





Highlights







* Discover these cities, towns, villages and resorts as you do your sight-seeing:







Stein am Rhein, Zürich, Heinzenberg, St Moritz, Chur, Feldkirch (Austria), Vaduz (Liechtenstein), Bellinzona, Ascona, Mutten, Lenzerheide.

* Attractions:

- ✕ prettiest small town in Switzerland
- ✕ lunch at a restaurant that was once an arsenal
- ✕ Christmas markets
- ✕ ski destination
- ✕ winter walk
- ✕ first city in Switzerland
- ✕ lunch in the knights' or hunters' room at a 600-year-old castle
- ✕ 6th smallest country in the world
- ✕ walking along frozen lakes
- ✕ UNESCO World Heritage medieval castles
- ✕ resort of St Moritz where the high society of the world go to

Day 1	Tues, 9 Dec 2008	B	Stein am Rhein (medieval town)	Zürich (city)
Go to Stein am Rhein (50 mins), a charming medieval town in the northern part of Switzerland , also known as 'the prettiest small town in Switzerland' situated at the River Rhine. Next, go to Zürich (1 hr), the largest city in Switzerland. After lunch, 1) go to a Christmas market. AND/OR 2) Walk along elegant Bahnhofstrasse - a shopping stretch - and visit a very pretty chocolate-cum-confectionery shop and a very well-known chocolate boutique-cum-café. After that, walk through narrow lanes in the Old Town area where the largest clockface in Europe awaits you just around the corner. Then take a walk up one of the twin towers of the Grossmünster and have a bird's-eye view of the city of Zürich (optional).				
A scenic drive (1.5 hr) along the Lake of Zürich, Lake Walen and the majestic Churfürsten mountain range to the Holiday Corner of Switzerland. Welcome to the land of 150 valleys, 615 alpine lakes and 937 mountain peaks. Pass the Heidi World, THE Pinot Noir region of Switzerland and the oldest city in Switzerland. Continue to drive through Graubünden, the most diversified and largest but the least densely populated canton of Switzerland, known for her widely untouched landscapes and home to three of the four cultures of Switzerland. Drive into the valley of castles & ruins before checking into your hotel embedded at the foot of an inner alpine valley, also known as the 'Orchard of Graubünden'. Here, in the geographic heart of the Alps, is the crossroads of the high and ancient alpine passes. Complimentary welcome drink during dinner.				
(Note: If you have been to Zürich, it might be replaceable with Schaffhausen where you discover the rare beauty and cultural diversity of this charming town with its delightful countryside, situated along the River Rhine next to Germany. The houses of the Old Town are richly decorated with 171 oriels and valuable murals. Narrow streets invite the visitor to stroll and shop, and if the weather is warm enough, the streets of the car-free town centers are transformed into pocket-size Parisian boulevards. These historical treasures date back to the Middle Ages. Optional: a visit to a majestic 16th Century)				

Day 2	Wed, 10 Dec 2008	B/D	Winter Walk	Ski Destination
<p>Visit a ski destination (15 mins) in Graubünden where families go skiing. Do a lovely winter walk. Try skiing and/or snowboarding (optional). Tobogganing on a super path with panoramic views (optional). Graubünden, the largest and most diversified canton of Switzerland, is also called 'holiday corner of Switzerland' where many Swiss from other regions like to go for their holidays due to a wide range of activities available in panoramic and unspoilt landscapes.</p>				
Day 3	Thur, 11 Dec 2008	B/D	Village at the Horizon	Horse-Drawn Sleigh Ride (optional)
<p>Go to 'the village at the horizon' (25 mins). Enjoy the village with wooden houses and a wooden church or wear snow shoes and take an approx. 45-min walk in the snow before reaching a scenic viewpoint - 360° panoramic view of the south-eastern Swiss Alps, valleys, rivers and villages (optional). Next, visit a winter sports resort (40 mins) where ex-British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, took her twins to learn skiing. Walk along frozen lakes or do optional tours: 1) Horse-drawn sleigh ride, ice-skating either in the woods, on a natural ice field or in the largest ice-skating rink in the world. 2) Mountain visit for a view of a thousand summits.</p>				
Day 4	Fri, 12 Dec 2008	B/D	Chur (alpine city)	Liechtenstein (6th smallest country)
<p>Chur – situated at the crossroads of the River Rhine which is one of the longest rivers in Europe, this capital of canton Graubünden and first city of Switzerland was where traders and merchants flocked (20 min). Interesting shops: crystal shop, household products shop with a wide range of interesting knives, and gourmet shops offering specialties from the region like pear bread, air dried meat, honey, cheese, beverages etc are available here. If you are interested in alpine nature (e.g. alpine animals, alpine forests, alpine rocks, etc), the Nature Museum is worth a visit. Next, go across the nearby border to Austria to the city of Feldkirch (45 min). Then hop across another close-by border to Liechtenstein and visit the capital city of Vaduz (20 min). A good range of cuckoo clocks is available here.</p>				

