

# HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



## ALPINE SPLENDOR SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA AUGUST 22–SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The towering peaks of the Alps serve as the stunning backdrop for this Swiss and Austrian exploration, which also dips into Italy and Liechtenstein. From lovely Lucerne to “Stage of the World” Salzburg, discover mountain villages and European cities, ride the famed *Glacier Express*, cruise on glassy lakes, and ascend snowcapped summits.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Level 3

### SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner*

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

DEPART U.S. FOR ZURICH,  
SWITZERLAND

This evening, depart for Europe.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

ARRIVE ZURICH / LAKE LUCERNE

Arrive in Zurich and transfer to your hotel on the shores of Lake Lucerne. After checking in, meet for a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: *Renaissance Lucerne* (D)

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

LUCERNE/MT. PILATUS

In the morning, encounter historic and alluring Lucerne, surrounded by mountains and sitting on its namesake lake. Visit the medieval Old Town and cross treasured Kapellbrücke (Chapel Bridge), the oldest covered bridge in Europe.

Later, ride the world's steepest cogwheel train to the summit of nearby Mt. Pilatus for stunning views across the surrounding countryside.

Overnight: *Renaissance Lucerne* (B)

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

LAKE LUCERNE / ZERMATT

Begin the day with a ferry ride on Lake Lucerne, passing Rütli meadow, legendary “birthplace of Switzerland.”

Disembark at Flüelen to board a coach to Andermatt, where you board the celebrated *Glacier Express* train, renowned for its panoramic views as it sweeps through striking valleys, past mountain hamlets, and follows the course of the fabled Rhône River. The adventure on this famed route ends in Zermatt, in the shadow of the Matterhorn.

In the evening, enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Overnight: *Resort Hotel Alex* (B, D)

## **MONDAY, AUGUST 26**

### **ZERMATT / GORNERGRAT**

Sitting in a low-slung notch, Zermatt is surrounded by towering slopes. Get a unique view of the spectacular scenery this morning as you ride the Gornergratbahn, the highest open-air railway in Europe, to the summit of the Gornergrat. Atop this rocky ridge, a dramatic tapestry unfolds all around: 29 Alpine peaks, each over 13,000 feet, including the majestic Matterhorn standing alone at nearly 15,000 feet.

After admiring the jaw-dropping scenery, begin your descent by train to Zermatt, where the remainder of the day is free to explore this very walkable village as you wish.

Overnight: *Resort Hotel Alex* (B)

## **TUESDAY, AUGUST 27**

### **ZERMATT / STRESA, ITALY / LUGANO**

Travel by coach today through more superb Swiss scenery, and cross into northern Italy via the legendary Simplon Pass through the Alps.

Later in the morning, arrive in Stresa, Italy, along the shores of lovely Lake Maggiore, where you have time to explore and enjoy lunch on your own.

Then, a scenic drive through the famed Italian lake district returns you to Switzerland and your hotel in lakeside Lugano.

Overnight: *Hotel Lugano Dante* (B, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**

### **LUGANO / BELLINZONA / ASCONA**

Today's tour of Ticino, Switzerland's southernmost canton, begins in medieval Bellinzona, with its three feudal castles, all UNESCO sites.

Visit Castelgrande, the iconic central castle where you explore the ramparts and expansive grounds, then enjoy regional fare as

you lunch alfresco at a local grotto restaurant built around mountain caves.

After lunch, coach to the former artists' colony of Ascona on the shores of Lake Maggiore before returning to Lugano.

Overnight: *Hotel Lugano Dante* (B, L)

## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 29**

### **LAKE LUGANO**

After a free morning to explore Lugano independently, board a motorboat for a private half-day cruise around Lake Lugano.

Put ashore at Morcote, a town barely a mile square whose cobbled streets, terraced gardens, and Mediterranean charm led Swiss citizens in 2016 to name it the nation's loveliest village.

After lunch together and time to explore, continue your cruise with a stop in Gandria, whose stucco façades seem to cling precariously to the side of Monte Brè.

Overnight: *Hotel Lugano Dante* (B, L)

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**

### **LUGANO / VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN / SEEFELD, AUSTRIA**

Leaving the Lake District today, head for Austria by way of the tiny sovereign nation of Liechtenstein.

Reach the country's scenic capital of Vaduz mid-morning then have some free time to explore and have lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, visit the Cellars of the Prince of Liechtenstein, set on 10 grape-growing acres just outside Vaduz. Stroll through the vineyard, tour the wine cellars, and sample the wines on offer.

Continue to Austria, reaching your hotel in the mountain village of Seefeld early in the evening. Dine together at your hotel tonight.

Overnight: *Hotel Seelos* (B, D)

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 31**

### **SEEFELD / INNSBRUCK**

This morning, coach to nearby Innsbruck, host of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics. A walking tour highlights the postcard-worthy sights, including the many pedestrian squares surrounded by pastel-colored façades.

Take a cable car to a lookout in the Nordkette, the “mountain at the heart of Innsbruck,” to enjoy panoramic views of the city and the surrounding Alps.

Have time on your own in Innsbruck before returning to Seefeld.

Overnight: *Hotel Seelos* (B, D)

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

### **SEEFELD / TYROL / SALZBURG**

Today, travel through Tyrol, en route to Salzburg. Stop to visit the Museum of Tyrolean Farms, an interactive outdoor exhibit featuring dozens of preserved farmhouses dating from the 15th century onwards.

Continue to Salzburg, Austria’s riverside jewel and city of Mozart and *The Sound of Music*. Following dinner together, attend a Baroque chamber music concert in the Marble Room of famed Mirabell Palace.

Overnight: *Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg* (B, D)

## **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

### **SALZBURG**

Your walking tour this morning features the geometrically styled Mirabell Gardens, dating to the 17th century; the Baroque Old Town, now a UNESCO World Heritage site; and visits to Salzburg Cathedral and medieval Hohensalzburg Fortress, one of Europe’s largest and best-preserved castles.

The remainder of the day is at leisure for independent exploration and dinner on your own.

Overnight: *Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg* (B)

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

### **SALZBURG / EAGLE’S NEST / BERCHTESGADEN**

Travel today to the Bavarian resort town of Berchtesgaden, site of the cliff-top Kehlsteinhaus (Eagle’s Nest), the Nazi Party’s alpine retreat.

Berchtesgaden (founded in the 12th century) had long been a favorite summer destination for Bavarian rulers well before Hitler established residency, but the spectacular alpine setting took on international notoriety and historical importance in World War II. While the Eagle’s Nest has outlasted its political importance, it still offers magnificent views—and also the opportunity to remember and learn about the brutal dictatorship it served.

After lunch together, take a walking tour of the village of Berchtesgaden, once the residence of the Bavarian royal family.

Return to Salzburg, where the rest of the afternoon is at leisure before you celebrate your splendid journey at a farewell dinner.

Overnight: *Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg* (B, L, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

### **DEPART FOR U.S.**

Transfer today to the Munich airport for your return flight(s) to the U.S. ✈

*Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain in a natural environment. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest. Elevations at hotel locations are not severe, ranging from 1,400 ft. to 5,200 ft. The altitude on some excursions—Gornergrat (10,300 ft.) and other Alpine venues (6,000–7,500 ft.)—could pose problems for guests with certain health conditions. You should consult your personal physician if you have concerns.*