

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria & Germany The Jewels of Alpine Europe

13 DAYS: Monday, July 2 – Saturday, July 14, 2018

EXPERIENCE RICH CULTURE, impressive architecture and culinary delights against a backdrop of soaring alpine peaks. Begin in sophisticated lake-side Lucerne and explore the winding, medieval-era streets of the Old Town. Cross into France for a boat cruise around Lake Annecy, offering panoramic views of the breathtaking mountains that inspired Paul Cezanne. Visit the picturesque valley and charming resort village of Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc. Cross the border into Italy and spend the day on Lake Como as we visit Villa Carlotta, an elegant 18th century Italian estate surrounded by 14 acres of gardens. Soak up the views from chic St. Moritz, visit Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian Tyrol, and Munich for a guided tour and a day to explore on our own. **Tour group size:** 18 - 35 travelers. **Tour pace:** You will walk for about 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

Your tour includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily, 5 three-course dinners with beer or wine
- Multilingual Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach
- Guided sightseeing and select entrance fees

Your tour highlights

- Spectacular mountain scenery at every turn
- Swiss chocolate, French pastries and German beer
- Lovely lakeside villages with alpine views
- A train ride through the Alps aboard the Bernina Express
- The winter wonderland of St. Moritz
- Munich—Bavaria's food and culture capital

Features

Lucerne, Bern, Geneva, Lake Annecy, Chamonix, Lake Como region, Villa Carlotta, St. Moritz, Liechtenstein, Innsbruck, Munich.

OPTIONALS: *Lucerne*—Mount Pilatus. *Lake Como*—Lake Cruise and Bellagio. *Innsbruck*—Neuschwanstein Castle. *Munich*—Dachau.

SALZBURG 2n post-tour extension \$399 pp/do land. OPTIONALS: Mozart Concert and dinner, Eagle's Nest excursion with salt mines.

From \$4,279 per person double occupancy

INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees.

From \$4,759 for single reservations. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.

ACCOMMODATIONS

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston
 DAYS 2–3 Ameron Hotel Flora Luzern, Lucerne region
 DAYS 4–5 Hotel Novotel Annecy Centre Atria, Annecy
 DAYS 6–7 NH Pontevecchio, Lake Como region
 DAY 8 Hotel Laudinella, St. Moritz
 DAYS 9–10 Hotel Innsbruck, Innsbruck
 DAYS 11–12 Four Points by Sheraton Munich Central, Munich
 DAY 13 Return flight to Boston
 or similar hotel accommodations



Overnight Flight 1 night Day 1: Travel day Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

Lucerne Region 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Switzerland Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Switzerland! After arriving in Zurich, transfer to the Lucerne region to meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight’s welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne Included meals: Breakfast

A local guide introduces you to the charming lakeside city.

- Explore Lucerne’s Old Town
- View the sandstone lion statue commemorating the Swiss Guards
- Stroll over Chapel Bridge, a 17th-century covered footbridge, for views of Lake Lucerne and the Alps

Enjoy a free afternoon in Lucerne or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion - Mount Pilatus \$115pp*

This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$125)

Annecy 2 nights

Day 4: Annecy via Bern Included meals: Breakfast

Travel through the Alps today, taking in stunning scenery as you pass Alpine lakes, mountains, and charming villages.

- Stop in the Swiss capital of Bern to walk through its charming Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Pass through the vineyards of Lausanne and Lake Geneva as you drive to Annecy

Day 5: Lake Annecy cruise Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know Annecy today.

- Walk through Annecy's Old Town with your Tour Director and take in sweeping views of the Alps
- Get a close-up look at the villas on Lake Annecy's shores during a cruise

Lake Como Region 2 nights

Day 6: Lake Como Region via Chamonix Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

On your way to Italy, stop to explore Chamonix, a picture-perfect village at the base of Mont Blanc. Then, continue through the scenic Aosta Valley en route to the Lake Como region.

Day 7: Como & Villa Carlotta Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know the city of Como's charming medieval quarter with your Tour Director.

- Pass by the 15th-century Gothic Duomo
- View the 12th-century Porta Vittoria, a defense tower overlooking the old city
- Stroll through the elegant gardens at Villa Carlotta, a palace completed in 1690 (*Please note: From November to February you may alternatively take a funicular ride to Brunate.*)

Enjoy a free evening in the Lake Como region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion - Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio \$85pp*

Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens. Float past charming lakeside towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll sample cuisine from a carefully chosen menu. Please note: Your included meal may be lunch or dinner. This excursion is only offered from March through October, and its departure time varies by season. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$95)

St. Moritz 1 night

Day 8: Train ride to St. Moritz Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Travel to Tirano, where you'll board the Bernina Express. Enjoy a scenic train ride through the stunning, UNESCO-recognized landscapes of the Alps to St. Moritz, a prestigious Swiss resort town and hub of wintertime sports. *(Please note: The Bernina Express runs seasonally and will be replaced with a local train from mid-October through mid-May.)*

Austrian Alps 2 nights

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Innsbruck Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Travel into Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality dating back to the Holy Roman Empire, and continue on toward the wintertime wonderland of Innsbruck, where you'll enjoy a guided walking tour.