<p>Day 5</p>	<p>Sat, 13 Dec 2008</p>	<p>B/D</p>	<p>St Moritz (resort)</p>	<p>Bernina Massive & Glacier</p>
<p>Today we visit the eastern part of Switzerland (1 hr), St. Moritz, a renowned winter destination in the Upper Engadin Valley where the wealthy go to enjoy their riches and where the Alpine Ski World Championship 2003 as well as the Winter Olympics 1928 & 1948 were hosted. The town is yours to explore. Optional: 1) Panorama train ride on the Bernina Express from Thusis to Samedan where we pick you up and proceed to St Moritz. The Bernina Express is the most scenic of all the train routes in Switzerland and is therefore on track to the UNESCO World Heritage list. 2) a visit to one of the mountains in the eastern Swiss Alps for a very impressive 360° view of the Alps including a close view of the Bernina range, the highest mountain range of the Eastern Alps. On a clear day, depending on the sun's rays, 7 or 8 layers of mountain ranges can be seen from here! Graubünden has the most number of mountain peaks in the Alps exceeding 3000 m, making it the highest region in the Alps and earning it the name 'the roof of Europe'.</p>				
<p>(Note: If you have been to St. Moritz, it might be replaceable with visits to quaint villages in the Lower Engadin Valley where people go to see typical Engadiner sgraffito-painted houses with huge doors and sunken in funnel-like windows. Optional: Take dips in various outdoor & indoor mountain spring mineral pools.)</p>			 <p>Quaint Village</p>	 <p>Quaint Village</p>
<p>Day 6</p>	<p>Sun, 14 Dec 2008</p>	<p>B, D</p>	<p>UNESCO World Heritage Castles</p>	<p>Ascona (lakeside town)</p>
<p>Bellinzona - capital of the Italian-speaking canton Ticino in the southern part of Switzerland (1 hr 15 min), designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its city walls and 3 famous castles enclosing a picturesque vineyard. Explore the city or visit the medieval castle(s). Go to a Christmas market. Next, visit a beautiful lakeside town situated at the foot of the southern Swiss Alps (30 mins).</p>				
<p>Day 7</p>	<p>Mon, 15 Dec 2008</p>	<p>B</p>		
<p>Hotel check-out. Transfer to Zürich airport (1 hr 45 mins). (Please do NOT schedule flight to depart earlier than 11 am.)</p>				

Note
As we would very much want our travelers to get the most out of our tours, the sequence and/or parts of the content of the above itinerary are subject to changes depending on weather conditions, forthcoming special events and unforeseen circumstances.

Optional Activities

- skiing
- snowboarding
- tobogganing
- snow-shoeing
- ice-skating in the open air on the largest ice-skating rink in the world, on a natural ice field or in the woods by a river
- horse carriage ride in the picturesque countryside passing by frozen lakes
- panorama train ride on the Bernina Express
- Top of Switzerland mountain visit to see ice-packed mountains and glacier

What's Included

- Pick up at Zürich airport at 8:30 am or hotel in Zürich at 9 am on Day 1 and transfer to Zürich airport at 7 am on Day 7
- 6 nights hotel accommodation
- 6 Swiss breakfasts
- 6 Swiss dinners
- Tours (excluding optional tours)
- 1 driver-tour guide
- 1 tour guide
- 1 panorama mini-coach