



CONNECTIONS BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEYS

Switzerland & the Italian Lakes 2020

11 days from \$8,795

Limited to 24 guests

Experience some of Europe's most scenic vistas on this journey combining the beautiful Swiss Alps with the glories of the Italian Lakes District. Enjoy views from the Glacier Express train, sample Swiss chocolate and play the alphorn.

A&K Advantages

Arrive in Zermatt in style with first-class seating on the Glacier Express

Savor famously smooth Swiss chocolate during a tasting workshop at Lindt chocolatier

Travel on one of the only cable cars in the world with an outdoor viewing deck

Enjoy a private farewell dinner on beautiful Isola Bella in Lake Maggiore

Itinerary

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 a welcome briefing, followed by dinner.

The Storchen | Meals: Dinner

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 visits to 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 leisure, gather for a sweet finish with a chocolate workshop at Lindt. Create your own exquisite treats under the guidance of master chocolatiers, and learn about the fascinating history and production of famous Swiss chocolate.

The Storchen | Meals: Breakfast

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.

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern | Meals: Breakfast

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 Bärengraben and nearby BärenPark, where bears have been kept since the mid-19th century. You also view the clockworks of the medieval Zytglogge (clock tower). After lunch, stroll the capital's delightful old streets before returning to Lucerne. Meet a yodel instructor for an A&K-exclusive yodel lesson. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 INTERLAKEN & BRIENZ | 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 on your own. This afternoon, pause in Brienz, a center of Swiss woodcarving, and learn more about this traditional craft. 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: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 ZERMATT | ALL ABOARD THE GLACIER EXPRESS

Begin your day with a scenic 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 to enjoy lunch 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: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 STRESA, ITALY | SHORES OF LAKE MAGGIORE

A short train ride takes you out of Zermatt today. Pause just down the valley in Brig to tour the 17th-century Stockalper Palace. Built by a wealthy silk merchant, it was the largest private residence in Switzerland at the time. Enjoy lunch before crossing the Simplon Pass to the Italian Lakes District and the beautiful resort 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: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 STRESA | PICTURESQUE ISLAND

Drive to nearby Orta San Giulio, a charming medieval town resting upon a shimmering lake. 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. 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 island of San Giulio to see its Benedictine monastery and church. Return to Stresa in the afternoon.

Hotel La Palma | Meals: Breakfast

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: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11 DEPART MILAN

Transfer this morning to Milan Malpensa Airport for your onward travel.

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
May 14 - May 24, 2020	\$8,795	\$2,695	Available
<i>Days 8-10 at Villa & Palazzo Aminta</i>			
May 28 - Jun 07, 2020	\$8,795	\$2,695	Call for Availability
Jun 11 - Jun 21, 2020	\$8,795	\$2,695	Available
Jul 09 - Jul 19, 2020	\$8,795	\$2,695	Available
<i>Days 3-5 at AMERON Luzern Hotel Flora</i>			
Aug 27 - Sep 06, 2020	\$8,995	\$2,795	Available
<i>Days 8-10 at Villa & Palazzo Aminta</i>			
Sep 10 - Sep 20, 2020	\$8,995	\$2,795	Call for Availability
<i>Days 8-10 at Villa & Palazzo Aminta</i>			
Sep 17 - Sep 27, 2020	\$8,995	\$2,795	Available
Oct 01 - Oct 11, 2020	\$8,995	\$2,795	Available
<i>Days 6-7 at Fleurs de Zermatt</i>			

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome dinner 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.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).