



SWITZERLAND: THE ALPS TO THE ITALIAN LAKES – A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Take in some of Europe's most scenic vistas on this journey combining the beautiful Swiss Alps with Italy's glorious Lakes District.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Italy, Switzerland



11 days from AU\$22,955 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Take in some of Europe’s most scenic vistas on this journey combining the beautiful Swiss Alps with Italy’s glorious Lakes District. Soak up the stunning scenery and natural landscapes of the region, along with unique cities.

Journey Highlights

- Arrive in Zermatt in style on the Glacier Express, which affords first-class seating, unique glass ceilings and views of Switzerland’s beautiful mountain scenery
- Gain private access to Bern’s landmark Zytglogge bell tower for an intimate guided visit
- Savour famously smooth Swiss chocolate during a tasting workshop at an independent producer
- Take a private boat tour of Lake Maggiore, and enjoy a special farewell dinner on beautiful Isola Bella



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Zurich, Switzerland

Arrive in Zurich, Switzerland's largest city and one with a well-deserved reputation for offering a high quality of life, among the best in the world. You are met and transferred to your hotel, where you meet your fellow guests this evening for dinner.

Mandarin Oriental Savoy, Zurich | Meals: D

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 several noteworthy ones, including the Fraumünster, with its Marc Chagall-designed stained glass windows, and the Grossmünster, supposedly founded by Charlemagne and later playing a key part in establishing the Reformation in Switzerland. After lunch at a local bierkeller (beer cellar), gather for a sweet finish with a visit to an independent chocolate producer. Learn about the fascinating history and production of Swiss chocolate at the last manufacturer who still starts with the raw cacao beans.

Mandarin Oriental Savoy, Zurich | Meals: BL

Day 3: Lucerne | Peaks of the Alps

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. There is time for lunch at leisure or further exploration, Continue to Alpnachstad and board the cogwheel train for a ride on the world's steepest railway to the top of Mt. Pilatus. Descend via a cable car and alpine gondola. Continue to your hotel in Bern, named for the bears that may still be seen in Europe's wilderness.

Bellevue Palace | Meals: BD

Day 4: Bern | Capital City

This morning, discover the charms of Switzerland’s intimate capital, strolling delightful old streets and stepping inside the Zytglogge for a private, guided visit of this legendary medieval clock tower. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure, free to relax or explore on your own. Tonight, dine at your elegant hotel.

Bellevue Palace | Meals: BD

Day 5: Interlaken | Play the Alphorn

Travel to the pretty mountain village of Habkern and partake in two Swiss traditions. Enjoy a special class with a yodel teacher and a lesson in the history of the famous alphorn. Once, these massive horns were used by herdsmen on the mountain slopes to communicate with people in the valleys below; today, they are enjoyed as musical instruments, and your lesson includes the option to play one yourself. After lunch, visit scenic Interlaken and cruise beautiful Lake Thun, surrounded by the glory of the Alps. Return to Bern for an evening at leisure.

Bellevue Palace | Meals: BL

Day 6: Zermatt | All Aboard the Glacier Express

Drive to Stans for a visit to the Culinarium Alpinum, a centre where chefs, schnapps distillers, farmers, butchers, sommeliers, cheesemakers and master bakers come together to help preserve Alpine culinary heritage. Join a guide for a tour with tastings, culminating in a traditional Swiss fondue lunch. Then, board the renowned Glacier Express, traversing majestic scenery in your first-class carriage, and enjoying dinner onboard before arriving in the mountain town of Zermatt — a popular waypoint for Alpine explorers.

Grand Hotel Zermatterhof | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Zermatt | Design Your Day

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities:

- **Ascend to the Summit of Gornegrat Mountain** by cog railroad to take in vistas of the Matterhorn and more.
- **Hike in the Zermatt Mountains** with an expert guide to see picturesque alpine lakes that reflect jaw-dropping scenery.
- **Indulge in a Spa Experience**, taking advantage of your hotel’s exceptional amenities for a relaxing massage.

Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure.

Grand Hotel Zermatterhof | Meals: B

Day 8: Stresa, Italy | Shores of Lake Maggiore

A short train ride takes you out of Zermatt today. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in the spectacular Simplon Pass before arriving in the Italian Lakes District and the beautiful resort town 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 and enjoy a Scenic Sundowner overlooking the glittering lake, followed by a fine dinner.

Hotel La Palma | Meals: BLD

Day 9: Stresa | Picturesque Island

Drive to Orta San Giulio, a charming medieval town resting upon a shimmering lake. 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 nearby island of San Giulio to see its Benedictine monastery and church. Legend claims the island was once infested by serpents and monsters that terrorised local villages, until patron saint Julius of Novara arrived with a great storm at his back and banished them forever. Return to Stresa in the afternoon.

Hotel La Palma | Meals: BL

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 caf  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: BD

Day 11: Depart Milan

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

Meals: B

Journey Details

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.

Please note that alternative accommodations for Days 6-7 will be featured on the following departure dates: 15 May, 29 May, 5 Jun, 18 Sep, 25 Sep & 2 Oct 2025. Guests will be staying at *Schweizerhof Zermatt*.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Accommodation

Grand Hotel Zermatterhof



Built towards the end of the 19th century to accommodate wealthy city-dwellers who sought fresh mountain air during their holidays, the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof has upheld a long tradition of offering five-star hospitality to discerning travellers visiting the historic alpine village of Zermatt.

While guestrooms and suites have been brought into the 21st century with an array of modern updates, they retain a timeless Swiss highland charm with interiors featuring classic timber furniture and local pine panelling. Many also provide views over the imposing snow-capped Matterhorn.

Guests at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof are treated to a wide variety of cuisines at this hotel including French and Italian. The Swiss cheese restaurant is well worth a visit, presenting diners the opportunity to sample the many cheeses produced in the Valais region, and of course, fondue. In the evening, unwind with a nightcap by the crackling fireplace in the bar.

Since most of the activities in and around Zermatt involve spending time outdoors in the cool alpine environment, the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof offers many ways for guests to pamper themselves. Enjoy a relaxing massage or facial treatment in the wellness spa, take a dip in the pool or get your circulation going by alternating between the sauna and ice grotto.

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

May 15, 2025 - May 25, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,955 pp	AU\$8,410	AU\$0	Limited Availability

May 29, 2025 - Jun 8, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,955 pp	AU\$8,410	AU\$0	Limited Availability

Jun 5, 2025 - Jun 15, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Jun 12, 2025 - Jun 22, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Jun 26, 2025 - Jul 6, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Jul 17, 2025 - Jul 27, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Available

Sep 4, 2025 - Sep 14, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 11, 2025 - Sep 21, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 18, 2025 - Sep 28, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Available

Sep 25, 2025 - Oct 5, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 2, 2025 - Oct 12, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$24,485 pp	AU\$8,870	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

**Call Us Now on
1300 851 924
within Australia**

Melbourne Office:

T: +61 (0)3 9536 1800

F: +61 (0) 3 9536 1805

E: contact@abercrombiekent.com.au

Address

Level 26 (North Tower)

80 Collins St

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

International:

New Zealand Call: 0800 441 638

Asia Call: 800 4747 7700