Swiss Mountain Snow Train Discovery



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Rail Adventures	Switzerland	1	230kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

There's something magical about Switzerland in the snow. Frozen waterfalls, snow-capped Alpine peaks, and glistening lakes are what you can expect as you ride through mountains and valleys on this railway adventure. It all begins once you board the Eurostar in London, spending a night either side of our stay in Hergiswil in Strasbourg and Basel for a more relaxed travelling experience. Then in the heart of Central Switzerland, you'll head out on jaw-droppingly scenic trips including a railway ride to the top of Mount Rigi – known as the Queen of the Mountains – and the Oberalp Pass, the highest point on the Glacier Express route. We'll also marvel at Lake Lucerne from above and from the water, and glide over the mountaintops in cable cars, including the world's first revolving gondola, Titlis-Rotair and the Mount Pilatus Gondola.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Travelling on the Interlaken Express, Engelberg Express, and Titlis-Rotair Cable Car
- Visiting the spa town of Interlaken
- Experiencing the Mount Pilatus Gondola
- Soaking up the scenery on a boat trip across Lake Lucerne
- Riding the Rigi Mountain Railway
- Staying on the shores of Lake Lucerne in a family-run hotel

- Spending a night in Basel and Strasbourg en route to Hergiswil

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return rail travel from London to Hergiswil
- Fully escorted travel with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Excursions guided by a local leader
- 7 nights in Hergiswil and overnight stays in Strasbourg & Basel
- 9 breakfasts & 9 dinners
- All rail and cable car journeys
- Local transport pass

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Strasbourg

Meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager and fellow travellers at London St Pancras International railway station. After check-in, baggage checks, and passport control, we'll wait for our train.

We'll board the Eurostar to Paris, and watch the scenery unfold as we speed through the Channel Tunnel and continue through the farmland and villages of Northern France towards Paris. Here, we'll disembark and leave Gare du Nord to walk the short distance to the Gare de l'Est (about 800m). At Gare de l'Est we'll join the high-speed TGV service and travel eastwards from Paris to Alsace and the charming city of Strasbourg.

In Strasbourg, we'll walk a short distance (about 350 metres) to our hotel. We'll have time to stretch our legs and stroll around the old town, much of which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the evening we'll enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 2 Strasbourg to Hergiswil

In the late morning we'll make our way back to Strasbourg railway station to board a regional train travelling through Alsace and across the border into Switzerland. In Basel we'll change trains and continue into central Switzerland. A final change in Lucerne will take us to Hergiswil in the late afternoon. Here we can walk the short distance (about 500m) to Seehotel Pilatus, which boasts a stunning lakeside location and leisure facilities. Hergiswil is our base for the next seven nights.

Day 3 Interlaken Express

Today we'll hop on a regional train from Hergiswil to Sarnen and board the Interlaken Express along the scenic Golden Pass line. We'll firstly climb towards Lake Lungern (657m above sea level) then to the snow-covered Brünig Pass (1,000m above sea level) to then descend into the famous Bernese Oberland. We'll pass Meiringen and Brienz, famous for its wood carvings, towards the spa town of Interlaken. Nestled between the blue lakes of Brienz and Thun, the setting couldn't be more idyllic. From here we'll travel by narrow-gauge railway to Grindelwald where you'll encounter the world-famous Eiger, first conquered by a four-man rope team in 1938. We'll have some time to explore before heading back to Hergiswil.

Day 4 Engelberg Express and Titlis Cable Car Ride

We'll travel by train from Hergiswil to the monastery village of Engelberg. In Stans, we'll swap to the Engelberg Express, travelling through steep and rugged mountains. After the shuttlebus to Titlisbahn station, a high-speed gondola will take us flying above the ground to 2,400m above sea level. We'll then board the world's first revolving cable car, the Titlis Rotair, to reach the summit offering far-reaching views over the Titlis glacier and peaks of Central Switzerland. Here, we'll delve into the ice grotto and test our nerves walking over the highest suspension bridge in Europe. Once we're back in Engelberg we'll have time to explore before making our way back to Hergiswil.

Day 5 Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure to enjoy the hotel's facilities and lake surroundings or take the opportunity to visit Lucerne with its famous Kapellbrucke covered wooden footbridge and Swiss Museum of Transport. You'll be given a local transport pass to visit the sights.

Day 6 Gotthard Railway, Schöllenenbahn & Glacier Express Route

We'll board the train to Lucerne and change to Arth-Goldau and Erstfeld, taking in Lake Lucerne, Lake Zug, and Lake Lauerz. In Erstfeld we'll take the old Gotthard railway route, where unique spiral tunnels will allow us to climb past the Wassen church three times before reaching the village of Göschenen, which sits amongst some incredible mountain scenery. The Schöllenenbahn takes us through Schöllenen Gorge, famous for the Devil's Bridge, to Andermatt (1,450m above sea level).

It's then time to ride the Matterhorn-Gottardbahn railway on the famous Glacier Express Route which sweeps over snowy valleys to the Oberalp Pass, the highest point - we go on the Glacier Express Route. Here we'll switch to a cable car towards Schneehüenerstock (2,600m above sea level) before returning to Andermatt.

Day 7 Lake Lucerne by boat and Mount Rigi

Once we've reached Lucerne by train, we'll board a boat to cross the widest, deepest part of Lake Lucerene. At Vitznau we'll take the first mountain railway in Europe, which has been graced with kings, emperors, and writers, to the 'Queen of the Mountains', Mount Rigi. The higher we climb, the better the view over Lake Lucerne and Alpine peaks. At the highest station (Rigi Klum, 1,797m above sea level), you'll be treated to 360-degree panoramic views. After taking the cog railway to Vitznau, we'll enjoy a boat ride back to Lucerne before catching the train to Hergiswil.

