

Switzerland by Panoramic Trains and Paddle Steamers – POS 2

Geneva – Grande Dixence Dam – Chillon Castle – Paddle Steamer to Lausanne – Lucerne – Lugano – Tirano – Bernina Express train to St Moritz – Glacier Express train to Brig – Geneva or Zurich

June 24-30, 2023 7 days / 6 nights





Geneva - Grande Dixence Dam - Chillon Castle -Paddle Steamer to Lausanne

Depart Geneve for nearby Wallis canton for a tour of the Grande Dixence, the world's highest gravity dam.

Guided tours with slide shows and films take place in the interior of the dam. A cable car carries visitors up from the car park and bus terminus to the top of the Dixence dam, where you can enjoy an impressive panoramic view of the Valais mountains and over the long lake.

Enjoy wine tasting and lunch in Fully, in the middle of the vineyards of Wallis.

Then a short drive will conduct you at the start of Leman Lake to visit the famous Chillon Castle.

From the Chillon pier, take a cruise on "LA SUISSE" Belle Epoque – the most beautiful paddle Steamer in the world! – along the famous Lavaux vineyards (Unesco Heritage) for an hour cruise to the city of Lausanne.

In the background, the imposing Alps that one could contemplate without ever getting tired. on the right, Montreux, then the typical small wine-growing villages surrounded by their terraced vineyards, Lavaux, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage list.





June 25 \circ

Lausanne - Lucerne

From Lausanne take a train directly to Lucerne.

Located at the end of the lake, Lucerne is its jewel. The city oscillates between adorable alleys with old, richly decorated houses and a Belle-Epoque retro atmosphere. The Chapel Bridge, dating back to the Middle Ages, with its painted triangular panels, is considered the oldest covered wooden bridge in Europe. Another emblem of the city is the Musegg Wall, which, except for one tower, has preserved its original shape. In the pedestrianized old town, historical houses, some adorned with frescoes, line picturesque squares like the Weinmarkt. Lucerne is a city of squares and churches. The 17th-century Jesuit church is the oldest sacred Baroque building in Switzerland, and the two towers of the Hofkirche church are inseparable from the image of the city. The Dying Lion, carved into the rock in tribute to the heroism of the Swiss who died at the Tuileries in 1792, is one of Switzerland's most famous monuments.

In the afternoon, departure for an excursion to Stansehorn Peak. After a short drive to the city of Stans, you will take first a funicular, then the spectacular cable car with a terrasse on the roof.





Overnight at Stans

June 26 9



Lucerne - Lugano

Early in the morning, head to the pier located just a few steps away. You board a paddle steamer boat to Flüelen, located at the other end of Lake Lucerne. This 30 km long glacial lake is surrounded by mountains that seem to drop sharply into the water. Enchanting, towns and mountain resorts dot the shores of Lake.

Lunch will be served on board in the historic 1st class restaurant, while the lake reveals its most beautiful panoramas. Once your cruise is over, you board the Gotthard Panorama Express which is just a few meters away from the landing dock.

Passing through Bellinzona, the capital of Ticino and home to a UNESCO-listed castle, you arrive in Lugano at noon.

Welcome by your English-speaking local guide at the station and installation in your hotel, located on the shores of Lake Lugano..

Framed by Monte Brè and Monte San Salvatore, southern Lugano and its eponymous lake offer you a small taste of Italy. In the afternoon, walk through the street pedestrian walkways, stairs and squares in the company of your guide. Among the must-sees are the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI) or LAC, the charming squares such as the Piazza della Riforma which is bustling with activity on market days, Piazza Cioccaro and its beautiful baroque facades or the church of Santa Maria degli Angioli and its frescoes by Bernardino Luini.





June 27 \circ

Lugano

To start this Ticino day, you meet your local guide for an excursion to Gandria. After a boat trip of about twenty minutes, you arrive at a small fishing village clinging to the mountain, which retains a medieval charm. Until the end of the 18th century, it was dedicated to the production of olive oil, until a very hard winter decimates the olive trees and redirects it towards the cultivation of muier and the silk industry. Today it is still a tourist destination little known but very popular among artists. Then a boat crossing takes you to the other side of the lake, to the Grotto Descanso. On your arrival, an aperitif with local specialties awaits you, and tasting the delicious local wine, you will get ready to live the experience of cooking yourself even the typical Ticino risotto, with the help of the cook! At the table, you can enjoy your risotto with meat and vegetables and end with a typical dessert.

