

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN<sup>™</sup>

SWISS RAIL SPECTACULAR III JULY 4 - JULY 17, 2023

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# **SWISS RAIL SPECTACULAR III**

July 4 - July 17, 2023



Experience the unparalleled beauty of Switzerland's mountainous landscapes in luxury and style, as we travel on the country's most exquisite and historic trains during our 14-day tour.

Travelling by day onboard the luxurious Orient-Express style Prestige Continental Express and other historic trains, we marvel at some of Europe's most breathtaking alpine vantage points, including the historic Furka Pass, the Gornergrat Railway and the Jungfraujoch, as we relax and enjoy the sumptuous onboard cuisine and musical entertainment.

Each evening will be spent in luxury hotel accommodation in the heart of each destination. To add to the grandeur of this incredibly special tour we will also experience the splendour of the beautiful Glacier & Bernina Pullman Express and will be hauled by some of Switzerland's most historic locomotives such as the "RhB Crocodil" along the way.

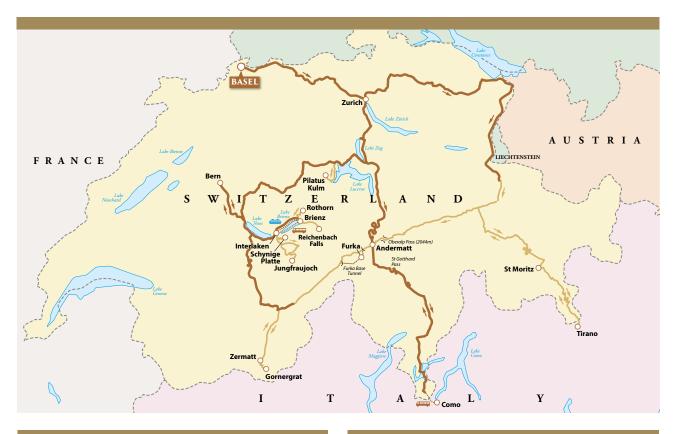
This unique, tour has been created by our Company Founder & President, Tim Littler, as a celebration of these magnificent historic trains and alpine railways. A truly incredible opportunity, not to be missed.

## Key for included meals





# SWISS RAIL SPECTACULAR III



## **2023 TOUR SCHEDULES**

July 4 - July 17, 2023



DAY 1	Basel	DAY 8	Interlaken and
DAY 2	St Moritz		the Jungfrau Region
	Via Landquart	DAY 9	Schynige-Platte
DAY 3	Tirano		Alpine Garden
DAY 4	Andermatt	DAY 10	Jungfraujoch
DAY 5	Furka Mountain Pass	DAY 11	Brienz & Brienzer
DAY 6	Gornergrat		Rothorn Bahn
	& The Matterhorn	DAY 12	Lake Como
DAY 7	Interlaken	DAY 13	Pilatus Bahn & Zurich
		DAY 14	Zurich

**TOUR ITINERARY** 

BASEL - ST MORITZ - TIRANO (ITALY) - ANDERMATT - ZERMATT - BERN INTERLAKEN (JUNGFRAU REGION) - LAKE COMO (ITALY) - PILATUS KULM - ZURICH





# WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

### **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (13 NIGHTS)**

Overnights in luxury accommodation is included throughout the journey. You will find your hotel room a welcome retreat at the end of the day. All hotels are of at least four-star standard.

#### **TRAIN TRAVEL**

Most travel will be on board our private charter of the Prestige Continental Express & Bernina Pullman Express. Where we travel on historic or regular trains, we will be accommodated in first class where available.

### **MEALS (13 BREAKFASTS, 9 LUNCHES, 11 DINNERS)**

Meals are included as marked in the itinerary B – Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner. Meals will be taken either in the restaurant cars on board our trains or in specially selected local restaurants or hotels.

### **DRINKS WITH MEALS**

A drinks allowance, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, is included with meals on and off the train.

## **EXPERIENCED TOUR MANAGERS**

Our experiences Tour Managers are selected for their travel knowledge and organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your holiday.

### **GUIDED OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS**

We include several guided excursions, such as the Triacco Winery and the fortress at St. Gotthard's Pass plus special train journeys as detailed in the itinerary.

#### PORTERAGE

Porterage is included. All baggage is taken directly from hotel to hotel by road and will be in your room upon arrival.

#### **ALL GRATUITIES**

You will not have to worry about tipping on or off the train on your rail journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains as all gratuities are included in the tour price.

## Thank you for choosing Golden Eagle Luxury Trains.





# **HEALTH & SAFETY ASSURANCE**

#### **ALWAYS OUR PRIORITY**

We want our guests to travel with the peace of mind that every detail of their rail experience has been taken care of. The health and safety of our guests and staff is of paramount importance to us and we approach all our departures with the same diligence to ensure that our guests have a safe, fulfilling, and enjoyable travel experience. If you have any concerns or questions regarding health and safety on board, please speak to your Tour Leader.

