

# **SWISS RAIL JOURNEYS**

### Glaciers to Palm Trees







### **MONTREUX - GSTAAD - INTERLAKEN - LUZERN - ANDERMATT - LUGANO**

From towering peaks and glaciers to glittering lakes and palm trees: travel through Switzerland's French, German and Italian speaking regions and discover some of the best sights Switzerland has to offer.

### 1. Geneva Airport > Montreux

Montreux is a pretty little town on Lake Geneva. Just over an hour by train from Geneva Airport, the journey takes you along the lake and through Switzerland's Vaud vineyards. Swiss wine is probably the country's best-kept secret. Domestic demand is so high that just 1% is exported so make sure you sample some during your trip. On arrival in Montreux, there's plenty to keep you amused for an afternoon or a couple of days. Stroll along the lakeside promenade where you'll find a statue of Freddie Mercury, visit the historic Château de Chillon or take a trip to the museum dedicated to Charlie Chaplin. Fairmont Le Montreux Palace offers luxury accommodation and top-notch service.

2. Montreux > Gstaad 🍣

The journey from Montreux to <u>Gstaad</u> is one of the best in Switzerland. Part of the GoldenPass panoramic train line, it offers stunning mountain views in great comfort. Choose to travel on either a Panoramic Express train with huge glass windows affording the best possible views or, for a journey back in time, opt for the Belle Époque train. Sit back, relax and 90 minutes later you'll be arriving in the picture postcard village of Gstaad. Here you'll find beautiful, cobbled streets lined with chalet-style buildings and many designer boutiques. Even better, there's plenty of skiing to explore as well. Spend a few nights at the iconic 5-star <u>Gstaad Palace</u> in complete luxury to make the most of your time in this amazing resort.

### 3. Gstaad > Interlaken

After a few days exploring the slopes and sights in Gstaad hop back on the GoldenPass panoramic train and continue the journey to Interlaken. In under 2 hours you'll arrive at the gateway to the Jungfrau region where views of the Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau mountains dominate. Situated between Lake Thun and Lake Brienz (hence the name Interlaken) the Victoria Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa offers luxury accommodation and is the perfect base for exploring the local area. Take a trip up the Jungfraujoch to Europe's highest railway station at 3454m; head up the Schilthorn, setting for the James Bond film 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service' for 360 degree panoramic views and even a James Bond interactive exhibition; or indulge in a chocolate workshop at the Funky Chocolate Club. You could even cram in some more skiing in Wengen, Grindelwald or Murren, all of which are accessible from Interlaken.

We're certain Switzerland will capture your heart on this spectacular and varied itinerary, showing you some of the best sights that this country has to offer!



**Recommended duration:** 12-14 days, including 6 days of skiing the slopes of Gstaad & Andermatt.

Fly to: Geneva Return from: Milan Malpensa





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#### 4. Interlaken > Luzern

Another classic Swiss train journey, the Interlaken-Luzern Express connects two of Switzerland's most popular tourist destinations. Admire the stunning scenery through the panoramic windows: you'll pass no fewer than five crystal clear lakes and some impressive waterfalls in this enchanting journey lasting just under two hours. Luzern is a picturesque, lakeside town with charming medieval architecture. Famous for its Chapel Bridge and historic city walls, it's the perfect place to spend a day or two. Enjoy a boat trip on the lake which can also be combined with a mountain railway trip up Mount Rigi where the views are incredible. The Mandarin Oriental Palace offers 5-star luxury accommodation close to all the main sights and with beautiful lakeside views.

### 5. Luzern > Andermatt 🕉

After some relaxing time in Luzern, you're probably ready for some more skiing so it's time to head to the charming ski resort of <u>Andermatt</u>. In under 2 hours the Treno Gottardo will take you through stunning scenery along the shores of Lake Luzern. Andermatt offers some of the most snow-sure skiing in Switzerland as well as a pretty village centre making it an ideal base for a few days. <u>The Chedi Andermatt</u> is a spectacular 5-star hotel offering luxury accommodation and excellent spa facilities.

### 6. Andermatt > Lugano

From glaciers to palm trees, what better way to finish off your trip than with some Italian flair? Take the train down to the Italian-speaking region of Ticino and in just over 2 hours you'll feel like you're in a different country. Lugano is a beautiful lakeside town with plenty of Italian influences. Enjoy some shopping on Via Nassa, stroll through the delightful Ciani Park by the lake, or simply enjoy a coffee in one of the town's many squares as you watch the elegant locals go by. The View Lugano is a modern 5-star property on the outskirts of the town, and, as the name suggests, offers fantastic views down to the lake. Ebikes and electric smart cars are available to all guests allowing you to explore everything Lugano has to offer.

### Lugano > Milan Malpensa Airport

When you're ready to head home, take a direct train from Lugano to Milan Malpensa Airport.

**Wengen** is a new destination for our 24/25 programme. We'll be happy to advise on the best places to stay in this charming village.



