

Hiking Switzerland's Via Alpina

TRAVERSE THE "TOP OF THE ALPS" THROUGH THE BERNESE OBERLAND



TRIP DATES

2024

July 17-26, 2024

August 14-23, 2024

2025

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August 14-23, 2025

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Hike the high trails of the Via Alpina in Switzerland's Jungfrau region, a UNESCO Natural World Heritage area that includes the legendary massifs of the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau and the mighty Aletsch Glacier, the largest in the Alps. Amid this mountain glory, we hike on the famed Eiger Trail (as close as hikers can get to the awesome North Face of the Eiger), explore the Aletsch Glacier between the massive Jungfrau and Mönch massifs, and pass through some of the most gorgeous settings in the Alps. One special overnight is at the historic Hotel Bellevue des Alpes, right at the foot of the Eiger and brimming with mountain-climbing lore. If you love exhilarating hikes and Swiss mountain splendor, this is the adventure for you!



Wilderness Travel

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE / LUCERNE

A 45-minute train ride from Zurich brings you to Lucerne. Set on a beautiful lake in the center of Switzerland, Lucerne is the gateway to the Alps and a center for Swiss history: a pact of mutual defense formed here in 1291 against Rudolf of Habsburg was the beginning of the Swiss Confederation, which survives to this day. We recommend arriving a day early in this charming city to explore its remarkable heritage. We meet with the Trip Leaders and the group at 6:00 pm and gather in the evening for drinks and our Welcome Dinner. Overnight in Lucerne...D

About the Via Alpina:

The Via Alpina is a 3,000-mile-long hiking trail that connects eight alpine countries in Europe: Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Italy, France, and Monaco. As the Via Alpina crosses Switzerland, it winds through several Swiss cantons and crosses a series of magnificent high passes that reveal incredible mountain panoramas, including the famed summits of the Bernese Alps. The Swiss section of the Via Alpina has 20 different daily stages. We've selected the most spectacular sections for our hiking journey (mostly stages 7 through 13). As you explore these trails, you'll have at your side our most experienced team of Via Alpina Trip Leaders (most have a mountaineering background in the Alps). They have led the trip many times and are gifted at sharing its delights with you.

DAY 2

ATTINGHAUSEN / SURENENPASS

Heading to the cable car station at the pretty village of Attinghausen, we ascend to the mountain hamlet of Brustli (5,032') and set off on a winding trail to the Surenenpass (7,560'). Here we have a stunning view of ice-crowned Mt. Titlis (10,684'). From the pass, we drop down into the Engelberg Valley to reach Engelberg (3,248'), a picturesque village set beneath Mt. Titlis and surrounded by a huge sweep of craggy peaks. This is one of the most impressive hikes in central Switzerland, with a magnificent view of fjord-like Lake Uri and the Reuss Valley, cut by the Reuss River. We'll have a picnic lunch on the pass, then later stop for drinks at a remote refuge that's only open in summer. Overnight in Engelberg...BLD

Hiking Details: 10.5 miles, 7 hours, 3,250 feet ascent, 2,200 feet descent

Transportation Details: 1 hour driving, 20 minutes by cable car

DAY 3

JOCHPASS / MEIRINGEN

From Engelberg, a cable car and chairlift whisk up to the Jochpass (7,280'), with great views of the open meadows and tiny hamlets of the Gental Valley stretching out below. We follow a route down scree slopes, then cross alpine meadows to beautiful blue-green Engstlensee Lake. A bit farther we reach the traditional alpine gasthaus at Engstlenalp (6,050'), nestled in a green pasture dotted with farm buildings at the head of the Gental Valley. Our magnificent ridgetop trail overlooks the valley, which, because of its particular rock composition, is graced by thousands of cascading waterfalls. We may see ibex scampering among the



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	10 days
Arrive:	Lucerne, Switzerland
Depart:	Kandersteg, Switzerland
Lodging:	9 nights hotels and mountain inns
Meals:	All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5+ 6 8 challenging hiking days on moderate to steep trails, 5-8 hours a day, altitudes up to 11,500 feet, van support (for luggage or if you wish to skip a day's hike)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Challenging hikes and stunning views of the Bernese Alps
- Hike the famous Eiger Trail below the North Face of the Eiger
- Explore mountain-ringed villages, from Engelberg and Mürren to Kandersteg
- Cross Hohtürli Pass to descend past icefalls to majestic Lake Oeschinensee
- Enjoy the ancient alpine heritage of the Jungfrau region
- Overnights in lovely hotels, including the historic hotel right below the Eiger



rocks, and in early summer, there are lots of wildflowers. Our hike brings us to the Alpen Tower cable car for a descent into the pretty town of Meiringen, famous as the setting for Reichenbach waterfalls, where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved detective Sherlock Holmes plunged to his death in *The Final Problem*. Overnight in Meiringen...BLD

