



Travels with Sandi: INTO THE SWISS ALPS

MAY 4TH - 13TH 2023

The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range that lies entirely within Europe, stretching 750 miles from east to west across 8 different countries, with by far the largest section in Switzerland.

Starting in Italy, we wend our way north *Into the Swiss Alps* to the cities of Lucerne and Zurich. In 218 BCE, Hannibal crossed the Alps in the opposite direction with elephants – our journey will be much more comfortable!

Firstly we explore part of the Italian Lake District, tucked into the foothills of the Italian Alps, with a stay in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Leaving the mild climate of Ticino we enter the Swiss Alps, where we'll spend some time in Lucerne, nestled in the shadow of Mt. Pilatus, before continuing to Zurich. The largest city and the financial capital of Switzerland, Zurich is renowned for its quaint neighborhoods, waterways, important museums and shopping.

Despite the fact that Switzerland has four official languages, the geography of the area transcends linguistic boundaries and gives the region a distinct, shared cultural identity, typified by traditional activities such as cheese-making and woodworking – and in more modern times, by winter sports. This spring, join us for an adventure through stunning scenery as we journey *Into the Swiss Alps*.



ISOLA BELLA, STRESA



LUCERNE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$3990
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$1180

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
GUIDES:	Discover Europe guide and host, Sandi Tinyk throughout, local guide in Zurich

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.





THURSDAY, MAY 4TH - Departure from your chosen US city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH - Your arrival at Milan's Malpensa Airport will be met for the short, scenic drive to our hotel in Stresa. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax at the hotel with stunning waterfront views of Lake Maggiore. This evening we'll gather for drinks and enjoy a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH - We'll begin our day with a boat transfer to Isola Bella for a morning walking tour. Literally translated as 'beautiful island' this is one of the Borromean Islands of Lake Maggiore. The Palace, with its surrounding Italianate garden historically offered an elaborate setting for sumptuous parties and theatrical events for the nobility of Europe. The palace, begun in 1632 by Carlo III, from the influential House of Borromeo, was to be dedicated to his wife Isabella D'Adda (from whom the island takes its name). We'll stop for lunch on Isola Pescatori before heading to Isola Madre. A walking tour will acquaint us with the largest of the three islands in the archipelago. We'll wander among the well-known English style gardens – the Giardini Botanici dell'Isola Madre – dating from about 1823, which cover 20 acres on the site of a former citrus orchard. The evening is free. (Please note that if you are joining this tour from our *Italian Lakes* tour, your guide will make arrangements for an alternate activity on this day) **(B) OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH - Heading up through the Alps today, we travel north from the Italian-speaking, Swiss canton of Ticino and on into the heart of the mountains. We'll break our journey in the lakeside town of Lugano just after crossing the border and then enjoy the breathtaking mountain scenery on the way to Lucerne. After checking in to our hotel, there will be time to relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**

MONDAY, MAY 8TH - This morning a walking tour of the old town takes us across the famous covered bridge, the Kapellbrücke, past the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) and through the unspoiled pedestrian areas of Kornmarkt and Weinmarkt to see the remains of the old city walls. There will be free time to shop, explore and have lunch before we gather again for an afternoon excursion up nearby Mt. Pilatus. We ascend by cable car and come back down by the steepest cog railway in the world! Should the weather take away the views, you can always spend the afternoon in Bucherer's, Switzerland's largest clock and watch outlet, but remember, it will always be sunny on top of the mountain above the clouds. The evening is free to explore Lucerne nightlife. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**



TUESDAY, MAY 9TH - Our excursion today takes us through archetypical beautiful Swiss countryside of mountains, valleys and lakes. Our first stop pays homage to William Tell at the Hohle Gasse to see the commemorative chapel that marks the place where Tell lay in wait for the evil bailiff Gessler, to get his revenge. From here, we return to the shores of the Vierwaldstättersee (also known as Lake Lucerne) at Kusunacht and follow the lakeshore south to the picturesque town of Weggis. We'll stop to explore this beautiful lakeside resort town and have lunch. A short boat ride on the lake brings us to the charming town of Vitznau, where we meet our bus and return to our hotel in Lucerne for an evening at the Stadtkeller, a Lucerne institution, where you can enjoy traditional Swiss food and entertainment. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH - Leaving Lucerne, we stop in the lakeside town of Zug on our way to Zurich. We'll take a gentle walk around historic downtown Zug, ending at the Galerie Gmurzynska for a visit. For a small town, the gallery has

very impressive exhibits by internationally-acclaimed modern artists. After a break for lunch, we'll take the Zugerberg Bahn funicular railway up into the mountains. The views overlooking the lake and its surroundings are stunning. On our return to Zug, there may be time to do a little shopping before we continue to our hotel in Zurich. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH - Our morning sightseeing with a local guide takes us through Zurich's historic town center on foot. We'll see the guild houses, and the three great churches of St. Peter, Grossmunster and Fraumunster. And of course we'll stop at a chocolate maker for a tasting! The afternoon is free - you may choose to take one of the many lake cruises on offer. The evening is also free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH - This morning we drive to the town of Appenzell. Here we'll have lunch and visit a cheese factory for a demonstration of the cheese-making process. We return to Zurich for a free afternoon. Sandi will take those interested to see the fabulous collection at the Kunsthaus art museum. This evening we gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH - Morning transfers to Zurich Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner