

## Scenic Switzerland and Lake Como

From £2,099 per person // 11 days



Combine a visit to Italy's best loved lake resort with some of the world's most stunning rail journeys on this holiday to Switzerland and Lake Como, taking in the Glacier Express, Bernina Express and Gornergrat Mountain Railway. Enjoy a 3-night stay on lovely Lake Como before returning via Basel and the Rhine Gorge.

### The Essentials

- Travel from your local UK station to Switzerland with a night in pretty Strasbourg en route
- Take in the mountain air on a trip up the Gornergrat from Zermatt, with views over the Matterhorn
- Experience the full route of the famous Glacier Express from Zermatt to St Moritz
- Spend two full days on lovely Lake Como before returning via Basel and Brussels

### What's included

- Standard class rail travel including seat reservations where required
- A return journey on the Gornergrat Mountain Railway from Zermatt
- 10 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

### Tailor make your holiday

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

## - Suggested Itinerary -



### Day 1 - London To Strasbourg

Head for the International Departures Hall at London's grand St Pancras station and catch a Eurostar service to Lille. A simple change in the station here will take you to Strasbourg, close to the German border. Here, check in for an overnight stay at the Hotel Hannong (or similar). Let us know which local station you'll be travelling from so that we can include this with your holiday. Strasbourg is the capital of the Grand Est (Alsace) region of France with a rich blend of architectural styles and distinctive local cuisine, including the delicious tarte flambée. You can give this a try at any number of restaurants around the imposing Gothic Cathedral, or the beautiful half-timbered district of Petite France.



### Day 2 - Strasbourg To Zermatt

You have 'open' journeys today, meaning that you can choose to leave Strasbourg whenever you feel like it and take the train down into Switzerland. You'll change in Basel and Visp en route to Zermatt, high in the Swiss Alps. The last part of this journey is the most spectacular as the Matterhorn-Gotthard Bahn service takes you up to 5,275 feet above sea level, at the foot of the distinctive peak of the Matterhorn. On arrival in Zermatt, check in at the Hotel Pollux (or similar) for a 2-night stay. Zermatt is a car-free village so most of the hotels are either within easy walking distance of the station, or offer a complimentary shuttle service by electric buggy.



### Day 3 - Zermatt And The Gornergrat

You have a free day in Zermatt today to explore. Why not take one of the stunning walking trails out of the village, all clearly signposted (your hotel will be happy to advise you about the best routes depending on the distance and difficulty you are looking for). Included in your package, you also have return tickets on the Gornergrat Mountain Railway, the highest open-air cog railway in Europe, with fabulous views over the surrounding peaks from the summit – including the Matterhorn. Later on, you may like to experience Zermatt's 'après ski' scene with a wide range of bars and restaurants open year-round (not just during ski season!).



### Day 4 - Zermatt To St Moritz With The Glacier Express

An exciting day awaits as you check out of your hotel after breakfast this morning and return to the station for an unforgettable journey about the world-famous Glacier Express. You'll experience the full route of the 'slowest express train in the world' as the distinctive red and white panoramic carriages snake through the centre of Switzerland, taking in some jaw-dropping alpine scenery along with 291 bridges and 91 tunnels. On arrival into St Moritz, check in for a 2-night stay at the Sport & Wellnesshotel San Gian (or similar).



### Day 5 - St Moritz

You have a full days at leisure in St Moritz today. St Moritz is one of Switzerland's oldest and most fashionable ski resorts, boasting 300 days of sunshine a year. There are some sensational walking routes for all abilities here, whether you want to get out into the mountains or simply stroll around the lake. You can also browse the exclusive boutiques in town and enjoy a hearty meal in one of the many restaurants. The resorts of Davos and Arosa are a short train journey away if you fancy exploring out of town. You can purchase tickets at the station for this.



### Day 6 - St Moritz To Como Via The Bernina Express

Enjoy another spectacular rail journey today as you leave St Moritz in the morning and board the panoramic carriages of the Bernina Express, bound for the Italian border and the little town of Tirano. Your journey includes magnificent viaducts, spectacular mountain lakes and more glaciers than the Glacier Express! You may want to break your journey in Tirano for some lunch before continuing your journey into Italy and south to lovely Lake Como. On arrival at Como S. Giovanni station, make your way to the Barchetta Excelsior Hotel (or similar) where you have a 3-night stay.



### Days 7 & 8 - Lake Como

Enjoy two full days at leisure on Lake Como. The town of Como is a hub for travel around the lake with regular ferry services leaving from the Piazza Cavour. Why not visit some of the lake's famous gardens like those of the Villa Carlotta or explore the endlessly-photogenic winding streets of Bellagio? If the weather is fine, there are also plenty of beaches to choose from. In Como itself, it's well worth taking the funicular railway up to the little hill-side village of Brunate for a coffee or aperitif with panoramic views over the lake.



### Day 9 - Como To Basel

Leave Como this morning and take a train back up into Switzerland. There's time if you want to stop for lunch and quick look around pretty Locarno on the Swiss side of Lake Maggiore before continuing on to Basel. The direct Treno Gottardo service from Locarno to Basel takes you up into the mountains once again, through the spectacular Gotthard Pass. Arrive into Basel and check in for an overnight stay at the Hotel Gaia (or similar). Basel is a vibrant city with some of the best museums in Switzerland and a lovely Old Town straddling the River Rhine.



### Day 10 - Basel To Brussels

You might like to take advantage of a free morning in Basel today to visit one of the city's fantastic museums and galleries before you return to the station and board a direct service to Cologne. The route of this journey takes you along the banks of the River Rhine, past famous wineland villages such as Boppard and Bingen. Look out for hilltop castles and vineyards as you head north along the Rhine Gorge. In Cologne, change onto a high-speed ICE service which will take you to Brussels. Here, check in for an overnight stay at the Pullman Brussels Midi (or similar) and then head out for a last meal in one of the tempting restaurants along the cobbled streets off the magnificent Grand Place.



### Day 11 - Brussels To London

Depending on how far you have to go to get back home today, you should have some time free to discover a little more of Brussels before your Eurostar journey under the English Channel and back to London.

## Pricing

From £2,099 per person

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. 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.