

Warther Tours

Presents:

Swiss Rails & Italian Lakes Tour

Small Group Tour
June 14th - 25th, 2022
Aug 23rd - Sept 3rd, 2022



Join us for an eleven day journey through Switzerland and the Italian Lake district! Switzerland is known for its natural beauty, Swiss chalets and the most beautiful mountains in the world. The cities are just as beautiful as the countryside and Old Town Berne is a UNESCO World Heritage site, Lugano is a popular lake-side getaway, and Zermatt is the perfect spot at the foothills of the famous Matterhorn.

Some Highlights:

Tour Gruyeres Region & Chillon Castle.
Tours of Zermatt, Bern, Lugano & Lucerne.
Tour Borromean Palace.
Private boat from Lugano to San Roca.
Risotto cooking class with lunch.
Bernina Express Train.
Glacier Express Train.
Gornergrat Train.
Tour Jungfrauoch
Ice Palace and lunch on Jungfrauoch.
Private english speaking guide.

Stays:

Hotel Wilden Mann - Lucern
Hotel Monte Rosa - Zermatt
Hotel Splendid - Lugano
Hotel Schweizerhof - St. Moritz
Hotel Beau Rivage - Interlaken

Price includes:

Fully Escorted Tour by Mark Warther
Small Group Tour
Twenty Meals
Luggage Handling
Daily complimentary water on coach
Photo Book of Tour
Tour Gratuities
(Driver, included meals and guides)

For Registration & Detailed Itinerary
contact:

mark@travelwarther.com

330-556-4535

Day One – Tuesday, Aug 23, 2022

Depart for your overseas flight to Zurich. While on board your overnight flight, you will have both dinner and breakfast included before touching down in Switzerland. (**Dinner & Breakfast on plane**)

Day Two – Wednesday, Aug 24, 2022 Hotel Wilden Mann - Lucerne

Upon your morning arrival in Zurich, Mark will assist in getting everyone through customs. This afternoon is your time to rest and explore after your long journey. The Hotel Wilden Mann is located in the historical old town of Lucerne. It is 650 feet from the famous landmark, the Chapel Bridge. Lake Lucerne can be reached within an 8 minute walk. The Rosengart Collection Museum is nearby and displays over 300 works by 23 different modern artists (Picasso, Klee, Miró, Monet, Chagall to name just a few). Tonight everyone will gather for your first taste of Swiss cuisine. (**Welcome Dinner**)



Day Three – Thursday, Aug 25, 2022 Hotel Wilden Mann – Lucerne

Today you'll enjoy a guided walking tour as you explore Lucerne, the most populous city in central Switzerland. This historical city is known for its preserved medieval architecture and sits amid beautiful snowcapped mountains on Lake Lucerne. You will see the Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke is the German name), Lucerne's most iconic site. This wooden footbridge is unique in that it contains a number of interior paintings dating back to the 17th century. This is the oldest wooden covered bridge in Europe as well as the world's oldest surviving truss bridge. It serves as the city's iconic symbol and as one of Switzerland's main tourist attractions. Nearby you will explore the quaint quarters while taking a leisurely

walk through a maze of streets, bridges, promenades and plazas dominated by historical towers, fountains and frescoed buildings. This evening you will enjoy a private boat ride to Baumgarten for dinner. Here you will be greeted by an Alpine horn player. Be sure to take in the spectacular views of Mt. Pilatus from the dock as the sun sets this evening. (**Breakfast & Dinner**)



