

10 Day Best Of Switzerland

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Get ready to be inspired.

FROM

\$4,749^{NZD}

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

A ten-day jaunt through the countryside and cuisine of Switzerland is the ideal way to see (and taste) all things Swiss. This small nation packs a punch with its mountainous landscapes, glacial lakes, picturesque cities and food staples that are so tough to beat. Beginning in Zurich, head to historic St Gallen, lakeside Lucerne, adrenaline-filled Interlaken and cheese-obsessed Gruyeres b...

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TOUR ITINERARY



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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Zurich
Meals included	
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Welcome to Switzerland, the land of the neutral that you'll only feel positive about. There is much to see and do in Zurich, so we recommend you book some additional nights prior to the trip's start. This afternoon meet your group at 5pm for an important welcome meeting. Afterwards take an evening orientation walk with your leader around Zurich to take in the river and lake front by night.

Special Information: It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

DAY 2

Destination	Zurich 🚗 St Gallen
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Spend a free morning in Zurich, then head towards St Gallen, arriving around lunch for a chance to taste a renowned St Gallen sausage. In the afternoon, you'll visit the famous Abbey of St Gall and its incredible library. The entire abbey precinct was declared a World Heritage-listed Site in 1983, and the Abbey Library hosts a collection of medieval texts and important documents dating back to the eighth century. What you do with your evening is up to you – a trip to the surrounding hills for a view of entire city is not a bad idea at all!

Special Information: Please note that our accommodation in St Gallen does not offer ensuite facilities. Bathrooms are shared among guests occupying one floor.

DAY 3

Destination	St Gallen 🚗 Lucerne
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Travel by train to Lucerne – a small city known for its mountainous backdrop, located next to Lake Lucerne. The city is a popular destination for those visiting central Switzerland thanks to its proximity to many outdoor activities, its breathtaking natural beauty and historic architecture. Take a walk past 15th-century frescoed houses and quaint

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wooden bridges and climb to the top of the medieval towers along the city walls for spectacular views of this picturesque city and its surroundings. In the tiny streets of the old town (Altstadt), there's often a craft market and dozens of shops full of unique handmade goods. Perhaps you'd like to book in on a sunset canoeing tour – a fantastic way to see the town from a different perspective.

Special Information: Please note that our accommodation in Lucerne does not offer ensuite facilities. Bathrooms are shared among guests occupying one floor.


DAY 4

Destination	Lucerne/Mt Pilatus
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

It's tour time! Hop on the Golden Pilatus tour – a trip taking you to the most spectacular spots on Mt Pilatus, including its summit, by boat, cogwheel railway, aerial cableway and gondola. The trip starts in Lucerne with a boat trip on the lake before heading to Alpnachstad, where you'll board the steepest cogwheel railway in the world, which takes you to the summit at 2132 metres. Buy yourself some lunch with a panoramic view of the alps, before descending via the aerial cableway and gondola. Return to Lucerne and spend the rest of the day at your leisure. Naps, strolls along the lake, cheesy food and beer are always a good way to go.

Special Information: On today's excursion you will take a steep cogwheel railway up Mt Pilatus. There will be some exposure on the sides, so a good head for heights will help. The views are unparalleled.

DAY 5

Destination	Lucerne  Interlaken
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hostel, or similar

Today, travel to Interlaken and enjoy a free day in this picturesque mountain paradise. You might like to spend the day in Interlaken or catch a short train ride to Lauterbrunnen village and explore the stunning valley in which it's nestled. Or why not take a train ride up Jungfrauoch to what's known as the Top of Europe. If you're feeling fit and keen to get out there, there's also the option to tackle some of the trails around the monumental Eiger Mountain. There are plenty of trails to choose from, from flat and easy to certified heart-pumpers – just be sure to wear your good shoes and bring some wet-weather gear as mountain weather is notoriously unpredictable.

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Special Information: If you would like to visit Jungfrauojoch, the Top of Europe, we advise you book your tickets in advance. As you will be travelling from Lucerne this morning, please book your tickets leaving Interlaken Ost railway station no earlier than 12.35 pm. Please make sure you book return tickets. For more information and timetable, please visit sbb.ch/en. For more information, feel free to speak to your group leader earlier on in your trip.

DAY 6

Destination	Interlaken 🚆 Bulle
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Enjoy another free day in and around Interlaken. A boat cruise on one of the two lakes on either side of Interlaken (hence the town's name) is a great way to take in the mountainous panorama. In the late afternoon catch another train to Bulle, located in La Gruyere district. Bulle is the town of your medieval dreams and, yes, it's the home of the cheese too. Lush green fields dotted with dairy cows and mountain peaks stretch as far as the eye can see. Tonight it's your choice – you might want to stroll the quaint streets of Bulle and sample some cheese.

