

Escorted GRAND TRAIN TOUR of SWITZERLAND

September 17 - 27, 2016

Zürich – Pontresina - Zermatt – Montreux - Bern - Lucerne - Zürich



Discover the diverse regions and cultures of Switzerland on this 11-day escorted train tour. Explore the cultural differences within the country and its 4 languages. It is a great opportunity to visit the very best of Switzerland. Some of the highlights are mountain excursions, a ride with a delicious lunch on the GLACIER EXPRESS train, Chillon Castle, exploring the UNESCO protected Lavaux wine region, a ride on the GOLDEN PASS Classic train, a visit to the watchmaking town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, a visit to the Emmental cheese dairy, all enjoyed in the comfort of first class trains.



ITINERARY:

Sept 17 ZÜRICH AIRPORT - PONTRESINA

You will meet the group at Zürich Airport in the morning. Every person will have the use of a first class Swiss Travel Pass, in case you arrive early. No need to worry about your luggage as it is being sent directly to your destination. We proceed right away to Pontresina for our first mountain excursion on top of **Muottas Muragl** (elev. 8051 ft). Overnight at the 3* Hotel Allegra, Pontresina.

Sept 18 POSCHIAVO / MT. DIAVOLEZZA



Today we'll take the train from Pontresina to Poschiavo which is the most scenic part of the **Bernina Express route**. We will observe one of the most natural areas of Switzerland from the train. Upon arrival we'll explore the remote alpine village of

Poschiavo on foot. Then we head back towards Pontresina with the yellow **postal bus** and on the way ascend **Mt. Diavolezza** to gaze at 2 of the most famous mountain peaks from up close. After this mountain excursion we head back to our hotel in Pontresina.

Sept 19 PONTRESINA - GLACIER EXPRESS - ZERMATT

The slowest express train in the world, the **Glacier Express**, traverses 91 tunnels and crosses more than 291 bridges. We will enjoy a 2-course lunch on the train before arriving in Zermatt, located at the foot of the Matterhorn mountain. Overnight at the 4* Hotel Ambassador, Zermatt.



Sept 20 ZERMATT / MOUNTAIN EXCURSION

There is no better way to enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery around Zermatt than by taking a hike. Or if you want a more leisurely pace, just take the **Gornergrat cogwheel train** or **Sunegga** train on top of the mountain to enjoy the views. Overnight in Zermatt.



Sept 21 ZERMATT - MONTREUX

Leaving Zermatt we head to the French speaking Lake Geneva



region and a visit to **Chillon Castle**, made famous by Lord Byron. Overnight at the 4* Grand Hotel Suisse et Majestic, Montreux.

Sept 22 LAVAUX WINE REGION

Today, a bus will take us through **Lausanne** and on to the Lavaux region for a full day excursion. Covering almost 2000 acres, **Lavaux** is the largest contiguous **vineyard** region in Switzerland, and its daringly constructed hillside terraces have been protected by UNESCO since 2007. Return to Montreux for overnight.

Sept 23 MONTREUX - GOLDEN PASS - BERN



Another highlight on this trip is today's journey on the Golden Pass train. In the fine tradition of legendary trains like the Orient Express, the **Golden Pass Classic** line invites you to rediscover the glamour of the Belle Époque. A romantic setting of incomparable comfort and charm awaits you on this timeless journey between Montreux and Zweisimmen. But it gets even better; we will visit the **Schynige Platte**, located in the Bernese Oberland. For over 120 years the small train has been ascending the 25% climb to the viewing terrace with views over the Eiger, Mönch, Jungfrau and the lake of Brienz. We end the day in the Swiss capital of **Bern**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, at the 4* Hotel Bären.



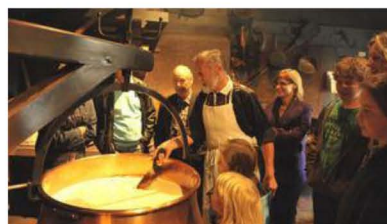
Sept 24 WATCH-MAKING CAPITAL: La Chaux-de-Fonds

We will enjoy a day trip by train to the town of **La Chaux-de-Fonds**, the birthplace of **Le Corbusier**, and the **world capital of the watch making**



industry for over a hundred years. It thus makes sense that the first house designed by the world-famous architect and the International Watch Museum are located here. We return to Bern for overnight.

Sept 25 EMENTAL CHEESE SHOW DAIRY / LUCERNE



We enjoy a guided **walking tour of Bern** to show us the highlights. Then we take the train to the Emmental valley, world-famous for its

cheese with the big holes. Visit to the **Emmentaler Show Dairy, including lunch**. Continue to **Lucerne** for overnight at the 3* Hotel Waldstätterhof.

Sept 26 LUCERNE / MT. PILATUS

Enjoy a guided **walk through old town Lucerne**.

Ascend with the world's steepest rack-railway on top of **Pilatus** and descend on the aerial cableway. On a clear day the mountain offers a panoramic view of 73 Alpine peaks. **Farewell dinner** with Folklore Show at the Restaurant Stadtkeller. Overnight in Lucerne.



Sept 27 DEPARTURE SWITZERLAND

Today is our last day in Switzerland. You may make your way by direct train in an hour to Zürich Airport to fly home or to Basel to start a river cruise. Or you may decide to add a few more days on your own. Your Swiss Travel Pass is valid for 5 more days hence your travel is already covered. Either way, we hope you enjoyed the best of Switzerland with us. Happy Travels!



TOUR DATES:	Saturday, September 17, 2016	(start date in Switzerland)
	Tuesday, September 27, 2016	(end date in Switzerland)

LAND PACKAGE PRICES:	Per person, sharing a double/twin room:	US\$ 3,815.00
	In a single room:	US\$ 4,409.00

Included services:

- 10 nights accommodation in standard twin-bedded rooms in hotels mentioned above (standard single room for single travelers)
- 1 Express flight luggage piece per person (transportation of 1 suitcase directly to Pontresina on Sept 17)
- First class rail travel with a 15-consecutive Swiss Travel Pass (which allows you to add days before and/or after this tour and travel for free), including free entry to over 490 Swiss Museums.
- Breakfast daily at the hotels
- 1 two-course lunch on the Glacier Express train (excluding drinks)
- 1 lunch at the Emmentaler Cheese Show Dairy (excluding drinks)
- 1 Farewell dinner with Folklore Show at the Restaurant Stadtkeller in Lucerne
- Travel on these scenic routes: Glacier Express Panoramic, Golden Pass Classic, Bernina Express line
- These mountain excursions: Muottas Muragl, Diavolezza, Gornergrat or Sunegga, Schynige Platte, Pilatus
- Visits and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transportation of 1 suitcase by train on 3 days (Sept 21, 23, 25). *On Sept 19 and 27, participants will carry their own luggage on the train.*
- An English speaking Swiss Tour Escort throughout

PLEASE NOTE: Rail Source International, Inc. has purchased a Group Protection Plan with **Travel Insured** on behalf of all participants (covering September 17-27 land arrangements).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Transatlantic flights and meals, except where mentioned, are not included. Any other item not mentioned in the itinerary is not included. Rail Source International, Inc's Terms and Conditions apply (a copy is available on the website). Rates may change due to currency fluctuation, inquire at time of booking. This departure is not guaranteed. We will need a minimum of 15 participants and we will allow a maximum of 25 participants. The tour will be guaranteed or cancelled by the first week of August 2016 the very latest.

Please note that there will be considerable walking and stair climbing on this tour and you must be able to keep up with the group.

The tour is operated by Rail Source International Inc and MagicSwitzerland, tour operators specializing in rail travel through Switzerland and other European countries.

Contact Herzerl Tours for further information

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