

BEST OF SWITZERLAND BY RAIL



June 20, 2019 - June 30, 2019 - Club Member's Group Dates

11
 Days

Twin - \$3,290
Single - \$3,960
 Per person, land-only

Zürich, Lucerne and Zermatt - oh my! These are just a sampling of some of the great destinations that lie ahead on this 11-day tour through Switzerland. Get your first taste of the country in Switzerland's largest city, Zürich, before traveling to the country's renowned destinations by train to gain an unforgettable perspective on this European destination. Soak in the rural splendor of Appenzell; see the stunning contrast of the Swiss Alps against medieval architecture in Lucerne; get a

look at the clear waters of Lake Geneva and ride aboard several fantastic rail lines, one of which has UNESCO World Heritage designation. Along the way, we will embark on fantastic excursions to some of Switzerland's charming villages and most enticing locales and even dip down into Tirano, Italy for a day to remember. There is so much more to Switzerland than just chocolate and some of the world's most beautiful mountains, and during this escorted tour, you get to experience it first-hand.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

- Rail travel onboard *Glacier Express, Bernina Express, Gornergrat Railway, Goldenpass Panoramic and Lucerne-Interlaken Express*
- Hotel accommodations for 9 nights
- 14 meals, including a fondue dinner
- Zürich city tour
- Excursion to Appenzell
- Motorcoach transfer
- Services of a professional Tour Manager
- Baggage handling

Additional Dates Available:
May 23, 2019 - June 2, 2019
August 8, 2019 - August 18, 2019

For Information and Reservations Contact:
20th Century Railroad Club
400 East Randolph Street, Suite 3725
312-829-4500 • www.20thcentury.org



Day 1 – International Travel

Make your way to Zürich, Switzerland using your preferred airline for the overnight flight. (Flights not included)

Day 2 – Arrive Zürich

Welcome to Switzerland! Arrive at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Transfers will accommodate flights arriving into Zurich before 10:30 am. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or to begin your explorations of the city independently. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your tour manager and fellow travelers. Overnight Zürich. (D)

Day 3 – Appenzell

This morning we set off on our first excursion, this time to the charming, car-free village of Appenzell. We will pass through the rolling hills of the Alpstein region along the way and enjoy a glimpse at Switzerland's more rural side. We will tour one of the local dairies and savor their cheeses, as well as lunch, along the way. Upon arrival in Appenzell, you will have free time to explore however you see fit. Overnight Zürich. (B, L)

Day 4 – Lucerne

This morning we make our way to the local train station to board a train bound for Lucerne. Lucerne is one of Switzerland's most idyllic medieval cities, surrounded by a beautiful lake and nestled amidst snowcapped Alps. You have the option to spend the rest of the day getting acquainted with Lucerne on your own terms, or you can join a group excursion to Mount Rigi. Choosing the latter allows you to ride aboard two cog railways and a panorama cable car from which you can see all the way across the Alps into Germany and France. Overnight Lucerne. (B)

Day 5 – Lucerne to Lausanne by train

All aboard for a day filled with rail excursions! To begin, we board the *Lucerne-Interlaken*

Express. The train passes through the Bernese Oberland and crosses the Brünig Pass before arriving in Interlaken. We make a brief stop in this resort town, giving you time to gaze over the emerald waters of Lakes Thun and Brienz and to see the beautiful timber homes before boarding the *BLS RegioExpress Train* bound for the alpine town of Zweisimmen. In Zweisimmen, we board the *Goldenpass Panoramic*, which offers large windows from which to see the amazing landscape en route to Montreux. Overnight Lausanne. (B)

Day 6 – Montreux and Zermatt

We are off to the resort town of Zermatt today. This beautiful town, with its mountain and lake views, is renowned as the Swiss Riviera. You can choose to spend your time here taking in the amazing sights or you can embark on an optional excursion to Chillon Castle. Moving on, we will head to the rail station to board our train to Zermatt. Upon arrival, we will be transferred to our hotel for the next two evenings. Overnight Zermatt. (B)

Day 7 – Gornergrat Railway

From the hotel, we will travel to Zermatt city center to board the *Gornergrat Train*. As you make your way up to the summit over the course of 33 minutes, you will be treated to some of the most spectacular scenery in the world, including a look at the Matterhorn. At the top in Gornergrat, there is a restaurant, as well as a variety of shops in the highest shopping mall in all of Europe. Upon descending the mountain, we return to Zermatt for a day of leisure. Tonight, you will enjoy conversation and wonderful food at the group's fondue dinner. Overnight Zermatt. (B, D)

Day 8 – Glacier Express

Yet another spectacular railway lies ahead today, with our ride aboard the famed lines of the *Glacier Express*. As you board the train in Zermatt, get settled into your seat to take

in some of the world's best views. The ride takes approximately 8 hours and includes some 291 bridges, 91 tunnels and tight curves through the Swiss Alps. At lunchtime, we will savor a three-course meal that is served by the train's staff. The ride continues with even more twists and turns, inclines and declines before the train pulls into the station at St. Moritz. Overnight St. Moritz. (B, L)

Day 9 – Bernina Express

Your views will alternate between snow-capped mountains and Mediterranean vistas today, as we take a trip aboard the *Bernina Express*. The train leaves the St. Moritz station for the 2-hour trip through the Swiss landscape and down into Italy. Once in Tirano, the day is yours to sightsee amongst the various churches, the town's palace and through the narrow streets. The train will return us to St. Moritz, where the remainder of the day will be yours to explore independently. Overnight St. Moritz. (B)

Day 10 – Zürich

Today, we set off on our last rail adventure of the tour, this time returning back to Zürich. Upon arrival in Zürich, we will truly have a chance to get acquainted with the city during a guided tour. Some of the sites you might see along the way include the National Museum, which looks much like a castle; the Opera House; Lake Zürich and Fraumünster Church, where Marc Chagall's 5-piece stained glass windows flood the chapel with light and color. Tonight, you will celebrate your new experiences and new friendships with a group Farewell Dinner. Overnight Zürich. (B, D)

Day 11 – Tour Conclusion

Indulge in one last Swiss meal before the group is transferred to Zürich's international airport for return flights home. Transfer will accommodate flights that depart Zürich after 10:00 am. (B)

