



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

Swiss Alpine Adventure By Rail

With Robert Kingsford-Smith
25 September - 10 October 2022

• ZÜRICH • MONTREUX • INTERLAKEN • BRIG • FILISUR • CHUR •

INTRODUCTION

Switzerland's vertical landscape has long attracted romantics and travellers. The railway revolution of the nineteenth century saw little trains daring to ascend the highest 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. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the magnificent Chateau de Chillon, rich with a thousand years of history
- Visit Gruyères Castle and the picture-book village below
- Ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfrauoch 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 three-course 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 aboard the Bernina Express
- Enjoy a guided walking tour through Chur, Switzerland's oldest town
- Explore the multitude of museums, including the National Railway Museum in Lucerne

Gruyeres Village



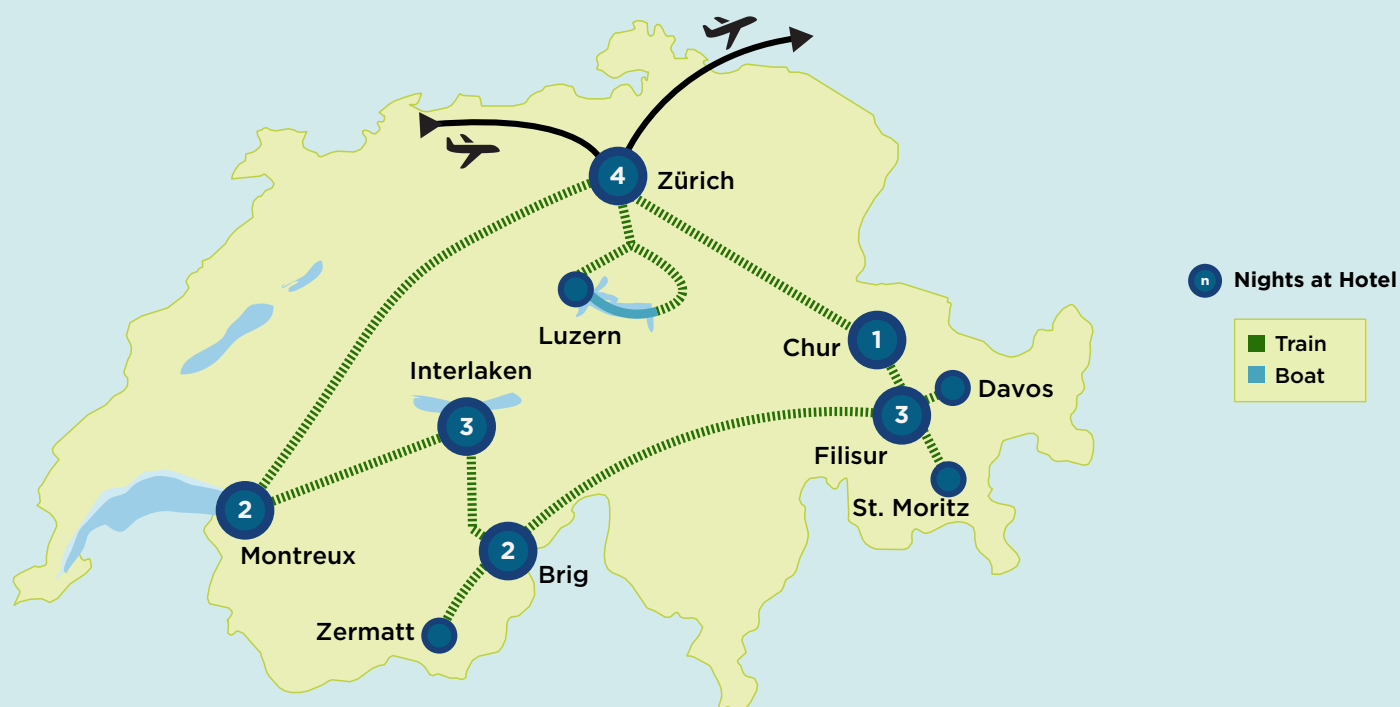
MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

ROBERT KINGSFORD-SMITH

Robert has built on his childhood passion for railways of the 1960s, by embarking on a quest to record the world's disappearing steam locomotives on film. His often-adventurous travels have taken him to over forty countries and the resulting photographs and articles have appeared in numerous publications in Australia and overseas. Robert has led groups of like-minded travellers in destinations as diverse as South America, Pakistan and South Africa. More recently he has become the celebrated tour leader on many Railway Adventure tours through Outback Queensland & NSW, Switzerland and Sri Lanka. His passion for history and wildlife has been well served on his travels and he combines his interests with regular and extensive train travel.



