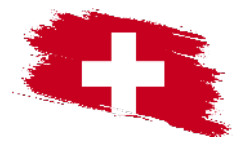




SCENIC RAIL JOURNEYS IN SWITZERLAND

Discover 8 of the most
spectacular Swiss train rides



by: holidaystoswitzerland.com

Switzerland's premium panoramic trains

Switzerland is home to some of the world's most spectacular scenery and some of the most scenic railways.

The perfect way to explore Switzerland is by train, but not just any train. Many of the most picturesque routes can be travelled aboard a premium panoramic train.

With iconic trains like the Bernina Express and the Glacier Express – to name just two – enjoying your very own Grand Train Tour of Switzerland makes perfect sense.

The "Grand Train Tour of Switzerland – The Original" itinerary comprises eight train journeys over eight days, combining the country's top highlights with rides on all five of the panoramic trains.

Travellers can choose to follow the entire route or choose selected legs to create a bespoke itinerary. Of course, should you have more than eight days to explore Switzerland, you can stay longer in any (or all) destinations.

Best of all, you can plan and book your own Grand Train Tour of Switzerland (the Swiss Travel Pass covers the entire route), or book a rail package and have all the reservations made on your behalf.

Whichever option you choose, you're going to love exploring Switzerland by train.

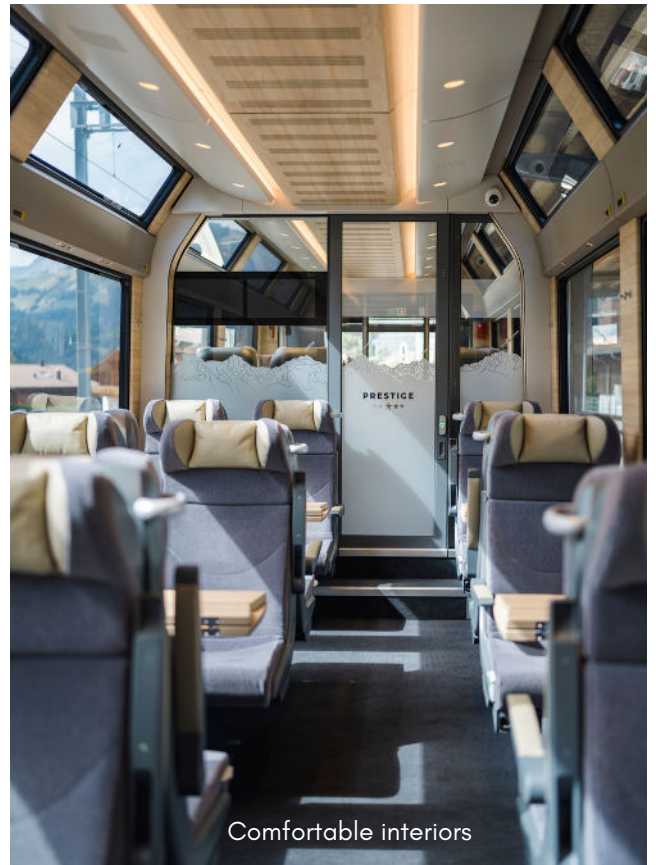
Features of the panoramic trains



Large panoramic windows



Dining or snack bar facilities



Comfortable interiors



On-board attendant

These are just some of the features you'll find aboard Switzerland's premium panoramic trains.

Images © Swiss Travel System

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The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland - The Original Route Map





Lucerne to Interlaken

The **Luzern-Interlaken Express** connects two of Switzerland's most popular destinations.

During the two-hour journey, the train passes glistening lakes, tumbling waterfalls and alpine pastures, and crosses the Brünig Pass.

Large panoramic windows offer up pristine views wherever you look.

Interlaken to Montreux

As it departs Interlaken, the **GoldenPass Express** glides past Lake Thun before continuing on, via Zweisimmen, to Montreux on Lake Geneva.

The three-hour journey is a feast for the eyes and is the perfect way to travel from German-speaking Interlaken to French-speaking Montreux.

Why not treat yourself with seats in Prestige Class?



Image © Swiss Travel System



Montreux to Zermatt

Whilst there's not a premium panoramic train operating on this route, it's still a memorable journey.

From Montreux, the route passes through the Rhone Valley before arriving in Visp.

On the final leg of the route, the train climbs over 900 metres before arriving in Zermatt, home of the Matterhorn.

Zermatt to St. Moritz

The 'slowest express train in the world', the **Glacier Express**, connects the alpine resort towns of Zermatt and St. Moritz.

En route, travellers can marvel at typically Swiss panoramas including deep ravines, pretty villages and vast forests whilst traversing 91 tunnels, 291 bridges and the breathtaking Landwasser Viaduct.

Journey time is eight hours.



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St. Moritz to Lugano

Travel between St. Moritz and Lugano and the journey will take you from ski slopes to palm trees, via the 2,253 metre high Bernina Pass.

Travelling aboard the **Bernina Express** (and the connecting bus service from Tirano), passengers will marvel at the many viaducts, switchback tunnels and natural wonders along this UNESCO World Heritage listed railway line.

