



Columbus Destination & Holidays

Itinerary for Switzerland: 12 nights /13 days

Day 1: Arrival in to Zurich and from the airport itself you can take the train to St Moritz. The time from Zurich to St Moritz will take you 3 and half hours. Arrive at St Moritz and check into the hotel. St. Moritz is located in [Graubunden](#), the south-eastern part of the Switzerland. At 1,856 m (6,088 ft) above sea level, the town lies on a sunny terrace in the heart of the Engadin Valley (the valley of the River Inn) and consists of the 3 districts St. Moritz Dorf ("village"), St. Moritz Bad ("bath"), and Champfèr. The community is influenced by three cultures: the Romansh-speaking population of the Engadin, the German-speaking majority, and the nearby Italians. St. Moritz is the most famous holiday resort in the world. The sun shines an average of 322 days a year - more than anywhere else in Switzerland. Skiers, snowboarders and cross country skiing enthusiasts are drawn to St. Moritz by its natural beauty and quality infrastructure. In addition, St. Moritz stages a wide variety of first class events, to make it a holiday destination unmatched anywhere on the globe.



Day 2: At St Moritz: Chur - the oldest town in Switzerland:

Full-day excursion (approx. 2 hours by train, 1.5 hours by car from St. Moritz). With a settlement history dating back 5,000 years, Chur harbours many a secret just waiting to be uncovered such as the 800-year old cathedral or the picturesque winding streets in the Old Town. The spirit of bygone days lives on in Chur and merges with the present to create the town's incomparable charm. Particularly worth a visit is the Rhaetian Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Natural History Museum. Chur offers a broad culinary range of Graubunden delicacies - with its own wine, alpine source water from every tap, Bündner specialities and international dishes served at its 130 restaurants. Over 500 shops and stores offer produce and wares from all over Graubunden. In summer, open-air events such as concerts, theatre and cinema, give the city a Mediterranean feel. Chur is also home to an animal and leisure park, and a large sports center with outdoor- and indoor swimming pools, beach volleyball, inline skating, skateboarding, BMX-biking, tennis, horse riding, and much more besides.



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You will be spending 2 nights at St Moritz:

Day 3: St. Moritz- Zermatt:

Today after breakfast, you will check out and proceed to the railway station and board the scenic train The glacier Express which will take you to Zermatt.

The Glacier Express connects Switzerland's world-famous mountain resorts of St. Moritz, Davos and Zermatt, at the foot of the Matterhorn. A panoramic trip through the Alpine heartland of Switzerland, and a memorable way of traveling from the eastern to the western Swiss Alps (or vice versa) passing over 291 bridges and with great views of snow capped peaks, mountain forests and raging streams. The Glacier Express offers comfortable panorama wagons on its 4 trains daily during summer months, and 1 train daily in winter.



Route: St. Moritz / Davos - Chur - Andermatt - Brig - Zermatt and vice versa. The journey time is approx. 8 hours. After you arrive in Zermatt, check into the hotel and free time on your own to discover this beautiful Mountain town. Despite its status as a world-class resort, Zermatt has not lost its authenticity as a Swiss mountain village. Chalets, old half-timbered houses and cabins, restaurants or shops, line the streets with geraniums spilling out of window boxes in the summer, and in winter, the sun shines bright, the snow is clean and horse-drawn sleighs jingle through the streets. Zermatt is a car-free village, which makes a special vacation atmosphere as soon as one gets out of the train. There are three main streets which run along the banks of the river Matter Vispa, and numerous cross-streets, especially around the station and the church which forms the center of the village. In general anything is within a 20 -30 minutes' walk.

Day 4: Zermatt-Matterhorn-Zermatt



Today after breakfast proceed for a half- Day excursion to matterhorn. (approx. 40 minutes from Zermatt to the top). The Matterhorn Glacier Paradise is the highest sightseeing point in Europe which is accessible by cableway. The Matterhorn Express gondola brings you to Furi where you change to the large cableway which takes you via Trockener Steg to the Klein Matterhorn. Finally, up there you take a lift to get to the highest sightseeing platform offering a panoramic view of the Alps including the 38 4,000-meter peaks (13,120+ ft) surrounding



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Zermatt. At the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise it also is possible to visit the [Glacier Palace](#) - 15 meters under the glacier's surface.

Post lunch, spend the rest of the day, discovering the town of Zermatt .Overnight at Zermatt.