TOUR MAP



SOME WAYS YOU'LL TRAVEL

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



Bernina Express



Glacier Express



Gornegrat

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!

Day 1 • Sunday 25 September: ZURICH

Welcome to Switzerland! Join Chris and our fellow travellers for a tantalising welcome dinner in our private room at our hotel's restaurant, a fantastic introduction to this country's hearty and decadent cuisine.

Overnight: TBC, Zurich (D)

Day 2 • Monday 26 September: ZURICH - MONTREUX

Utilising our Swiss Rail passes, we depart Zurich and make our way to the charming town of Montreux on beautiful Lake Geneva. On this journey we'll begin to experience some of the breathtaking scenery this country has to offer. After checking in to our hotel right on the lake, enjoy a short trip to visit the magnificent Chateau de Chillon. A thousand years of history is contained in this iconic castle standing proudly on an island in the lake; truly a jewel of Switzerland. Our expert local guide, dressed in period costume, will help to paint a picture of the life and legends inside this labyrinth of rooms, dungeons and halls. Dinner tonight will be in our hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva.

Overnight: Eurotel Riviera, Montreux (B, D)

Day 3 • Tuesday 27 September: MONTREUX

After breakfast we'll meet in the hotel lobby and board our train, climbing the scenic hills overlooking Lake Geneva to the beautiful old town of Gruyeres, the home of Alien creator H. R. Giger and the famous cheese factory. A three-minute bus ride takes us to the beautiful, historic town of Gruyeres Ville. Gruyères Castle and the picture-book village is a great spot to enjoy some free time for shopping and lunch. Built between 1270 and 1282, the castle is one of the most prestigious in Switzerland and towers majestically above the quaint medieval town below.

Overnight: Eurotel Riviera, Montreux (B)

Day 4 • Wednesday 28 September: MONTREUX - INTERLAKEN

Today, we take the Golden Panoramic Express back over the renowned Golden Pass. A quick change at Zweissimen 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 right on the lake before taking a round trip by ferry on the turquoise Lake Brienz. A boat ride on this typical alpine lake with its steep sides is a truly impressive experience. Dinner is at our hotel later in the evening.

Overnight: Boutique Hotel Bellevue, Interlaken (B, D)

Day 5 • Thursday 29 September: INTERLAKEN

Travel on the local service for a journey to the beautiful town of Lauterbrunnen, situated in one of the most impressive glacial trough valleys in the Alps, between gigantic rock faces and mountain peaks. Following this we'll ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfrauoch, where we'll experience 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. Return to Interlaken after taking a stroll through the village of Lauterbrunnen where the cascading waterfalls frame the town.

Overnight: Boutique Hotel Bellevue, Interlaken (B, D)

Day 6 • Friday 30 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 (James Bond) Schilthorn mountain, ride the bus from Lauterbrunnen to the Trummelbach subterranean waterfalls, or the inclined railway to Harder Kulm for amazing views over the lake. This can all be done utilising your handy Swiss Rail Pass.

Meet back at our hotels restaurant this evening to compare notes on the day's activities.

Overnight: Boutique Hotel Bellevue, Interlaken (B)

Day 7 • Saturday 01 October: INTERLAKEN - BRIG

After a late start this morning we'll take the old railway route through the Kander Valley, 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.

