

italian tours and

*Travel* by Diana

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## Custom Journey to Switzerland

Day 1 Depart US

Day 2 Arrive Zurich

Welcome to Switzerland! Upon arrival at the Zürich Airport, retrieve your baggage. Meet your private driver in the arrivals hall, holding a sign with your name, for transfer to your hotel. Please note that check in time is typically between 2:00 PM-3:00 pm. Check in, relax, and enjoy the remainder of the day at your own pace, adjusting from overseas flights. Overnight in Zürich. PT/H

Day 3 Zurich, Lucerne



Breakfast at hotel and check out. Leave your bags with hotel concierge. This morning, we will arrange an Old Town city tour with guide and entrance tickets. Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland, founded by the Romans in 15 B.C. The main language spoken here is German. Spend time along Lake Zurich or visit the Swiss National Museum in the city located in a castle. Zurich is very culturally rich, with a focus on theater and symphony orchestras. Bahnhofstrasse, or Main Street, has many opportunities for you to shop for local goods. After your tour, return to your hotel to retrieve your baggage and make your way independently to the Zurich train station. Your destination is Lucerne. Upon arrival in Lucerne at the train station, make your way with a taxi to your hotel. Check in and relax. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Overnight in Lucerne. B/G/ET/Swiss Pass/H

\*With a Swiss pass, you can access the public train system, boats, museums and more. During your stay in Switzerland, you will have the flexibility to use the pass and complete day trips on Days 3 through 9.

## Day 4 Lucerne, (Interlaken)

### Lucerne



Breakfast at hotel. Today is at your pace. You may remain in Lucerne. This morning explore the city, set against the backdrop of Lucerne Castle and the Swiss Alps. The city of Lucerne is well known for its 14th century Chapel Bridge and Water Tower crossing Lake Lucerne. You may want to walk the 670-foot bridge, the oldest covered bridge in the world complete with 17th century artwork. Your stops should also include the Dying Lion, a statue carved directly in the side of a cave. Make sure to try the schoggibrotli (chocolate chip bread roll) and the local liquor, known as Kirsch, which is made from cherries. An optional day trip could be to take a train via Swiss Rail to Interlaken (2h).

### Interlaken



Here you may enjoy boat trip around Lake Thun. This Alpine lake is dotted with towns, Romanesque churches and castles. Or you may want to visit St. Beatus Caves nearby. Deep into the heart of the mountain, well-lit walkways will take you by stalactites and stalagmites and rock formations creating a truly indescribable atmosphere. After your time of self-exploration of the area, return to Lucerne for overnight. **B/Swiss Pass/H**

## Day 5 Lucerne, (Bern)

Breakfast at hotel. Make your way to the train station for transfer to Bern using your Swiss Pass (1h 20m). (A guided tour can be arranged if you would like.) In this medieval city, you can stop at the Zytglogge Clock in the city center. Built in 1530, the clock functions astronomically as well and is adorned with spectacular gold and ornate puppets. Bern is also well known for the Minster Gothic Cathedral, the tallest church in Switzerland, with its elaborate antique stained-glass windows. You may also want to spend time exploring the four miles of shopping arcades in the Old Town. After free time in Bern, return to Lucerne using the local trains. Overnight in Lucerne. **B/Swiss Pass/H**

# Bern



## Day 6 Lucerne, (Lauterbrunnen, Grindelwald)

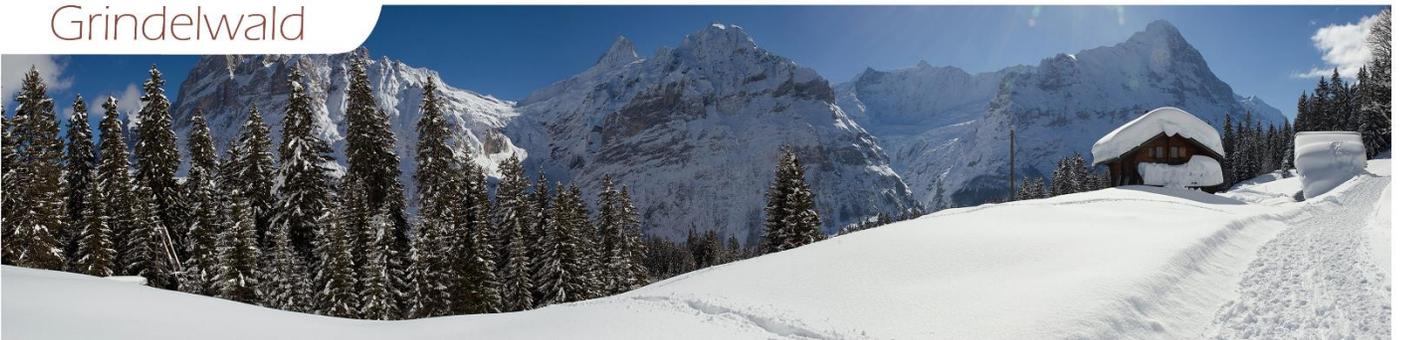
Breakfast at hotel. Today is at your pace. You may choose to visit the towns of Lauterbrunnen (1h 20m) or Grindelwald via Swiss rail.

