



**RAILWAY
ADVENTURES**

2023

SWISS ALPINE ADVENTURE

BY RAIL



With Robert Kingsford-Smith

15 - 30 APRIL 2023

• ZURICH * MONTREUX • INTERLAKEN • BRIG • 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 Robert Kingsford-Smith, will take you through the heart of the Alps to explore a wonderful mix of the country's key historical, cultural, and scenic destinations.

For such a small country it's astounding just how much variety there is for the keen traveller to experience. True, the geography is dominated by the soaring Alps in all directions, but your tour is as much about the gems nestled between these dramatic ranges. Crystal lakes that reflect and frame the mountainous backdrop host great cities like Montreux and Interlaken, where we reside for numerous nights along the way. Hidden valleys lush with pasture, cows, crops, and quaint farmhouses are iconic Swiss scenes, and villages like Gruyere where cheese is made and historic cities like Brig with its Medieval streets and Palaces are simply magical. No matter where you are in Switzerland there's a train to take and either on or off the rails you're instantly transported to another time and place, just the ticket for a once-in-a-lifetime great Railway Adventure.

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, India, 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. Cairns is of special significance for Robert because his great-great-grandfather, R. A. Kingsford, was its first mayor.

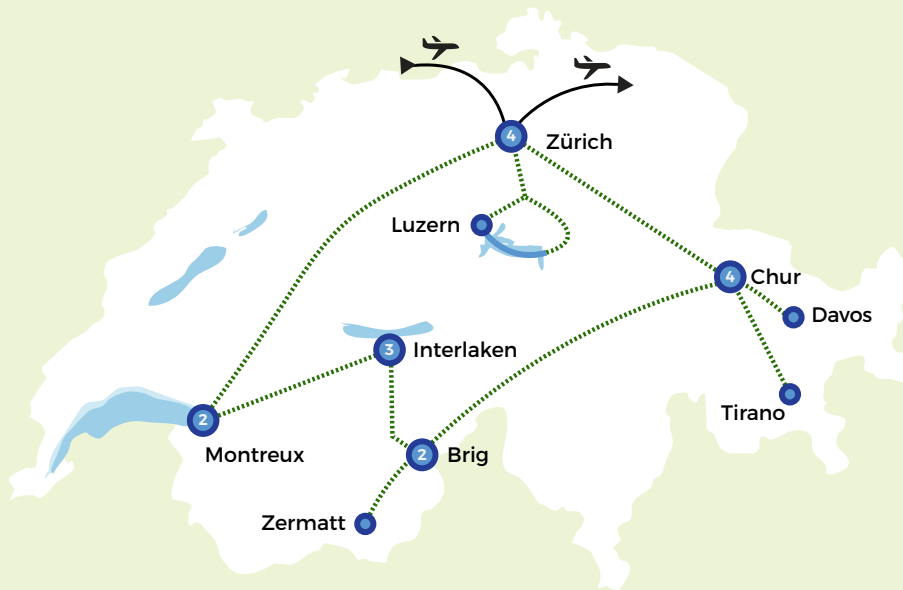


Gruyeres Village

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, Europe's highest open-air railway
- Marvel at the perfect pyramid shape of the iconic Matterhorn mountain
- 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

TOUR MAP



Nights at the Hotel Train Boat

WHY **TRAVEL WITH US**

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what is discovered at the end of the line.



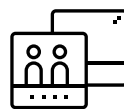
Unique
itineraries



Authentic local
experiences



Expert local
guides and operators



Fully
escorted



Small
group sizes



Customer
satisfaction

SOME WAYS **YOU'LL TRAVEL**

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.



Bernina Express



Glacier Express



Gornegrat

Day 1 • Saturday 15 April: ZURICH

Welcome to magical Switzerland! Join Robert and our fellow travellers for a tantalising welcome dinner.

Overnight: Townhouse Boutique Hotel, Zurich (D)

Day 2 • Sunday 16 April: 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 "Welcome" 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 start our wonderful Swiss adventure.

Overnight: Townhouse Boutique Hotel, Zurich (B, L)

Day 3 • Monday 17 April: 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: Hotel Du Lac, Montreux (B, D)

Day 4 • Tuesday 18 April: 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: Hotel Du Lac, Montreux (B)

Day 5 • Wednesday 19 April: MONTREUX - INTERLAKEN

Today, we take the Golden Panoramic Express back over the renowned Golden Pass. A quick change at Zweisimmen 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 located directly on the waterway joining Interlaken's two lakes, before taking a round trip by ferry on the turquoise Lake Brienz, set amid the spectacular mountain scenery of the Bernese Oberland. A boat ride on this typical alpine lake with its steep sides is a truly impressive experience. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

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

Day 6 • Thursday 20 April: INTERLAKEN - JUNGFRAU - 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 Jungfraujoch, 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 7 • Friday 21 April: 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 Schilthorn Mountain, (made famous by James Bond's 1969 movie 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'), 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 hotel's restaurant this evening to compare notes on the day's activities.

Overnight: Boutique Hotel Bellevue, Interlaken (B)

Day 8 • Saturday 22 April: INTERLAKEN - BRIG

After a leisurely 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.

After checking in to our hotel, take a stroll around the town and pay a visit to the Stockalper Palace, built in 1532 this baroque palace was built by the merchant Prince Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper and is one of the most important in Switzerland.

Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Overnight: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B, D)

Day 9 • Sunday 23 April: BRIG

We board a local train this morning, and travel 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 Mont 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. Enjoy the spectacular view from the summit; before returning on one of the regular trains to Zermatt for a leisurely look around, before returning to Brig.

Overnight: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B)



Day 10 • Monday 24 April: 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: Hotel Stern, Chur (B, L, D)

Day 11 • Tuesday 25 April: 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 to enjoy 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 Langweiser 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: Hotel Stern, Chur (B, L)

Day 12 • Wednesday 26 April: 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 epitomizes Swiss rail. Our train will 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 a delicious local lunch before the train returns on this stunning railway back to our hotel in Chur, taking you from the snow to the palm trees.

Overnight: Hotel Stern, Chur (B)

Day 13 • Thursday 27 April: 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: Hotel Stern, Chur (B)

Day 14 • Friday 28 April: CHUR - ZURICH

Following breakfast, we'll ride the RhB train down the main street and steep climb to the lakeside resort village of Arosa, crossing over the famous single-track Longweiss Viaduct on route. This is, without a 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: Townhouse Boutique Hotel, Zurich (B)

Day 15 • Saturday 29 April: ZURICH

We begin our day with a ride on the express train to the lakeside village of Arth Goldau, where we'll board Europe's first mountain railway, 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 spend a few more hours 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. 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: Townhouse Boutique Hotel, Zurich (B, D)

Day 16 • Sunday 30 April: 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 that do not require reservations.



WHAT'S **INCLUDED**

- 15 nights' accommodation in comfortable, centrally located hotels
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, and 6 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, and camera fees where applicable
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure

FITNESS **RATING**

Two 'Locos'

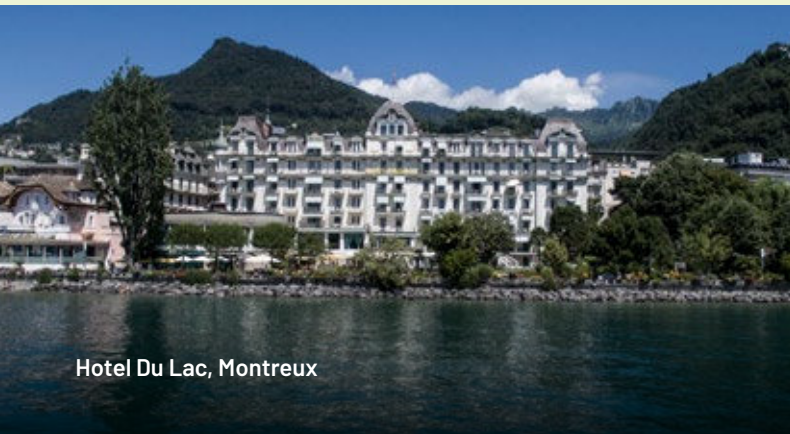
The most common grading for our tours. Two loco itineraries offer many activities that require a little extra fitness – walking on uneven ground, climbing hills to enter towns or historic sites, walks of 1-3 kilometres as well as getting on and off transport. You need to have good mobility and aerobic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



SOME PLACES **YOU'LL STAY**

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

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



Hotel Du Lac, Montreux



Bellevue Hotel, Interlaken



Ambassador Hotel, Brig



Hotel Stern, Chur

PRICE

Per person twin share **\$9,985**
Single supplement **\$1,980**
Deposit (per person) **\$1000 at time of booking**
Final payment due by **15 February 2023**

Tour Code: 2304SWI

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

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 junky', 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

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.

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.



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1300 800 977

railwayadventures.com



THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES **STORY**

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. 01 September 2022.

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Your travel agent