## DAY TO DAY TOUR PRACTICALITIES

Your Tour Leader will take care of the tour details for you to enjoy the destinations and scenery we travel through.

Daily programs will be provided in the evening for the next day of touring and all-important announcements will be made during the day. Should you decide not to join any of the organized touring and would prefer to make private arrangements, please speak to your Tour Leader.

Your luggage will be delivered to the next hotel en-route by separate road transport (It will not be travelling with the group on special trains). It is important you attach the luggage tags with your name to all your bags you wish to transfer from hotel to hotel. If you have any questions or concerns about luggage handling, please speak to your Tour Leader.

Special dietary requirements can be catered for provided requests have been made before departure, please contact your Tour Leader if you have any questions.

Solid shoes and clothing according to the weather conditions are essential. The sun can be deceptively strong even if the temperature feels cool. This is especially so at altitude and on the lakes, so we suggest that you use a sunscreen.

The following information relates specifically to your rail journey and areas you'll be visiting.

**NOTE:** Detailed information for each touring day will be provided in daily programs.



# DAY BASEL

Transfers from Basel Airport to central Basel, close to Basel SBB station where our train will leave tomorrow morning. Tonight, we enjoy a dinner in a local restaurant in Basel for all guests.

Overnight at GAIA Hotel, Basel Meal Arrangements D



# BASEL VIA ZURICH TO ST MORITZ

This morning we join the Prestige Continental Express private train in Basel SBB Station.

Once on board we will have lunch as we depart for the Swiss city of Landquart, where we change to the narrow-gauge Rhaetian Railway (RhB) and the Glacier & Bernina Pullman Express for the journey up to the exclusive alpine resort of St. Moritz.

Our travels will take us through the Albula Pass between Filisur and St. Moritz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today our three-coach train will be hauled by the historic 108-year-old RhB electric locomotive Nr 353.

Overnight at Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz Meal Arrangements (B) (D)





Today we travel Switzerland's famous Bernina Line to Tirano, Italy. From St. Moritz we travel in the Glacier & Bernina Pullman Express cars hauled by a unique and historic Bernina 'Crocodil' electric locomotive Nr 182, built 1928.

During the final 17km of the journey we will cross the incredible spiral stone viaduct at Brusio. Once in Tirano, Italy we spend time enjoying the Valtellina Valley and visit the Triacco Winery where we will have lunch, before retracing our steps by bus back to St. Moritz.

Tonight, we will enjoy a traditional Swiss dinner near to the Morteratsch Glacier.

Overnight at Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz Meal Arrangements (B) (D)



# ANDERMATT

This morning we depart St. Moritz for Andermatt on the Glacier & Bernina Pullman Express.

Once again, we will enjoy the hospitality of the RhB's historic Pullman train but today hauled by RhB 'Crocodil' Nr 414 or 415, built 1929.

Our travels will take us by train through the Rheinschlucht Gorge, very close to the source of the Rhine River and across the Oberalp Pass to Andermatt, our stepping-stone for the Furka Pass.

After checking-in to the exclusive five-star Hotel Chedi our guests can either take advantage of the hotel's extensive Spa & Wellness facilities or take an option to travel by bus along the Gotthard Pass to visit the huge Sasso Da Pigna Fortress that guarded it from 1943. Closed in 1998 it re-opened as the Gotthard Museum Sasso in 2012.

Overnight at Hotel Chedi, Andermatt Meal Arrangements **(b) (b)** 





Today we cross one of the most beautiful mountainpasses in the world, the Furka Pass. The Dampfbahn Furka-Bergstrecke (Furka Cogwheel Steam Railway) is a largely volunteer operated heritage railway which operates a partially rack and pinion operated line across the Furka Pass which peaks at 2,160 metres (7,086 feet) above sea level.

The Furka Pass has been gradually brought back into service using original equipment and is now restored to its former glory. The 100-year-old steam locomotive will take us to the summit. We then descend under the Rhône glacier to Gletsch for lunch at the Hotel Castle Blitzingen, Niederwald. After lunch we join the modern Glacier Express (First Class) to Zermatt, home of the Matterhorn.

Overnight at Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt Meal Arrangements 🚯 🕒 🕑



# **GORNERGRAT &** THE MATTERHORN

This afternoon we take an exciting journey on the Gornergrat Railway on the Glacier Pullman Express attached to a Rack electric train. We travel to a height of 3,135 metres (10,285 feet) for the most incredible view of the Matterhorn. The Gornergrat is located between the Gornergletscher and Findelgletscher and offers a view of more than twenty peaks over 4,000 metres (13,123 feet).

