

Swiss Alpine Adventure By Rail

With Chris Harding
22 September – 7 October 2019

• ZÜRICH • MONTREUX • INTERLAKEN • BRIG •
• FILISUR • CHUR • ST MORITZ • LUCERNE •



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

OVERVIEW

Switzerland's vertical landscapes have long attracted romantics and travellers. The railway revolution of the nineteenth century saw little trains daring to ascend the highest peaks by ingenious and inventive methods of engineering, making some of Europe's most spectacular scenery accessible to all. Train travel is central to Swiss life, and its rail network is one of the most efficient, and easily the most patronised network per head of population in the world. This finely-tuned adventure, led by your experienced Switzerland expert Chris Harding, will take you through the heart of the Alps to explore a wonderful mix of the country's key historical, cultural and scenic destinations.

Gruyeres Village

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the magnificent Chateau de Chillon, rich with a thousand years of history
- Visit Gruyères Castle and the picture-book village below
- Ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfrauoch and experience breathtaking views of Switzerland's largest glacier
- Ride the famous Gornergrat rack railway and visit Switzerland's most iconic mountain, the Matterhorn
- Enjoy a three-course lunch through picturesque landscapes on the world's slowest express train, the Glacier Express
- Climb over the multiple Albula spiral tunnels and viaducts to the highest crossing of the Alps aboard the Bernina Express
- Enjoy a guided walking tour through Chur, Switzerland's oldest town
- Explore the multitude of museums, including the National Railway Museum in Lucerne
- Ride the famous Rigi - Europe's Oldest cogwheel railway



MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

CHRIS HARDING

Chris is President of the Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division. He was employed for many years in the banking sector, working in international finance, lending, and administration in Sydney, Wollongong and London. In his spare time, Chris pursued an active interest in railway history as a tour guide and office-bearer at the NSW Rail Transport Museum, Thirlmere. Eventually he had the opportunity to leave the world of banking and work for 3801 Limited, the operating company of the famous steam locomotive 3801.

Later, he managed the ARHS Railway Bookshop at Sydney's Central Station. He became the media contact for commentary on historic and current railway events, frequently appearing on talk-back radio and television. Although retired, Chris still enjoys working with his mate, Scott, hosting many railway adventures in Australia and Europe, including the always-popular Switzerland tour.

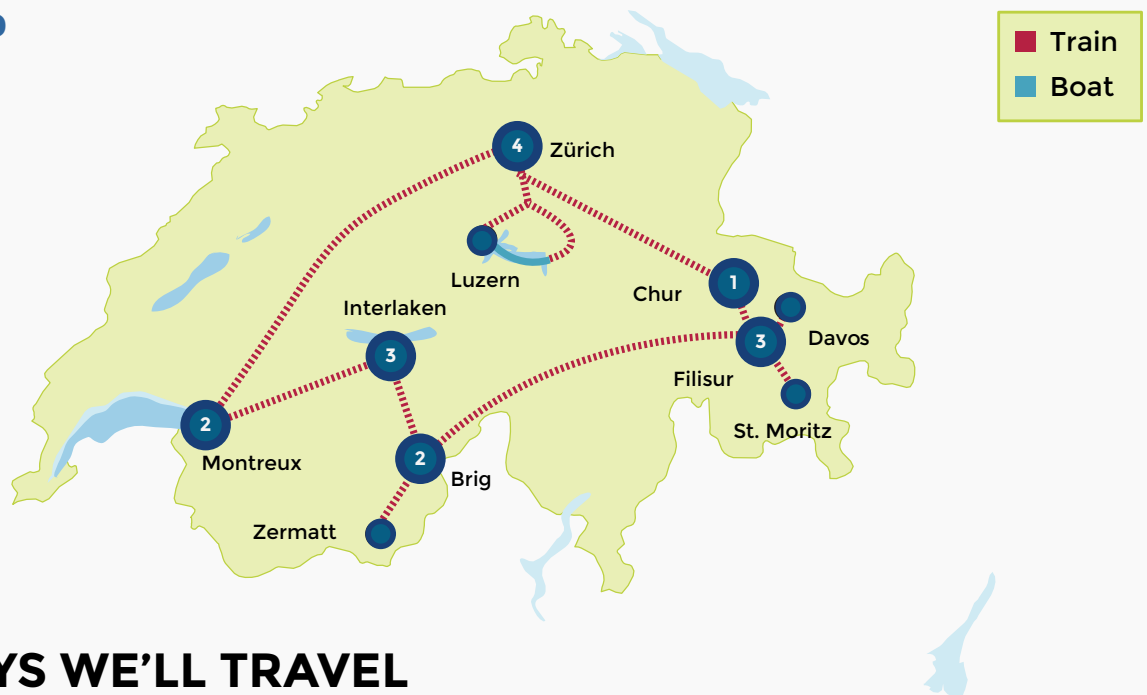
WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular holiday destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what you find at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN EXPECT:

- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years' experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it's a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, you can be sure of experiencing something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.
- **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Fully escorted** — our tour leaders are experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides have your needs well covered. They help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and enabling you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you'll find them jolly good company, to boot!
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.

