



DETAILED ITINERARY*

SWITZERLAND—SWISS VILLAGES & ALPINE BLISS IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND



MULTI-ADVENTURE | Premiere Hotels

*Thank you for your interest! Please note that this itinerary is subject to change, including trip start and end locations. Do not schedule your flights until your reservation is confirmed.

SWA-M-HP-R-001-22 7/29/2021



WHY BACKROADS?

"Backroads is the best of the best."
Sheryl Simons | SK, Canada

"The genius of Backroads is the combination of personal challenge and adventure with unsurpassed service and luxury that is ideal for those of us who want to be both active and spoiled on vacation."

Edith Schonberg | New York, NY

Click [HERE](#) to read more reviews

6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS

Click [HERE](#) for departure dates and pricing details

ACTIVITY LEVELS 1-4

[See below for details](#)

TO RESERVE YOUR TRIP

Sign up online [HERE](#) or call 800-GO-ACTIVE (462-2848) or 510-527-1555



Never Subcontracted

We operate our own trips around the globe. That way we control the quality—and we're fully responsible for your great experience.

Two Support Vans

We provide two support vans on all of our trips* so you can count on us to be there when you need us, regardless of the route you take.

Three Leaders

Our trips have three leaders*, for an average 6:1 guest-to-leader ratio. Guests consistently score our leaders 9.7 out of 10, telling us they make all the difference.

Thoughtful Trip Design

We know how to create exceptional travel experiences, ensuring that you get the most from your trip as it unfolds.

Multiple Daily Routes

Being able to choose among several expertly designed routes each day gives you the freedom to enjoy the best of a region at your own pace.

We Celebrate Mixed Abilities

To accommodate varied activity levels, you need three leaders, two vans, multiple route options, detailed directions, a rating system showing if shuttles are required, and plenty of well-matched riding/hiking companions.

*See web for more information on leaders and van support

Click [HERE](#) for more on the Backroads Quality Guide

STRAIGHT *talk*

We want to make sure you're on the right trip and that you have the best experience possible. Every Backroads trip is unique and this one is no exception.

TERRAIN & SHUTTLES

For the best riding in Switzerland, we've chosen a combination of small quiet roads and some unpaved bike paths with short stretches of limited van support. Our bikes are equipped with slightly wider tires to accommodate the paths and trail surfaces.

AIR-CONDITIONING

While the hotels on this trip offer outstanding service and amenities, please note that they are not equipped with air-conditioning and guest rooms can occasionally become warm during peak temperatures.



DAY 1

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks in Backroads T-shirts) at 10 a.m. at the Waldhotel Doldenhorn (+41-(0)33-675-81-81), our first night's hotel, located a mile from the Kandersteg train station on Doldenhornstrasse in Kandersteg, Switzerland.

At 9:45 a.m., a leader will be at the train station to pick up guests who are just arriving and take them to the hotel. If you arrive at the Kandersteg train station earlier, you can call the hotel from the train station to arrange a taxi ride. Make sure to let your Trip Consultant know if you plan to meet your leaders at the Waldhotel Doldenhorn or at the Kandersteg train station.

Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes and bring your luggage, a daypack with your rain gear and anything else you may want for today's hike (your luggage will be transported to our first night's accommodations).

WALKING & HIKING OPTIONS:

Oeschinensee Out-&-Back: 4.6 Miles (400' elevation gain)
Unterbärgli Hut Route: 6.3 Miles (1,000')
Scenic Overlook Loop: 7.1 Miles (1,500')

Welcome to Switzerland! After meeting in Kandersteg, a gondola zips you up 5,550 feet to beautiful Oeschinensee (see means "lake" in German), with its impossibly deep-blue waters, where we enjoy lunch at a lakeside mountain hut. Then your Backroads Trip Leaders give a brief trip orientation before we head off on our first hike overlooking Kandersteg, a town whose stunning scenery and crisp alpine air is the perfect introduction to the region. Nestled in the broad Kander Valley, beneath the Blümlisalp and Doldenhorn peaks, Kandersteg has long been an important mountaineering center and a favored destination of European travelers. It was once a town at the end of the road (or at least at the end of the tracks), until 1913 when a 9-mile railroad tunnel linked Bern and the Rhône Valley. Kandersteg is also known for abundant wildflowers and for Simmental cattle, which you'll likely see feeding in the lush mountain pastures we pass through.