A raclette dinner will be taken at the Al Bosco Restaurant, Riffelalp Resort, at 2,222m (7,290 ft) before returning to Zermatt.

Overnight at Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt Meal Arrangements (B)





We start the day descending from Zermatt on the panoramic cars of the regular Glacier Express before rejoining the steam-hauled Prestige Continental Express in Brig. From Brig we take lunch during our journey over the Lötschberg Pass before arriving into Bern. Here we enjoy a three-hour tour of the city, including one hour by historic steam tram.

From Bern we continue under steam haulage on board the Prestige Continental Express to Interlaken.

Overnight at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau and Spa, Interlaken Meal Arrangements (B) (D)



Interlaken will act as our base for the next few days as we visit the magical Jungfrau alpine region of Switzerland.

Today we will join a private steam train on the Ballenberg Dampfbahn to Meiringen and Innertkirchen. From here there is the choice to walk 2km through the spectacular Aareschlucht Gorge, followed a trip by Funicular to Reichenbach Falls, made famous by Arthur Conan Doyle as the spot where he killed off both Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty, before a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen then rejoining our steam train which will return us to Interlaken.

A second group has a more leisurely day by going straight from Innertkirchen to Reichenbach Falls, then visit the Sherlock Holmes Museum and some free time in Meiringen before returning to Interlaken by train.

Overnight at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau and Spa, Interlaken Meal Arrangements B







# SCHYNIGE-PLATTE ALPINE GARDEN

Today offers a morning at leisure where you can enjoy the facilities of the hotel or wander around the streets of Interlaken looking for souvenirs. Late afternoon we will depart by bus to Wilderswil before transferring to a special steam charter train on the Schynige-Platte Bahn Rack Railway where we will visit the Botanical Alpine Garden.

Overnight at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau and Spa, Interlaken Meal Arrangements B

# INTERLAKEN to JUNGFRAUJOCH

Today a fantastic day of touring awaits as we depart Interlaken by regular train for Grindelwald before transferring to the spectacularly modern Eiger Express tri-cable gondola which ascends to the Eigergletscher Station, situated at an elevation of 2,328 metres (7,673 feet) in just 15 minutes.

From here we transfer to the 'Jungfraubahn' and its distinctive red and yellow carriages which takes us the final leg of the journey to the summit of Jungfraujoch, known as the Top of Europe sitting at a height of 3,454 metres (11,332 feet) above sea level making this the highest railway station in Europe. There will be

time upon reaching the top of the mountain, weather permitting, to visit the Glacier Plateau viewpoint, Sphinx Observation Deck and Ice Palace.

We take the Jungfraubahn back down to Kleine Scheidegg for a late lunch before returning down the mountain to Grindelwald.

Overnight at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau and Spa, Interlaken Meal Arrangements 🔒 🕒 🗩



Today we leave Interlaken by scheduled train for the Brienzer Rothorn Steam Rack Railway. The town of Brienz has been known for centuries for its wood carving. as well as the stepping-stone for the Brienzer Rothorn Bahn, the fourth highest railway in Switzerland that reaches a height of 2,244 metres (7,360 feet).

Following lunch by the lake we cruise from Brienz returning to Interlaken on the 1914 paddle steamer SS Lötschberg.

Overnight at Hotel Victoria Jungfrau and Spa, Interlaken Meal Arrangements <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>





Overnight at Hilton Lake Como, Como Meal Arrangements **(3) (1) (b)** 

cruise on the lake before dinner in the evening.

**.AKE COMO** 



This morning we depart Chiasso on the Prestige Continental Express for Lucerne, changing to a narrow-gauge train for the short journey to Alpnachstad. From here we travel on the Pilatus Bahn, which is the steepest rack railway in the world, with a maximum gradient of 48% and takes 30 minutes to the peak at Pilatus Kulm passing alpine meadows and striking rock formations on its route.

We will return down the mountain and enjoy our farewell Gala Dinner in the opulent Prestige Continental Express dining cars as we make our way back to Zurich Airport. On arrival in Zurich we will be transferred to our hotel within the airport.

Note: Guests for Basel may stay onboard to Basel SBB. Overnight at Radisson Blu Hotel, Zurich Airport or at GAIA Hotel, Basel Meal Arrangements (2) (1) (2)

# AY ZURICH

After breakfast, free time until departing flights from the adjacent terminal or train connections from the station beneath the terminal.

## Meal Arrangements 🔒







# THE PRESTIGE CONTINENTAL EXPRESS

# STANDARD GAUGE

Created in 2003, the Prestige Continental Express offers its guests a luxurious train with the comfort and safety of modern times, in the style of the Orient Express.

