

## Discover Switzerland

Shimmering lakes, picturesque mountains, fields of green and delectable delights  
September 24 to October 5, 2023



Zermatt



Glacier Express



Lake Lucerne

## Highlights

### Glacier Express

Embark on a truly indescribable Journey aboard the Glacier Express. As you travel the entire length of the railway, admire the views of snowcovered Alpine peaks, roaring streams, lush meadows, and picturesque villages. Travelling along the Rhine River while snaking through 91 tunnels, across 291 bridges, over the Oberalp Pass and past the Landwasser Viaduct.

### Matterhorn

Towering 4,478 meters across the skyline, the iconic and hypnotizing Matterhorn calls like a siren pulling you towards her majestic beauty. Embrace the magnificent grandeur of the famous Matterhorn as we climb aboard the cogwheel train for the best view from Gornergrat. The incredibly scenic landscapes of the monstrous Alps follow us at every turn throughout our Journey.

### The "Top of Europe"

Venture to the 'Top of Europe' aboard the ultimate rail Journey. Climbing 3,454 metres above sea level on the Kleine Scheidegg to Jungfrauoch Cog Railway. Step out and feel the icy air on your skin and snow crunching beneath your feet as we explore the spectacular Ice Palace. Marvel at the breathtaking views while standing on the Jungfrauoch.

### Cheese, Chocolates & Timepieces

Learn about Swiss chocolate, cheese and Omega watches during expertly guided tours. We travel to Maison du Gruyère, and the fabled Emmental and its cheese factory for cheese tastings and to Broc to the Maison Cailler to learn about decadent Swiss chocolate. It is in Switzerland 'watch capital,' Biel, that we tour the impressive Omega Watch Factory.

**Limited Spaces. Reserve today!**

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LAND • SEA • RIVER • RAIL

### Your 12-Day Journey

#### **Day 1**                    **Depart for Milan, Italy**

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their checkin. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Milan. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to embrace your Journey.

**Overnight:**            Flight

**Meals:**                ---

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#### **Day 2**                    **Welcome to Milan**

Upon our arrival in Milan, we are transferred by private coach along the snowy peaks of the Italian Alps and across the Swiss border of Lugano, known as the “Monte Carlo” of Switzerland. We are greeted by our local guide who will be with us the entire Journey. After lunch, the day is at your leisure to relax or explore. Tonight, join us for a casual welcome dinner.

**Overnight:**            Lugano, Hotel International au Lac Lugano

**Meals:**                Lunch, Dinner

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#### **Day 3**                    **Lago Maggiore**

This morning we head out for a scenic drive to the gorgeous lakeside paradise of Ascona, known as ‘the pearl’ of Lake Maggiore. Following lunch, we stroll through the avenues of one of the most beautiful places in Switzerland, lined with breezy palm trees and pastel homes. We return to Lugano following a scenic drive along the Monte Ceneri mountain pass.

**Overnight:**            Lugano, Hotel International au Lac Lugano

**Meals:**                Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 4 St. Moritz

Garnering the attention of celebrities and royals alike, St. Moritz is a shimmering alpine town with emerald forests, frosty mountains and a glistening turquoise lake. Relish in a scenic drive to St. Moritz through the mountainous villages of San Bernardino Pass, Mala, Julier Pass and Engadin with breathtaking views of the Alps at every bend. After arriving at our hotel and enjoying a delicious lunch, we take a cable car to Piz Nair to admire the snow-covered slopes of St. Moritz, Pontresina, and Celerina sparkling in the sun. Dinner this evening is served at our hotel.

**Overnight:** St. Moritz, Hotel Schweizerhof

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 5 The Glacier Express

A day to remember, today we board the world-famous Glacier Express on a first-class rail Journey to Zermatt. Settle in to the Panoramic Car and drink in the spectacular scenery of snowy mountains reaching above the valleys, grassy slopes and charming villages. The seven-hour trek carries us along the Rhine River while snaking through 91 tunnels, across 291 bridges, and over the Oberalp Pass at its highest altitude of 2,044 metres. The Journey's signature structure, the Landwasser Viaduct, is one of the most photographed bridges in Europe due to its enormous yet delicate beauty. Indulge in lunch on board before arriving in Zermatt later this afternoon. A short walk brings us to our hotel.

