Grand Tour of Switzerland - Western and Southern part

The feeling of freedom in the magical and mystical parts of Switzerland.

What an incredible contrast: on the one hand there is Geneva with its multicultural flair and near-Mediterranean vibe, on the other the Vallée de Joux with its wildly romantic landscapes and historic villages nestling between Jura mountain ranges. What unites them is their cosmopolitan attitude: while the world meets in Geneva, time is already ticking in the hinterland – the centre of the Swiss watchmaking industry set standards all over the world.

The route continues from the Swiss capital Bern to Lucerne, one of the most-visited holiday destination in the country. Surprises abound in between – steeped in myths and legends, Emmental and Entlebuch are set against a fitting backdrop of hills, remote farmhouses and mist-enshrouded fields.

After leaving the wild Matter Valley crowned by the mighty Matterhorn, the route shadows the course of the Rhône through Valais to Lake Geneva. The region is also famous for its wine, which reaches its peak in the UNESCO-listed vineyards of Lavaux, as well as historic highlights like the 1,500-year-old Abbey of Saint-Maurice and Chillon Castle.

Further information

- Top-road infrastructure (road condition, filling stations, service stations)
- Motorways will be suggested only if they provide a useful alternative for the traffic routing.
- The route follows the most beautiful trails that require a longer travel distance than the direct way.
- More details on www.MySwitzerland.com/grandtour
Day 1: Arrival Geneva
After arrival pick-up your car at the airport and drive to your hotel to check-in. Embedded between nearby Alpine peaks and the hilly terrain of the Jura, the French-speaking city of Geneva lies in the bay where the Rhone leaves Lake Geneva. With its humanitarian tradition and cosmopolitan flair, the European seat of the UNO and headquarters of the Red Cross is Geneva known as the «capital of peace». Visible from afar, the Jet d’eau is Geneva’s unmissable icon and one of the world’s most-photographed fountains. The colossal fountain shoots water 140 m high at a speed of 200 km/h, is Europe’s largest. Overnight in Geneva.

Day 2: Geneva – Gstaad (ca. 235 km)
A drive along the blissfully calm, peaceful and remote roads on this route between Lake Geneva and Lac de Joux reveals the hidden gems of the Jura. Continue your drive to Fribourg, which is nestled on a rock promontory and surrounded by the Saane River. It is one of the largest medieval towns in the country. Over 200 unique Gothic facades from the 15th century impart incomparable medieval charm to the Old Town. Drinking a cup of coffee in a leisurely fashion, admiring the old facades and beautiful fountains, listening to two local languages or gazing from the 74-meter spire of the Cathedral far into the countryside - this is an experience enjoyed in Fribourg. Further on your way you will pass the Greyerzer (Gruyère) region, with its rolling green landscape and home to the world-famous Gruyère cheese. The picture-book medieval town of Gruyères is perched a top a small hill. Overnight in Gstaad.

Day 3: Gstaad – Lucerne (ca. 315 km)
Before you go on to Lucerne enjoy the beautiful scenery of the chalet village Gstaad, which attracts countless stars and starlets. Continue your journey to Interlaken. Enjoy a lake cruise on the turquoise Lake Brienz and neighbouring Lake Thun that are situated in the spectacular mountain setting of the Bernese Oberland. From Interlaken you can experience the majestic Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau summits, together with close-up views of the longest glacial flow. The Jungfrau railway travels from the heart of the mountains to Europe’s highest mountain station at 3454 meters altitude. If you have some time left before you head to Lucerne, Bern is the place to spend it. Not many cities have managed to retain their historic features quite as successfully as Bern, the capital of Switzerland. The old town of Bern is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and thanks to its 6 kilometres of arcades - the locals refer to them as „Lauben“ - boasts one of the longest weather-sheltered shopping promenades in Europe. Overnight in Lucerne.
Day 4: Lucerne - Zermatt (ca. 178 km)
Lucerne is the gateway to central Switzerland at Lake Lucerne and it is embedded within an impressive mountainous panorama. One of the highlights along the Grand Tour lies in Lucerne - the Chapel Bridge. The covered, wooden pedestrian walkway was built in the 14th century. In 1993 the bridge burned down but it was reconstructed true to the original.
After visiting the landmark bridge drive from Lucerne to Andermatt. The Furka Pass links Andermatt in the Canton of Uri with Gletsch in the Canton of Valais. Drive over the Pass and continue in the region Valais. Here lies the Aletsch Glacier - the biggest glacier of the Alps, with a length of 23 km. Here you can explore the magnificent and stunning world of ice and rocks, Alpine flowers and forests. Continue moving down to Täsch, last stop before you continue by train to Zermatt.
Overnight in Zermatt.