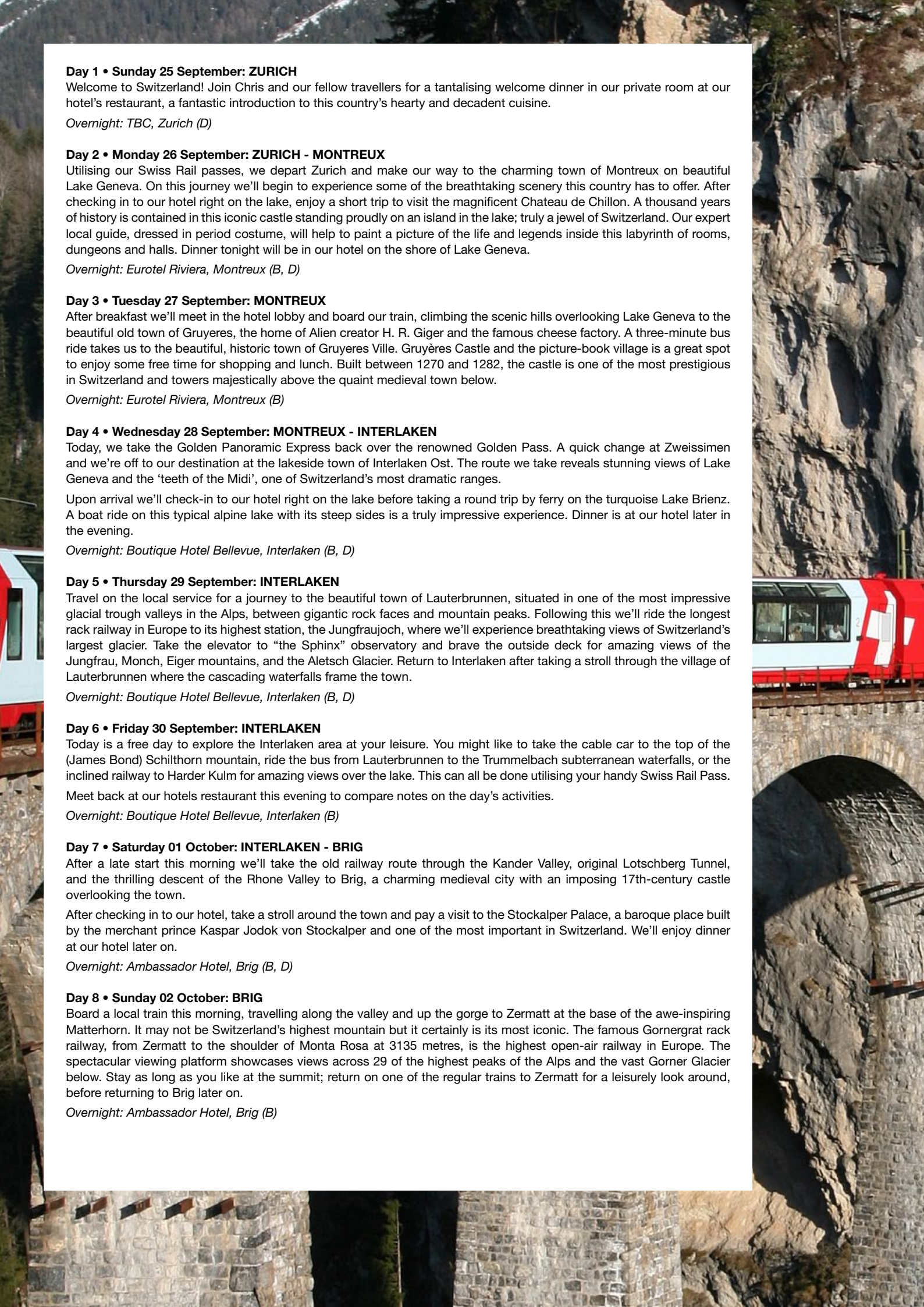
After checking in to our hotel, take a stroll around the town and pay a visit to the Stockalper Palace, a baroque place built by the merchant prince Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper and one of the most important in Switzerland. We'll enjoy dinner at our hotel later on.

Overnight: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B, D)

Day 8 • Sunday 02 October: BRIG

Board a local train this morning, travelling along the valley and up the gorge to Zermatt at the base of the awe-inspiring Matterhorn. It may not be Switzerland's highest mountain but it certainly is its most iconic. The famous Gornergrat rack railway, from Zermatt to the shoulder of Monta Rosa at 3135 metres, 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. Stay as long as you like at the summit; return on one of the regular trains to Zermatt for a leisurely look around, before returning to Brig later on.

Overnight: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B)





Day 9 • Monday 03 October: BRIG - FILISUR

Today we will take the famous Glacier Express for a run over the Oberalp Pass to the alpine village of Filisur. It may be the world's slowest express train, but we'll be thankful for that as we 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 the little hamlet of Filisur, check in to the famous Grischuna Hotel for three nights, which is located, very conveniently, right on the station. Join Chris for an afternoon stroll to the world famous Landwasser Viaduct. This spectacular construction is best viewed from the easily accessible lookout. A four-course dinner is included every night at the Grischuna.

Overnight: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, L, D)

Day 10 • Tuesday 04 October: FILISUR

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.

We'll re-group for dinner in our hotels charming little dining room this evening.

Overnight: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, D)

Day 11 • Wednesday 05 October: FILISUR

An exciting and beautiful rail trip is scheduled today on board the Bernina Express to Tirano in Northern Italy, an exquisite trip that totally epitomizes Swiss rail. We'll climb over the multiple Albula spiral tunnels and viaducts to the highest crossing of the Alps before rapidly descending over 1600 metres 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 Filisur, taking you from the snow to the palm trees. Dinner is once again in our hotel's fantastic restaurant.

Overnight: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, D)

Day 12 • Thursday 06 October: FILISUR - CHUR

Today we'll take the Regional Express to the historic city of Chur, the oldest city in Switzerland and the capital of the Canton of Graubünden. Our modern hotel is just a short walk from the station and following check in 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.

Dinner will be hosted at the 1793 authentic local Swiss restaurant, Drei Könige later in the evening.

Overnight: ABC Hotel, Chur (B, D)

Day 13 • Friday 07 October: CHUR - ZURICH

Following breakfast we'll ride the RhB down the main street and steep climb to the lakeside resort village of Arosa, flying over the famous Longweiss Viaduct on-route. This is without doubt the best short train ride you can take in Switzerland. On return, we'll catch the regional express to Zurich, running via the scenic Walensee Lake and Lake Zurich.

The afternoon is free, with many options for you to continue exploring this wonderful and vibrant city.

Overnight: Zurich TBC (B)

Day 14 • Saturday 08 October: ZURICH

We begin our comprehensive tour of Zurich with a ride on the express train to the lakeside village of Arth Goldau, where we'll board the Rigi cogwheel train which operates over a 7% incline (1 in 14). 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, encapsulating 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 bridge close by.

Later on we'll return to Zurich by train or take the option to stay in Lucerne and look around this beautiful city, with its historic covered bridge and atmospheric old town. There are regular trains to whisk you back to Zurich at your leisure.

Overnight: Zurich TBC (B, L)

