

SCENIC SWITZERLAND BY RAIL

A circle tour of Switzerland featuring 9 train rides

July 8, 2019 - 14 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:
\$11,435 double/twin
\$12,500 single

tour
a more intimate travel experience



- > This tour is limited to 25 people. Early booking recommended!
- > Please add 0.2% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 8 seats; \$125 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 195 points from this tour.
Redeem **195 points** if you book by **March 6.**

Includes

- Transportation from Victoria to New Westminster and to Vancouver Airport
- Air Canada flight from Vancouver to Zurich and return
- Current air taxes, security fees and surcharges
- 12 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Coach transportation in Switzerland for 11 days
- Swiss guide for 12 days
- Guided walking and driving tour of Zurich
- Guided walking tour of Lucerne
- Covered Mill Bridge with chapel
- Mount Rigi Cog Railway
- Cable car from Rigi Kaltbad to Weggis
- Lake Lucerne cruise from Weggis to Lucerne
- Folklore show at Stadtkeller
- Jungfrau Bahn Cog Railway through Eiger Tunnel to Jungfrauoch and return
- Golden Pass Railway Lucerne to Zweisimmen
- Panoramic train from Zweisimmen to Montreux
- Guided tour of Lavaux Vinorama & wine tasting
- Lunch cruise on Lake Geneva
- Maison Cailler Nestlé chocolate factory & tasting
- Maison Gruyères cheese factory
- Chillon Castle
- Train from Montreux to Zermatt
- Guided walking tour of Zermatt
- Cog railway from Zermatt to Gornergrat summit and return
- Glacier Express train from Zermatt to Sankt Moritz
- Bernina Express train from Sankt Moritz to Tirano, Italy, and return
- Guided tour of Tirano
- Albula Railway from Sankt Moritz to Zurich
- Ballenberg Swiss Folk Park
- Transfer from Zurich hotel to the airport
- Transfer from Vancouver Airport to Victoria
- Luggage handling at hotels and airline
- Gratuities to Swiss guide, driver and local guides
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- **23 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 7 dinners

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Switzerland by Rail

Switzerland has a remarkable network of rail lines, making it possible to travel throughout the country by train. For railway enthusiasts, it is one of the most sought-after destinations for the variety of experiences. You can travel quickly and easily between cities with terrific scenery along the way, and even by cog railway to the tops of mountains for panoramic views of the Alps. Many trains are designed for tourists, rather than for commuter travel, so they have large windows for viewing all the sights. You can admire the engineering marvels of some of the rail routes, such as the Glacier Express with over 291 bridges and 91 tunnels, including the 15 km long Furka Tunnel. Visit villages such as Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn where cars are not allowed, and the access is by train. Thrill to the journey on the Jungfrau Bahn as you climb through the Eiger Tunnel with observation windows on the way to Europe's highest railway station at 3,454 metres. Marvel at the scenery along the Bernina Express, passing glaciers and alpine terrain, then descending to Tirano, Italy. This tour has nine railways included with many different experiences.

First class seats are booked on all trains where this service is offered.

For a change from the railways, this tour includes cruises on Lake Lucerne and Lake Geneva, plus a cable car on Mount Rigi. Walking and driving tours with local guides are arranged in Zurich, Lucerne, Zermatt, and Tirano. Tour a chocolate factory and a Gruyères Cheese factory.

A multilingual Swiss guide is with you for 12 days all around Switzerland. Local guides join you for several cities. A Wells Gray tour director accompanies you throughout the entire tour. You will be well-guided and looked after. Come and enjoy Switzerland by Rail.

Itinerary

Monday, July 8:

Meals: D

Transportation is provided to New Westminster and we stay overnight at the Inn at Westminster Quay. Every room overlooks the Fraser River. Take a stroll on the boardwalk. A get-acquainted dinner is arranged to meet fellow travellers.

Tuesday, July 9:

Meals: B

We drive to Vancouver Airport and fly on Air Canada to Zurich.

Wednesday, July 10:

Meals: L,D

We arrive in **Zurich** in the morning (9 hours ahead of Pacific Time). Herzlich willkommen in der Schweiz! Our driver and Swiss guide meet us at the airport. We start with a coach tour of Zurich's outer districts to learn how the locals live today, followed by a stroll through the quaint alleyways and historic squares of Zurich's old town. See the houses of the Augustinergasse with colourful facades and bay windows. Walk through the famous shopping street Bahnhofstrasse and past the Grossmünster Church which was inaugurated in 1220. After lunch and some leisure time, we drive less than an hour to Lucerne and stay three nights at the Radisson Blu Hotel. A welcome dinner is planned at the hotel.

Thursday, July 11:

Meals: B,D

Our day starts with a guided walking tour through the old town of **Lucerne**, past the Kornmarkt (grain market), the Old Town Hall, and the restored houses at the Hirschenplatz and the Weinmarkt, decorated with paintings and guild flags. Walk across

the covered Mill Bridge with the little chapel in the middle and see the Lion Monument which remembers the heroic deaths of Swiss mercenaries at the Tuileries in 1792. This afternoon, we drive along the north side of Lake Lucerne to Vitznau and board the **Rigi Bahnen**, a cogwheel train, for a thrilling ride up to the summit of Rigi Kulm. This railway opened in 1873 and its carriages have been beautifully restored. From the top at 1,748 metres, there is a panoramic view across the Alps with Lake Lucerne below. We descend by cable-car to Weggis, then cruise in a nostalgic paddle steamer on scenic **Lake Lucerne** back to Lucerne. Dinner and a folklore show are included.

Friday, July 12:

Meals: B

We drive an hour to **Interlaken** which has a picturesque setting between Lake Brienz and Lake Thun below the awesome peaks of Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau. The **Jungfrau Bahn Cog Railway** is an unforgettable trip high into the alpine wonderland. The first stop is at Kleine Scheidegg at the foot of the notorious Eiger North Wall, then the train climbs through the **Eiger Tunnel**, with stops at two observation windows, to Eigerletscher, Europe's highest railway station at 3,454 metres. The last station is **Jungfraujoch**, surrounded by glaciers and nicknamed "Roof of Europe". Superb views extend as far as the Vosges Mountains in France and the Black Forest in Germany. The Great Aletsch Glacier, longest in the Alps at 22 km, begins at Jungfraujoch. Later, we ride the train back to Interlaken and return to Lucerne.

Saturday, July 13:*Meals: B,D*

We board the modern **Golden Pass Line** which takes us through the pristine mountain world of the Simmen Valley and past richly decorated traditional farmhouses. In Zweisimmen, we switch to the **Panoramic Train** and admire superb views during the journey downhill via Gstaad to Montreux, located on Lake Geneva. Back on our coach, we visit Lavaux which has vineyard terraces registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the **Lavaux Vinorama**, we learn all about cultivating grapes and savour a wine tasting. We stay two nights in **Lausanne** at the elegant Hotel de la Paix.

Sunday, July 14:*Meals: B,L*

We start with a walk along the flower-lined promenade of **Ouchy**, with wonderful views over Lake Geneva and the Savoy Alps. The walk ends at the 12th-century castle, Chateau d'Ouchy, in which the peace treaty between Turkey, Greece, and the Allies was signed in 1923. Then we board an authentic paddle steamer for lunch and a cruise on **Lake Geneva** to Montreux. Later, we drive to Broc to tour Maison Cailler Nestlé which has been making chocolate since 1898. You can taste samples and shop! After visiting the city of chocolate, we continue to the city of cheese, Gruyères, for a factory tour and more sampling.

Monday, July 15:*Meals: B,D*

Leaving Lausanne, we drive along Lake Geneva and visit romantic **Chillon Castle**, built on a rock in the lake in the 11th century. It was later expanded and, for four centuries, Chillon was the residence and profitable toll station of the Counts of Savoy. Back in Montreux, we board the **train to Zermatt**. Leaving Lake Geneva, we travel through the vineyards around Aigle, then along the Rhone River to Martigny, past glorious countryside. The train stops in Sion for lunch. The next village is Visp which has a charming old town and is one of the sunniest spots in Switzerland. Here we change trains and continue through the Matter Valley and up to the high Alps surrounding the Matterhorn. We stay two nights in **Zermatt** at Hotel Christiania. Cars are not allowed in Zermatt and the only access is by train (or helicopter).

Tuesday, July 16:*Meals: B*

This morning, we stroll through the village of Zermatt, past many ancient buildings which show the traditional architecture of the original Walser residents. The barns and grain stores, up to 500 years old, are a piece of living history and reveal how the mountain farmers of Zermatt once lived. Throughout Zermatt, there are splendid views of the **Matterhorn**, rising majestically to 4,478 metres. This afternoon, we ride on the cog railway, **Gornergrat Bahn**, from Zermatt station at 1,620

metres to the summit of the Gornergrat at 3,089 metres. The panorama from here encompasses the Monte Rosa massif, the Gorner Glacier, and the Matterhorn in all its glory.

Wednesday, July 17:*Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Zermatt on the **Glacier Express**, king of all panoramic trains and well known for its prestige and incredible engineering. It travels nearly 300 km to Sankt Moritz in eight hours, traversing the centre of the Swiss Alps, over 291 bridges, through 91 tunnels, including the 15 km long **Furka Tunnel**. The train makes an intermediate stop at Andermatt in a secluded alpine valley and reaches its highest point on the Oberalp Pass at 2,033 metres. It's an amazing journey for the senses! We arrive in **Sankt Moritz** in late afternoon and stay two nights at Hotel Steffani. We enjoy a traditional Fondue dinner together.

