



THE BEST OF SWITZERLAND & OBERAMMERGAU* 12 DAYS

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN ZURICH, SWITZERLAND. Welcome to Zurich! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

DAY 2 ZURICH-VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN-ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND. Enjoy an orientation walk of Zurich's well-preserved OLD TOWN with its medieval guild houses, and taste the traditional CHOCOLATE PRALINES at the famous Sprüngli Confectionery. Next, a scenic drive following Lake Zurich and Lake Walen through the high Alps to the tiny Principality of Liechtenstein. After a break in its capital, Vaduz, ascend the Rhine Valley into the mountainous Grisons, a canton where three of the country's four languages are spoken. The 7,504-foot Julier Pass, an important Alpine road since Roman times, leads to the Engadine. This valley is considered by many as the most beautiful mountain area in the world, with deep-blue lakes, airy larch forests that turn golden in the fall, mountain peaks exceeding 12,000 feet, and quaint villages with massive white stone houses in the characteristic Grisons style. Arrive in the afternoon in ritzy St. Moritz. (B,D)

DAY 3 ST. MORITZ-LAKE COMO, ITALY-LUGANO, SWITZERLAND. A gradual change of scenery as you descend towards the enchanting shores of Italy's Lake Como and continue on to the southern tip of Switzerland. The vegetation south of the Alps is Mediterranean: chestnut groves, vineyards, and olive and fig trees make you forget that earlier today you were within walking distance of glaciers. An afternoon arrival in the popular subtropical resort town of Lugano allows time for shopping under the arcades of Via Nassa or an espresso on flowerfestooned Piazza Riforma. To truly appreciate splendid Lake Lugano, an exciting optional boat ride is available, followed by dinner at a traditional "grotto" restaurant. (B)

DAY 4 LUGANO-STRESA, ITALY-TÄSCH, SWITZERLAND-ZERMATT. Travel from Lake Lugano to the Italian shore of Lake Maggiore for a break in elegant Stresa. An optional boat ride to enchanting Isola Bella can be arranged. Continue over lofty Simplon Pass into the Swiss Valais, an area renowned for its excellent wines and great mountain resorts. To reach the most famous of them, leave the coach behind in Täsch and board a MOUNTAIN TRAIN to climb the last few miles up to car-free Zermatt, a picturesque cluster of rustic chalets beneath the Matterhorn. (B)

DAY 5 ZERMATT-LAKE GENEVA. This morning, you can join an exciting optional excursion to Klein Matterhorn for spectacular views of the surrounding Alps. Later, motor through the vineyards and apricot

groves of the lower Rhône Valley and arrive at beautiful Lake Geneva for your overnight stay. (B,D)

DAY 6 LAKE GENEVA-BERNE-INTERLAKEN-LUCERNE. In the stately capital of Berne, your guided tour starts at BEAR PARK, followed by a panoramic view of the city from the Rose Garden. Next, enjoy a walking tour through the beautifully preserved medieval Old Town. Witness the hourly parade of painted figures at the Clock Tower and take your pictures of ornate, flower-adorned fountains. The highlight of the day is a special lunch at a traditional Swiss WORKING FARM, to give you a chance to see how people in Switzerland live in the rural area of Switzerland. Continue over Brünig Pass to picturesque Lucerne. An optional dinner excursion to a folklore party with yodeling is available for a first-hand impression of Alpine merrymaking. (B,L)

DAY 7 LUCERNE. On your walking tour this morning, admire Thorwaldsen's impressive LION MONUMENT, dedicated to the Swiss Guards who protected the Royal House of France during the French Revolution, and the ornate patrician houses of the walled Old Town, then cross the famous covered CHAPEL BRIDGE to the Jesuit church. Afterwards, another true Swiss experience: a trip to the top of Mount Pilatus, the "Guard of Lucerne," where you get a special SOUVENIR CAP to always remember this experience! Tonight, a special dinner awaits you at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 8 LUCERNE-ZURICH-INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA-MUNICH, GERMANY. A comfortable drive brings you via Zurich to Innsbruck in the Tyrolean mountains. Enjoy a walk through the Old Town to see the GOLDEN ROOF and time to shop for crystal for which the city is famous. Then, continue to Munich, capital of Bavaria. (B)

DAY 9 MUNICH-OBERAMMERGAU. Germany's "Secret Capital" comes alive during an orientation featuring the Olympic Stadium, 1,000-foot-high Olympic Tower, and MARIENPLATZ, in the historic heart of the city. Then, drive to picturesque Oberammergau. (B,D)

Day 10 OBERAMMERGAU. The afternoon and evening are dedicated to the world-famous PASSION PLAY, held every 10 years and performed by the people of Oberammergau. (B,L,D)

Day 11 OBERAMMERGAU-MUNICH. Return to Munich with time to explore on your own. (B)

Day 12 MUNICH. Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)