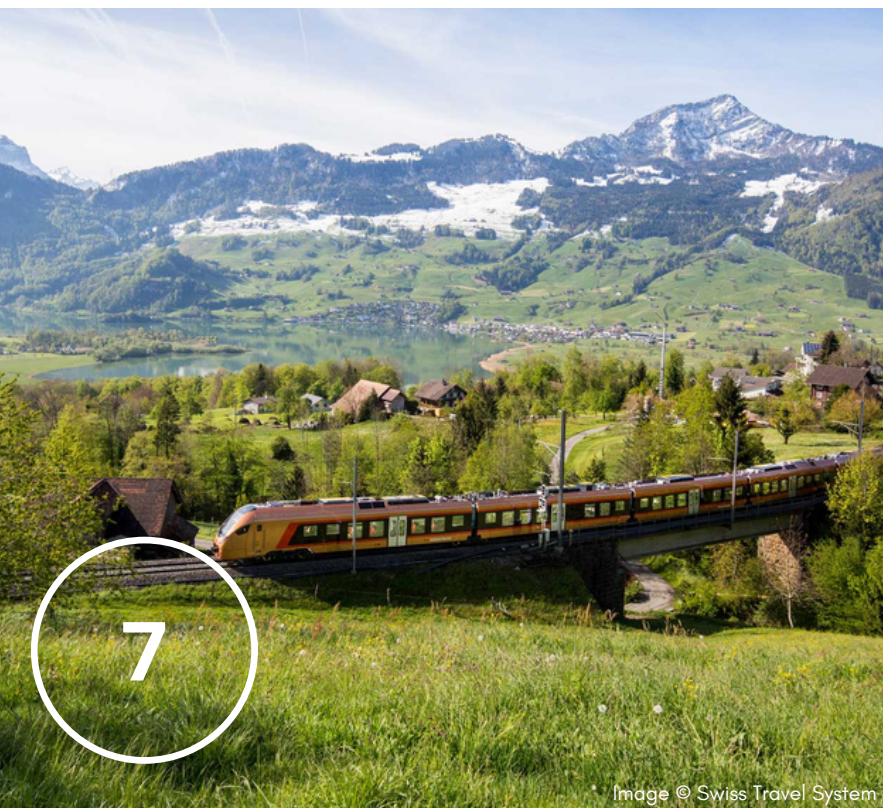
Lugano to Lucerne

The journey from southern to central Switzerland aboard the **Gotthard Panorama Express** also includes a boat ride across Lake Lucerne.

Taking passengers from swaying palm trees in the south to the snow-capped mountains in the north, this scenic journey serves up plenty of breathtaking sights along the way.



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Lucerne to St. Gallen

Discover the rugged beauty of north-eastern Switzerland aboard the **Voralpen Express**.

Connecting the cities of Lucerne and St. Gallen, the train passes rolling green hills and majestic peaks before crossing Lake Zurich and the 99 metre high Sitter Viaduct.

There's plenty to see in just over two hours onboard.

St. Gallen to Zurich

The journey between St. Gallen and Zurich may not be aboard a panoramic train but the trip is no less scenic.

The train travels along the shores of Lake Constance for 40 kilometres before tracing the route of the Rhine past Schaffhausen, home of the Rhine Falls and Munot Fortress.

Zurich, Switzerland's largest city, is reached in just two and a half hours.



Helpful information about the panoramic trains

All services below operate in both directions. All information in this guide is correct at the time of publication but is subject to change.

Luzern-Interlaken Express

Connects: Lucerne and Interlaken

Operates: Year-round

Frequency: Hourly between (approx.
7am and 8pm)

Seat reservations: Recommended but
not compulsory

GoldenPass Express

Connects: Interlaken and Montreux

Operates: Year-round

Frequency: Four times per day

Seat reservations: Compulsory for
Prestige Class, recommended for 1st and
2nd class.

Glacier Express

Connects: Zermatt and St. Moritz

Open: Year-round except mid-October
to mid-December

Frequency: Two to four services per day

Seat reservations: Compulsory for
Excellence, 1st and 2nd classes

Bernina Express

Connects: Chur, St. Moritz, Tirano &
Lugano

Operates: Year-round (BEX bus service
only from February to November)

Frequency: Two to five services per day

Seat reservations: Compulsory for both
1st and 2nd class.

Gotthard Panorama Express

Connects: Lugano and Lucerne

Operates: mid-April to mid-October
(except Mondays)

Frequency: One service per day

Seat reservations: A mandatory
Gotthard Express Supplement applies.

Travel on all premium
panoramic trains is
covered by the
Swiss Travel Pass.
Seat reservation fees
are additional.

MORE RESOURCES

There are numerous ways you can connect with us to get practical tips and advice to help plan your dream trip to Switzerland.



WEBSITE. The [Holidays to Switzerland website](#) is packed with helpful resources and destination guides. You'll find guides on transport, accommodation and things to do, plus our article on planning your trip to Switzerland takes you through the entire process step-by-step. Designed with the independent traveller in mind, the website is the best place to start planning your trip.



PODCAST. In each episode of the [Holidays to Switzerland Travel Podcast](#) host Carolyn Schönafinger chats with Swiss travel experts to answer your most commonly asked questions, provide practical tips and take you on a virtual visit to the most popular destinations – and some hidden gems – to help you plan your dream trip to Switzerland.



FACEBOOK GROUP. Our private [Switzerland Travel Planning group](#) is the place to ask questions and get advice and helpful tips from our friendly community of past and future travellers to Switzerland.

SOCIALS. You can also follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Wishing you safe and happy travels in Switzerland 🇨🇭
Carolyn