Hiking Details: 9 miles, 7 hours, 2,800 feet ascent, 2,700 feet descent

Transportation Details: 1 hour by cable car/chair lift

DAY 4

BACHALPSEE / GRINDELWALD

We take the PostBus (part of Switzerland's efficient public transport network) up to Schwarzwaldalp (4,800'), a charming hamlet set high in the narrow, wooded Reichenbachtal Valley. Here the valley opens up into high alpine pastures with views of the Wetterhorn (the "Peak of Tempests"), with trails that brings us marvelous views of a wall of glaciated mountains and vistas down into the little town of Grindelwald in the meadows far below. We then join a high balcony trail that leads to the cable car station at First (7,150'). From here, we have breathtaking panoramas on an optional hike up to the Bachalpsee (7,450'), a stunning alpine lake whose waters reflect the icy peaks of the Wetterhorn, Shreckhorn, Finsteraahorn, and the Eiger—one of the most iconic views in the Alps. Returning to First, we ride the gondola down to Grindelwald (3,400'), a beautiful village set beneath the formidable North Face of the Eiger. Overnight in Grindelwald...BLD

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 3.5 hours, 2,350 feet ascent, 400 feet descent. With Bachalpsee optional hike extension: 9 miles, 5.5 hours, 2,700 feet ascent, 350 feet descent

Transportation Details: 40 minutes by bus, 25 minutes by cable car

DAY 5

KLEINE SCHEIDEGG

From Grindelwald, we ride the train up to the hamlet of Alpiglen (5,300') for a hike on the Eiger Trail, a dramatic path of scree, rocks, and waterfalls that brings us close to the infamous North Face of the Eiger. After lunch and amazing views from the Eigergletscher cable car station (7,650'), below Jungfraujoch and its mighty glaciers, we head down to the Kleine Scheidegg (6,760') for magnificent and up-close views of the Eiger's soaring 6,000-foot North Face. Tonight we stay at the historic Hotel Bellevue des Alpes, a family-run hotel set right on the pass in Kleine Scheidegg. The hotel was once the "base camp" for climbers attempting to scale the Eiger and the journalists covering their stories. Climbers included Irishman Charles Barrington, who ascended the Eiger's west flank in 1858, and the Austrian-German expedition who conquered the North Face in 1938. One member of that team was Heinrich Harrer, author of *The White Spider*, an account of the climb and a history of mountaineering in the area. A stay here gives us the chance to experience real alpine history in an incredible and beautifully remote setting. The hotel, which has retained all its turn-of-the-century charm, is the only structure under the Eiger, which means that once the trains running to the Jungfrau stop for the evening, we are the only ones on this mountain pass! Overnight in Kleine Scheidegg...BLD

Hiking Details: 7 miles, 4 hours, 2,350 feet ascent, 100 feet descent



DAY 6

JUNGFRAUJOCH/ ALETSCHE GLACIER

Today we immerse ourselves in an alpine world of snow and ice as we take an unforgettable ride on a century-old cogwheel train to Jungfrauoch (11,371'), Europe's highest railway station, set on the saddle between Jungfrau and Mönch. Along with the neighboring Eiger and the Mönch, the Jungfrau forms a dramatic wall overlooking the Bernese Oberland (British mountaineer Sir Martin Conway called this massif "the walls of heaven"). From the station, we'll hike a groomed trail on the great Aletsch Glacier to the Mönchslochhütte, set in the middle of the Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Site. The surrounding 13,000-foot-high peaks seem to be close enough to touch! After lunch at the hut, we return to Kleine Scheidegg, then take a cable car to Mürren (5,413'), a traditional mountain village and the highest in the Bernese Oberland. No automobiles are allowed in this village, which provides a peaceful atmosphere. Our hotel is right in the center of the village and is family run and they strive to ensure we have the best experience possible. Their restaurant, with its wonderful views of the Jungfrau Massif, offers tasty cuisine. Overnight in Mürren...BLD

Hiking Details: 3 miles, 1.5 hours, 700 feet ascent/descent

Transportation Details: 2 hours by cogwheel, 15 minutes by train, 5 minutes by cable car

In case of inclement weather, we'll hike in the Lauterbrunnen Valley (2,640'), one of the most beautiful glacial valleys in the Alps. We walk along a river past some 70 waterfalls on both sides of the valley and visit the thundering, glacier-fed Trummelbach Falls, which traces down this vertical-walled valley fed by ten glaciers. At Trummelbach, we'll experience the Swiss genius for engineering on an elevator ride that takes us up through solid rock to a walkway right next to the torrents of the Trummelbach.

Hiking Details: 8 miles, 5-6 hours, 4,100 feet descent. Options with less elevation loss are available.

DAY 7

MÜRREN / OPTIONAL HIKE OR REST DAY

We enjoy a day to rest and explore Mürren.

For those who want to hike, the Trip Leaders will present some choices for hikes they will guide today. This evening we savor the sunset views of world-famous Jungfrau and its snow-capped comrades. Overnight in Mürren...B

DAY 8

SEFINENFURKE PASS / GRIESALP

The views are stunning from the very start as we walk through a village with beautiful old chalets and gardens then up through alpine meadows to Sefinenfurke Pass (8,600'). On the way up, we stop for drinks at a family-run refuge. We'll continue on a very steep trail



Itinerary (cont'd)



with a handrail to the top of this narrow and dramatic pass, a highlight of the Via Alpina, with a magnificent panorama of the giants of the Alps. A fairly long descent along a slightly exposed trail with fantastic views of the huge peak of Blumlisalp and its glaciers brings us to Griesalp (4,642'), a tiny unspoiled hamlet at the head of the Kiental Valley. The hamlet of Griesalp is special—it lies at the end of the steepest road in Europe, so steep that only the PostBus and small cars are allowed to access it. So it's a very quiet and remote spot, and has the typical atmosphere of a mountain retreat—the sound of waterfalls and rushing rivers, and the fun of enjoying a well-deserved beer after a long hike. On clear nights, we can enjoy impressive views of a star-filled sky. Overnight in Griesalp...BLD
Hiking Details: 11 miles, 8 hours, 3,400 feet ascent, 4,150 feet descent

DAY 9

HOHTURLI PASS / OESCHINENSEE / KANDERSTEG

We head out on our toughest—but most spectacular—hiking day, a grand-finale hike up to the Hohturli Pass (9,120')—a 4,500-foot ascent! It's one of the most impressive in all the Alps. Once at the pass, we enjoy lunch at the Blumlisalp-Hutte, owned by the Swiss Alpine Club. From the pass, with its grand views of a wild mountain landscape, we make our nearly 3,600-foot descent through scree and along moraine beside icefalls and glaciers to Oeschinensee (5,250'), a beautiful turquoise-hued glacial lake set in an amphitheater of sheer cliffs and snow-clad peaks. At hike's end, we take the cable car down to Kandersteg (3,900'), a quintessential Swiss alpine village ringed by mountains. With its traditional chalets, it has been renowned as a base for hikers and climbers since the mid-19th century. This evening we celebrate with a festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight in Kandersteg...BLD

Hiking Details: 14 miles, 8-9 hours, 4,500 feet ascent, 4,250 feet descent

DAY 10

KANDERSTEG / DEPART

From the Kandersteg train station, trip members can make the easy 2.5-hour train journey to the Zurich Airport for departure on homeward-bound flights (or to other destinations in Europe)...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$7295 (10-14 members)

\$7795 (5-9 members)

Single supplement: \$985

2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Switzerland by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Swiss Franc. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 0.93 Swiss Francs. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Swiss Francs, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Swiss Franc were to rise in value, the trip cost would rise less than might be expected, and if the Swiss Franc were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of at least two Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders (and sometimes three, depending on group size)
- Accommodations in hotels and inns
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Ground transportation throughout the trip
- Sightseeing and entrance fees on group tours
- Cable cars, chairlifts, gondolas to and from trailheads for scheduled hikes

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, airport transfers, any meals not specified, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Accommodations



HOTEL MONOPOL LUZERN

Lucerne, Switzerland

Day 1 (1 night)

Set right in Lucerne's city center, the 77-room Hotel Monopol has an enviable location. It's a quick walk from the railway station and set right by the lake and the Chapel Bridge. Architecturally, it's quite fascinating, with a Baroque exterior that makes it resemble a Parisian or Viennese palace. At the end of the day, relax in the lounge bar on the terrace and take in the splendid 360-degree panoramic views. We stay in junior suites or deluxe rooms, both featuring a seating area and all the amenities.



