

MOTORBIKE TOUR OF SWITZERLAND - 8 days / 7 nights

DATE : June to September (depending on weather conditions)
DESTINATION : South Switzerland

Grüezi, Bonjour, Buongiorno, Allegra,

DESTINATION SWITZERLAND



WHY SWITZERLAND ?

A reliable and flexible partner

SWISS MOTIVATION TRAVEL Ltd is one of the leading Destination Management Companies in Switzerland. Created in 1977 as a division of Luxcoach Ltd. for the international markets it has been in business for almost 33 years. SM TRAVEL is owned and managed by Giancarlo Carrera and Catherine Carrera with a highly qualified and experienced staff. We take pride in hands-on management and a personal touch. This distinguishes the many and varied programs we operate in Switzerland and neighboring countries.

We are specialized in handling incentive programs, congresses, conferences and business meetings, special interest groups and FIT arrangements.

The diversity of the landlocked, mountainous country is the essence of Switzerland and gives the country its unique identity. Still, it is best known for its financial institutions, international organizations, fine cheeses and chocolate, watch making industry, for its scenery and an excellent network of public transportation.

Culture

Switzerland boasts a thriving arts scene, with its architects in particular achieving world-wide acclaim.

The culture of Switzerland is characterised by diversity. The Swiss sometimes wonder what keeps Switzerland together. The wide range of traditional customs is one reflection of this diversity.

Science in Switzerland

Switzerland is recognised as an international research centre. Both the Swiss state and the private sector are strongly involved in promoting science and technology.

Swiss scientists are involved in ground-breaking research, in part with foreign colleagues, in sciences ranging from nanotechnology to space research.

This scientific success has a long history. Many Swiss and Swiss-based scientists have won Nobel prizes.

Swiss politics

Switzerland's existence as a modern federal state dates back to 1848. The government is made up of seven members, elected by

the Federal Assembly. The government members take it in turns to act as president. The Swiss people can influence political affairs through the highly developed system of direct democracy.

Switzerland's position as a neutral state allows it to play an important humanitarian role in world affairs and to act as a mediator between conflicting parties.

Switzerland has a great deal to offer: cultural diversity, multilingualism, stunning scenery and, of course, its people !

The success of a meeting depends on the quality of its social program. For only those who feel well looked after can perform to the best of their ability.: Switzerland has an enormous variety of attractions Sports, culture, wellness, and shopping, active pursuits, passive pleasures Best of all, you can find everything on your doorstep. So what are you waiting for? Give your participants the very best that our country has to offer.

Facts and figures

Inhabitants: 7'907'000

Area : 41'293 km²

Cities : Capital City: Berne. Major Cities: Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Lucerne, Lugano, Lausanne.

Location : Switzerland is a small, multicultural country in the heart of Europe. It shares borders with Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Lichtenstein

Topography : Three main geographical regions: the Swiss Alps; the Swiss Plateau (or Mittelland), which stretches from Lake Constance to Lake Geneva; and the Swiss Jura, a rugged, extended chain of old mountains

Climate : Switzerland enjoys a mild climate, with moderate temperatures and humidity in July and August, daytime temperature range between 18 and 28°C, in January and February, between -2 and 7°C, and in spring and autumn, between 8 and 15°C.

Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansch Most people also speak English

GENERAL INFORMATION

How to get there?

Switzerland is a small multicultural, multilingual country located in the very heart of Europe. It shares common frontiers with Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Lichtenstein. Switzerland is therefore at the crossroads of the continent. It is a focal point of international air, road and rail traffic and easily accessible within hours from major European cities and centres. Swiss is the national carrier of Switzerland serving 70 worldwide destinations in 42 countries from its home hub in Zurich, and from Basel and Geneva international airports. Zurich and Geneva airports are fully integrated into the Swiss railroad network. Trains to the two city centres run every 10 to 20 minutes, with a travelling time of approximately 10 minutes. Hourly intercity trains leave right from either airport station and connect you to many cities and towns.

Time zone

Central European Time (CET) = GMT +1

Climate & what to pack

It is highly recommended to visitors to pack a sweater, good walking shoes, sunscreen, sunglasses, a compact umbrella and/or a light rain coat. Switzerland experiences mild temperatures throughout the year, making nearly anytime ideal for exploring culture, history, food, or outdoor activities. The mountains are mainly responsible for the variety of local and regional microclimates. Ticino in the south has a hot, Mediterranean climate, but most of the rest of the country has a central European climate.

Regional gastronomy

Zurich: Minced veal in cream sauce with rösti, the golden light Swiss version of hash brown potatoes.

