

BONTOUR

Switzerland and the Glacier Express Jungfrauoch, Lake Thun, Matterhorn, Zermatt, Chur.

Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st May 2022

DIRECT from the Channel Islands



8 day / 7 night, fully escorted tour
£2198pp based on 2 sharing
Single supplement £150

Day 1: DIRECT from Jersey via Guernsey (same plane connection) to Zurich and onto Wengen

Jersey clients will be met in departures at Jersey Airport by their Bontour Tour Manager who will escort the tour throughout, and board our flight to Zurich via Guernsey, where we will be on the ground for around 20 minutes but do not need to disembark.

Guernsey clients will board the flight direct at Guernsey Airport at joining the rest of the group on-board for arrival into Zurich with Blue Islands. Flight times are to be confirmed.

From Zurich we will begin your journey through some of Europe's most beautiful scenery - all by train. Our bags will be transported separately throughout the tour to our accommodation meaning we can travel and relax in comfort.



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We will catch the train to Wengen where we will take the short walk to the cosy and welcoming 4* Hotel Sunstar for check in.

Dinner will be taken at the hotel. Each evening the group will eat together, usually around 19:30. You will be notified of the exact time on the day by our Tour Manager.

Day 2: Jungfrauoch - the top of Europe

After a hearty buffet breakfast, we will depart the hotel with our Tour Manager and take the local train to Kleine Scheidegg at 09:24 changing here for the Jungfrauoch with an arrival time of 10:35. This is the highest railway station in Europe at 3,454m; a high-alpine wonderland of ice, snow and rock.

The journey is an experience in itself leading through the Eiger and Mönch en route to the viewing platform on the Aletsch Glacier affording unrivalled views to the summit of the Jungfrau. Along with the observation deck, ice palace and a range of souvenir shops, there are several restaurants here where you can enjoy lunch (lunch is not included in the tour).

The train to descend departs at 13:13, changing at Kleine Scheidegg with arrival into Wengen at 14:29. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the pretty car-free village of Wengen.

Dinner will be taken in the hotel with the rest of the group.

Day 3: Trümmelbach Falls and Schilthorn

After breakfast at the hotel we will catch the 09:33 train to Lauterbrunnen surrounded by the dramatic rocky cliffs of the valley. Here we make a quick change to the PostBus to Trümmelbachfälle. The yellow PostBus is the ideal way to reach the smaller villages that aren't on a train line.

We will have time to explore the unique falls made up of a series of ten glacier-waterfalls crashing through the mountain and accessible only by the tunnel lift. You may recognise the falls as being where Sherlock Holmes died during his fight with Moriarty.

At 11:42 we will depart by PostBus and then catch the cable car to Birg. We'll stop on the way at the viewing platform where we'll enjoy a great view of our destination, Schilthorn, We'll arrive promptly at 13:27.

We'll enjoy a 3-course lunch together at the Piz Gloria revolving restaurant famous for being in James Bond's *On Her Majesty's Service*. After lunch we'll catch the cable car to Murren where, with our Tour Manager, we will walk through the delightful flower filled village of Murren before catching the train back to Wengen and our hotel for dinner.

Day 4: Lake Thun Cruise and Interlaken

After breakfast this morning, we will check out of the hotel leaving our luggage behind for collection, and catch the 09:33 train to Lauterbrunnen onward to Interlaken where we will stop. From the train station we'll take the short walk to the lake where we will cruise across the deep blue waters to Spiez. On the way we will pass romantic villages and majestic historic castles as well as enjoying views across to the Jungfrau. There are refreshments available to purchase on the boat.

Spiez sits on the edge of Lake Thun in the Bernese Oberland, nestled amongst vineyards and is dominated by the thousand year old magnificent castle.

From here we will catch the train to car-free Zermatt where we'll check-in to our new hotel, the alpine chalet style 4* superior Hotel Sonne and relax over dinner at the hotel.

Day 5: Gornergrat Railway and the mighty Matterhorn

Today is a more relaxed day. Zermatt lies at the foot of the Matterhorn and is a pretty car-free city that preserves its original alpine character and charm. On arrival, our Tour Manager will distribute tickets for the Gornergrat railway, a winding cog-wheel train that ascends up to 3,883m arriving at a magnificent panorama across to the mighty Matterhorn Mountain. Trains run frequently throughout the day, and you are welcome to travel together with our Tour Manager in the morning, or at your own pace later in the day.

In Zermatt you can also learn more about Matterhorn and the first ascent of British-born Edward Whymper in the Matterhorn museum or take the cableway to the Matterhorn glacier paradise, the highest glacier palace in the world.

If you simply want to relax after a busy few days you are welcome put your feet up in your comfortable hotel room, or bask in the cosy and welcoming hotel bar. In the evening we will once again meet with the rest of the group for a hearty evening meal at the hotel and discuss the beautiful wonders of the day.

Day 6: The Glacier Express to Chur

Following breakfast we will check out of our hotel and board the spacious carriages of the incredible Glacier Express - the slowest express train in the world! Now, you can really fall in love with Switzerland on this slow paced train journey. The day trip takes approximately 5.5 hours on-board through untouched mountain landscapes, glamorous health resorts, deep gorges, delightful valleys, 91 tunnels and across 291 impressive bridges.

As you watch the world go by you will enjoy a tasty 3-course lunch served to your table and before you know it we will have arrived in the oldest city in Switzerland, the charming Chur. This city has historical roots with a picturesque old town and plenty of boutiques, bars, museums and galleries.

On arrival, we will check into the beautiful 4* Hotel Stern and relax over dinner at the hotel.

Day 7: Bernina Express to Italy

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we will depart by regional train across the border to Tirano in Italy. We will have free time in Tirano to enjoy a tasty Italian lunch before boarding the UNESCO World Heritage Bernina Express Line for our return to Chur.

This is one of the most spectacular ways to cross the Alps, the iconic red Bernina Express climbs up to the glistening glaciers before descending through Swiss meadows. The railway is unique, blending ideally with the alpine landscapes around the Bernina Passes.

Be amazed as the train negotiates the tunnels, bridges and inclines. At the highest point you are 2,253m above sea level where you can discover the Ospizio Bernina. During the trip you enjoy the natural surroundings and the Alps at their most impressive.

We will arrive back in Chur where we will have chance for a quick wash and brush up before our final farewell dinner! You will enjoy a delicious typical Swiss Cheese Fondue at the hotel restaurant and talk will turn to our wonderful memories across the past week away.

Day 8: Return to Jersey (onwards to Guernsey)

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we travel back to the airport by train. Our direct flight for Jersey and Guernsey departs Zurich Airport mid-afternoon (time to be confirmed). Clients travelling on to Guernsey will disembark in Jersey and be accompanied to the departures area for check in for their inter-island onward flight.

Please note:

- The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc however in Tirano they use Euros.
- Please bring suitable clothing and footwear as the mountain summits may be cold and wet.
- We advise you should be able to walk for up to one hour at a leisurely pace to be able to enjoy this tour to the full. There may be some steady inclines / declines.

This itinerary is subject to change without prior notice.