HOTEL BELLEVUE TERMINUS

Engelberg, Switzerland

Day 2 (1 night)

At this traditional Victorian-era hotel, we stay in spacious, newly renovated rooms that offer fantastic views and spiffy modern touches. Relax on the outdoor terrace or have a drink in the bar while enjoying marvelous mountain views.



HOTEL VICTORIA

Meiringen, Switzerland

Day 3 (1 night)

This boutique-style hotel is conveniently located in the center of Meiringen, right across the street from the Sherlock Holmes Museum. The 18 guest rooms are modern, clean, and sport a Swiss-chic minimalist decor. The restaurant, which serves up excellent Asian fusion cuisine, has been awarded 14 Gault Millau points (an influential restaurant rating system strictly based on the quality of the food).

HOTELS IN GRINDELWALD

Grindelwald, Switzerland, Day 4 (1 night)

In Grindelwald, we stay at one of the following properties:



PARKHOTEL SCHOENEGG

Originally built in 1868, this chalet, set right in the heart of Grindelwald, was once a doctor's surgery-turned-family guesthouse and is still run by the fifth generation of family owners. We stay in twin-bedded rooms with balconies offering breathtaking mountain views—we're surrounded by the Wetterhorn, Schreckhorn, and Eiger. The restaurant prides itself on serving Grindelwald products, including fresh cow's milk, spicy cheeses from the mountains, and pastries from the local bakery. Hotel amenities include a heated indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, and sauna.



SUNSTAR HOTEL

The views can't get any better than those from the Sunstar Hotel, with its knock-'em-dead vistas of the Eiger, First, and the Wetterhorn. Amenities include an indoor pool and sauna, fitness center, and spa facilities.



HOTEL BELLEVUE DES ALPES

Kleine Scheidegg, Switzerland
Day 5 (1 night)

This historic, family-run hotel is set right on the Kleine Scheidegg pass, and was once the "home base" of climbers attempting the Eiger. It offers a country house ambiance with touches of fin de siècle decor. Guest rooms are old-fashioned but nice and comfortable, maintaining the charms of an earlier era, and it's a treat discovering the hotel's fascinating history in an incredible location.



DREI BERGE HOTEL

Murren, Switzerland

Days 6 to 7 (2 nights)

Centrally located in the quiet little village of Murren, the Drei Berge Hotel is an absolutely charming place to stay, with great chalet-style decor, friendly owners who are consummate hosts, good hiking trails right out the front door, and—the best part—breathtaking views of the massive peaks of the Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau. The restaurant serves up a wonderful breakfast spread, and has excellent local beer on tap and amazing desserts!



GRIESALP HOTEL

Kiental, Switzerland

Day 8 (1 night)

In Griesalp we stay at a small hotel complex at the foot of the Blumlisalp that offers welcoming and cozy accommodations in the midst of a hiker's paradise. A sauna and steam room are available to soothe our tired muscles at the end of an invigorating hiking day.



WALDHOTEL DOLDENHORN

Kandersteg, Switzerland

Day 9 (1 night)

Situated in a quiet garden-like setting just outside the village of Kandersteg, the Waldhotel Doldenhorn is a great place to relax after our day's hike. Spa facilities include a large pool, two Jacuzzis, and saunas, and its two dining venues—one for fine dining and the other conveying a traditional rustic ambiance—serve excellent cuisine.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Hiking Switzerland's Via Alpina* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Hotel Monopol Luzern

Lucerne, Switzerland

Date & Time: Day 1, 6:00 pm

Suggested Arrival Airport: Zurich (ZRH) or Geneva (GVA)

Suggested Flight Arrival Time: morning of Day 1 or anytime if arriving prior to Day 1

Trip members are responsible for transferring from Zurich or Geneva to Lucerne on their own. A Swiss Half Fare card will be sent to you with your final documents, which you can use to purchase half price train tickets for your arrival and departure trains. Trains from Zurich to Lucerne take about 45 minutes and trains from Geneva take about 3.25 hours. There is usually at least one train per hour, and no need to book ahead. You can see schedules and fares online at www.sbb.ch/en or www.raileurope.com.