Bern: Smoked pork, sausage and sauerkraut.

Lausanne: Local sausage on a bed of leeks and potatoes.

Ticino: Polenta, risotto and pasta.

Generally everywhere: Crusty bread, great cheeses and preserves for breakfast and of course real muesli.

Try famous fondue, raclette, or cheese tartlets. Foods can be light -the delicious taste of the Grisons air dried meats and freshest lake fish; or sumptuous feasts - classic sausages and tender meats. Try a tray of our many cheeses, perhaps a Tête de Moine.

Indulge in desserts that bring tears of delight.

Swiss wines

A ruby-red Merlot or dark Nostrano are the wines of the Ticino. Sip spirited glasses of Cressier on glimmering Lake Neuchatel. Dole offers itself as the perfect choice for many traditional dishes. Try Fendant from the Valais, Twanner from Biel a dry Dezaley from the distinct chasselas grape. The rare Glacier, aged a decade or more. There are wonderful local wines that never leave their village. Sample them in their home territory, perhaps with a leisurely meal.

Shopping & vat refund

Switzerland's superb products make it a shopper's paradise. English is spoken in most shops and stores. Fine watches come in an infinite variety and are generally less expensive than in others countries. Chocolates come in a variety of sizes, shapes and flavours. Excellent buys are: textiles, embroideries, fine handkerchiefs, linen, precision instruments, drafting sets, multi-blade pocket knives, music boxes, woodcarvings, ceramics and other handmade items as well as antiques and art books.

The VAT tax you pay on purchased goods in Switzerland is 7.6%. You may ask at the shops for your Global Refund Cheque and reclaim the VAT. Global Refund offers you a swift and save cash refund system at Zurich and Geneva airports as well as at all major airport in Europe and all major road exit points. Major Credit Cards are accepted in fine shops and most department stores. Shops are usually open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Once a week they extend their hours to 9 p.m. They are closed on Sundays except for those at airports, at some railway stations and highway rest stops.

Power supply

230 AC. Electric shavers and other electrical appliance bought elsewhere in Europe can all be used, but it is advisable to bring a socket adaptor. Many hotels also have adaptors available for the use of guests.

Day 1 Geneva arrival – Grimsel



Arrival at Geneva airport and pick-up of your motor-bike.

Itinerary of the day: Geneva – Lake side Road – Montreux – Aigle – Villars Sur Ollon – de la Croix pass - Les Diablerets – Gstaad – Zweisimmen – Interlaken – Meiringen – Grimsel Pass – Grimsel Hospiz – 283km

Main point of interest:

The Lake side road to join Aigle will permit you to get use to your motor bike, enjoying the Lemman lake shore, Lavaux terrace vineyards (o UNESCO World Heriatge Site) near Montreux and Chillon Castle... The la Croix Pass will be your first pass. It culminates at 1'776m and connects Villars sur Ollon to Les Diablerets which are two Mountain Resorts. On the west slope, road is 18km with a maximum downslope at 13%.



Les Diablerets – Glacier 3'000: Enjoy the view on the Glacier 3'000 mountain which offers the most thrilled Alpine coaster form of toboggan run, a downhill descent and guaranteed adrenaline kicks for people of all ages!



Gstaad: the neighbouring region in the Bernese Oberland is a meeting point for 'Jet Set' as well as unadulterated nature.

Grimsel Pass: links the Hasli Valley in the Bernese Oberland with Goms in Valais. The pass road runs through a wild, sparsely grown mountainous region marked by granite rocks, reservoir lakes, and power plants. It culminates at 2'165m, road is opened since 1894 – length 33km with 10% downslope.

Let's have an idea: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMVC33IkDpg>

Day 2 Grimsel – Ascona or Lugano



Itinerary of the day: Gletsch – Nufenen Pass – San Gotthard Pass – Andermatt – Oberalp pass – Lukmagnier Pass – Biasca – Ascona or Lugano – 250km

Main point of interest:

The Nufenen pass goes from Ulrichen, in the canton of Valais, to Airolo in the canton of Ticino. It is 38 km long. The top of the pass is located 2478m, making it the second highest road pass in the Swiss Alps and the highest entirely paved.



The St. Gotthard Pass peaks at 2108m and 26 kilometers long (maximum downslope 8%), which links Airolo to Andermatt .This pass ensured most direct flow of people and goods between northern Switzerland and the Ticino and Italy, and more generally between the center of the Po valley and northern Europe.