Day-5: Zermatt-gornergrat-Zermatt:



Gornergrat (3,089 m / 10,132 ft):

Today, after breakfast, half day visit to Gronengrat. (approx. 40 minutes from Zermatt to the top). Switzerland's first electric cogwheel railway (built in 1898) takes you up to this popular sightseeing point. The train crosses impressive bridges, galleries and tunnels; in the midst of idyllic forests and alpine meadows, past rocky gorges and tarns; accompanied by the majestic mountains, first and foremost by the Matterhorn. On its 9.3 km (5.8 miles) up to the summit, the train stops at the luxury resort-hotel Riffelalp, then at Riffelberg (also with hotel and restaurant), and at Rotenboden before reaching the Gornergrat with the Kulmhotel –the highest hotel in the Swiss Alps. After spending almost half a day, return to Zermatt town, and free at leisure . Overnight in Zermatt. **(you will spent 3 nights in Zermatt.)**

Day 6: Zermatt- Interlarken:

Today after breakfast , you will take the train and arrive at Interlaken. Interlaken is centrally located in Switzerland in the [Bernese Oberland](#). At 568 m (1,863 ft) above sea level, Interlaken lies between two lakes (Lake Thun and Lake Brienz) where it is bordering the city of Unterseen and the village of Boenigen forming the 3 politically independent communities of the "Boedeli".

The area around Interlaken presents a wide variety of attractions and activities, both during winter and summer. The nearby mountains attract sportive people such as climbers and hikers in summer, and during winter skiers and snowboarders. But also more relaxed mountain excursions are very popular to enjoy great views of the valleys and Alpine peaks from the summits. Interlaken also is ideally situated to undertake daily excursions to other cities such as Lucerne, Bern or Thun. Of course, the town of Interlaken offers numerous options to spend a couple of days - don't miss strolling along the famous "Höheweg" promenade that links the urban center of Interlaken West with the much more scattered Interlaken East. It is one of the best locations in Switzerland for souvenir and watch



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shopping, and offers superbe views of the Jungfrau mountain range. I would suggest that today you spend the day, discovering this pretty town on your own. Overnight at Interlarken.

Day 7: Interlarken-Jungfaruioch-Interlarken:

After breakfast, proceed to the station and take the train to Jungfaruioch. Full day excursion and evening back to Interlarken. Overnight at Interlarken.

Day 8: Interlarken-Geneva-Bern-Interlarken:

I guess by now, you all would have seen enough of mountain and snow, and would now like to see some really small towns and cities of Switzerland.. since you will have the pass, I suggest that today you make full use of it, and go staright to Geneva, see the city, the lake and the united nations. Visit the old town, and have your lunch there. post lunch you can do some shopping in Geneva, and then take the train and come to Bern, which is the capital of Switzerland. Spend rest of the day and evening at Bern, have your dinner there and then from there straight, you can go back to your hotel in Interlaken. Overnight at Interlarken.

Lake Geneva Cruises:



CGN - the "Compagnie Générale de Navigation sur le lac Léman" offers numerous cruises throughout the year; point-to-point cruises as well as special events round-trip cruises (e.g. New Year's Eve Cruise or Swiss National Day Cruise). Enjoy the scenery with the impressive Alps and the Riviera while on a gourmet lunch cruise.



Jet d'eau (Water Fountain):

In 1891, the City of Geneva decided to install the "Jet d'eau" where it is today, on the Rade, together with electric lighting, and over the years, this water fountain has grown to be the symbol of Geneva. To project half a cubic meter of water per second up to 140 meters (460 ft) high requires two powerful groups of motor pumps representing a global weight of over 16 tons and a total power of close to 1000 kilowatts, fed by an electric tension of 2400 volts. The water is drawn in a circular water-sump and is directed towards an exit pipe where the speed reaches 200 km/h (130 miles per hour).

Flower Clock:



A symbol of the Geneva watch industry of world renown, the famous flower clock, located at the edge of the Jardin Anglais (English Garden) since 1955, is a masterpiece of technology and floral art. Formerly only decorative with its sole dial comprising over 6,500 flowers, the new



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millennium provided it with decisive artistic dimensions thanks to the ingenuity of the gardeners of the Service of Green Spaces and the Environment. It is now composed of eight concentric circles, the colours of which vary with the seasons and the plants which make up the display. The seconds hand of Geneva's Flower Clock is the largest in the world (it is more than 2.5 meters long)!



St. Peter's Cathedral:

The first phase of the cathedral's construction dates back to the year 1160. Many events, including a series of fires, led to restorations and reconstructions, modifying its original design. Then, in the middle of the 16th century, the advent of the Reformation, with its philosophy of austerity, upset the entire interior of the building as all ornaments were removed and

the coloured decors whitewashed. Only the stained glass windows were spared. You will also be charmed by the Clémence, the queen of the bells, weighing over 6 tons and hoisted to this very tower in 1407. 157 steps lead to the summit of the cathedral's north tower and to a fabulous panorama overlooking the city and the lake.



United Nations Building:

Constructed between 1929 and 1936 to house the League of Nations, the "Palais des Nations" became the headquarters of the United Nations in 1946 when the former organisation was dissolved. The vast wooded park overlooking the lake, where it is located, was donated by the City of

Geneva. Today, and after the completion of a new wing in 1973, it is the second most important center of the United Nations after New York. Its surface is that of the Palais de Versailles and its Assembly Room, seating 2,000, is as large as the Paris Opera House.