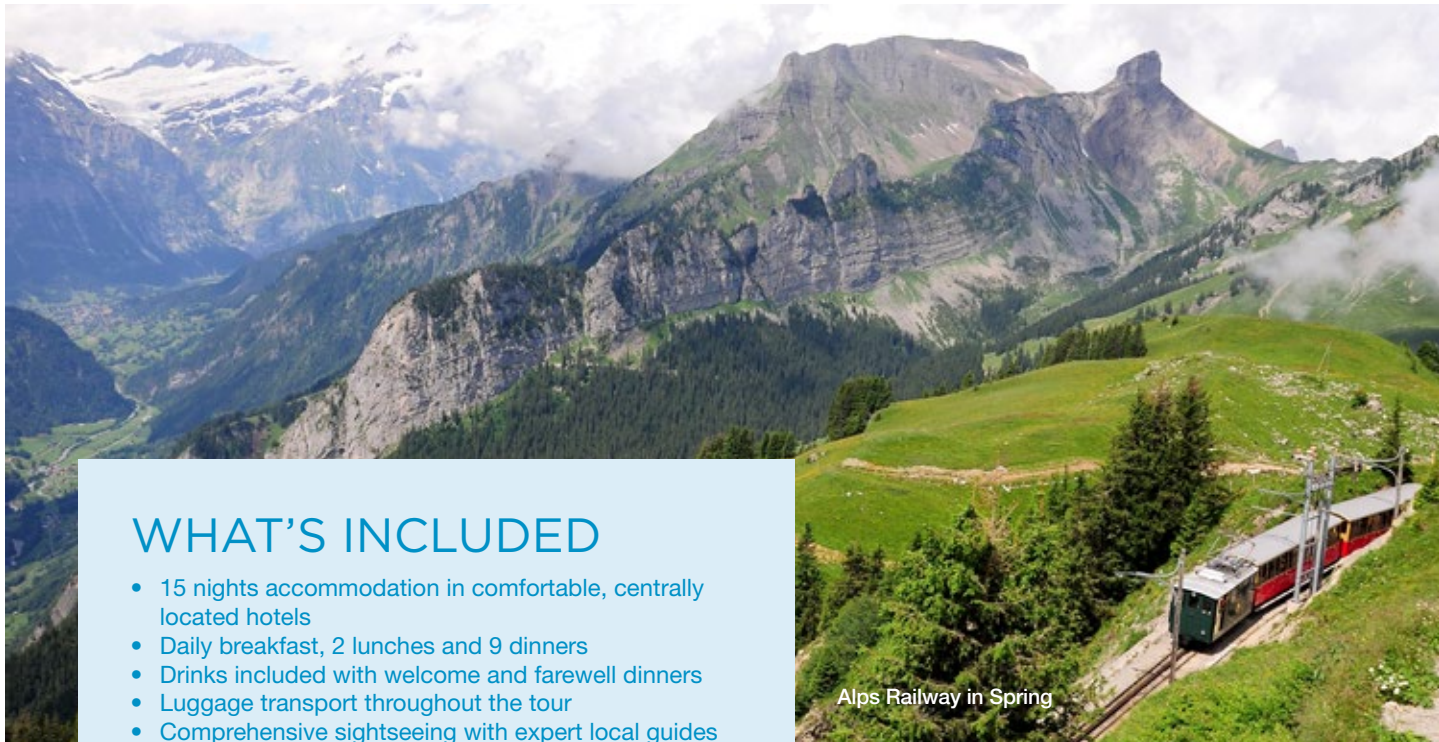
Day 15 • Sunday 09 October: ZURICH

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 15 BC 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 whilst introducing some of the highlights including Bahnhofstrasse, Niederdorf, Grossmünster Cathedral, Lindenhof and more. The tour finishes back at the station where we will depart for a short journey along the lake to Adliswil to connect with the cable car that takes us up to Felsenegg Peak. Here we'll enjoy a lovely "Farewell" all-you-can-eat cheese fondue lunch at the mountain restaurant with its brilliant views of Lake Zurich and the Alps. A great way to wrap up our wonderful Swiss adventure.

Overnight: Zurich TBC (B)

DAY 16: Monday 10 October: 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.



Alps Railway in Spring

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodation in comfortable, centrally located hotels
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches and 9 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 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

FITNESS RATING



Two 'Locos' - fitness rating

The most common grading for our tours. Two loco itineraries offer many activities that require a little extra fitness – walking on uneven ground, climbing hills to enter towns or historic sites, walks of 1-3 kilometres as well as getting on and off transport. You need to have good mobility and aerobic fitness and be able to manage your own luggage.



Interlaken

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 info@railwayadventures.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 Adventure.

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 GUIDE

Per person twin share.....	\$8,995 - \$9,995
Single supplement.....	\$950
Deposit (per person).....	\$1,000 at time of booking
Final payment due by	13 Jul 2022

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.



Eurotel, Montreux



Bellevue Hotel, Interlaken



Ambassador Hotel, Brig



Grischuna Hotel, Filisur

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Swiss Alps from the Gruyere Castle wall - photo Scott McGregor

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

A passion for train travel can manifest itself in many ways. Founder and director of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, has made much of his obsession over the years. "Travelling to boarding school on the Mudgee Mail gave me a sense of how an active social life and long-distance trains can be a good combination."

Building a rural retreat out of a collection of vintage railway carriages in the early 1980s gave Scott a new perspective on rail heritage. During this time, he also operated his first tour—The Antipodean Renaissance Express—an experience he has never forgotten. Trading in vintage memorabilia and furniture sourced largely from the railways was also a source of great inspiration. Scott travelled far and wide trading and collecting for his Sydney shop, Off The Rails.

Hosting a couple of TV documentary series about great train journeys paved the way for leading his own train journeys. Once just an enjoyable part-time hobby, "getting paid to do what I love" has, naturally enough, led to a more substantial commitment and ultimately the launch of Scott's own dedicated train travel and touring company. 29 October 2021.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



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