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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Discover Ticino: Italian Switzerland

From £1,499 per person // 11 days



Visit Ticino, the beautiful Italian-speaking canton of southern Switzerland. Take in the best of the region with a complimentary Ticino Ticket - a travel pass to use throughout your stay.

The Essentials

- Ticino – the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland – also known as “the sunny side of Switzerland” thanks to its Mediterranean climate
- The mountains of the Gotthard and canton’s capital Bellinzona
- Lake Lugano and Lake Maggiore, two spectacular lakes

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard class rail travel with seat reservations
- Ticino Ticket – free travel around the entire canton throughout your stay
- 11 nights’ handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast in city-centre locations
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, flight documentation and hotel vouchers
- All credit card surcharges and prompt delivery of your travel documents to your home

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Strasbourg

At lunchtime today take a high-speed Eurostar over to Lille in northern France, where you change onto a convenient TGV high-speed train through to the capital of the Alsace, Strasbourg. Check into the Maison Rouge Hotel (or similar) and head out to sample some local delicacies such as Flammekueche.



Day 2 - Strasbourg To Bellinzona Via The Gotthard Base Tunnel

A regional train connects you through the hop-producing countryside of the Alsace and into Switzerland at the large metropolitan city of Basel. Here, you change on to a Swiss tilting train that whisks you through the Gotthard Base Tunnel and into the canton of Ticino. Check in at the excellent Internazionale Hotel & Spa (or similar) and collect your Ticino Ticket. The Ticino Ticket is given to you complimentary on check in to each of your hotels and covers unlimited travel on rail & bus networks as well as 30% discount on a number of attractions you might like to visit while you were there.



Day 3 - Bellinzona

Today you have a full day to take in all that Ticino's capital has to offer. Three castles, designated as a UNESCO Heritage Site, loom over the city as do the majestic surrounding mountains. Your Ticino Ticket entitles you to unlimited travel on buses and trains throughout the canton for the duration of your stay. Use this to explore the local mountains and valleys, perhaps taking in a trip to the top of the Gotthard Pass at Airolo.



Day 4 - Bellinzona To Lugano

Use your Ticino Ticket again this morning to take the short ride from Bellinzona to Lugano, alongside its beautiful lake and in the shadow of San Salvatore Mountain. Check into the Villa Sassa Hotel & Spa (or similar) for a 3-night stay, then head out along the main shopping street, Via Nassa.



Day 5 & 6 - Lugano

Lugano's traffic-free historic town centre with numerous buildings in Italianate Lombardy style, as well as exclusive museums and a packed calendar of events all invite visitors to see the sights, soak up the atmosphere – and enjoy "dolce far niente". The town centre with its Mediterranean-style squares and arcades, and numerous parks with sub-tropical plants such as the Parco Civico on the shores of the lake invite you to laze around, enjoying the atmosphere.



Day 7 - Lugano To Locarno

After breakfast this morning, take a local train to the junction station of Giubiasco, where you change onto the Locarno line. Following a brief and scenic ride, you find yourself in the glamorous city of Locarno, right on the shore of Lake Maggiore. Settle into the Hotel Garni au Lac (or similar) for a 3-night stay



Days 8 & 9 - Locarno And Lake Maggiore

Lake Maggiore is predominantly known as an Italian lake, however, around a fifth of the lake is set within Switzerland. Locarno has the added attraction of several cultural events, including the famous international Film Festival. From Cardada/Cimetta, the closest mountain to Locarno, you can enjoy a fantastic panorama of Lake Maggiore. Use your Ticino Ticket to travel along the lake shore, or perhaps up into one of the various valleys such as the Verzasca, with its spectacular landscapes and dramatic waterfalls.



Day 10 - Locarno To Lausanne Via The Centovalli Railway

A spectacular journey awaits today as you bid farewell to Ticino aboard the spectacular Centovalli railway, which takes you to Domodossola, just across the Italian border. From here, you take a direct train through the Simplon Tunnel, along the upper Rhône Valley and finally alongside Lake Geneva to Lausanne. Check into the Agora Swiss Night hotel (or similar) within a 300-yard walk of the station.



Day 11 - Lausanne To London

Leave at lunchtime from Lausanne this morning after a morning's exploration down at the shores of Lake Geneva. The French TGV line goes through the Jura Mountains and through the city of Dijon and then takes the high-speed line onwards at speeds of up to 200 mph right into Paris. Here, you make a very easy connection between the Gare de Lyon and Gare du Nord and take the Eurostar back to the UK.

Pricing

From £1,499 per person

Low season (November-March) **from £1,499pp**

High season (April-October) **from £1,699pp**

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.