Day 5: Zermatt – Montreux (ca. 150 km)
This morning take time to walk through Zermatt, at the foot of the Matterhorn: traditional shops and wooden clad houses create a charming place to explore. A trip up the exhilarating open air Gornergrat railway is not to be missed, for unrivalled views over the 4000m peaks surrounding Zermatt.
The river and forests accompany you as you enter French speaking Switzerland, heading through Sierre and Sion. After travelling through Martigny, your final leg takes you up through Aigle and along the shores of Lake Geneva to Montreux, one of the most popular holiday resorts in the Lake Geneva region. One must not miss a visit of the famous Castle Chillon. The castle is located on a rock on the banks of Lake Geneva. The water castle is the most visited historic building in Switzerland. For nearly four centuries Chillon was the residence and profitable toll station of the Counts of Savoy.
Overnight in Montreux.

Day 6: Departure Montreux - Geneva (ca. 95 km)
With vineyards reaching as far as the eye can see, Ardon is the gateway to the wine country. The vines that thrive on these rocky slopes yield fine wines. Taste them in the local cellars, farmhouses or rustic taverns and you won’t be disappointed – the Valais Wine Route is renowned for its quality. Like something out of a fairytale, Lavaux is almost too beautiful to be true. After climbing to Chexbres, the Route de la Corniche leads straight through the vineyard terraces. Though narrow, the road offers plenty of opportunities to stop and drink in the magnificent views – let your gaze drift across hillside vineyards, dry stone walls and wine-growing villages to the glittering expanse of Lake Geneva and the Alps on the horizon.
Drive back to Geneva for car drop-off at the airport.
Included services
• 5 x overnight stays with breakfast in Geneva, Gstaad, Lucerne, Zermatt, Montreux (1 night in each destination)
• 1 x rental car VW Golf 5, Audi A3 or similar (5 door, manual or automatic, A/C)
• Parking at all hotels (except in Zermatt/Täsch and Montreux 3*)
• Train ticket Täsch - Zermatt - Täsch in 2nd class
• Grand Tour of Switzerland Road Map from Hallwag
• Grand Tour of Switzerland Travel Guide
• Swiss Coupon Pass with 2 for 1 offers

Good to know
• The Grand Tour attractions in the day to day itinerary are a selection, total there are 45 highlights to explore.
• It is with pleasure that we book you a suitable mountain excursion, for example to the Pilatus.
• Additional rental car categories on request.

Swiss Coupon Pass
• Let yourself be inspired by our Swiss Coupon Pass, a selection of 2 for 1-offers for restaurants, entrance to attractions and souvenirs along the Grand Tour of Switzerland. Save up to CHF 4’500.– with 100 discount coupons available across 11 famous tourist destinations in Switzerland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourcode: Grand Tour of Switzerland</th>
<th>double</th>
<th>single</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price per person in CHF from</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3* Hotel / Golf 5, manual, A/C</td>
<td>877.-</td>
<td>980.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4* Hotel / Audi A3, manual, A/C</td>
<td>1161.-</td>
<td>1269.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5* Hotel / Audi A3, automatic, A/C</td>
<td>2000.-</td>
<td>2146.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3* Hotel without rental car</td>
<td>671.-</td>
<td>751.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4* Hotel without rental car</td>
<td>919.-</td>
<td>985.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5* Hotel without rental car</td>
<td>1568.-</td>
<td>1638.-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Season A: 01.04. - 30.04.2019 and 01.10. - 31.10.2019 / Season B: 01.05. - 30.09.2019
Prices and program subject to change.

Bookings: 📞 +41 43 210 55 95  📧 trains@stc.ch  🌐 SwitzerlandTravelCentre.ch