DEPARTURE

Waldhotel Doldenhorn

Kandersteg, Switzerland

Date & Time: Day 10, anytime

Suggested Airport for Departure: Zurich (ZRH) or Geneva (GVA)

Suggested Flight Departure Time:

No earlier than 10:30 am if flying from Zurich

No earlier than 11:30 am if flying from Geneva

Trip members are responsible for transferring from Kandersteg to Zurich or Geneva on their own. There is no need to book ahead, and your trip leaders will assist you with arranging the train while on the trip. Trains from Kandersteg to Zurich take about 2.5 hours and the earliest train will get you to Zurich Airport around 8:30 am. Trains from Kandersteg to Geneva airport take approximately 3.25 hours, and the earliest train will get you to the airport around 9:30 am. You can check online at www.raileurope.com or www.sbb.ch/en for current train schedules.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Switzerland.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

You may wish to spend extra nights in the town of your arrival or departure. Please see the Extra Services Request Form to book these hotel reservations.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 5+ (Strenuous) according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 11 miles a day for several days in a row, being on your feet for up to 9 hours a day, and hiking on narrow, uneven, and exposed surfaces. While no climbing or mountaineering experience is necessary, all trip members should have ample hiking experience and be able to keep up with the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 9 miles
- 7 hours
- 2,500-3,500 feet gain/loss
- Altitudes range from 7,000-11,500 feet

Challenge Days

- Day 8: 14 miles, 8-9 hours, 4,500 feet gain, and 4,250 feet loss

TERRAIN

At lower elevations, the trails are usually packed dirt, but at higher elevations they are often much rockier, with occasional sections of glacial snow, loose scree, and large boulders. On some days, you will encounter sections of narrow, exposed trails with steep descents and chain handrails. Your experienced mountain guides are there to assist you if needed.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness.

The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercises. Stair-climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in. Altitude is generally not a problem on this trip. However, some people still experience a few problems when they first reach high altitude. Slight headache and sleeplessness are the most common symptoms. Most accommodations are between 3,500 and 6,000 feet, with two nights between 8,000 and 8,700 feet. Each day, we hike over passes located between 7,000 and 9,600 feet.

WEATHER

Temperatures are likely to reach the 60s°F and 70s°F during the day, with cool breezes and occasional rain. At night the temperature will drop quite a bit, depending on the altitude. The months we run these trips have the optimal weather conditions, but still can be fickle. It can range from blue skies to cloudy, wet, and cold conditions, making rain gear and warm garments necessary items to carry with you on every hike.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We spend our nights in alpine inns and hotels. Some are more traditional hotels and some have very small rooms, but they all have their own private bathroom with a shower or bathtub. Please note that the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Many hotels also do not have an elevator or porter service, so be prepared to carry your luggage up the stairs. Single rooms

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS
2	7 hours	10.5 miles	+3,250'/-2,200'	1 hour driving, 20 mins cable car
3	7 hours	9 miles	+2,800'/-2,700'	1 hour cable car/chair lift
4	3.5 hours	6 miles	+2,350'/-400'	40 mins PostBus, 25 mins cable car
5	4 hours	7 miles	+2,350'/-100'	20 mins train
6	1.5 hours	3 miles	+700'/-700'	2 hours cogwheel, 15 mins train, 5 mins cable car
7	optional hike			
8	8 hours	11 miles	+3,400'/-4,150'	
9	8-9 hours	14 miles	+4,500'/-4,250'	10 mins cable car, 10 mins bus
10				2.5 hours by train to Zurich

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Meiringen	35/22	40/25	47/30	55/36	63/42	68/48	72/51	70/51	65/46	57/39	45/31	36/24
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Meiringen	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.9	4.8	5.9	5.8	6.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.8

can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

CUISINE

Lunch will be in a mountain lodge, at a local restaurant, or in a picnic spot amidst the beauty of the surrounding mountains. Most evenings we will have dinner at our hotel. Some of the items you may see on the menu include hearty soups, a variety of cheeses and dry meats from the region, cheese fondue, raclette (melted cheese served with jacket potatoes), cocktail gherkins and onions, pickled fruit, älplermagronen (a kind of gratin with potatoes, macaroni, cheese, cream and onions), rösti (a flat, hot cake made of grated, cooked potatoes and fried in hot butter), zürcher geschnetzelte (a veal dish, sometimes also containing veal liver and mushrooms, served with a cream sauce), and bratwurst served with onion sauce. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION

Our support vehicle will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day). We will experience the efficient Swiss network of public transport from cable cars and chair lifts to cogwheel trains, funiculars, and the Post Bus which travels along marvelous, scenic roads to tiny mountain hamlets while delivering bread, salad, the newspaper, and letters to the locals.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europe@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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