Thursday, July 18:*Meals: B,L*

Our next train excursion is on the **Bernina Express**, the highest railway across the Alps reaching 2,253 metres at Bernina Pass. It skirts glistening glaciers before descending to the palms of Italy far below. The line was built in 1908 and has UNESCO World Heritage status. Thanks to the modern cars with enlarged windows, there are panoramic views of the wonderful alpine terrain. Upon arrival in **Tirano**, Italy, we meet a local guide for a tour to see the Basilica of Madonna di Tirano dating to the early 16th century; the ancient city walls with three gates; Palazzo Salis with the noble cellars and the frescoed halls; the Casa Museo D'oro Lambertenghi; and Palazzo Marinoni, former convent of the Augustinians. We return to Sankt Moritz on the Bernina Express this afternoon.

Friday, July 19:*Meals: B*

The morning is at leisure in Sankt Moritz. We leave this afternoon on the **Albula train**, headed for Zurich. One challenge to building this railway in 1898 was near Preda where engineers designed a route with two curved tunnels, three spiral tunnels, and several bridges to overcome a descent of 400 metres in just five km. Arriving in **Zurich**, we stay two nights at Hotel Mercure Stoller. A transfer is provided by coach to the Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich's shopping boulevard.

Saturday, July 20:*Meals: B,D*

We travel to **Brienz**, located at the east end of turquoise-coloured Lake Brienz. The town is noted for the Brunngasse which was awarded "the most beautiful street in Europe". Most of the houses date from the 18th century and are decorated with wood carvings. Brienz is known as the "village of carving" and has a long tradition, even hosting a school for carving and violin-making. Enjoy a

guided visit to the **Ballenberg Swiss Folk Park** which has over 100 residential and agricultural buildings from all over Switzerland, illustrating rural life. Traditional handicrafts are kept alive in the workshops: basket-weaving, forging, braiding, spinning, weaving, and carving are just some of the many customs. A "Farewell to Switzerland" dinner is offered tonight.

Sunday, July 21:

Meals: B

Our flight to Vancouver leaves this morning, arriving before noon. Transportation is provided back to your pickup point in Greater Victoria.


Tour Notes:

Currency & Fare Changes: The Swiss franc is the official currency since Switzerland never joined the European Community. Euros may be accepted, but it is better to carry francs. As this tour has been planned and priced 10 months before departure, exchange fluctuations between the Canadian dollar and the franc could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. The flight has been priced based on current taxes and fuel prices, and there could be changes to these amounts.

Gratuities have been paid for all included meals, your Swiss driver and guide, and local city guides. The customary gratuities to your Wells Gray tour director and BC drivers are at your discretion.

Documentation: A valid passport is required with expiry more than 3 months after this tour returns. A visa is not required.

Rooms: Single rooms are very limited, so book early if you want one. Triples are not available.

 **Activity Level:** Due to the historic nature of some attractions, it will be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces such as cobblestone streets, and walk 1-2 kilometres, plus stand for an extended time on walking tours. Many trains have steps into the carriage where your seat is located. Rooms in

some hotels may be reached by some stairs after riding the elevator. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach or train by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. You may have to carry your luggage in train stations and sometimes on and off the train. There can be long walks in Vancouver and Zurich airports. The coaches and trains cannot carry a scooter. One train reaches an altitude of 3,454 metres which can be demanding on the body. This tour is not appropriate for people who depend on a walker or a cane. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. The tour director, Swiss guide and driver, and local guides have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. Prior to Wells Gray accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour. If you cannot keep up with the group or need frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 6, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 8 seats and \$125 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 6.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 6, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 7 to March 6, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From March 7 to April 5, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From April 6 to May 6, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After May 6, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of this tour is limited to 25 participants, a more intimate travel experience.

Photo credit: Wikipedia (Glacier Express on the Landwasser Viaduct)

E-points: This tour earns 195 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until March 6.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: #65842



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This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours. This rating is the highest activity level assigned to a tour, meaning that there is a lot of activity which could include one or more of (but is not limited to) the following:

- You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour and stand for extended periods during walking tours.
- You can handle activity at high altitudes such as over 10,000 feet or 3,000 metres.
- You can walk on cobblestones and uneven sidewalks.
- You can handle steep steps to get into or off a train.
- You can carry your own luggage in airports and train stations.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the tour director, driver or other travellers.

Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3”.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.
- If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to not allow me to participate in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.

Signature _____ Name _____ Date _____