Meander through alpine meadows and pine forests, and then down to the lakeshore for superb views of Blümlisalp (12,000 feet) and Hohtürli Pass (9,100 feet). From here,

begin the climb to the Unterbärgli hut, a good place to catch your breath and enjoy a cold beer or cup of hot cocoa before hitting the trail again.

When you're ready, continue back down to the lake, where an amphitheater of sheer limestone cliffs rises hundreds of feet before giving way to a massive cap of snowy peaks and hanging glaciers. Stop along the lakeshore to admire unique works of art carved from stone and wood at an outdoor sculpture gallery. If you choose to hike the longer option from Unterbärgli hut, you'll add a short but steep climb that offers views of Oeschinensee. From here you'll remain high above the lake and skirt around to the gondola.

Settle into your room at the charming Waldhotel Doldenhorn, a classic Swiss lodge nestled in woodland. This evening we celebrate our arrival in the Bernese Oberland with a welcome reception and the first of many delectable traditional Swiss meals. *Lodging: Waldhotel Doldenhorn*

DAY 2

BIKING OPTIONS:

Mülener Route: 13 Miles * (400' elevation gain)

Kander Valley Route: 26 Miles * (500')

Thunersee Route: 41 Miles (1,600')

TRAIN TO INTERLAKEN 30 Minutes

TRAIN TO GRINDELWALD 30 Minutes

**with shuttle*

To start off our first day of riding, your Trip Leaders fit your bike and give a brief talk on biking techniques and safety. Then hop in the saddle and pedal through a delightful winding valley offering snapshots of quintessential Switzerland, from cheerful wooden chalets bedecked with geranium-filled window boxes to herds of soft-eyed milk cows adorned with leather collars and brass bells. After lunch on your own in the lakeside town of Thun, we board a train for a scenic ride along the turquoise waters of Lake Thun to Interlaken, aptly named for its position between Lakes Thun and Brienz. Or if you're up for a longer option, skip the train and take a spin around the lake to Interlaken.

From Interlaken we catch a cogwheel train to the

Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, situated in the town of Grindelwald at the foot of the famous Eiger peak. After your full day, a dip in the heated indoor pool might be just what you need.

Tonight a local alphorn player joins us to demonstrate this traditional Swiss instrument (which can reach up to 13 feet in length!), used by alpine herdsman and villagers to announce daily activities. Then we head to dinner for a traditional menu including cheese fondue. *Lodging: Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof*



DAY 3

GONDOLA TO FIRST PEAK 30 Minutes

WALKING & HIKING OPTIONS:

Bachalpsee Route: 6.3 Miles (500' elevation gain)

Bussalp Route: 9.6 Miles (2,100')

OPTIONAL TROTTI BIKE OR GONDOLA TO GRINDELWALD

After a hearty breakfast you're whisked to the top of First Peak (7,100 feet) via gondola where we meet our local guide, accompanied by her Bernese mountain dog, for today's hike. Then, make your way along rolling hills to Bachalpsee, one of Switzerland's most beautiful lakes, surrounded by a staggering backdrop of jagged snow-covered peaks and cascading glaciers. We stop for lunch along the route, enjoying majestic views of Eiger's north face (weather permitting).