TOUR MAP



SOME WAYS WE'LL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.



Bernina Express



Glacier Express



Gornegrat

Day 1 • Sunday 22 September 2019: ZURICH

Welcome to Switzerland! Join Chris and our fellow travellers for a tantalising welcome dinner in our private room at our hotel's restaurant, a fantastic introduction to this country's hearty and decadent cuisine.

Hotel: Swissotel, Oerlikon (D)

Day 2 • Monday 23 September • ZURICH - MONTREUX

Utilising our Swiss Rail passes, we depart Zurich and make our way to the charming town of Montreux on beautiful Lake Geneva. On this journey we'll begin to experience some of the breathtaking scenery this country has to offer. After checking in to our hotel right on the lake, we'll enjoy a short trip to visit the magnificent Chateau de Chillon. A thousand years of history is contained in this iconic castle standing proudly on an island in the lake, truly a jewel of Switzerland. Our expert local guide, dressed in period costume, will help to paint a picture of the life and legends inside this labyrinth of rooms, halls and dungeons. Dinner tonight will be in our hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva.

Hotel: Eurotel Riviera, Montreux (B, D)

Day 3 • Tuesday 24 September • MONTREUX

After breakfast we'll meet in the hotel lobby and board our train, climbing the scenic hills overlooking Lake Geneva to the beautiful old town of Gruyères, the home of Alien creator H. R. Giger and the famous cheese factory. A three-minute bus ride takes us to the beautiful, historic town of Gruyères Ville. Gruyères Castle and the picture-book village is a great spot to enjoy some free time for shopping and lunch. Built between 1270 and 1282, the castle is one of the most prestigious in Switzerland and towers majestically above the quaint medieval town below.

Hotel: Eurotel Riviera, Montreux (B)

Day 4 • Wednesday 25 September • MONTREUX - INTERLAKEN

Today, we take the Golden Panoramic Express back over the renowned Golden Pass. A quick change at Zweisimmen and we're off to our destination at the lakeside town of Interlaken Ost. The route we take reveals stunning views of Lake Geneva and the "Teeth of the Midi", one of Switzerland's most dramatic ranges.

Upon arrival we'll check in to our hotel right on the lake before taking a round trip by ferry on the turquoise Lake Brienz. A boat ride on this typical alpine lake with its steep sides is a truly impressive experience. Dinner is at our hotel later in the evening.

Hotel: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (B, D)

Day 5 • Thursday 26 September • INTERLAKEN

Travel on the local service for a journey to the beautiful town of Lauterbrunnen, situated in one of the most impressive glacial trough valleys in the Alps, between gigantic rock faces and mountain peaks. Following this we'll ride the longest rack railway in Europe to its highest station, the Jungfraujoch, where we'll experience breathtaking views of Switzerland's largest glacier. Take the elevator to the Sphinx observatory and brave the outside deck for amazing views of the Jungfrau, Monch, Eiger mountains, and the Aletsch Glacier. Return to Interlaken after taking a stroll through the village of Lauterbrunnen where the cascading waterfalls frame the town.

Hotel: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (B, D)

Day 6 • Friday 27 September • INTERLAKEN

Today is a free day to explore the Interlaken area at your leisure. You might like to take the cable car to the top of the Schilthorn mountain (which features in the very first James Bond movie), ride the bus from Lauterbrunnen to the Trummelbach subterranean waterfalls, or the inclined railway to Harder Kulm for amazing views over the lake. This can all be done utilising your handy Swiss Rail Pass. Meet back at our hotel's restaurant in the evening to compare notes on the day's activities.

Hotel: Hotel du Lac, Interlaken (B)

Day 7 • Saturday 28 September • INTERLAKEN - BRIG

After a late start this morning we'll take the old railway route through the Kander Valley, original Lotschberg Tunnel, and the thrilling descent of the Rhone Valley to Brig, a charming medieval city with an imposing 17th-century castle overlooking the town.

After checking in to our hotel, take a stroll around the town and pay a visit to the Stockalper Palace, a baroque place built by the merchant prince Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper and one of the most important in Switzerland. We'll enjoy dinner at our hotel later on.

