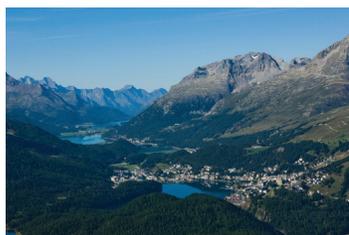
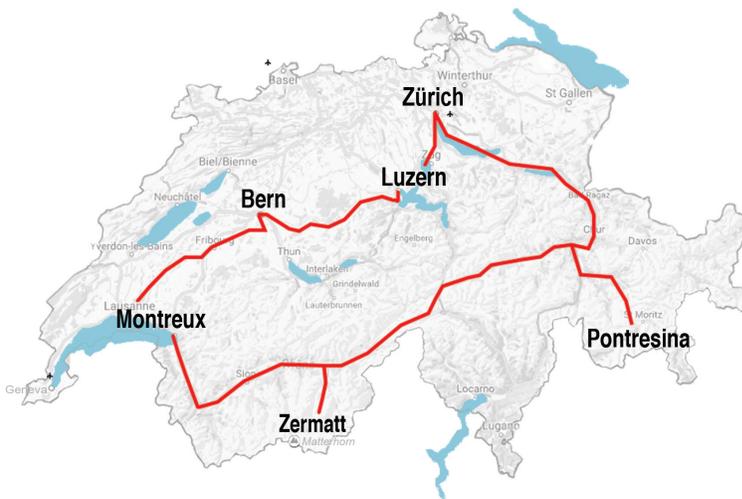


Escorted GRAND TRAIN TOUR of SWITZERLAND

September 16 – 26, 2017

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

Discover diverse regions and cultures of Switzerland on this 11-day escorted train tour. Explore cultural differences within the country and its four languages with a native Swiss tour guide. This is a great opportunity to visit the very best of Switzerland. The tour highlights are Alpine peaks and vistas, a ride on the famous Glacier Express train, a medieval Water Castle, the Lavaux wine region, a ride on the Golden Pass train, a visit to the watchmaking town of La Chaux-de-Fonds and a visit to the Emmentaler cheese dairy, all enjoyed in the comfort of first class Swiss trains.



> September 16

Zürich Airport – Pontresina

You will meet the group at Zürich Airport in the morning. Each 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.



> September 17

Poschiavo / Mt. Diavolezza

Today we'll take the train from Pontresina to Poschiavo which is the most scenic part of the **Bernina Express**. 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 **postal bus** and on the way ascend **Mt. Diavolezza** to gaze at two of the most beautiful Alpine peaks. After Mt. Diavolezza, we head back to our hotel in Pontresina.



> September 18

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.



> September 19

Zermatt / Mountain Excursion

There is no better way to enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery around Zermatt than by taking a hike. If you prefer 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.



> September 20

Zermatt – Montreux

Leaving Zermatt we head to the French speaking Lake Geneva region and visit the famous **Water Castle of Chillon**, which dates back to the 10th Century. Overnight at the 4* Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic, Montreux.



> September 21

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 which have been protected by UNESCO since 2007. Return to Montreux for overnight.



> September 22

Montreux – Golden Pass – Bern

Leaving Montreux on the Golden Pass Belle Époque train to Zweisimmen and Interlaken is another highlight of this trip. In Interlaken we will visit the **Schynige Platte**, a 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.



> September 23

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. Walking La Chaux-de-Fonds we experience the only city in Switzerland with a chessboard street and avenue design which was created at the beginning of the 19th century after a devastating fire. We return to Bern for overnight.



> September 24

Bern - Emmentaler Cheese Show Dairy – Luzern

In the morning we enjoy a guided **walking tour of Bern** to show us the highlights of the capital of Switzerland. 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 **Luzern** for overnight at the 3* Hotel Waldstätterhof.



> September 25

Luzern/Mt. Pilatus

Enjoy a guided **walk through old town Luzern**. We then ascend with the world's steepest cogwheel train to the 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 Luzern.

> September 26

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 five more days so your travel is already covered. Either way, we hope you enjoyed the best of Switzerland with us. Happy Travels!

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 16)
- > 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 Luzern (excluding drinks)
- > 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 20, 22, 24).
On Sept 18 and 26, participants will carry their own luggage on the train.
- > An English speaking Swiss Tour Escort throughout

Please note

We have purchased a Group Protection Plan with **Travel Insured** on behalf of all participants (covering September 16 – 26 land arrangements).

Important information

Transatlantic flights and meals, except where mentioned, are not included. Any other item not mentioned in the itinerary is not included. Our Terms and Conditions apply (a copy is available on our website). Rates may change due to currency fluctuation, inquire at time of booking. The departure is guaranteed with 12 participants and the group maximum is 25 participants. The tour will be guaranteed or cancelled by the first week of August 2017 at the very latest.

Tour Dates

> Saturday, September 16, 2017

Start date in Switzerland

> Tuesday, September 26, 2017

End date in Switzerland

Land Package Prices

Double occupancy
PER PERSON

> US\$ 3,845

Single supplement

> US\$ 599

Senior discount

> US\$ 50 (60+)

Please note

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



For questions, availability and bookings please contact:

> Rail Source International Inc.
at 1-800-551-2085
www.rsiworld.com

> MagicSwitzerland dba Absolute Travel Services LLC
at 1-800-337-9477
www.magicswitzerland.com

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

