tour.

- View the botanical gardens of Ciani Park
- See the church of Santa Maria degli Angioli, home to the largest Renaissance fresco in Switzerland
- Stroll past the Church of San Rocco, Piazza della Riforma, and the Via Nassa shopping center

Day 13: Free day in Lugano
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Lugano or add an excursion. Raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.
+ Lake Maggiore & Grotto Lunch

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer across the border into Italy to Milan-Malpensa 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/SBT | 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.

Day 5: Jungfraujoch: 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 Jungfraujoch, 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 8: Gornergrat Railway & Matterhorn Museum
$179CAD/$189CAD* (6 hours, departs in the morning)
Today's excursion begins with a trip to Gornergrat, a ridge overlooking the Gorner Glacier. You'll board Europe's highest open-air cog railway for a ride to the summit, about 10,000 feet above sea level. Take in spectacular panoramic views of the Matterhorn before returning to Zermatt. Pay a visit to the Matterhorn Museum, where you'll learn about the history of alpine life and mountain climbing. Please note: This excursion involves at least one hour of walking. We recommend preparing for all kinds of weather conditions at the summit.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Lake Maggiore & Grotto Lunch
$175CAD/$185CAD* (5 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)
Drive past medieval castles of Bellinzona en route to Locarno, a Swiss town on the northern shores of Lake Maggiore. Once you arrive, you'll meet up with a guide for a walking tour of Piazza Sant'Antonio, Casa del Negromante, and Piazza Grande. Take a funicular ride up to Madonna del Sasso for incredible views of Lake Maggiore, the islands of Brissago, and surrounding alpine scenery. Then, head to a traditional Swiss-Italian restaurant called a grotto for a lunch of regional specialties including charcuterie, cheeses, and chestnut honey.

*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