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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Via Alpina Walking Holiday

From £1,999 per person // 6 days



This fabulous hiking holiday based in Lenk offers hikers the opportunity to walk two stages of the renowned Via Alpina hiking route without needing to carry luggage. Routes can be adapted to suit you and the hotel concierge in Lenk is always ready to offer advice.

The Essentials

- Travel to Lenk, near Gstaad via Strasbourg
- Spend 3 nights at the prestigious Lenkerhof Hotel
- Enjoy two days of walking on the spectacular Via Alpina
- Return to the UK with an overnight stop in Lyon

Tailor make your holiday

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

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 2 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Lenk with breakfast and dinner
- 2 packed lunches for walking days
- Bernese Oberland travel pass
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets and hotel vouchers in all destinations
- All credit card surcharges and delivery of your travel documents to your home

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Strasbourg

Catch a morning Eurostar from London to Paris and make the easy crossing to the Gare de l'Est for your onward journey down to Strasbourg, near the German and Swiss borders. Check in for an overnight stay at the Hotel des Vosges (or similar), conveniently located for the station, and then perhaps head into the pretty centre of the city for an evening meal.



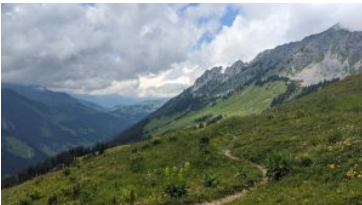
Day 2 - Strasbourg To Lenk

After breakfast this morning, it's time to head back to the station for a regional train across the border to Basel in Switzerland. Here, pick up a Swiss train to Lenk in the beautiful Bernese Oberland, via Spiez and Zweisimmen. Your home for the next 3 nights is the stunning Hotel Lenkerhof and you may like to spend the remainder of your day taking advantage of the hotels extensive leisure and wellness facilities, whilst soaking in the beauty of the surrounding scenery.



Day 3 - Via Alpina – Adelboden To Lenk

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, collect your packed lunch and take a stroll from the hotel down to the station in Lenk and catch the train back via Spiez to Frutigen. From here, take the PostAuto service to Adelboden. Upon arrival, follow the Via Alpina hiking signs which are clearly marked. In the village, the path turns off and leads down to the Allebach River. Here you have a clear view of the Engstligen Falls and Wildstrubel Mountain behind. Leaving the paved road you then take the gravel trail along the Allebach. A narrow path takes you up to Adelboden Geils via Ribestalde and Adelboden Bergläger. From there a paved trail meanders through a beautiful moor landscape up to Hahnenmoos Pass. From the top of the pass you overlook a wide panorama and the view across the beautiful Simmental Valley opens up. On a gravel path and through the meadows the trail passes countless cosy chalets on the way down to the Lenk train station. Dinner is served back at the hotel.



Day 4 - Via Alpina - Lenk To Gstaad

Today, it's time to join stage 16 of the Via Alpina and head to Gstaad. Today's hike is longer than yesterday's, so an early start is recommended. The path to Gstaad is well-marked and offers many highlights along the route. The ascent to the Wallegg-Stube restaurant is relatively steep. Impressively, the river has carved out metre-deep cylindrical pools in the rock here over hundreds of years. The path then continues uphill, winding its way through rolling meadows and over the tree line. Passing between the peaks off the Wildstrubel and Wildhorn, over 3,200 metres high, the Tierberg comes into view on the other side, towards Adelboden. Its cave was probably the highest Alpine resting place in the Neolithic period. Via the Trüttlisberg Pass, the highest point of the stage, leave the municipal boundary with Gstaad and now look down into the magnificent Turbach valley. The panoramic view to the south stretches from the famous Lake Lauenen to the Geltenschuss. This impressive waterfall 100 metres high has multiple levels. Finally, you'll reach Gstaad, where you might like to treat yourself to a well-earned drink before returning to Lenk for dinner.



Day 5 - Lenk To Lyon

For the penultimate day of your holiday, you have a wonderful journey aboard the Golden Pass train, which runs from nearby Zweisimmen over to Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. Once in Montreux, you connect onto a Swiss Intercity around to Geneva and finally a French regional train across to Lyon for a night at the Pullman Lyon (or similar).



Day 6 - Lyon To London

Board a civilised-timed late-morning today through to Lille, bypassing Paris. Once you reach the capital of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, check in for an afternoon Eurostar back to London, arriving in ample time to be able to return to most parts of the UK that same evening.

Pricing

From £1,999 per person

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