Day Four – Friday, Aug 26, 2022 Hotel Monte Rosa – Zermatt

This morning you'll leave Lucerne and travel to Zermatt. On the way, there will be a stop in the picturesque town of Gruyères. This pedestrian town gets its charm from the Middle Ages, which you'll notice as you and your guide take a gentle stroll on its cobblestone streets and relax at one of its many fountains. The town gave its name to the region La Gruyère and its delicious cheese, Gruyère. You'll then head over for a guided tour of Chillon Castle. Chateau de Chillon is an island castle located on Lake Geneva. This castle was of great importance in controlling trade in the Lake Geneva region. It was erected in the 13th century on Roman foundations. Built as a fortress, it underwent many transformations while adapting to the advances in weaponry through the ages. The dungeon which was inspired by Lord Byron, is a major attraction! The final destination for today is Zermatt, which is automobile-free! You will board a shuttle train in Täsch which will take the group to the legendary resort town of Zermatt. This town is presided over by the mighty Matterhorn, the world's most famous rock! This famous mountain in the Alps, straddles the border between Switzerland and Italy. Zermatt is located at an altitude of 5,300 ft. above sea level. This idyllic village, nestled among the spectacular scenery of the mountains and glaciers offers a fantastic panorama of 38 twelve-thousand-foot peaks. (**Breakfast and Dinner**)



Day Five – Saturday, Aug 27, 2022 Hotel Monte Rosa – Zermatt

Everyone will get to enjoy a walking tour of Zermatt before or after the day trip to Gornergrat. The Gornergrat is a rocky ridge of the Pennine Alps. It can be reached from Zermatt by a narrow gauge rack railway, the highest open-air railway in Europe. You won't be disappointed on this 33 minute ride as the views are stunning. You'll experience the breathtaking circular panorama of Switzerland's mountains from an altitude of 10,132 ft. Take the walk up to the viewing platform where you will be rewarded with the unbelievable vista! Admire the rock faces, the glitter of eternal snow, and the sheen of icefalls and glaciers – and naturally the very king of the mountains, the Matterhorn. **(Breakfast)**



Day Six – Sunday, Aug 28, 2022 Hotel Splendid – Lugano

This morning the group will board the shuttle train for the ride back to Tasch. Then it's off to Stresa, where you will take a private boat to Isola Bella ("beautiful island") which is one of 3 Borromean Islands (Isola Madre and Isola Superior are the other two) of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. Isola Bella is the largest and was built by the Borromeo family as their summer palace. Charles Borromeo named the island for his wife Isabella. It took many years for the villa and gardens to be built but when they were completed, Isola Bella was host to Europe's royalty, including Napoleon and Josephine and the Princess of Wales. Here you will have the opportunity to stroll the gardens and tour the Borromeo Palace. Following the baroque taste for placing a villa at the center of a layout allowing avenues to draw the scenery into a garden, Isola Bella employs the lake and mountains as garden features. The result is a sublime example of an Italian garden that has knowingly combined architecture, art and nature. **(Breakfast and Lunch)**



Day Seven – Monday, Aug 29, 2022 Hotel Splendid – Lugano

Today you will have the chance to explore Lugano with a guided walking tour. This is the 9th largest city in southern Switzerland's Italian-speaking Ticino region. Its Swiss-Mediterranean mix of cultures is closely related to that of Italy's northern Lombardy region. You can see this in its architecture and in its cuisine. The city is located on the northern shore of glacial Lake Lugano, and is surrounded by mountains offering splendid viewpoints. A stroll through the characteristic traffic-free old town with its many shopping arcades, cobble-stoned streets and many piazzas will immerse you into this romantic Latin world. Another highlight today will be a charming cruise on Lake Lugano, where you will stop on the opposite shore to enjoy a drink on a terrace with a wonderful view of the city. Finally, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a private Risotto cooking class with the help of the chef! Enjoy the risotto served with a typical dish of meat, vegetables and a good glass of wine! **(Breakfast and Lunch)**



Day Eight – Tuesday, Aug 30, 2022 Hotel Schweizerhof – St. Moritz

This morning you will leave Lugano and head to St. Moritz, a luxury alpine resort town located at an altitude of 6,100 ft. on the southern flank of the Swiss Alps. Enjoy the beautiful scenery as you relax while traveling to Tirano for an included lunch. This is a quiet town in northern Lombardy which is the departure point for one of the most scenic train routes in Europe, the Bernina Express (Red Train) that travels across the Alpine passes to reach Saint Moritz, Switzerland. Enjoy the first class seats as you travel through forests of chestnut trees and around the famous circular viaduct in Bruscio before reaching Lake