Hotel: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B, D)

Day 8 • Sunday 29 September • BRIG

Board a local train this morning, travelling along the valley and up the gorge to Zermatt at the base of the awe-inspiring Matterhorn. It may not be Switzerland's highest mountain but it certainly is its most iconic. The famous Gornergrat rack railway, from Zermatt to the shoulder of Mont Rosa at 3135 metres, is the highest open-air railway in Europe. The spectacular viewing platform showcases views across 29 of the highest peaks of the Alps and the vast Gorner Glacier below. Stay as long as you like at the summit, and return on one of the regular trains to Zermatt for a leisurely look around, before returning to Brig later on.

Hotel: Ambassador Hotel, Brig (B)



Landwasser viaduct



Day 9 • Monday 30 September • BRIG - FILISUR

Today we will take the famous Glacier Express for a run over the Oberalp Pass to the alpine village of Filisur. You'll be glad of the fact that this is the world's slowest express train, as we leisurely take in the stunning scenery and array of remarkable railway engineering feats. Soak up views of rugged cliffs, crystal-clear mountain lakes and quaint, picture-perfect villages. This is truly one of the greatest rail journeys of the world! This scenic trip will include lunch and commentary.

Reaching the little hamlet of Filisur, we check in to the famous Grischuna Hotel for three nights, which is located, very conveniently, right on the station. Join Chris for an afternoon stroll to the world-famous Landwasser Viaduct. This spectacular construction is best viewed from the easily-accessible lookout. A four-course dinner is included every night at the Grischuna. Hotel: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, L, D)

Day 10 • Tuesday 1 October • FILISUR

Today is a free day and there are a number of options on offer. Take a short train trip up to the nearby Davos and Klosters (keep an eye out for the Barentritt), have lunch and shop in St. Moritz, or see the Albula museum at Bergun. Intrepid explorers can take a walk down between the viaducts of the famous Albula "Circus", where the railway circles over the soaring stone viaducts as it climbs over itself three times.

We'll re-group for dinner in our hotel's charming little dining room this evening. Hotel: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, D)

Day 11 • Wednesday 2 October • FILISUR

An exciting and beautiful rail trip is scheduled today on board the Bernina Express to Tirano in Northern Italy, an exquisite trip that totally epitomizes Swiss rail. We'll climb over the multiple Albula spiral tunnels and viaducts to the highest crossing of the Alps before rapidly descending over 1600 metres from the snow to the city of Tirano, a charming Italian town with a wonderful collection of cafés and restaurants. Here we'll have some free time for lunch before the train returns on this stunning railway back to our hotel in Filisur, taking you from the snow to the palm trees. Dinner is once again in our hotel's fantastic restaurant. Hotel: Grischuna Hotel, Filisur (B, D)

Day 12 • Thursday 3 October • FILISUR - CHUR

Today we'll take the Regional Express to the historic city of Chur, the oldest city in Switzerland and the capital of the Canton of Graubünden. Our modern hotel is just a short walk from the station and following check-in we'll embark on a guided walking tour of the city through the old town and into the area of the Bishop's Palace and the historic 12th-century church. Dinner will be hosted at the 1793 authentic local Swiss restaurant, Drei Könige later in the evening.

Hotel: ABC Hotel, Chur (B, D)

Day 13 • Friday 4 October • CHUR - ZURICH

Following breakfast we'll ride the RhB down the main street and steep climb to the lakeside resort village of Arosa, flying over the famous Longweiss Viaduct on-route. This is without doubt the best short train ride you can take in Switzerland. On return, we'll catch the regional express to Zurich, running via the scenic Walensee Lake and Lake Zurich.

The afternoon is free, with many options for you to continue exploring this wonderful and vibrant city.

Hotel: Swissotel, Oerlikon (B)

Day 14 • Saturday 5 October • ZURICH

We begin our comprehensive tour of Zurich with a ride on the express train to the lakeside village of Arth Goldau, where we'll board the Rigi cogwheel train which operates over a 7% incline (1 in 14). We'll then head over the mountain to Vitznau to take in the stunning views of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding mountains, before a short ferry ride to the charming city of Lucerne. Here we'll pay a visit to the Swiss Transport Museum and experience the history of various forms of transportation used in bygone times, encompassing planes, trains, boats and automobiles. You can spend as long as you like here, with the option to explore the Old City and the famous Muenster bridge close by.

Later on we'll return to Zurich by train or take the option to stay in Lucerne and look around this beautiful city, with its historic covered bridge and atmospheric old town. There are regular trains to whisk you back to Zurich at your leisure.