Day 8 Mount Pilatus

Today after taking the train to Lucerne, we will make the short journey by bus to Kriens. Here we make our way to the cable car station for the panoramic ascent to Pilatus Kulm, at the top of Mount Pilatus. The journey takes about 30 minutes, part way by gondola and then changing to the aerial cableway. Upon arrival at the summit we'll have time to take in the breathtaking wintry views before we return to the hotel.

Day 9 Hergiswil to Basel

We say farewell to Hergiwsil and Lake Lucerne and travel to Basel by train, changing in Lucerne en route. On arrival in Basel we'll walk to Hotel Schweizerhof, located across the road from the station. Arriving in the early afternoon, we'll have time to wander and see the sights. You'll receive a BaselCard from the hotel, which gives complimentary travel on local public transport and discounts on numerous attractions. In the evening we'll enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 10 Basel to London

After breakfast we'll walk back to the railway station and board the high-speed TGV train for Paris. At the Gare de Lyon we'll transfer across Paris by coach to the Gare du Nord station. Sit back and relax on the Eurostar from Paris to St Pancras International railway station.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 1

Short, easy walks on level paths with no stiles. Ideal for relaxed walking and active sightseeing. Typically, 2-3 miles (3-5km) or less, with little if any ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star family-run hotel features a standout location on the shores of Lake Lucerne in Hergiswil, a short train journey from Lucerne. Surrounded by mountain vistas, there's plenty to please here, including a host of wellness facilities like an indoor pool, whirlpool, Finnish sauna, sundeck, and direct access to the lake.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address:

Seehotel Pilatus,

Seestrasse 34,

6052 Hergiswil

Switzerland

Tel: 00 41 (0)41 632 30 30

Hotel Schweizerhof, Basel

Located just opposite the train station, Hotel Schweizerhof is a short walk into the centre of Basel. It dates back to 1864 with four generations of the same family running it since 1896. Rooms are modern with en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning, TV, Kettle, and free Wi-Fi.

FOOD & DRINK

Our hotel in Basel does not serve meals in the evening. We will therefore have breakfast in the hotel but enjoy dinner in a local restaurant in Basel.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address:

Hotel Schweizerhof

Centralbahnplatz 1

4002 Basel

Switzerland

Tel: 00 41 (0)61 560 8585

Best Western Plus Monopole Metropole, Strasbourg

This 4-star hotel's location near the train station makes it an ideal base for exploring the city. Rooms are contemporary with en-suite bathrooms, plus it's an eco-responsible hotel, certified by Green Key International. There are two lounges to relax in, one with a pool table, plus there's free Wi-Fi throughout.

FOOD & DRINK

Our hotel in Strasbourg does not serve meals in the evening. We will therefore have breakfast in the hotel but enjoy dinner in a local restaurant in Strasbourg.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address:

Best Western Plus Hotel Monopole Metropole

16 Rue Kuhh

67000 Strasbourg

France

Tel: 00 33 (0) 3 88 14 39 14

VACCINATIONS & HEALTH

Vaccinations & health information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Passport & Visa information

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.
We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.
British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Passport & Visa

Passport Requirements

In Switzerland there is a need to carry ID at all times in (passport or copy of passport) - You may be requested to present this by local authorities and it is also required to confirm ID for travel passes.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Package list

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Microspikes or snow boots with a good grip (for possible icy conditions)
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Warm clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITH RAIL)

Notes for Rail Travel

Rail travel will be from St Pancras International Station, London and onward to Switzerland via Strasbourg and Basel.

Your group meeting point at St Pancras will be the Sir John Betjeman statue on the upper level of the station, 2 hours before departure time. Here you will join the rest of your group and meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager who will guide you throughout your journey. You will then make your way to the ticket gate as a group.

A suitcase with wheels is strongly recommended as you will be responsible for carrying and lifting your luggage on all parts of the journey. All luggage will be scanned at the departure gate and needs to be clearly labelled. You will need to be responsible for your luggage and belongings at all stages of your journey so it's advisable to have it within eyesight when travelling on the trains and be extra vigilant when moving through busy railway stations. Please refer to the website below for the latest information on luggage requirements for your journey and trip information: https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so before you travel.

For more information about healthcare and its costs, please visit: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/

Drinking Water

Drinking Water

Standards for drinking water vary widely around the world. In many destinations, tap water may not be safe to drink, brush your teeth with, or use for making ice. Where advised, you should drink only bottled or treated water and ensure that bottle seals are intact before use. If bottled water is unavailable, water should be boiled or filtered.

Staying well hydrated is particularly important in hot climates and during active holidays. Carry water with you and drink regularly.

If you are unsure about local water safety, check official country-specific health advice before travel, or ask your accommodation or local guides for guidance once you arrive.

BaselCard

BaselCard

When you check in to your hotel in Basel, you will be given a BaselCard, which entitles you to complimentary travel on local buses and trams and discounts on local attractions.

Please see www.basel.com/en/baselcard for further information. You may wish to join a guided tour of Basel to make the most of your stay.

Two hour guided walking tours in English take place on Saturdays at 2.30pm and can be booked via the BaselCard website.

The usual price is CHF25.00 and BaselCard holders benefit from a 50% discount.

Trip information

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through active sightseeing. On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off coaches, trains, boats and cable cars throughout, depending upon your itinerary - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths or through guided walking tours in towns and cities. Be sure to bring sturdy shoes. There may also be stairs to climb at the venues and locations you visit. At some venues and locations, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles, rocky paths or uneven surfaces.

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip

you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

Document produced: 22 November 2026