**Overnight:** Zermatt, Hotel Sonne

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 6 Zermatt & Matterhorn

A blissful mountain village nestled in the Swiss Alps, Zermatt is a cozy town lying beneath a majestic mountain. Towering 4,478 meters across the skyline, the iconic and hypnotizing Matterhorn calls like a siren pulling you towards her majestic beauty. Enjoy a day at your leisure or join us on a scenic train ride from Zermatt to Gornergrat to catch the best view of the iconic Matterhorn mountain and the surrounding Alpine vista. Grab your camera for the perfect postcard shot!

**Overnight:** Zermatt, Hotel Sonne

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 7 Cheese, Chocolate & Montreux

This morning we walk to the train station and travel from Zermatt to Täsch where our coach will be waiting. We travel north through the Matter Valley towards the charming old town of Visp, one of the sunniest spots in Switzerland. Continue, through the countryside and through Pfyn-Finges nature park, Sion and Martigny. We follow the Rhone River to Aigle and pass vineyards until we get to the medieval town of Gruyère. According to legend, Gruyères was founded in 400 B.C. by the Vandal King Gruerius. He saw a crane (“grue” in French) flying across the crimson evening sky and decided to build his town on that very spot. We learn the secrets of cheese making at the Maison du Gruyère cheese factory and then continue to Broc to the Maison Cailler to learn about chocolate. A scenic drive brings us to our hotel.

**Overnight:** Montreux, Hotel Victoria Glion

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 8 Chillon Castle, Lausanne & Geneva

Today we will have a guided tour of Chillon Castle in the morning. The water castle is the most visited historic building in Switzerland. For nearly four centuries Chillon was the residence and profitable toll station of the Counts of Savoy. We continue to Geneva, the international capital of Switzerland, where you can see the beautiful parks along the lake, the old town with its cathedral, the unique town hall and the European seat of the United Nations. Enjoy lunch at the Olympic city of Lausanne before returning to Montreux.

**Overnight:** Montreux, Hotel Victoria Glion

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 9 Bern, Emmental & The Omega Watch Factory

A scenic drive through the soothing country roads brings us to Biel. Known as the ‘watch capital,’ we tour the impressive Omega Watch Factory. Here we venture into a high-tech facility where innovative watchmaking intersects with tradition. No trip to Switzerland would be complete without visiting Emmental and its cheese factory. We learn about the cheese making process and get to sample some of the delicious Swiss cheese. This afternoon we travel to the capital of Switzerland, Bern where you can enjoy the afternoon at your leisure exploring the medieval town.

**Overnight:** Bern, Hotel Swissôtel

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 10            The “Top of Europe”

Aboard the ultimate rail Journey, we climb 3,454 metres into the Alps to the Jungfrauoch, the ‘Top of Europe.’ Europe’s highest-altitude railway station from here, marvel at a high alpine world of ice and snow. Visiting the Ice Palace, we tour through a frosty world with each nook and cranny filled with mirror-smooth treasures. We travel by coach on a mesmerizing trail to Lauterbrunnen and through the scenic vistas of Lucerne where we check into our hotel and enjoy dinner.

**Overnight:**            Lucerne, Hotel Radisson Blu

**Meals:**                Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 11            Lucerne & Vineyards

Lucerne is best-known for the wooden bridge spanning the river to connect the city. The most famous and world's oldest one is the Chapel Bridge dating back to the 14th century. This pedestrians bridge is decorated with pictures representing Lucerne’s history. Take a cruise on Lake Lucerne before continuing to the county side to wander in its vineyards and to taste its wine. We enjoy a typical Swiss lunch today. This evening join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner.

**Overnight:**            Lucerne, Hotel Radisson Blu

**Meals:**                Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 12            Return Home

Today we wave “auf wiedersehen” to our new Swiss friends and make our way to the airport for our flight home. Enjoy a private car to your home upon arrival.