Poschiavo. Then admire Poschiavo Valley, as you ascend to Ospizio Bernina and Alp Grüm, which are starting points for many great hikes. A great highlight of this train ride is crossing the Bernina Pass at an elevation of 7,500 ft. Your stay tonight is in St. Moritz which was the birthplace of Alpine winter tourism (in 1864) and has twice hosted the Winter Olympics. Moritz first became famous thanks to its mineral springs, which were discovered 3,000 years ago and established the town as a summer spa resort early on. Three languages are spoken here: Romansch, German and Italian. It is blessed with a “champagne climate” because the sun shines here about 322 days a year! **(Breakfast and Lunch)**



Day Nine – Wednesday, Aug 31, 2022 Hotel Beau Rivage – Interlaken

Get ready for some more breathtaking views as you head to Interlaken via the Glacier Express (narrow gauge train). The train uses modern panoramic coaches specially built for service in 2006. It is clean, comfortable, carpeted and air-conditioned. Its most distinctive features are the huge panoramic side windows and glass skylights. First opened in 1928, the Glacier Express tunnels through the eight-mile-long Furka Mountain at one point, and also traverses 291 bridges, 91 viaducts and crosses the 6,700 ft. high

impressive Oberalp Pass on its journey. Enjoy the views as you travel through untouched nature, unspoiled mountain forests, tranquil alpine pastures and mountain valleys steeped in century-old tradition and culture. Once arriving in Andermatt, you will be transferred to your hotel in Interlaken. This is a traditional resort town in the mountainous region of central Switzerland. Built on a narrow stretch of a valley, between the emerald-colored waters of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, it has old timber houses and parkland on either side of the Aare River. Interlaken is known for the Höhematte, a 700 yards long pedestrian paradise of shops, hotels and sidewalk cafes, interrupted only by inviting gardens. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**



Day Ten – Thursday, Sept 1, 2022 Hotel Beau Rivage – Interlaken



Just when you think the scenery can't get any better, it does! Our guide today escorts the group on an excursion to the very heart of the Bernese Alps (the mighty "Eiger", "Mönch" and "Jungfrau," which form an imposing nucleus of the Alpine Region). At Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe, you can visit the Ice Palace and the Sphinx Terraces - reached by lift affording breathtaking views of the Aletsch Glacier, the largest river of ice in Europe. You will descend to the mountaineering village of Grindelwald and then return to Interlaken. **(Breakfast and Lunch)**



Day Eleven – Friday, Sept 2, 2022 Hotel Glockenhof – Zurich

On this last full day in Switzerland, enjoy a guided tour of Bern, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided walking tour, you will get to explore all the great sites plus the little alcoves, fountains, towers, and shopping arcades. You'll explore Old Town and then continue with a visit to the western city gate and enjoy a private tour of the famous medieval Clock Tower. Built in the early 13th century, it has served the city as a guard tower, prison, clock tower,



center of urban life and a civic memorial. It is one of Bern's most recognizable symbols and the oldest monument of the city. Be sure to take in the view over the rooftops and streets of Bern. You will discover ancient technology and benefit from the performance of the clockwork figures and workings of the astronomical clock. Finally the group heads back to Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland. The city is a global center for banking and finance, and is known as the commercial, intellectual and industrial center of Switzerland. You might want to walk the famous Bahnhofstrasse, which is the main downtown street and one of the world's most expensive and exclusive shopping venues. If shopping doesn't interest you, then stroll the streets of Old Town or along the lake to the greenery of the recreational areas on the outskirts of the city. Stop at the lake vantage point Lindengarten, from where you will have a wonderful view of the city. **(Breakfast and Farewell Dinner)**

Day Twelve – Saturday, Sept 3, 2022

This morning you will say "Aufwiedersehen" to beautiful Switzerland and return home with treasured memories of another Life Experience with Warther Tours

