

Alpine Swiss Villages & Rails

JULY 9, 2024 - 9 DAYS

BOOKING #178112 (WEB CODE)

DAY 1: OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Today board your overnight flight to Europe.

DAY 2: ARRIVE IN ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - BERN - WENGEN

Upon arrival in Zurich, Switzerland meet your Premier World Discovery Tour Director. Travel to Bern, the beautiful capital city of Switzerland featuring cobblestone streets under medieval arches making it one of Europe's most picturesque cities & registered as a UNESCO historic site. See the Rose Garden, one of the most beautiful parks in Bern offering an unrivaled view over the rooftops of the historic Old Town. Also see the impressive Zytglogge (Glockenspiel), a landmark medieval tower built in the early 13th century, it has served the city as guard tower, prison, and clock tower. Later travel up into the massive Swiss Alps and arrive in Lauterbrunnen with its towering cliffs. Say good-bye to the motorcoach for a few days as you begin using your included Berner Oberland Regional Rail Pass which gives access to rail, cable car, bus and boat. Travel by Cog Railway up to the enchanting alpine village of Wengen, your home for the next 6-nights. Wengen is a picturesque small village in the Jungfrau region and could represent the Swiss Alps on postcard as it features no cars, mountains all around, green meadows and forests surrounding the village. This evening enjoy a Welcome Dinner.

✂ (D)

Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 3: LAUTERBRUNNEN VALLEY - TRUMMELBACH FALLS - MURREN

This morning board the Cog Railway for an excursion to the glacier-carved Lauterbrunnen Valley. Board a Postbus to Trummelbach Falls, a series of ten glacier-fed waterfalls inside the mountain made accessible by a tunnel-funicular, built in 1913. Go inside the mountain and see how the falls have carved incredible caves. Next, take the cable car up to Gimmelwald, a small traffic free village in the Bernese Oberland. Then continue to Murren to enjoy some time at leisure in this car-free village noted for hiking paths surrounded by bell-ringing cows, waterfalls and wildflowers. Ride the funicular up to Allmendhubel (altitude 6,200 ft.) for the view, or take the Schilthorn Cable Car up to the summit Piz Gloria (additional cost, altitude 9,700 ft.). The panoramic revolving restaurant at the summit was featured in the 1969 James Bond movie On Her Majesty's Secret Service. Later return to Wengen where dinner is included this evening with your fellow travelers.

✂ (B,D)

Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 4: WILDERSWIL - LAKE CRUISE - ROTHORN STEAM TRAIN

Today begins with a visit to Wilderswil to board the vintage Cog Railway up to Schynige Platte for incredible views of the surrounding mountain peaks (altitude 6,800'). Later, take in the scenery as you cruise across turquoise blue Lake Brienz. Then ride the Brienz Rothorn Steam Train to the heights of the Rothorn through alpine meadows and the sound of Swiss cow bells to experience more views of the impressive Alps. Later return to Wengen and enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers.

✂ (B,D)

Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 5: DAY AT LEISURE - ZERMATT OPTIONAL

Today, enjoy free time in Wengen to shop, hike and explore with your travel pass. Maybe join an optional day trip to the famous car-free ski resort village of Zermatt situated at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn, one of the world's most famous mountain peaks. Enjoy time at leisure to explore Zermatt on your own. Perhaps peruse the luxury boutiques and shops or enjoy a meal in a ski

lodge. Maybe ride up the Cogwheel Railway to the Gornergrat (additional cost, weather permitting 9,500 ft.) offering incredible views of the Matterhorn and 29 of the highest peaks in Europe. Return to Wengen after a long but rewarding day and enjoy the evening at leisure.

✂ (B) Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 6: JUNGFRAU OPTIONAL - GRINDELWALD

This morning is at leisure to relax or maybe join the half day Optional Jungfrauoch Mountain Rail Excursion, referred to as the Top of Europe, a place where the highest railway station in Europe is located (11,300 ft.). This afternoon travel via Cog Railway to enjoy the included visit to the resort village of Grindelwald to explore, shop and maybe visit a local cafe. Later continue on to "Summit in First" via the Grindelwald-Männlichen Gondola Cableway, Europe's longest cable car to an altitude of 7,600 ft. Later return to Wengen for an evening at your own pace.

✂ (B) Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 7: ROSENLAUI - AARE RIVER GORGE - MEIRINGEN

Today travel by Cog Train along the sheer walls of the Swiss Alps back to nearby Grindelwald. Then board a famed yellow Postbus and travel through the most remote portions of Switzerland for exploration of the Rosenloui Glacier Gorge which features waterfalls, natural whirlpools and fantastic rock formations. Later descend out of the mountains to the amazing 600 ft. deep Aare River Gorge, carved over thousands of years by the Aare River. Later travel to the village of Meiringen known for being the home of the tasty Meringue and the site of Sherlock Holmes' final case. Enjoy some time on your own to visit the Sherlock Holmes Museum and try a Meringue at a cafe. This afternoon ride the panoramic Express Train along Lake Brienz to Interlaken, then the Cog Train up to your hotel in Wengen. Later enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers.

✂ (B,D)

Overnight: **Wengen**

DAY 8: WENGEN - LUCERNE - ZURICH

This morning descend on the now familiar Cog Railway and board your motorcoach for the first time in days. Visit one of the most scenic local resident streets in Europe, the Brunnigasse in Brienz, which will include a visit to a local Wood Carving Shop. Then travel over Brunig Pass to Lucerne, situated in the geographical heart of Switzerland and poetically described by Alexandre Dumas as "a pearl in the world's most beautiful oyster". Enjoy a Lucerne Walking Tour featuring the famous Lion's Monument, the historic wooden Chapel Bridge and a walk along shores of beautiful Lake Lucerne. Continue to Zurich and check in to your hotel for your final night. This evening join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner.

✂ (B,D)

Overnight: **Zurich**

DAY 9: ZURICH - HOME

Transfer to the Zurich Airport for your flight home filled with wonderful memories of your Alpine Swiss Villages & Rails Tour. ✂ (B)

ACCOMMODATIONS

- ▶ **6 Nights** - Arenas Resort Victoria-Lauberhorn, Wengen
- ▶ **1 Night** - Dorint Hotel, Zurich

On some dates alternate hotels may be used



BOOKING DISCOUNT!
Save \$100 Per Person
\$200 Per Couple*

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 6 Nights - Wengen
- ▶ 1 Night - Zurich
- ▶ Berner Oberland Rail Pass
- ▶ Swiss Rail Excursions & Transportation - Trains, Cogs, Cable Cars, Boats & Buses
- ▶ Bern
- ▶ Interlaken
- ▶ Grindelwald
- ▶ Gimmelwald
- ▶ Murren
- ▶ Lake Brienz Cruise
- ▶ Wood Carving School
- ▶ Meiringen
- ▶ Grindelwald-Männlichen Gondola Cableway

- ▶ Trummelbach Falls
- ▶ Lucerne City Tour
- ▶ Chapel Bridge of Lucerne
- ▶ Aare River Gorge
- ▶ Rosenloui Glacier Gorge

INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Roundtrip Airfare - ATL
- ▶ 12 Meals: 7 Breakfasts & 5 Dinners
- ▶ Sightseeing per Itinerary
- ▶ Admissions per Itinerary
- ▶ Hotel Transfers
- ▶ Professional Tour Director
- ▶ Motorcoach Transportation
- ▶ Baggage Handling at Hotels



**Center for
Lifetime Study**

TOUR RATES:

Booking Discount*: **\$4899** pp double

Regular Rate: **\$4999** pp double

Single Supplement: +\$850

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