

SWITZERLAND: HIDDEN TRAILS & MAJESTIC PEAKS

10 DAYS · 12 MEALS
FROM \$3999



CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

- Discover Neuchatel's historic quarter, and see the unique architecture of the Belle Époque period.
- Explore the vineyards of Swiss wine country on foot, and sample the vineyard's delicious offerings.

MUST-SEE INCLUSIONS

- Visit the charming and picturesque village of Zermatt and marvel at views of the Matterhorn.
- Enjoy a wine tasting nestled among the vines of a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Lavaux vineyards.
- Soak in the stunning grandeur of the Alps and the Swiss Riviera, views that will take your breath away.



IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

(Be sure to arrange before trip departure)

DAY 8 | Choose to return to Vevey via rail and enjoy leisure time **or**, continue through the miles of Lavaux vineyard to the medieval village of Saint-Saphorin.



CULINARY INCLUSIONS

- Savor lunch at a family-owned restaurant in Lavaux and enjoy the cuisine of Swiss wine country.
- Bring out the kid in you during a chocolate workshop, where you'll witness the artistry of Swiss chocolatiers.



ACCOMMODATIONS

- Day 1** Overnight Flight
- Days 2 - 4** Best Western Premier Hotel Beaulac, Neuchâtel
- Days 5, 6** Unique Hotel Post or Hotel Alex, Zermatt
- Days 7 - 9** Astra Hotel Vevey, Vevey

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

NEW TOUR



embark on an active journey across Switzerland

from the soaring peaks of the Swiss Alps to the picturesque villages
of the Swiss Riviera – all while traveling by train.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

You're on your way to a world wedged between Germany, Austria, France and Italy -- the country of four languages that's one of the most heralded destinations in Europe. Your journey through Switzerland will be entirely by train, offering an up close and personal rendezvous with the best the country has to offer, from the Alps to the historic villages of the Swiss Riviera. Get ready to experience the culture, history and lifestyle of Switzerland firsthand.

Day 2: Neuchatel, Switzerland - Tour Begins

Willkommen! Bienvenue! Board a Swiss Rail train to Neuchatel, where Gothic landmarks and sandstone grandeur beckon you to discover the abounding history of this medieval waterfront city. A reception of cocktails and canapes welcomes you to the first stop on your tour: the centuries-old cloister of the Collégiale, a church and chateau perched atop Neuchatel's highest point. Retire this evening in your lakefront room with incredible views of Lake Neuchatel.

Day 3: Neuchatel - Auvornier - Neuchatel

Good morning, Neuchatel a la Belle Époque! Set out on a walking tour and discover the treasures of Neuchatel's historic quarter with its unique architecture from the Belle Époque period. Next, it's on to the village of Auvornier and Caves du Chateau d'Auvornier, a centuries-old vineyard that has remained in the same family for fourteen generations. A tour of the chateau's cellars demands a tasting of their everlasting vintages and a chance to learn how nature, soil and tradition converge to create a vintage's character and flavor. (B)

Day 4: Neuchatel

Enjoy a day of leisure in Neuchatel. You may use your Swiss Travel Pass to explore the surrounding areas or gain admission to museums. Or, just relax and stroll this charming place. Perhaps you will choose to join your guide for an optional e-biking excursion on Switzerland's Absinthe Trail to Maison de l'Absinthe to learn the history of production and enjoy a private tasting and cooking experience. This evening we gather to unwind over dinner at a local brasserie and sample local favorites such as boeuf tartare and fromage. (B, D)



Lavaux



Swiss Train

Day 5: Neuchatel - Bern - Zermatt

From Neuchatel we travel via train to Bern, the Swiss capital city. Enjoy time at leisure to discover Bern's enthralling blend of influences - old and new. Then it's on to the striking resort village of Zermatt, nestled against the backdrop of the Matterhorn. (B, D)

Day 6: Zermatt

Zermatt's modern holiday amenities steeped in traditional Alpine roots make this pedestrian city a truly peak experience. Today is yours to explore all this village has to offer. Consider using your Swiss Travel Pass to ascend the Gornergrat Railway to take in breathtaking views of the famed Matterhorn. (B)

Day 7: Zermatt - Vevey

Say goodbye to Zermatt and head to the north shore of Lake Geneva to Vevey, one of the "Pearls of the Swiss Riviera," with awe-inspiring views of the Alpine panorama. While the city's promenades and majestic hotels are classic reminders of the Belle Époque, its modernity is characterized by its art and music festivals, and the ever-present memory of Charlie Chaplin, who spent the last quarter of his life as a resident. Enjoy a walking tour before paying a visit to Läderach. Switzerland is world-famous for its chocolate, and Läderach chocolate is Swiss perfection. Participate in an immersive tasting workshop that reveals a behind-the-scenes

glimpse at the artistry behind the handmade Swiss chocolate. (B)

Day 8: Vevey - Lavaux - Vevey

A relaxed morning in Vevey precludes your journey to the terraced vineyards of Lavaux. Begin with lunch at a family-owned restaurant before visiting our friends, Jacques and Aurelia, for a wine tasting nestled amongst the vines. Traipse the Lavaux vineyards (UNESCO) on foot before enjoying another tasting of the region's finest varieties. Next, **it's your choice!** Return to Vevey via rail and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure **-OR-** continue your exploration through the miles of Lavaux vineyards to Saint-Saphorin, a medieval village dating back to Roman times, located on the banks of Lake Geneva. (B, L)

Day 9: Vevey

Enjoy a full day at leisure. Check out everything Vevey has to offer. Don't forget to take advantage of your Swiss Travel Pass to explore any one of the city's museums, among them the Swiss Camera Museum, Charlie Chaplin Museum, or the Nestle Foundation's Nest. Or use your Pass to board a ferry to discover Montreux and Chillon. Join us this evening for a farewell dinner at one of Vevey's best local restaurants. (B, D)

Day 10: Vevey - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close today. (B)

DATES & PRICES

| August 2018 - April 2019 | Double | Solo | Triple Room Reduction | N/A |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|---|-----|
| August 31 | \$3999 | \$4899 | Rates are 1and only, per person. Call about additional dates. | |
| September 14 | \$3999 | \$4899 | | |
| October 5, 19 | \$3999 | \$4899 | | |
| April 5 | \$3999 | \$4899 | | |

This trip requires a passport. Due to tour scheduling, flights must arrive prior to 11:30 a.m. Return flights should not be booked prior to 9:00 a.m. Our air passengers will arrive and depart Zurich, Switzerland airport. Your Swiss Travel Pass will be needed for ALL transportation on this tour, utilizing the Swiss Travel System. Portage service for luggage is included between hotels. Upon arrival, a Collette representative will meet you at the Zurich airport to secure luggage transfer; then accompany you via train to Neuchatel - utilizing the Swiss Travel System - and escort you to the hotel. Transfer times will be provided closer to departure. For departure transfers, you will independently make your way to the Zurich airport with your luggage using the train system. Your Tour Manager will provide you with train schedules for the most convenient routing and timing to the Zurich airport.

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL



Level 5: This tour is very active, requiring participants to be physically fit to fully enjoy all the experiences. You can expect more strenuous activities like: extensive walking tours, transfers over uneven or dusty terrain, high altitudes, early-morning departures, late-night activities, or extreme temperatures. This tour is not appropriate for individuals who use walkers or wheelchairs. See page 79 for details.