After a break at your hotel, a short minibus ride brings you to the Montagnola Hill of Orla, in a beautiful little valley, where you will visit the Arca Rubre winery. You will be received by the family who will tell you about the specificities of Ticino wines. Return to your hotel at the end of the afternoon and end of the day free.





June 28 \circ



Lugano-Tirano - Bernina Pass - St. Moritz - Zuoz

Early in the morning, you take a 3-hour bus ride on the Bernina Express towards Tirano. You cross the Swiss/Italian border and then take a beautiful panoramic route along Lake Como before ascending the Valtellina valley lined with vineyards on its northern side. After lunch, you embark on a railway adventure aboard the Bernina Express, a historic train, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, up to the glaciers of the Bernina Pass (2300 m), before descending to Pontresina (1800 m), (duration approximately 2.5 hours).

From there, you will take a bus to St. Moritz, the most elegant and upscale Swiss station! The birthplace of winter tourism (1864) hosted two editions of the Winter Olympics. After the visit, you will go to the traditional village of Zuoz to settle into your historic Crusch Alva hotel for the night.

Zuoz is one of the most beautiful villages in the Upper Engadine and enchants with its intact and authentic Romanesque village atmosphere. Many proud patrician houses, such as the Chesa Planta, majestically present their typical oriels and sgraffito decorations, while mysterious alleys invite discovery tours of a turbulent past.

Dinner and overnight at the Crusch Alva Hotel in a typical Engadine setting.





June 29 🍄

Zuoz: Excursion in Lower Engadine

The main attraction of this stage, at the intersection of the Bernina Express and the Glacier Express, is not so much the town of St Moritz itself, but its surroundings: the typical Engadine villages, the unique landscapes of the Grisons and the way of life cultivated there. This first day will be an opportunity to take a private bus to explore the typical villages of the Lower Engadine. The first village visited is Guarda, located in the Lower Engadine: it is considered the best-preserved village in the region and has been declared a "site of national importance", particularly due to its location and its painted Engadine houses dating back to the first half of the 17th century.

Then you will pass through the village of Sent, with its similar charm, and end up at the impressive castle of Tarasp.

Dinner and overnight at the Crusch Alva hotel in a typical Engadine setting.





June 30 ♀



Zuoz - Brig - Spiez - Geneva or Zurich

Transfer to the train station to board the famous Glacier Express. This journey will take you to Brig. Shortly after leaving St. Moritz, the train will travel along the Albula section of the Rhaetian Railway, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. For almost 7 hours of pure pleasure, the famous "slowest express train in the world" will travel about 200 km of rails, cross 291 bridges, dive into 91 tunnels, and pass through the Oberalp Pass, which peaks at 2033 m, Andermatt and the Furka tunnel before descending into the picturesque Conches valley.

The crossing of the unique Landwasser viaduct - a UNESCO world heritage site as well as the crossing of the Rhine Gorges, also known as the "Grand Canyon of Switzerland", will also be highlights of this journey (lunch will be served at your seat).

From Brig, continue to Geneva or to Zurich by crossing the Lötschberg tunnel for your way back home.







Switzerland by Panoramic Trains and Paddle Steamers – POS2 7 days / 6 nights

24/06/2023 - 30/06/2023	5100CHF per person				
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NAME	First Name	Email address	Date of Birth	Mobile n.	Tick if Yes
1					
2					
3					
4					
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In case of incident - person to contact (name/Tel)					
Food preferences/intolerances:					
	_	7			
Room type	number				
Double					
Twin					
Single					

Payment via: Payment Link

Tour will go ahead with maximum 12 participants (min 8) The tour can be reversed upon request.

The price includes

Transportation by private van
English-speaking guide
Accommodation in 4*/5* hotels on a double room basis with breakfast
Visits mentioned in the program

The price does not includes

Drinks and meals (unless specified)
All services not mentioned in the program
Luggage allowance in hotels and airports
Single room supplement