Hotel: Swissotel, Oerlikon (B)

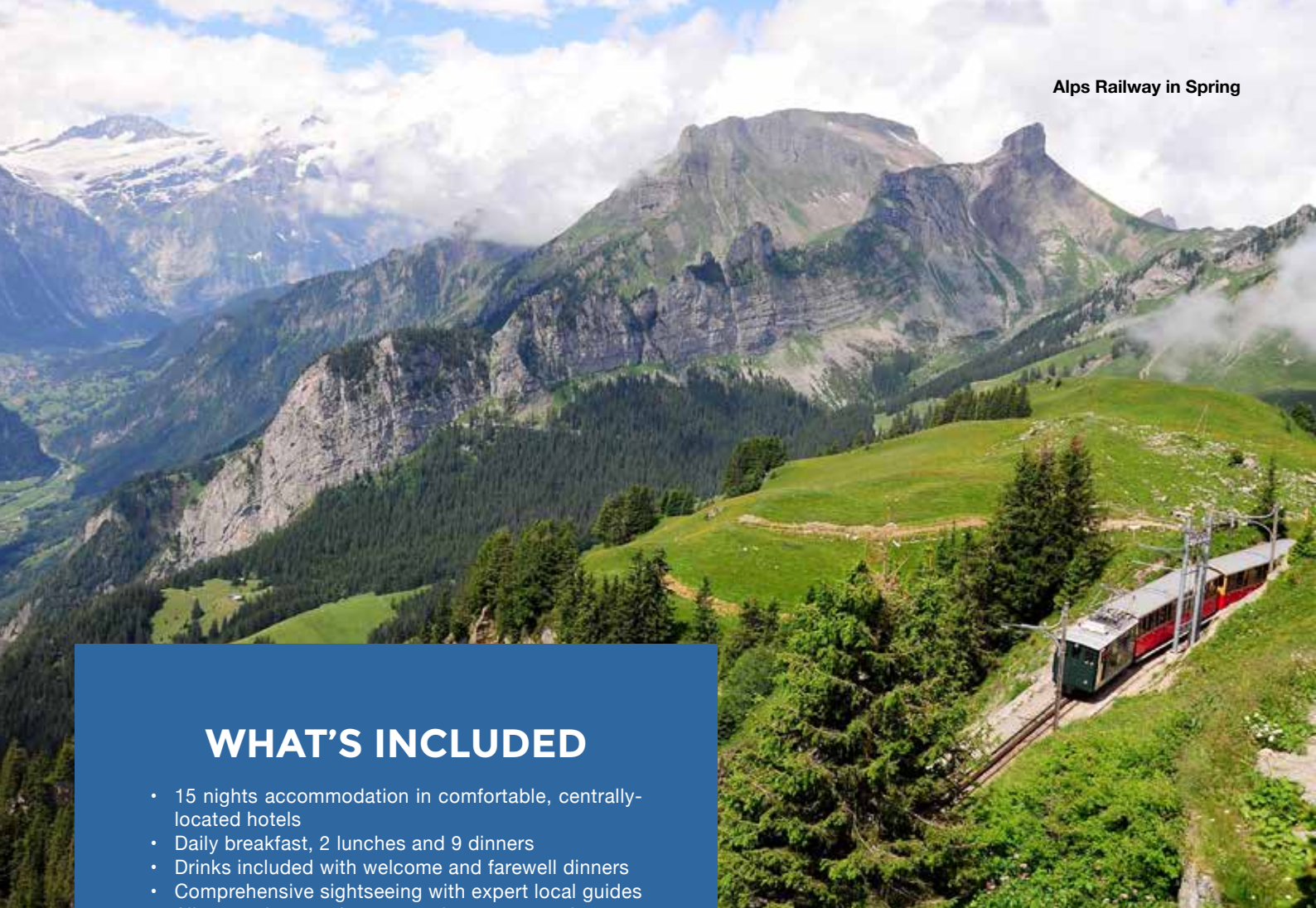
Day 15 • Sunday 6 October • ZURICH

We'll start our day with a guided walking tour of the city's atmospheric Old Town. Zurich's origins date back as far as 15 BC which explains why the city is so full of rich, old world charm. Our local tour guide will engage us with colourful stories and anecdotes while introducing you to some of the highlights including Bahnhofstrasse, Niederdorf, Grossmünster Cathedral, Lindenhof and more. The tour finishes back at the station where we will depart for a short journey along the lake to Adliswil to connect with the cable car that takes us up to Felsenegg Peak. Here we'll enjoy a lovely farewell all-you-can-eat cheese fondue lunch at the mountain restaurant with its brilliant views of Lake Zurich and the Alps. A great way to wrap up our wonderful Swiss adventure.

Hotel: Swissotel, Oerlikon (B, L)

Day 16 • Monday 7 October • ZURICH - DEPART (B)

After breakfast, we check out and say goodbye. For guests returning home, Zurich airport is only a few minutes by rail from our station. These are regular services which do not require reservations.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodation in comfortable, centrally-located hotels
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches and 9 dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
- Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- International flights
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, camera fees where applicable
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure



SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings, weather events forcing a change of itinerary, unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation. While you don't need to be a 'gym junkie', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website