(You will be spending 3 nights at Interlaken)

Day 9: Interlaken-Lucerne:

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take the train to Lucerne. You can leave your suitcases in the reception and proceed for sightseeing to this beautiful town.

Lucerne is located in Central Switzerland; on the northwestern end of Lake Lucerne where the Reuss River resumes its course at 436 m (1,430 ft) above sea level. The city has an area of 37.4 km² (14.4 sq miles) including lake.

Once a simple fishermen's village, today Lucerne is a lovely small city with a thriving tourism industry, owing its development mainly to its status as a gateway to [Central Switzerland](#), on the Gotthard route, the important north-south transport axis, sandwiched



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between the Swiss Plateau and the Alps, but also to the unique picturesque scenery of the region. The city became a center of Swiss history and legend, and is the setting for the most memorable part of the William Tell legend (the bit with the boy and the apple). Lucerne's Chapel Bridge and the Watertower are the well known landmarks, but besides the numerous sights within city limits, Lucerne also serves as an excellent base for many excursions on the lakes and to the mountains in Central Switzerland . Today you will spend the day discovering the town of Lucerne. Over night at Lucerne.

Day 10: Lucerne- Mt. Titlis- Lucerne:



Mt. Titlis (3,020 m / 9,906 ft):

Half- or Full-day excursion (approx. 90 minutes by train from Lucerne to the top). Snow and Fun all year round; the Titlis is the highest Alpine tourist destination in Central Switzerland, and the Titlis Rotair is the world's first revolving cable car. Visitors will be impressed by the spectacular 360° panorama and attractions such as the Ice Flyer chairlift or the Glacier Park. The Lucerne Tourist Office offers escorted tours to Mt. Titlis (daily starting at 11:15 AM or 12:10 PM)..

Day 11: Lucerne- Montreux-Lucerne:

After breakfast proceed for a full day trip to Lausanne and Montreux and Gstaad: Montreux is located in southwestern Switzerland - the Lake Geneva Region, at 390 m (1,280 ft) above sea level on the north-eastern shores of Lake Geneva with the Golden Pass line..

Golden Pass Line:

The Golden Pass scenic train connecting the popular Swiss Tourism destinations of Montreux, Gstaad, Interlaken and Lucerne. VIP-seats on the Golden Pass scenic train; enjoy the ride in the front row - a very special experience !The Golden Pass links the Lake Geneva region with Central Switzerland via the Bernese Oberland. Two languages, three worlds, six lakes - that's the Golden Pass. In Montreux, palm trees and southern ambience still prevail along the "Swiss Riviera", then through vineyards and gardens on to green pastures with grazing cows and cozy chalets, above them snow-capped peaks of the Bernese Alps. Down the Simmental Valley and along the crystal clear lakes of Thun and Brienz via Interlaken and up again onto the Brünig Pass, and from there down to Central



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Switzerland along Lake Lucerne to Lucerne. The Golden Pass runs all year with several trains daily (more frequently during summer). Seat reservations are optional, but we recommend to reserve seats on the Montreux-Zweisimmen portion. Consider getting a VIP seat in the panorama wagon front row - a very special riding experience (limited availability).

Route: Montreux - Gstaad - Zweisimmen - Interlaken - Lucerne and vice versa. The journey time is approx. 6 hours for the whole trip (or 1 1/2 hours Montreux - Zweisimmen).

German-speaking Gstaad is located in the valley of the River Saane in the western Bernese Oberland, in southwestern Switzerland on the border to the French-speaking region. At 1,050 m (3,444 ft) above sea level, the village is surrounded by gently rising mountains - as are the other 8 villages: Saanenmoeser, Schoenried, Saanen, Feutersoey, Gsteig, Turbach, Lauenen and Ablaendschen that belong to the Saanenland region.

The combination of the special experiences for which Gstaad is so famous is unrivalled. It cannot be found anywhere else and makes Gstaad the "last paradise in a crazy world" (quote by Julie Andrews, a regular visitor to Gstaad). Gstaad's internationally renowned reputation is associated with luxury and high society, but this car-free, friendly and charming village full of restored weathered-wood chalets between five gently sloping valleys is pleasing a larger crowd. Gstaad's slogan "come up, slow down" emphasises its wide range of offers, which can be consumed in peace and quiet.

Day 12: Lucerne:

Today after breakfast, you may choose to stay at Lucerne or visit the town of Basel and Neuchâtel. Since it is your last day, enjoy shopping, buying watches and chocolates. Overnight at Lucerne.

Day 13: Lucerne-Zurich-India:

Check out of the hotel and leave for Zurich airport to take your flight back home: