Swiss Alpine Adventure
By Rail

With Chris Harding
23rd April - 5th May or 8th - 22th September 2020

• ZURICH • MONTREUX • INTERLAKEN • BRIG • FILISUR • CHUR • LUCERNE •
OVERVIEW

Switzerland’s dramatic vertical landscapes have long attracted romantics and travellers. The railway revolution of the nineteenth century saw little trains daring to ascend the giant peaks by ingenious and inventive methods of engineering, making some of Europe’s most spectacular scenery accessible to all. Train travel is central to Swiss life, and its rail network is one of the most efficient – and easily the most patronised – network per head of population in the world. We begin our journey in the capital city of Zurich before travelling by train to the enchanting town of Montreux by Lake Geneva. We continue to Interlaken via the iconic and stunning Golden Pass on the Golden Panoramic Express, settling in to our hotel for an extended stay. Travel on Switzerland’s longest rack railway to its highest station, the Jungfraujoch and witness its largest glacier. Enjoy a ride on the Gornergrat rack railway from Zermatt before moving on to Brig, and then to Chur via the Glacier Express. After an extended stay in Chur we make the return journey to the grand ancient city of Zurich where our adventure comes to a fitting finale. This finely-tuned adventure, led by your experienced Switzerland expert Chris Harding, will take you through the heart of the Alps to explore a wonderful mix of the country’s key historical, cultural and scenic destinations on some of the world’s most iconic and dramatically engineered railways.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the magnificent Chateau de Chillon, rich with a thousand years of history
- Ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfraujoch, and experience breathtaking views of Switzerland’s largest glacier
- Ride the famous Gornergrat rack railway and visit Switzerland’s most iconic mountain, the Matterhorn
- Enjoy a delicious lunch through picturesque landscapes on the world’s slowest express train, the Glacier Express
- Climb over the multiple Albula spiral tunnels and viaducts to the highest crossing of the Alps to Italy aboard the Bernina Express
- Enjoy a guided walking tour through Chur, Switzerland’s oldest town
- Explore a multitude of museums, including the Transport Museum in Lucerne and the National Museum in Zurich
- Take the option to extend to Venice and board the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

CHRIS HARDING

Chris Harding is Vice President of the Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division. Chris fell under the spell of rail as a child, when he would walk from his home in the Sydney suburb of Belmore to watch trains in action at the Enfield Railway Yards, then home to over 300 steam locomotives. Although side-tracked by a high-flying career in the banking industry, Chris continued to have an active interest in railway history as a tour guide and office-bearer at the NSW Rail Transport Museum, Thirlmere. After leaving the banking world, Chris had the opportunity to pursue his passion full-time, first working for 3801 Limited, the operating company of the famous steam locomotive 3801, and later managing the ARHS Railway Bookshop at Sydney’s Central Station. He also became a popular media contact for commentary on historic and current railway events, frequently appearing on talk-back radio and television programs. Although retired, Chris still enjoys working with his mate and founder of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, hosting many railway adventures in Australia and Europe.
WHY TRAVEL WITH US

Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world’s most spectacular holiday destinations, with the assurance that the journey is just as magical and unforgettable as what is discovered at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT:

- **Small group sizes** — a maximum of 20 passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team with great cultural awareness and many years’ knowledge of each destination. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it’s a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, we know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and local operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the places they call home, while our partners on the ground offer us support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along! On our customer satisfaction ratings over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully-escorted** — our team of tour leaders is experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides, have your needs well covered. They will help with everything along the way, giving you the peace of mind you need to soak up your surroundings. And you’ll find them jolly good company to boot!

SOME WAYS YOU’LL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel and many other appealing modes of transport.

**TOUR MAP**

**SOME WAYS YOU’LL TRAVEL**

**Bernina Express**

**Glacier Express**

**Gornegrat**
DAY 1: Tue 21 April or 8 September 2020 • ZURICH
Welcome to Switzerland! Upon arrival at Zurich airport you can use your Swiss Rail Pass for the short journey to Oerlikon, a charming suburb on the way into Zurich and the base for our adventures in this fair city. Join Chris and your fellow travellers for a tantalising welcome dinner in a private room at our hotel's restaurant, a fitting introduction to this country's hearty and decadent cuisine.
Overnight: Swissotel, Oerlikon (D)

DAY 2: Wed 22 April or 9 September • ZURICH - MONTREUX
After breakfast this morning we depart Zurich with our overnight bags and make our way to the charming town of Montreux on beautiful Lake Geneva, utilising our Swiss Rail passes. Our luggage will be transferred directly by coach to Interlaken for our arrival the following day. On this journey we’ll see some of the truly breathtaking scenery this country has to offer. After checking in to our hotel right on the lake, we’ll enjoy a short trip to visit the magnificent Château de Chillon. A thousand years of history is contained in this iconic castle standing proudly on an island in the lake. It is a true jewel of Switzerland. Our expert local guide, dressed in period costume, will help to paint a picture of the life and legends inside its labyrinth of rooms, halls and dungeons. Dinner tonight will be in our hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva.
Overnight: Eurotel Riviera, Montreux (B, D)

DAY 3: Thu 23 April or 10 September • MONTREUX - INTERLAKEN
Today, we take the Golden Panoramic Express back over the renowned Golden Pass. A quick change at Zweissimmen and we’re off to our destination at the lakeside town of Interlaken Ost. The route we take reveals stunning views of Lake Geneva and the Teeth of the Midi, one of Switzerland’s most dramatic ranges. Upon arrival we’ll check in to our hotel and be re-united with our luggage before taking a round trip by ferry on the turquoise waters of Lake Brienz. A boat ride on this typical alpine lake with its steep surrounds is a truly impressive experience. Dinner is at our hotel later in the evening.
Overnight: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (or similar) (B, D)

DAY 4: Fri 24 April or 11 September • INTERLAKEN - JUNGFRAU - INTERLAKEN
Today we travel on the local service for a journey to the beautiful town of Lauterbrunnen, situated between gigantic rock faces and mountain peaks in one of the most impressive glacial trough valleys in the Alps. Following this we’ll ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfraujoch, where we’ll enjoy breathtaking views of Switzerland’s largest glacier. Take the elevator to the Sphinx observatory and brave the outside deck for amazing views of the Jungfrau, Monch, Eiger mountains, and the Aletsch Glacier (weather permitting). We’ll have time for lunch here. On the way back we pause at the village of Lauterbrunnen where cascading waterfalls frame the town.
Overnight: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (or similar) (B, L)

DAY 5: Sat 25 April or 12 September – INTERLAKEN
Today is a free day to explore the Interlaken area at your leisure. You might like to take the cable car to the top of the Schilthorn mountain (which is featured in one of the James Bond movies), ride the bus from Lauterbrunnen to the Trummelbach subterranean waterfalls, or the inclined railway to Harder Kulm for amazing views over the lake. As always, Chris will be on hand to help with suggestions and information on the options for your free time.
Overnight: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (or similar), (B)

DAY 6: Sun 26 April or 13 September • INTERLAKEN - GORNERGRAT - INTERLAKEN
We board a local train this morning, travelling along the valley and up the gorge to Zermatt at the base of the awe-inspiring Matterhorn (weather permitting). It may not be Switzerland’s highest mountain, but it’s certainly its most iconic. The famous Gornergrat rack railway, from Zermatt to the shoulder of Monta Rosa at 3135m, is the highest open-air railway in Europe. The spectacular viewing platform showcases views across 29 of the highest peaks of the Alps and the vast Gorner Glacier below. We’ll explore this breathtaking setting before returning to Interlaken later on and re-group for a fine dinner at the hotel’s restaurant.
Overnight: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (or similar) (B, D)

DAY 7: Mon 27 April or 14 September • INTERLAKEN - BRIG
After a late start this morning we’ll take the old railway route through the Kander Valley, the original Lotschberg Tunnel, and the thrilling descent of the Rhone Valley to Brig, a charming medieval city with an imposing 17th-century castle overlooking the town. Once again, we’ll bring overnight bags to help our journey run smoothly, our luggage travelling separately to our accommodation in Chur. After checking in to our hotel, we take a stroll around the town and pay a visit to the Stockalper Palace, a baroque palace built by the merchant prince Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper and one of the most important in Switzerland. We’ll enjoy dinner at our hotel later on.
Overnight: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B, D)

DAY 8: Tue 28 April or 15 September • BRIG - CHUR
Today we will take the famous Glacier Express for a run over the Oberalp Pass to Chur. You’ll be glad of the fact that this is the world’s slowest express train, as we leisurely take in the stunning scenery and array of remarkable railway engineering feats. Soak up views of rugged cliffs, crystal-clear mountain lakes and quaint, picture-perfect villages. This is truly one of the greatest rail journeys of the world! This scenic trip will include lunch and commentary. Reaching Chur, the oldest city in Switzerland and the capital of the Canton of Graubünden, we check in to our hotel for the next four nights. Our luggage will be waiting for us upon arrival and after freshening up we head out a short walk to have dinner at Drei Könige (Three Kings), an authentic local Swiss restaurant that dates back to 1793.
Overnight: ABC Hotel, Chur (B, L, D)
DAY 9: Wed 29 April or 16 September • CHUR
After breakfast this morning we’ll embark on a guided walking tour of the city, through the old town and into the area of the Bishop’s Palace and the historic 12th-century church. We’ll have some time for a happy lunch at a local café. In the afternoon we’ll ride the RHB down the main street and steep climb to the lakeside resort village of Arosa, flying over the famous Langwieser Viaduct en route. This is, without doubt, the best short train ride you can take in Switzerland. Return to Chur later in the afternoon for an evening at leisure.
Overnight: ABC Hotel, Chur (B, L)

DAY 10: Thu 30 April or 17 September • CHUR - TIRANO - CHUR
An exciting and beautiful rail trip is scheduled today on board the Bernina Express to Tirano in Northern Italy, an exquisite trip that perfectly epitomises the splendour of Swiss rail. We’ll climb over the multiple Albula spiral tunnels and viaducts to the highest crossing of the Alps before rapidly descending over 1600m from the snow to the city of Tirano, a charming Italian town with a wonderful collection of cafés and restaurants. Here we’ll have some free time for lunch before the train returns on this stunning railway back to our hotel in Chur, taking you from the snow to the palm trees. The rest of the evening is at leisure.
Overnight: ABC Hotel, Chur (B)

DAY 11: Fri 1 May or 18 September • CHUR
Today is a free day and there are a number of options on offer. Take a short train trip up to the nearby Davos and Klosters (keep an eye out for the Barentritt), have lunch and shop in St. Moritz, or see the Albula museum at Bergun. Intrepid explorers can take a walk down between the viaducts of the famous Albula Circus, where the railway circles over the soaring stone viaducts as it climbs over itself three times.
Overnight: ABC Hotel, Chur (B)

DAY 12: Sat 2 May or 19 September • CHUR - ZURICH
Enjoy a slightly later start this morning and board the regional express to Zurich, arriving in time to check in and be reunited with our luggage. Our train runs along the spectacularly scenic Walensee Lake and Lake Zurich, showcasing breathtaking mountains and lush landscapes all the way.
In the afternoon we’ll regroup to head back into the heart of Zurich to visit the vast and fascinating Swiss Transport Museum and experience the history of various forms of transportation used in bygone times, encompassing planes, trains, boats and automobiles. You can spend as long as you like here, with the option to explore the Old City and the famous Muenster covered bridge close by.
Later on we’ll return to Zurich by train or you can take the option to stay in Lucerne and continue to soak up this beautiful city, with its amazing old bridge and atmospheric old town. There are regular trains to whisk you back to Zurich at your leisure.
Overnight: Swissotel, Oerlikon (B, D)

DAY 13: Sun 3 May or 20 September • ZURICH
Today we explore the regions around Zurich, starting with a ride on the express train to the lakeside village of Arth Goldau. Here we’ll board the Rigi cogwheel train, which operates over a 7% incline (1 in 14). The Rigi is Europe’s oldest rack railway and is the second oldest in the world. We’ll then head over the mountain to Vitznau to take in the stunning views of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding mountains, before a short ferry ride to the charming city of Lucerne. Here we’ll pay a visit to the Swiss Transport Museum and experience the history of various forms of transportation used in bygone times, encompassing planes, trains, boats and automobiles. You can spend as long as you like here, with the option to explore the Old City and the famous Muenster covered bridge close by.

DAY 14: Mon 4 May or 21 September • ZURICH
We’ll start our day with a guided walking tour of the city’s atmospheric Old Town. Zurich’s origins date back as far as 15BC which explains why the city is so full of rich, old-world charm. Our local tour guide will engage us with colourful stories and anecdotes while introducing us to some of the local highlights including Bahnhofstrasse, Niederdorf, Grossmünster Cathedral, Lindenhof and more. The tour finishes back at the station where we’ll have the option to take the short journey along the lake to Adliswil to connect with the cable car that takes us up to Felsenegg Peak. You also have the option to enjoy a free afternoon, for those that prefer. Later in the evening we’ll gather for a celebratory farewell dinner in our hotel’s restaurant – a great way to wrap up our wonderful Swiss adventure.
Overnight: Swissotel, Oerlikon (B)

DAY 15: Tue 5 May or 22 September • ZURICH - DEPART (B)
After breakfast, we check out and say goodbye. For guests returning home, Zurich airport is only a few minutes by rail from our station. These are regular services which do not require reservations.

Optional extension on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express
For the treat of a lifetime depart Zurich and take the train to Venice where you check into the palatial Belmond Hotel Cipriani for one night in the grand city. The next day you will transfer to the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express for its historic journey to Paris and beyond to London via the Belmond British Pullman. For more information on this luxurious extension please call the office on 1300 800 977.
WHAT’S INCLUDED

• 14 nights accommodation in comfortable, centrally-located hotels
• Daily breakfast, three lunches and eight dinners
• Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
• Luggage transport throughout the tour
• Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
• All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
• Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON’T INCLUDE

• International flights
• Airport transfers on arrival and departure
• Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary
• All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, camera fees where applicable
• Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure
HOW TO BOOK
Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact us on 1300 800 977 or inforailwayadventures.com if you’d prefer a form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your $1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to: significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you’ve paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:
Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation.

While you don’t need to be a ‘gym junkie’, a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND INSURANCE
In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventures. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 800 977 if you would like to discuss options.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS
We have suggested flights for this itinerary from our preferred airline partners, depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

PRICE
Per person twin share............................................ $8,595
Single supplement................................................... $850
Deposit (per person) .............................................. $1,000 at time of booking
Final payment due by ........................................ 24 February or 13 July 2020

SOME PLACES YOU’LL STAY
Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.

Eurotel Riviera, Montreux
Hotel Du Lac, Interlaken
Ambassador Hotel, Brig
Swissotel, Oerlikon
Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world’s great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully-restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience.

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1200 travellers on over 100 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott’s numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 25 June 2019.