### Lauterbrunnen



Lauterbrunnen is situated in one of the most impressive valleys in the Alps, between gigantic rocks and mountain peaks. This wonderful place is considered one of the biggest nature conservation areas in Switzerland. Its most known natural attractions are the 72 waterfalls. In fact, the name “Lauter Brunner” translates to “many fountains.” The most famous falls are the Staubbach Falls. Plunging almost 300 meters, they are one of the highest free-falling waterfalls in Europe.

### Grindelwald



Grindelwald, also known as “Glacier Village,” is a popular getaway. Gletscherschlucht, a glacial gorge just outside Grindelwald, features paths with waterfalls and limestone walls. This area has numerous lookout points providing stunning views of the impressive mountainscape, including the triple peaks of the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau. The Eiger Ultra Trail is accessible from this area and offers an amazing hiking experience. Return to Lucerne for overnight. **B/Swiss Pass/H**

Day 7 Lucerne, Lausanne

## Lausanne



Breakfast at hotel and check out. Make your way to the train station for transfer to Lausanne (2h 20m). Upon arrival, make your way to your hotel and check in. The rest of the day is at your leisure and time to explore Lausanne. (A guided tour can be arranged if you would like.) Lausanne is a medieval city with a car-free Old City. It will transport you back in time, and the shop-lined streets will provide plenty to see. Perhaps you will visit the 12th-century Gothic cathedral or the 19th-century Palais de Rumine, filled with fine art. Be sure to try the regional specialties, such as cabbage-filled sausage with leek gratin called "Papet Vaudois." Lausanne is also filled with nightlife in the evening. Your Swiss Pass is valid to access museums, boats around the lake or trains to nearby towns.

Overnight in Lausanne. **B/Swiss Pass/H**

Day 8 Lausanne, (Vevey, Chillon)

## Chillon



Breakfast at hotel. Today you will explore other towns along Lake Geneva such as Vevey. Your Swiss pass will allow you to take the local trains or boats. Vevey is known as one of the "Pearls of the Swiss Riviera". Its lakeside location with breathtaking views of the Alpine panorama, its extraordinary mild climate, the vineyards, numerous excursion destinations and proud paddlewheel steamers on the lake characterize this town by Lake Geneva. This afternoon, you may also want to visit the Chillon Castle nearby. The castle is located on a rock on the banks of Lake Geneva. 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. Tours are available if you are interested. You can view the tower, courtyards, dungeons and numerous other rooms. Return to Lausanne for overnight. **B/Swiss**

**Pass/H**

Day 9      Lausanne, (Montreaux, Gruyeres)

## Montreux



Breakfast at hotel. Today you can use your Swiss pass and board a train to Montreux (35 min) Because of the exceptionally mild climate, Montreux is called the capital of the Vaud Riviera. Plants associated with the Mediterranean, such as pines, cypresses and palm trees grow here. Charlie Chaplin, Freddie Mercury and several other famous people lived and continue to live on the Vaud Riviera. The long, flower-bordered lake promenade which links Vevey and Montreux, going all the way to Chillon Castle, is simply asking to be strolled along. Cultural events, such as the Montreux Jazz Festival, as well as countless excursion options to the mountainous hinterland or on the lake make Montreux the most popular excursion and holiday destination. Many of the houses along the lakeside road, including the magnificent Fairmont Le Montreux Palace, date from the heyday of the Belle Epoque. Or, choose to visit Gruyeres, where you can stop in any shop for a tasting of the best cheese in the country. Gruyeres is also worth the visit as it is beautiful. The town is walled and medieval with cobbled streets. You will be enchanted by the architectural charm of Gruyeres and enjoy some of the most breathtaking views in Switzerland. Return to Lausanne for overnight. **B/Swiss Rail/H**

Day 10      Depart Geneva

Breakfast at hotel and check out. Meet your private driver in the hotel lobby for transfer to the Geneva airport, where you will board return flights to the USA. **B/PT**

Once the “flow” of the itinerary is perfect for your journey, we are happy to provide a package price, per person, for the land portion only. Due to confidential and exclusive contracts with our suppliers, we are unable to accommodate requests for price breakdowns. Kindly note that your final quote for the land portion of this journey does not include international airfare, tipping, meals where not indicated and a city tax required by the European governments to be paid upon check out of each hotel. The tax is to be paid in cash and is approximately 1.50-5.00 euro per person per day