



Switzerland & the Italian Lakes

11 days from \$8,995 | Limited to 18 guests

Experience some of Europe's most scenic vistas on this journey combining the beautiful Swiss Alps with Italy's glorious Lakes District. Soak up the stunning scenery and natural landscapes of the region, along with unique cities.



A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Arrive in Zermatt in style on the Glacier Express, which affords first-class seating, unique glass ceilings and views of Switzerland's beautiful mountain scenery
- ▶ Travel on one of the only cable cars in the world with an outdoor viewing deck, and enjoy dinner on the Stanserhorn
- ▶ Savor famously smooth Swiss chocolate during a tasting workshop at an independent producer
- ▶ Take a private boat tour of Lake Maggiore, and enjoy a special farewell dinner on beautiful Isola Bella



DAY 1: Arrive Zurich, Switzerland

Arrive in Zurich, Switzerland's largest city and one with a well-deserved reputation for offering a quality of life on par with any other in the world. You are met and transferred to your hotel, where you meet your fellow guests this evening for dinner. **The Storchen | Meals: D**

DAY 2: Zurich | Breathtaking Views & Scenic Paths

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Zurich this morning, taking in its alluring mix of modern and Old World architecture while strolling its wide, pedestrian-friendly avenues. Zurich is known for its churches, and your walk incorporates



Lovely Lucerne, with its Chapel Bridge

several noteworthy ones, including the Fraumünster, with its Marc Chagall-designed stained glass windows, and the Grossmünster, supposedly founded by Charlemagne and later to play a key part in establishing the Reformation in Switzerland. After time for lunch at a local beer cellar, gather for a sweet finish with a visit to an independent chocolate producer. Learn about the fascinating history and production of Swiss chocolate at the last manufacturer who still begins from the raw cacao beans. **The Storchen** | Meals: B L



Learn the history of Switzerland's iconic alphorn at a private demonstration, and take a turn at playing one yourself.

DAY 3: **Lucerne** | Peaks of the Alps

This morning, travel to Lucerne, on the shores of its beautiful lake, and stroll the streets of this medieval jewel. The city's most famous landmark is the Chapel Bridge, the oldest covered wooden bridge in Europe. Its interior is decorated with vivid paintings, many of which date back to the 17th century and depict events from the city's history. You also

visit Corn Market Square and the nearby Old Town Hall, built in 1602. Spend the rest of the day exploring this scenic city at leisure. This evening, ascend the slopes of the Stanserhorn on the world's first cable car with an open observation deck on top. Enjoy dinner surrounded by the matchless beauty of the Swiss Alps before descending back to Lucerne. **Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern** | Meals: B D

DAY 4: **Bern** | Capital City

Drive to Bern, named for the bears that may still be seen in the European wilderness, and discover its charms on a walking tour. See the city's namesake animal at the BärenPark, where bears have been kept since the mid-19th century. You also view the action of the medieval Zytglogge (clock tower). Stroll the capital's delightful old streets before returning to Lucerne. Meet a yodel instructor for an A&K-exclusive yodeling lesson. **Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern** | Meals: B

DAY 5: **Interlaken** | Play the Alphorn

Cross the Brünig Pass to the pretty mountain village of Habkern, and partake in a Swiss treat: a lesson in the history of the famous alphorn. In former days, these massive horns were used by herdsman on the mountain slopes to communicate with people in the valleys below; today, they are played and enjoyed as musical instruments, and your lesson includes the opportunity to play one yourself. Visit beautiful Interlaken, with time to explore and enjoy lunch

Stay on the shores of Lake Maggiore as you explore Italy's glittering Lakes District



Look for the brilliant white peacocks in the gardens of Isola Bella

on your own. This afternoon, explore Hergiswil Glass Museum & Workshop. Tour the museum, watch glassblowers at work and blow your own glass ball to take home. Return to Lucerne for an evening at leisure.

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern | Meals: B

DAY 6: Zermatt | All Aboard the Glacier Express
Begin your day with a scenic lunch cruise along Lake Lucerne, taking you through four of Switzerland's 26 cantons (states). The lake is made up of several arms extending in different directions, making for an especially varied and scenic shoreline. After disembarking, board the famous Glacier Express and settle into your first-class carriage as you traverse the majestic scenery, arriving in the mountain town of Zermatt — one of the most popular waypoints for adventurers exploring the Alps, and a charming destination in its own right. **Schlosshotel Zermatt | Meals: B L D**

DAY 7: Zermatt | The Mighty Matterhorn
This morning, ride the Gornergrat Railway to a height of 10,135 feet for spectacular views over the Alps, the Gorner Glacier and the Matterhorn. One of the world's most renowned peaks, the Matterhorn has a pyramid-shaped summit with four distinct faces, making it an endlessly fascinating sight. It is also a formidable technical challenge for mountaineers — the first successful summit in 1865 cost the lives of four climbers. After a scenic lunch on the



mountain, stop in a local microbrewery back in Zermatt for a tasting of beer brewed from the purest Alpine water. Schlosshotel Zermatt | Meals: B L

DAY 8: Stresa, Italy | Shores of Lake Maggiore
A short train ride takes you out of Zermatt today. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in the spectacular Simplon Pass before arriving in the Italian Lakes District and the beautiful resort town of Stresa, nestled on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Ernest Hemingway set portions of his World War I novel *A Farewell to Arms* here, although he didn't actually visit in person until 1948. Settle in to your lakeside hotel before a fine dinner. **Hotel La Palma** | Meals: B L D

DAY 9: Stresa | Picturesque Island
Drive to Orta San Giulio, a charming medieval town resting upon a shimmering lake. The town occupies a promontory commanding wide views over the lake and farther shore, and its shaded streets are made for wandering. Take a boat to the nearby island of San Giulio to see its Benedictine monastery and church. Legend claims the island was once infested by serpents and monsters that terrorized local villages, until patron saint Julius of Novara arrived with a great storm at his back and banished them forever. Return to Stresa in the afternoon. **Hotel La Palma** | Meals: B

DAY 10: Stresa | Lush, Alpine Lake Maggiore
This morning, relax and enjoy the amenities at your hotel, stroll the local market in Stresa, or just sit in a café and watch the world go by. Later, board a private boat for a tour of Lake Maggiore and its islands, renowned for their impressive gardens. On beautiful Isola Bella, enjoy a special farewell dinner with your fellow guests as the sun sets over the surrounding mountains. **Hotel La Palma** | Meals: B D

DAY 11: Depart Milan
Transfer this morning to Milan Malpensa Airport for your onward travel. Meals: B

BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS



The Storchen
A 66-room boutique treasure located on the bank of the Limmat River and encapsulating Zurich's charm.



Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern
Nestled on the shores of Lake Lucerne, this five-star property once hosted emperors and kings.



Schlosshotel Zermatt
A lovely 49-room hotel centrally located in Zermatt, just paces from the train station and main street.



Hotel La Palma
Romantic lakeside hotel surrounded by Stresa's natural beauty, featuring a gourmet restaurant and sky bar.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jun 10-20*, Aug 19-29, Sep 23-Oct 3*	\$8,995	\$2,695

*Days 3-5 at Hotel Wilden Mann

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 5:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

The maximum guest capacity for 2021 Connections journeys has been temporarily reduced to 18 and may revert to 24 at A&K's discretion due to changes in COVID-19-related requirements.

See Wyllys Professional Travel for up-to-date availability and pricing information.