For the most breathtaking views, use the Tremola road (meaning "trembling" in Italian), the old road, still almost entirely paved, but can be closed to traffic (depending on the weather conditions). Look what is awaiting you : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlTpiwU0AZU>



The Oberalp Pass rises to 2044m. It is located in the Swiss Alps between Glarus and the Lepontine Alps. The pass connects the valley prior to Andermatt Rhine. The road was opened in 1863. The Rhine River has its source near the pass. Length 32km, downslope maximum 9%

The Lukmanierpass culminates at 1914 meters altitude. It connects Disentis (GR) to Biasca (TI). Since it follows the valley Disentis Medel to the top of the pass and then down by the Blenio to Biasca. The road was opened in 1877, has a length of 61 kilometers and a gradient of maximum 9%.

Then, please kindly choose you next place of stay ex. Ascona or Lugano

Day 3 Free time to enjoy your stay in Ascona or Lugano



Ascona:

Ascona is Switzerland's lowest altitude town. It is located at 196 meters above sea level on the northern shore of Lago Maggiore, also called Lake Langen. Ascona is famous for its mild climate, its Old Town and a lake promenade with street cafés and which boasts a Latin ambience.



Lugano:

Lugano, the largest town in the holiday region of Ticino, is not only Switzerland's third most important financial centre and a conference, banking and business centre, but also a town of parks and flowers, villas and sacred buildings. With Mediterranean flair, Lugano offers all the advantages of a world-class city, combined with the cachet of a small town.

Day 4 Ascona or Lugano – Bernina



Itinerary of the day: Bellinzona – San Bernard Pass – Splügen Pass – Chiavenna (Italy) – Maloja Pass – St Moritz – Pontresina – Bernina pass – 203km

Main point of interest:

The San Bernard, formerly Mont Joux is located 2'469m (the border with Italy from a few hundred meters south of the pass), in the municipality of Bourg-Saint-Pierre and the Swiss side Saint-Rhémy-en-Bosses on the Italian side. It separates the valley of the same name, in the Aosta Valley to the south & the Val d'Entremont, located in the north. This is the third highest road pass in the Swiss Alps. Maximum downslope 9,7%.



The Splügen Pass rises to 2113 meters. Located in the Alps, on the Italian-Swiss border, it connects the Rhine valley to Como Lake. The road was opened in 1823, has a length of 39 kilometers and a gradient of 10%. Since the opening of the tunnel under the San Bernardino Pass, the Splügen has lost its importance and is closed during the winter season. The old road, Roman road, the medieval road and the 1823 Swiss are recognized as cultural property of national significance.



The Maloja pass is a pass culminating Swiss Alps to 1 815 meters of altitude. It connects Chiavenna in Italy to Silvaplana in Switzerland. The road opened in 1828, has a length of 43 kilometers and a gradient of 9%. St. Moritz is situated on the southern side of the Swiss Alps, at 1,800 meters above sea level, on the "Roof of Europe". The incomparable harmony of its lake scenery has made the Engadin known throughout the world as the "festival hall of the Alps".



The Bernina Pass is in the canton of Grisons. It culminates at 2328 meters altitude. It links the Engadine with Valtellina, Italy. This is the highest pass in the Swiss Alps and which is open all year. At the top of the pass are the hospice (Ospizio Bernina) and two lakes: Lej Nair and Lago Bianco. The Bernina Pass is located on the line of the watershed between the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea. It also separates two languages and two cultures: the Engadine which speaks Romansh and Valposchiavo which speaks Italian. The road was opened between 1842 and 1865, is 38 kilometers and has a gradient of 10%.

Another video? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQRMt78jZJ8>

Day 5 Bernina – Chur or Flims



Itinerary of the day: Poschiavo valley – Tirano (Italy) – Bormio (Italy) – Umbrail Pass – Mustair Valley – Zerneze – Flüela pass – Davos – Lenzerheide – Parpan – Chur or Flims – 220km

Main point of interest:

The Umbrail pass is the highest road pass in Switzerland with 2503 meters, making it the highest road pass in the Swiss Alps and the fourth highest in Italy. It lies on the border between the Grisons and Lombardy in Italy. On the 14 km forming the pass, portions of the road are unpaved.



Maximum downslope 12% (Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtig71N-oMo>)

The Müstair valley is one of Switzerland's most beautiful mountain valleys – and is home to the worldwide unique biosphere reserve in the Romansh language region. The Val Müstair, together with the neighbouring Swiss National Park, seeks to become the first official Unesco biosphere reserve in a high-Alpine region.