To return to Grindelwald, walk to Bort and then catch the gondola down. Or hop on a Trotti bike (a two-wheeled

push scooter) and spin along a paved pathway to the valley floor. Interested in tacking on a few more challenging miles? Continue on along the path up to the tiny alpine enclave of Bussalp. This trek highlights views of the Eiger (Ogre), Mönch (Monk) and Jungfrau (Maiden) Mountains. In Bussalp, rest your legs and grab a warm drink before taking a short shuttle back to Grindelwald.

Later this afternoon, enjoy some downtime in Grindelwald—how about a steam bath or massage at the hotel's spa? (Spa treatments are not included in the trip price. Advance reservations are recommended.)

This evening savor dinner on your own at one of the many inviting restaurants in town. *Lodging: Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof*

DAY 4

TRAIN TO ALPIGLEN 30 Minutes

WALKING & HIKING OPTIONS:

Alpiglen Meadows Route: 2.9 Miles (1,400' elevation gain)
Männlichen Lookout Route: 3 Miles (800')
Eiger Valley Route: 6 Miles (2,200')

Today is dedicated to hiking beneath one of the most emblematic sights in the Swiss Alps: the Eiger. Soaring 13,020 feet over the valleys below, the craggy snow-dusted mountain makes for a stunning backdrop to our hike. Following breakfast we hop aboard a train for a scenic ride to the small hamlet of Alpiglen, set at the base of the Eiger. Head out on foot along the celebrated Eiger Trail, passing through pastures dotted with cows. Keep your eyes peeled for mountaineers attempting to tackle Eiger's jagged north face, considered one of the most difficult climbs in the world. At a scenic spot along the trail or in Grindelwald, take a break for lunch.

Refueled, steadily ascend to the Kleine Scheidegg alpine pass, home to the highest major train station in Switzerland. Then follow the panoramic trail to Männlichen Gondola, where we gather for celebratory drinks with a stunning mountain backdrop.

Via gondola and shuttle we arrive at our elegant home for the last two nights of the trip. The regal Grandhotel Giessbach stands adjacent to the picturesque Giessbach

Falls, which tumble down the heavily wooded slopes into Lake Brienz. This evening dine at your leisure at the hotel. *Lodging: Grandhotel Giessbach*



DAY 5

BIKING OPTIONS:

Meiringen Route: 7 Miles * (300' elevation gain)
Meiringen Lollipop Route: 16 Miles * (1,000')
Brienzersee Route: 28 Miles (1,800')

KAYAKING ON LAKE BRIENZ 1½ Hours

**with ferry*

Following breakfast we take a quick shuttle to Brienz to embark on a spectacular ride through the Meiringen Valley. Pedal beneath towering cliffs along paved bike paths past countless waterfalls, quaint farmhouses and peaceful fields. In the town of Meiringen, take time to explore and perhaps indulge in a crispy meringue—it's said that the treat was invented here! If it's open, a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum may also be in order, as Holmes was staying in Meiringen when Professor Moriarty finally caught up to him at nearby Reichenbach Falls. Back on two wheels, pedal through the lush landscape then relax over a lakeside lunch near Brienz.

After lunch, board a ferry bound for Bönigen on the opposite shore of Lake Brienz. Or, if you're looking for more miles, hop back in the saddle and arrive by your own steam. Then meet up with your kayak and push off to get a unique perspective of your beautiful surroundings. This is your chance to take a refreshing dip in the cool mountain waters of the Brienzersee if you dare!

Back on land we shuttle to our hotel, where there's time to unwind before gathering for a farewell reception and dinner. *Lodging: Grandhotel Giessbach*

DAY 6

ISELTWALD WALK 4 Miles (300' elevation gain)

If you'd prefer a more leisurely start this morning, feel free to sleep in, linger at the sumptuous breakfast buffet, play tennis or relax by the pool. Or consider a morning walk along the quiet shore of Lake Brienz. After saying our goodbyes late morning, your leaders will help you catch the ferry to Interlaken. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

SHIFT GEARS

Our trips are designed to be flexible, giving you the freedom to experience the best of the region the way YOU want. Feel like you're ready to go, go, go? We can show you the way! Want some downtime or prefer to head out on your own? No problem!