**Overnight:**            Home

**Meals:**                Breakfast

*All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at [www.jerryvandyke.com](http://www.jerryvandyke.com) or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.*

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### Your Journey Includes

#### First Class Accommodation

<b>Lugano</b>	Hotel International au Lac Lugano	2 nights
<b>St. Moritz</b>	Hotel Schweizerhof	1 night
<b>Zermatt</b>	Hotel Sonne	2 nights
<b>Montreux</b>	Hotel Victoria Glion	2 nights
<b>Bern</b>	Swissôtel Bern	1 night
<b>Lucerne</b>	Radisson Blu	2 nights

#### Included International Flights

<b>Airline:</b>	Air Canada
<b>Outbound:</b>	Toronto (YYZ) – Milan (MXP)
<b>Inbound:</b>	Zurich (ZRH) – Toronto (YYZ)
<b>Class of Service:</b>	Economy <i>Premium Economy and Business are available on request</i>
<b>Note:</b>	Fly from select Canadian gateways for only \$100 <i>For additional gateways and information, contact us for details.</i>

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### Journeys by Van Dyke Inclusions

<b>Journey Manager</b>	Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
<b>Home-Pickup Service</b>	Private car home pick up & return service (where available) or a credit or
<b>Hotel Overnight</b>	Hotel overnight near Toronto Pearson International Airport
<b>Gratuities</b>	Tips included for all intermediaries: all ship staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
<b>Porterage</b>	Porterage for one piece of baggage
<b>Visas &amp; Fees</b>	All fees, visas, port & service charges
<b>Gift with Every Journey</b>	Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
<b>Taxes</b>	All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT

### Journey Specific Inclusions & Experiences

- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed
- 1 Glass of Wine or beer included at dinner
  
- Excursion to Ascona
- Scenic Drive to St. Moritz
- Cable Car to Piz Nair
- Swiss Glacier Express – St. Moritz to Zermatt
- Excursion to Gornergrat
- Chillon Castle Visit
  
- Gruyères Cheese Tour & Cailler Chocolate Tasting
- Omega Watch Museum, Biel
- Emmental Cheese Factory
- Incredible Rail Journey to the Jungfrauoch and the 'Top of Europe'
- Lake Lucerne Cruise

### Fares

	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
<b>Main Itinerary</b>	\$11,990 CAD	\$13,740 CAD

*Fuel Surcharges - These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel charges and or government fees may apply at final payment date.*

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### Outstanding Accommodation

#### Lugano

2 nights

#### Hotel International au Lac Lugano

This unique hotel boasts 100 years of family operation and is located on the lake promenade in the centre of Lugano. The Old Town is just around the corner, with numerous shops a stone's throw away. One of the most renowned hotels of Lugano, it features a unique exhibition of its 100 year history and is listed by ICOMOS / UNESCO jury as a 'Historic Hotel with Honour'.



#### St. Moritz

1 night

#### Hotel Schweizerhof

At the Schweizerhof, a classic yet modern hotel, the art nouveau of the Gründerzeit period blends with modern elegance and restraint. Here, beauty is more than meets the eye, grounded in the natural splendour of the Engadine with a little St. Moritz glitz. It's for those who value the exceptional, yet appreciate the genuine.



#### Zermatt

2 nights

#### Hotel Sonne

Set at the foot of the Pennine Alps and offering views of the Matterhorn, this hotel has been run by three generations of the Forster family. Their attention to detail is evident in the care they take to maintain the garden or deliver relaxing services in their day and roman spas. Guest rooms feature warm wood tones and plush, inviting bedding.





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### Montreux

2 nights

#### Hotel Victoria Glion

The majestic Victoria Hotel can be found in Glion above Montreux (connected by funicular) and is renowned for its breathtaking views of Lake Geneva and the snow-capped Alps. Discerning guests are offered a peaceful setting, an open-air swimming pool, personal service and dining of the highest standards. The chef personally chooses the products from the market gardener, the fisherman, the breeder and the wine grower.



### Bern

1 night

#### Hotel Swissôtel

Swissotel Bern lies in the city centre, with a gorgeous view of the Alps and the historic, UNESCO World Heritage old town – which is just across the bridge (5 walking minutes). Its the ideal starting point for exploring picturesque medieval alleys and squares full of culture, lined with many small galleries, specialty shops and gastronomic gems.



### Lucerne

2 nights

#### Hotel Radisson Blu

Trendy designer city hotel for leisure stays, next to the central railway station and Culture and Convention Centre with a view of Lake Lucerne and Central Switzerland's mountain panorama. The designer hotel was opened in 2006 and is part of the "Lakefront Center" designed by Rüssli Architects. The fully glazed façade lends a dash of colour to the city's profile.



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## Personal Notes & Questions