The Flüela Pass is in the chain of Albula in the Swiss canton of Grisons. It connects the Landwasser valley and the Lower Engadine. The pass rises to 2383m above sea level and is located between the Scharzhorn (3147m) and Flüela Wisshorn (3085m). Length 26km . Maximum downslope 10%

Davos in Grisons is a place of superlatives: this holiday destination with international ambience is the largest resort in the Alps for mountain holidays, sport and conferences, at 1560 m the highest town in the Alps and a high-altitude health resort with a long tradition.

Continue to Chur or Flims passing by Lenzerheide & Parpan.

Day 6 Chur or Flims – Chamonix (France)



Itinerary of the day: Oberalp pass – Andermatt – Furkapass – Sierre – Sion – Forclaz pass – Chamonix – 296km

Main point of interest:

The Furka Pass rises to an altitude of 2 429m. It connects the Rhone Valley to Andermatt. The pass is the fourth highest road pass in the Swiss Alps. On the west side, the pass road passes a few hundred meters from the Rhone glacier, source of the river bearing the same name. You can admire a breathtaking view on Rhone Glacier & Gletsch from a promontory. On the west side, to Gletsch (1753 m), the route of the Furka pass is the same as the Grimsel pass. The road was opened in 1867. This pass was borrowed by the James Bond, then played by Sean Connery in the movie Goldfinger in 1964. Length 29km . Maximum downslope 14%. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGHERFF-LtM>)



Follow the Rhone Valley passing by Sierre, Sion and Martigny.

The small town of Martigny located on the Rhone elbow in the Lower Valais is the hub of the pass routes across the Simplon, Great Saint Bernard and Forclaz. Its cultural-historical heritage, Mediterranean flair and tasty gastronomy are its winning features.



The Forclaz Pass is located in the canton of Valais, between the city of Martigny and the village of Trient. It culminates at 1526m altitude and has a gradient of 9%.

The road is an Alpine pass between Switzerland and France, between Martigny (Rhone Valley) and Chamonix (Arve Valley). On the Swiss side, the road rises gently on the side of planted vineyards and forest, Mount of Arpille. The top of the pass, the road descends to the village of Trient (1297 meters) and then continues more gentle to Le Chatelard, after the dizzying site Tête Noire. To reach Chamonix after border village Chatelard, the road passes by Vallorcine, the Col des Montets and Argentiere.

Day 7 Free time to enjoy your stay in Chamonix



Chamonix & Mont Blanc:

Chamonix offers exceptional viewpoints, which can be reached either by use of the lifts or the hiking trails. The different panoramas are situated along the length and breadth of the valley, in the heart of the Mont-Blanc and Aiguilles Rouges mountain ranges. An extraordinary panoramic trip, accessible to all. Just a few minutes cable travel (Ex. Aiguille du Midi) or a few hours on foot for the hardy and you will find yourselves immersed in the beauty of this majestic site.



Mont Blanc : The “roof of Europe”, the world’s third-ranking most visited natural area, continues to attract millions of visitors and thousands of mountaineers every year. Conquering Mont Blanc is a dream shared by many amateur mountaineers and enthusiasts. This dream is possible as long as one does not underestimate the apparently easy slopes of this legendary mountain.

According to the first analyses performed, Mont Blanc measures exactly 4,810.45 m, and the volume of ice above 4,800 m is 21,626 m3. Due to the prevailing winds, the summit has moved 26m to the East (following the axis of the top ridge), towards Italy.



Glaciers in the Chamonix Valley: Covering a surface area of 125 km2, the glaciers are omnipresent in the Chamonix valley and contribute to the outstanding beauty of the site. Since time memorial, these ice giants have inspired fear, incredulity and admiration.

The Bossons glacier: As one arrives in the Chamonix valley, one cannot help being overwhelmed by the Bossons and Mont-Blanc glacier « largest ice fall in Europe » ! The glacier has a long history and it was on its flanks that man chose to excavate the first ice grotto in 1870. Due to its steep incline, it is the fastest moving glacier (300m/year) and it also reacts most rapidly to climate change.



The Mer de Glace: « A sea, stirred by a strong breeze, then suddenly frozen to ice » Windham (1741)

The Mer de Glace is one of the worlds most visited natural sites. This enthusiasm began in the 18th century when wealthy and learned travellers, in quest of discovery and knowledge, began to show an interest in the glaciers and in particular this unique spot. Since 1908 the Montanvers-Mer de Glace cog railway enables enthusiastic visitors to follow in the footsteps of those illustrious pioneers: Rousseau, Hugo, Nodier, Sand, Goethe, Shelley, Liszt and so many more...

Day 8 Chamonix – Geneva



From Chamonix it takes 01.30hrs to join Geneva airport for your return flight.
End of our service.

SM - Swiss Motivation Travel Ltd

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