Your Trip Leaders will make sure to tell you the best days to take time for yourself (if you want it) without feeling like you're missing out.

So feel free to shift gears and make it your day!

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

We are always seeking opportunities to enhance this itinerary. We'll be certain to notify you of any important changes prior to departure; other changes may be communicated on trip by your leaders.

TRIP ACCOMMODATIONS

Premiere Hotels



1 Night

Waldhotel Doldenhorn

A family-run alpine retreat surrounded by verdant forests and soaring snowcapped mountains. A Relais & Châteaux member. (pool, spa) | Kandersteg | www.doldenhorn-ruedihus.ch | +41-(0)33-675-81-81

2 Nights

Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof

Catch stunning views of the Eiger's north face from this luxurious chalet-style hotel. (pool, spa) | Grindelwald | www.hotel-schweizerhof.com | +41-(0)33-854-58-58

2 Nights (Pictured)

Grandhotel Giessbach

Elegance and old-world charm reign at this turreted beauty in a picturesque setting by Lake Brienz and the Giessbach Falls. (pool) | Giessbach | www.giessbach.ch | +41-(0)33-952-25-25

ARRIVING & DEPARTING

After reviewing the following information, please inform us of your arrival and departure plans on your *Personal Information Form*.

Note that train schedules are subject to change unexpectedly, which may affect our trip meeting and/or ending time. Rest assured, we will notify you as soon as possible regarding changes to your trip in order to minimize any inconvenience to you. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

All prices are in US dollars and subject to change.

Meeting Time & Location

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks in Backroads T-shirts) at 10 a.m. at the Waldhotel Doldenhorn (+41-(0)33-675-81-81), our first night's hotel, located a mile from the Kandersteg train station on Doldenhornstrasse in Kandersteg, Switzerland.

At 9:45 a.m., a leader will be at the train station to pick up guests who are just arriving and take them to the hotel. If you arrive at the Kandersteg train station earlier, you can call the hotel from the train station to arrange a taxi ride. Make sure to let your Trip Consultant know if you plan to meet your leaders at the Waldhotel Doldenhorn or at the Kandersteg train station.

Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes and bring your luggage, a daypack with your rain gear and anything else you may want for today's hike (your luggage will be transported to our first night's accommodations).

Conclusion of the Trip

The trip ends with a ferry ride to Interlaken Ost (East) train station, arriving around noon.

Please keep in mind that ferry schedules are subject to change, so make sure to give yourself enough time to make connections in the event there is a delay or change to the schedule.

Traveling to Lucerne: Take the train to Brienz (about 20 minutes) and catch the train to Lucerne (approximately 45 minutes).

Traveling to Bern, Zurich or Geneva: Take the train to Bern (about 50 minutes) and catch a connecting train to Zurich, Geneva and other destinations.

Departing early on Day 6: If you need to leave earlier on the last day of the trip, you can take a 10-minute taxi ride or the hotel shuttle to Brienz. If you're going to Interlaken or Zurich, Backroads recommends Eiger Top Tours taxi service to arrange a transfer (www.eigertoptours.ch; +41-(0)79-208-96-54).

Flight Arrangements

This trip starts in Kandersteg and ends in Interlaken, Switzerland. We recommend that you fly in and out of Zurich (airport code: ZRH; www.zurich-airport.com) or Geneva (GVA; www.gva.ch) and travel to Kandersteg and back from Interlaken by train.

When to Book Flights

Please note that trip start and end locations are subject to change and can vary by departure. A Travel Planner, complete with trip details specific to your chosen date, will be sent to you at time of booking or soon after and will be viewable in your Backroads account. **Do not schedule your flights until your reservation is confirmed.**

For help arranging air transportation to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel advisor, or you may work with our travel agency partner. Their professional expert travel advisors are ready to share their insiders' knowledge of Backroads and our worldwide destinations and are available to assist you with any of your travel needs. Please note that they are an independent travel agency and consulting and ticketing fees may apply, based on the services requested. Simply ask your Backroads Trip Consultant to connect you! You can also book directly with the airline, or through a travel website.

Transportation to Kandersteg

From Zurich: Trains depart frequently from the central Zurich train station to Kandersteg. The trip takes less than 2½ hours, tickets start at \$40. You will change trains in Bern or Spiez.

From Geneva: There are frequent trains from Geneva to Kandersteg. The trip takes 3–3½ hours, tickets start at \$40. You will change trains in either Brig or Bern.

From Bern: Nonstop trains run hourly from Bern to Kandersteg, a 1-1½-hour trip, for about \$18.

Buying Train Tickets

We suggest purchasing rail tickets and making reservations through your own travel agent or the Swiss Federal Railways (SFR) website at www.sbb.ch/en.

You can also purchase tickets and make reservations through Rail Europe (www.raileurope.com; 800-622-8600). Be aware that they charge service fees.

Another option is to wait until you arrive in Switzerland to purchase your rail tickets. In most stations, there are reservation counters with agents who speak English. These counters are often located away from the main departure area. Many stations also have automatic ticket machines that sell tickets and reservation coupons for travel in Switzerland and for principal cross-border routes. The machines accept cash and credit or debit cards.

Your seat reservation will usually appear as a separate coupon along with your actual train ticket. It will specify the train number, the coach number, class of travel and seat number.

Boarding the Train

Your platform number will generally be listed at least 10 minutes prior to departure on the small screens or the larger schedule boards in the main station area (larger stations only). Four columns will be listed: destination, type of train, platform number and departure time.

It's possible that not all cars on your train are continuing to your destination. Therefore, it's important to make sure the nameplate on your car (usually posted outside near the door) corresponds to your travel destination. Once inside the car, look for your reserved seat. If it's a small train and reservations are not required, you can sit anywhere. Keep your bags in sight, if possible, and stay alert; many luggage thieves and pickpockets specialize in dashing on and off trains.

PRICES & SCHEDULES

All prices and schedules were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time.

DURING YOUR TRIP

Trip Leaders

Each of your Trip Leaders plays many roles during your vacation: guide, host, caretaker, naturalist, chef, historian, troubleshooter, interpreter. These remarkable individuals have highly developed instincts for making people comfortable, for seamlessly handling the logistics of travel and for successfully navigating a wide range of unexpected situations. They're passionately committed to ensuring you enjoy an exceptional vacation—smooth, flexible and tailored to your needs. According to past guests, the caliber of our leaders is what sets Backroads apart from all other travel companies. With their knowledge, professionalism, enthusiasm and service ethic, they're the number-one reason people return to travel with us again and again. We look forward to having you meet them.

Meals

Food is an important part of the Backroads experience. For lunch we look for the best way to capture the essence of the region. It may be a Backroads Grand Picnic, when your Trip Leaders prepare the freshest and healthiest local fare at a carefully chosen setting along the day's route; a boxed lunch; a packed lunch; a meal together at a favorite restaurant; or the opportunity to have lunch on your own.

Switzerland may be known as the land of cheese and chocolate, but its fare also includes a great variety of dishes influenced by French, German and Italian cuisine. Our dinners feature regional specialties at favorite restaurants, frequently with specially prepared limited menus.

All breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners are included in the trip price. One lunch and one dinner are on your own.



DESTINATION DETAILS

Climate

Switzerland has four distinct climatic regions: alpine, subtropical, continental and Mediterranean. **Mountain weather is very unpredictable and can change drastically with little warning and with temperatures dipping to freezing. It's essential that you bring appropriate clothing, including a waterproof jacket and pants, and plenty of warm clothes.** Please be prepared for all types of conditions to ensure that your trip is an enjoyable one.

Please be aware that weather-related trail conditions, such as lingering heavy snow, may result in itinerary changes. These conditions are more common during spring and early summer departures. Rest assured your leaders are equipped with fabulous alternate routes should they be needed.



Interlaken

Average:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
High °F	36	39	48	53	64	69
Low °F	26	28	34	39	46	53
Precip. in.	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.6	4.5	5.2
Average:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High °F	75	75	68	57	44	37
Low °F	57	57	51	44	35	30
Precip in.	5.6	5.5	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.3

GETTING ACTIVE FOR YOUR TRIP

NAVIGATION OPTIONS ON THIS TRIP

Turn-by-turn paper directions included.

Downloadable GPS files available for use on your own device—log into your account at Backroads.com 2 weeks before your trip for more details.

Activity Level

The routes on this trip are rated Levels 1–4.

ACTIVITY LEVEL	Avg. Time <i>in hours</i>	BIKING		WALKING	
		Avg. Miles	Max Elev. Gain <i>in feet</i>	Avg. Miles	Max Elev. Gain <i>in feet</i>
1	2-3 hrs	8-22	1000'	2-5	800'
2	2-4 hrs	18-32	2200'	4-7	1300'
3	3-5 hrs	26-42	3400'	5-9	2000'
4	4-6 hrs	36-54	4400'	6-11	3000'
5	5-7+ hrs	48-70+	4400'+	7-13+	4000'+

Review the "Activity Level" section on the web for more details on daily route options.

Conditioning Tips

Every Backroads trip is designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests and fitness levels. We know your pace may vary from one day to the next—and your traveling

companions' may differ somewhat from yours. So we present a range of mileage options, and each day you decide exactly what and how much you want to do.



WHERE TO STAY BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP

For help arranging hotel accommodations for before and after your Backroads trip, or an extension to your trip, please work with your own travel advisor, or you may work with our travel agency partner. Their team of professional travel advisors are ready to share their insiders' knowledge of Backroads and our worldwide destinations and are available to assist you with any of your travel needs. Please note that they are an independent travel agency and consulting and ticketing fees may apply, based on the services requested. Simply ask your Backroads Trip Consultant to connect you! You can also book directly with the hotel, or through a travel website.

If you plan on extending your stay at our first night's hotel before the trip starts or our last night's hotel when the trip ends, let the hotel reservations agent know that you're traveling with Backroads; that way you may be able to avoid changing rooms.

The following is a selection of recommended properties that span a range of prices, amenities and locations. Refer to the Hotel Room Rates guide for the starting double-occupancy rates, which were accurate at time of printing. Note that rates are subject to change and some hotels may require a minimum stay.

HOTEL ROOM RATES
IN US DOLLARS PER NIGHT

- \$501 and up..... ◆◆◆◆
- \$300 to \$500..... ◆◆◆
- \$201 to \$300..... ◆◆
- Up to \$200..... ◆

Kandersteg

Hotel map: bit.ly/KanderstegHotels

Chalet-Hotel Adler

This comfortable Swiss chalet has been well cared for by the Fetzter family for three generations and their cozy touches can be found throughout the hotel. (pool, spa) | Usseri Hauptstrasse 19 | www.chalethotel.ch | +41-(0)33-675-80-10 | 26 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Belle Epoque Hotel Victoria

This family-run alpine retreat in charming Kandersteg offers classic views of snowcapped peaks. Expansive gardens surround the hotel, and amenities include a sauna, massage room and a lounge bar. (pool) | Aussere Dorfstrasse 2 | www.hotel-victoria.ch | +41-(0)33-675-80-00 | 45 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Zurich

Hotel map: bit.ly/ZurichHotels

Baur au Lac

This member of Leading Hotels of the World is situated on Lake Zurich in a magnificent park setting, and offers proximity to the most fashionable boutiques in Zurich. *Condé Nast Traveler* Gold List. | Talstrasse 1 | www.bauraulac.ch | +41-(0)44-220-50-20 | 120 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Widder Hotel

The Widder consists of nine adjoining historic townhouses that have been magnificently restored to blend modern décor with traditional architecture. | Rennweg 7 | www.widderhotel.ch | +41-(0)44-224-25-26 | 49 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Hotel Adler

In the heart of Zurich's lively Old Town, the charming and fully modern three-star Hotel Adler has been welcoming travelers since the 14th century. | Rosengasse 10 | www.hotel-adler.ch | +41-(0)44-266-96-96 | 52 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Hotel Kindli

Once a 16th-century townhouse, this charming boutique hotel maintains the comfort and character of a private home. Well-placed on a quiet pedestrian-only street, the hotel is just steps from the famous Bahnhofstrasse. | Pfalzgasse 1 | www.kindli.ch | +41-(0)43-888-76-76 | 20 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Hotel Europe

Built at the turn of the 20th century in the noble Seefeld District, this newly renovated boutique hotel beautifully melds neobaroque and art nouveau design. | Dufourstrasse 4 | www.europhotel.ch | +41-(0)43-456-86-86 | 39 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Lucerne

Hotel map: bit.ly/LucerneHotels

Palace Luzern

This five-star Leading Hotels of the World member is described by *Condé Nast Traveler* as "possibly the most beautiful hotel in the most beautiful spot on earth." Enjoy breathtaking alpine views from your room. Lucerne's enchanting city center is within walking distance. *Travel + Leisure* World's Best. (spa) | Haldenstrasse 10 | www.palace-luzern.ch | +41-(0)41-416-16-16 | 136 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Park Hotel Vitznau

Situated on the shores of Lake Lucerne with vistas of the majestic Swiss Alps, this Leading Hotels of the World member resembles a fairy-tale castle. Book early to secure a room overlooking the lake. (pool, spa) | Seestrasse 18, Vitznau | www.parkhotel-vitznau.ch | +41-(0)41-399-60-60 | 101 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Hotel des Balances

Set on the banks of the River Reuss, the unique four-star Hotel des Balances features a modern yet elegant design. | Weinmarkt | www.balances.ch | +41-(0)41-418-28-28 | 57 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Hotel Schweizerhof

This five-star hotel, built in 1845, reflects the splendor of the 19th century while providing modern amenities and

outstanding service. | Schweizerhofquai | www.schweizerhof-luzern.ch | +41-(0)41-410-04-10 | 101 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Hotel

This sleek property offers possibly the most modern hotel experience in town. The streamlined contemporary décor includes polished teak floors, luminous plate-glass windows and custom-designed furnishings. | Sempacherstrasse 14 | www.the-hotel.ch | +41-(0)41-226-86-86 | 30 suites & studios | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Cascada Hotel

The waterfall-themed Cascada truly lives up to its name, featuring unique paintings and photos of tranquil Swiss cascades throughout the hotel. | Bundesplatz 18 | www.cascada.ch | +41-(0)41-226-80-88 | 66 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Geneva

Hotel map: bit.ly/GenevaHotels

Hôtel Beau Rivage

On the shore of Lake Geneva, this fully renovated Leading Hotels of the World member has outstanding views of the water, the famous Jet d'Eau (Water Fountain) and Mont Blanc. A Relais & Châteaux member. | Quai du Mont-Blanc 13 | www.beau-rivage.ch | +41-(0)22-716-66-66 | 91 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Ritz-Carlton Hôtel de la Paix

Ideally located in the city center, this five-star hotel features a unique contemporary style, while maintaining the classical aspects of the original 1865 structure. | Quai du Mont-Blanc 11 | www.ritzcarlton.com | +41-(0)22-909-60-00 | 84 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Edelweiss Manotel

This hotel evokes the kind of cozy alpine décor that many people associate with the isolated hamlets of the Swiss mountains. Don't miss Restaurant Edelweiss, where regional cuisine is served to the sound of live yodeling. | Place de la Navigation 2 | www.manotel.com/edelweiss | +41-(0)22-544-51-51 | 42 rooms | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Tiffany Hôtel

Located in the heart of Geneva's cultural and arts district, this charming boutique hotel is just a few steps from galleries and designer shops, and a short walk from the lake and the Rhône River. | Rue de l'Arquebuse 20 | www.hotel-tiffany.ch | +41-(0)22-708-16-16 | 46 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

Starling Hotel Geneva

Conveniently located next to the Geneva International Airport, this state-of-the-art hotel is also within 15 minutes of many key sightseeing attractions, such as the Palais des Nations, the Red Cross Museum and Geneva's fantastic shopping district. (pool) | Route François-Peyrot 34 | www.shgeneva.ch | +41-(0)22-747-02-02 | 496 rooms & suites | Rates: ◆ ◆ ◆

EXTENDING YOUR VACATION

Kandersteg

There are more fabulous hikes around Kandersteg than can be done in just one week. We recommend extending your stay to take advantage of this renowned area.

Spend a day exploring the **Gasterntal**, one of the wildest and most picturesque valleys in the Bernese Oberland. Take the bus from Kandersteg to Selden (about 30 minutes), then hike up to the end of the valley for an incredible view.

Another hike (half- or full-day) begins with a cable car ride from Kandersteg to the **Allmenalp**. From here, either hike up and over the pass to Adobolden or loop back down to Kandersteg.

Paragliding is also a very popular activity here. We recommend local paragliding instructor Ruedi Grossen of Flying School Allmenalp (ruedigrossen@bluewin.ch; +41-(0)79-429-44-10 or +41-(0)33-675-16-71).

Visit www.kandersteg.ch for more information on activities in and around Kandersteg.

Jungfrauoch

A visit to the Jungfrauoch station, part of the World Heritage site of the Jungfrau-Aletsch region in the Swiss Alps, is very popular among visitors to the Bernese Oberland. Situated at 11,300 feet, the Jungfrauoch is the highest train station in Europe, attracting many travelers with its stunning views and unique locale amid snowcapped peaks and glaciers, even at the height of summer.

Trains for the Jungfrauoch station depart regularly from Interlaken and head toward Kleine Scheidegg before continuing through the Eiger tunnel. You'll enjoy a brief in-tunnel stop at Eigerwand (9,400 feet), where you can peer through large observation windows at the impressive landscape.

From here the train begins its steep climb to the Jungfrauoch and offers views of the Vosges Mountains in France and the Black Forest in Germany. You'll also be treated to breathtaking vistas of the surrounding Bernese Oberland and the Konkordiaplatz, the vast junction of four different glaciers. Skiing, snowboarding and

dogsledding are popular activities here and many amenities such as restaurants, hotels and shops greet visitors at this top-of-Europe site. Another option is to take the elevator to a viewing point at the Sphinx (11,700 feet). For more information, visit the Jungfrau Railways website at www.jungfraubahn.ch.

Zermatt

The ski town of Zermatt is best known as the base village of the Matterhorn.

Enjoy a full day hiking up to the **Hornli Hut**, where climbers spend the night before attempting to summit the Matterhorn. This challenging but rewarding hike offers great views of the mountain.

If you're looking for a half-day adventure, take the highest cableway in Europe to the **Klein Matterhorn**—the highest sightseeing point in Europe. A 1-hour ride on three cable cars brings you to a 360-degree panoramic view of the Italian, French and Swiss Alps. On a clear day you can see Mont Blanc and the Eiger! Visit www.zermatt.ch for more information.

Paragliding in Interlaken

Interlaken is a world-renowned location for paragliding. We recommend using instructor Pitsch Buhler of Twin Paragliding (www.interlaken-paragliding.com; +41-(0)79-622-51-00).