- Visit Liechtenstein's capital, Vaduz, and pass the royal family's hilltop castle, still in use as a royal residence
- Arrive in Innsbruck, site of two winter Olympic Games
- See the famed Golden Roof and the City Tower in Innsbruck's historic Old Town
- Pass the Hofburg, a former Hapsburg Imperial Palace, and walk into its cobblestoned courtyard
- Enter the Baroque Cathedral of St. James

Day 10: Free day in Innsbruck Included meals: Breakfast

Enjoy a free day in the Austrian Alps region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion - Neuschwanstein Castle \$99pp*

Spend your day discovering the regal Neuschwanstein Castle. The historic retreat of Bavaria's "Fairytale King" Ludwig II, who was known for his reclusive tendencies, was the inspiration for Disney's Magic Kingdom Castle. On a guided tour, explore the residential areas of the castle, including the oak-furnished servants' quarters and the king's lavishly decorated staterooms. Afterward, enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$109)

Munich 2 nights

Day 11: Free day in Munich Included meals: Breakfast

Cross into Germany to arrive in Munich, where you can spend a free afternoon exploring on your own.

Day 12: Free day in Munich Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Get to know the Bavarian capital on a guided tour.

- Travel past the Englischer Garten and fashionable Schwabing district
- Enter the Nymphenburg Palace, the Baroque home to past Bavarian royalty
- Walk from Odeonsplatz through the nearby Hofgarten to view the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria
- Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel

Enjoy a free afternoon in Munich or add an excursion.

Say goodbye to your group at a farewell dinner this evening.

Optional Excursion - Dachau \$25pp*

Once a typical German town, Dachau served as the first Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Visit this somber site, which has since been transformed into a Holocaust memorial museum that serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit. Listen to an audio guide while you view Dachau's poignant exhibits and the memorials to the victims. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$35)

Day 13: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Add Salzburg Starting from \$399 pp

Please note: Extension is not available on all departure dates.

Dubbed the 'Rome of the North' because of its many churches, Salzburg is a beautiful city filled with museums, mansions, parks and churches. Spend two days soaking up the city's celebrated musical history.

Salzburg 2 nights

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Salzburg Included meals: Breakfast

Head to Salzburg, where a local guide leads you on a walking tour of the Old Town.

- View the University of Salzburg and the churchyard of St. Peter
- See the Kapitelplatz, Residenzplatz and Alter Markt, in the city's Old Town
- Enter the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, built in the Baroque style

- Pass through scenery from the beloved film “The Sound of Music”
- Take the funicular to the hilltop Hohensalzburg Fortress, one of Europe’s largest medieval castles

Enjoy a free afternoon in Salzburg or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion - Mozart Concert & Dinner \$109pp*

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter’s Abbey. Enjoy an evening of fine dining and music. Mozart composed over 600 works in his short life, and tonight, you’ll hear his masterpieces accompanied by opera singing as you sample local delicacies. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$119)

Day 14: Free day in Salzburg Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a full free day in Salzburg or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion - Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines \$105pp*

Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you’ll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Take an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch. Continue to Obersalzburg, where a scenic bus ride along steep gorges offers gorgeous views of the snow-capped Alps. Then, take a gilded elevator up to the Eagle’s Nest, an Alpine retreat built for Adolf Hitler’s 50th birthday. Please note: The elevation of the Eagle’s Nest is approximately 5,500 feet, which may not be advisable for travelers with heart/lung problems or other altitude-related limitations. This excursion is seasonal from mid-May through late October. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs. (On-tour price: \$115)

Day 15: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

SAMPLE HOTELS

LUCERNE REGION

Ameron Hotel Flora 4-star

Welcome to the heart of Lucerne! your smart business hotel offers a prime location and that certain "extra" of kindness and hospitality. Nature meets savoir vivre - smart service included.

ANNECY

Hotel Novotel Annecy Centre Atria 4-star

Located right in the city center, the Hotel Novotel Annecy Centre Atria provides spacious, comfortable rooms in contemporary design. Enjoy a meal in the Novotel Cafe, or explore the surroundings of your destination by visiting close by historic monuments and museums, or attending sports and entertainment events.

LAKE COMO REGION

NH Pontevecchio 3-star

NH Pontevecchio is ideally located between Lake Como and the mountains, just a few steps from the historical centre of Lecco and the Mazoniani sights. The hotel offers 111 rooms including standard, superior, junior suites and suites all of which are equipped with the latest modern comforts. Some of the rooms have views across the lake. The restaurant offers exquisite examples of the best traditional and national cuisine. During the summer season you can each lunch and dinner on our open air terrace. The

Congress centre has 7 meeting rooms which are all equipped with the latest technology and a maximum capacity for 400 people.

The hotel offers many different excursions on the lake which are the perfect opportunity to discover the lake and learn about the history of the region.

ST. MORITZ

Hotel Laudinella 3-star

Music and art lovers will be thrilled with Hotel Laudinella, promoting its own cultural events like music performances, creative writing, and concerts. Guests may also spend some leisure time at the Wellness Center, including gym, hot steam therapy, sauna, and massage room. Food lovers will rejoice at the selection of international cuisine, ranging from Swiss, to Chinese, to Indian. Watch your food being cooked in the display kitchen at the Siam Wind, offering East Asian cuisine, or sample some traditional Swiss fondue at Le Carnotzet!

AUSTRIAN ALPS

Hotel Innsbruck 3-star

Feel right at home in comfortable, spacious and stylishly decorated rooms and suites. In all our rooms you will find High Speed internet connection (LAN), color TV, telephone, minibar, safe, bright and modern furnished bathrooms and the majority with air-conditioning.

MUNICH

Four Points by Sheraton Munich Central 3-star

The hotel offers simple comforts and undisturbed quiet amidst Munich's famous sights. The city centre, shopping galleries, pedestrian zone, and central rail station are just a 10-minute walk away. Almost all of the 102 spacious, quiet guest rooms feature a balcony or terrace, offering wonderful views of the Alps and the ideal setting for relaxing. Other conveniences such as a large desk with telephone and voicemail, 32" flat screen TV, radio, hotel video service with High Speed Internet Access and a minibar will make your stay even more enjoyable.