DAY 7

Destination	Bulle
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Today head out of town to visit La Gruyere cheese factory to learn more about this world-famous cheese and how it is produced. Then it's time for another iconic Swiss product. You're off to a chocolate factory! If you haven't heard, Swiss chocolate is the real deal and one of the most delicious of all the chocolates. Take a tour of a local chocolate producer and learn some of their secrets – with some samples, of course – before a free afternoon to relax. You could head down to Lake Gruyere for some fresh air and some happy snaps with the mountainous backdrop. Or return to Bulle for a stroll around town and to continue tasting the local cheese.

DAY 8

Destination	Bulle 🚆 Bern
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Travel to Bern – Switzerland's capital and arguably one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. After checking into your hotel, grab a quick lunch and head off for an included e-bike tour around town. Bern is a very cycle-friendly city, bike paths are widely available, and e-bikes are just too easy to ride even uphill. Cycle through the Old Town, explore the area

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where Einstein lived and developed his Theory of Relativity at the start of the 20th century, check out the famous Bern Clock and don't forget to stop to check out Parliament House. In the evening, why not get some of your crew together to explore the food and drink scene in Bern – from typical Swiss dishes to world-wide cuisine, Bern is a great place for dining.

DAY 9

Destination	Bern
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Today is free for you to explore on your own. Exploring the Old Town further is not a bad idea, given there are several small craft breweries spread around. If you are looking to get out of the city, there are plenty of tours to choose from. The Emmental Valley is just around the corner and can be explored in a whole range of ways – walking tours, e-bike tours and even cheese tastings! Take a view at the beautiful panorama of the city and perhaps walk back down into town for some dinner and drinks – your group leader will know of some great places to go.

DAY 10

Destination	Bern
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

With no activities planned for today, you are free to leave any time after breakfast. That doesn't mean your adventure has to come to an end! If you would like to spend more time in Bern, we'll be happy to organise additional accommodation (subject to availability).

Special Information: Please note that Bern doesn't have an international airport. Your best bets are Zurich, Basel and Geneva International Airports, all of which are under 2 hours by train. We do not offer any departure transfers on this trip as public transport is very efficient and the cost for private transfers would have been excessive.

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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodation: Hotel (8 nights), Hostel (1 night)
- All Transportation
- Meals: 9 breakfasts as per itinerary
- Group size: Maximum 12 people.
- 1 English speaking tour leader – Will accompany the group throughout
- All accommodation as listed
- All entrance fees to the sites listed (except optionals)
- All activities listed in the itinerary unless a paid optional
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Find out why the Swiss are known around the world for their cheese and chocolate, with visits to producers of both in La Gruyere region.
- Your local group leader will provide expert advice on how to make the most of your free time, as well as giving you orientation walks around each place so you can get your bearings.
- Discover the Top of Europe in the Jungfrau region. With a free day to choose your own adventure, you can take the day as relaxed or as thrill-seeking as you want to explore this highland haven.
- Take in the breathtaking alpine views from the summit of Pilatus Mountain with your small group, reached via the steepest cogwheel railway in the world.
- With plenty of free time to explore at your own pace in Bern, you'll discover why this city is considered as one of the most beautiful and laidback capital cities in the world.

Fine Print

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EXCLUSIONS

- Return International Airfares
- Transfers
- Visas (if applicable)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$440 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$1422 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

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OPTIONAL TOURS

To enhance your journey, we are offering guests a choice of the following optional activities:

- Zurich - Old Botanical Garden - Free (Day 1)
- Zurich - Swiss National Museum - CHF10 (Day 1)
- Zurich - Beyer Clock & Watch Museum - CHF10 (Day 1)
- Zurich - Cruise on Lake Zurich - CHF43 (Day 1)
- Lucerne - Spreuer Bridge - Free (Day 3)
- Lucerne - Church of St Leodegar - Free (Day 3)
- Lucerne - Swiss Museum of Transport - CHF56 (Day 3)
- Interlaken - Jungfrauoch (The Top of Europe) - CHF105 (Day 5)
- Interlaken - Schilthorn Mountain - CHF86 (Day 5)
- Interlaken - Trummelbach Falls - CHF11 (Day 5)
- Bern - Rose Garden - Free (Day 9)
- Bern - History and Einstein Museum - CHF18 (Day 9)
- Bern - Minster (Cathedral) - Free (Day 9)
- Bern - Museum of Fine Arts - CHF10 (Day 9)

Costs are per person.

The optional tours and shore excursions can only be purchased on-tour with your guide or the ship staff, and are payable in local currency. Optional tours are subject to conditions such as traffic, weather and sightseeing schedules, as well as minimum numbers.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, a basic level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

As a general rule, portorage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. While tipping is not customary, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations.

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You may also consider tipping your tour leader and driver for outstanding service throughout your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is bookable on this trip, subject to availability at the time of booking from an extra \$1166. Please note that due to the small properties we use in Europe there are limited single supplements available per trip departure. If you would like to book a single supplement and enquire about availability please speak to an Intrepid booking agent.

Triple Share

Not available.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of your return.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://safetravel.govt.nz/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

Maximum 12 people.

Children

Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

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Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).

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