In 2013, the coaches underwent renovations to bring them to a new level of luxury, with the upholstery custom made from the same mill in Scotland that had woven the fabric for the original Orient Express. The lamps and fixtures have been faithfully cast and modelled on the former Orient Express trains, brass luggage racks above the seats and inlaid wood on the walls complete the picture creating a rich atmosphere inside the coaches. The Prestige Continental Express has been built on the foundation of modern dining cars from the Deutsche Bahn, complete with all modern safety features and comforts, including modern air conditioning.

The train consists of three coaches; the Salon Bleu and the Rubis Noir, two dining cars with seats for 48 guests. Rounding out the train is the stylish Piano Bar 'Le Diamant', complete with live music during the day. The modern kitchen will pamper guests with exquisite meals prepared from the freshest local ingredients.





# **GLACIER & BERNINA PULLMAN EXPRESS**

NARROW GAUGE

This luxury train includes four original Pullman cars, built 1931, which once belonged to the Cie Internationale des Wagons-Lits et des Grands Express Européens for the Golden Mountain Pullman Express which ran from Montreux to Interlaken.

The exquisite wooden inlay work in the carriages was carried out by renowned French cabinet maker René Prou. The train also includes two Gourmino Dining Cars, dating from 1929 and 1930 respectively. The Gourmino Dining Cars are well known for the excellent cuisine and service. All meals are cooked onboard with fresh products from local farmers. The Piano Bar Car, built in 1928 as a dining car for the Bernina Railway, was converted in 2010 to a bar.

All these carriages have been lovingly restored down to the smallest detail, in accordance with today's safety standards.



# INTRODUCING

# **TOUR PREVIEWS**

# FOR 2023



#### MUMBAI - CHENNAI - HYDERABAD

Mumbai • Goa • Ooty • Kochi • Trivandrum • Kanyakumari • Madurai • Pondicherry

• Chennai • Hyderabad

October 19 - November 2, 2023



MUMBAI - KOLKATA

Mumbai (Bombay) • Udaipur • Jaipur • Delhi Fatehpur Sikri • Agra Fort • Agra (Taj Mahal) Varanasi • Darjeeling • Kolkata (Calcutta)



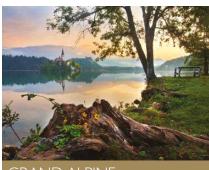
CASTLES OF TRANSYLVANIA

## ISTANBUL - BUDAPEST

Istanbul • Veliko Tarnovo • Sinaia • Brașov • Sighișoara • Sibiu • Kecskemet • Lajosmisze • Budapest

November 30 - December 14, 2023

May 8- May 14, 2023 October 27 - November 2, 2023



# GRAND ALPINE **EXPRESS**

## BUDAPEST - VENICE

Budapest • Vienna • Semmering Pass • Lake Achen Innsbruck • Zurich • St Gotthard Pass • Lake Como Milan • Verona • Trieste • Lake Bled • Ljubljana • Venice





### VENICE – ISTANBUL

Venice • Trieste • Ljubljana • Sarajevo • Mostar Dubrovnik • Belgrade • Skopje • Thessaloniki • Sofia Plovdiv • Istanbul

April 29 – May 10, 2023 October 18 - 29, 2023

# NEW YEAR IN VIENNA

BUDAPEST - VIENNA - BUDAPEST

Budapest • Keszthely • Graz • Vienna • Cesky Krumlov Prague • Kosice • Budapest

December 28, 2023 – January 5, 2024



TREASURES OF UZBEKISTAN

#### TASHKENT - TASHKENT

Tashkent • Fergana Valley (Kogan, Rishtan, Fergana, Margilan) • Navoi • Nukus • Khiva • Bukhara Samarkand • Tashkent

#### DEPARTS

October 20 - October 30, 2023



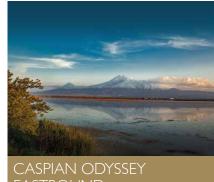
## REPUBLICS OF THE SILK ROAD

#### ALMATY - TASHKENT

Almaty • Lake Issyk-Kul • Bishkek • Tashkent • Khiva Ashgabat • Merv • Bukhara • Dushanbe • Shahrizabz Samarkand • Margilan • Andizhan • Osh Kokand •Tashkent

#### DEPARTS

October 6 - October 19, 2023



# eastbound

#### YEREVAN - ALMATY

Yerevan • Lake Sevan • Dilijan • Tbilisi • Telavi • Gori Uplistsikhe • Mtskheta • Baku • Cross The Caspian Sea Ashgabat • Darvaza Gas Crater • Khiva • Bukhara Samarkand • Tashkent • Almaty

#### DEPARTS

September 22 – October 7, 2023



# CASPIAN ODYSSEY WESTBOUND

### TASHKENT - YEREVAN

Tashkent • Samarkand • Bukhara • Khiva • Darvaza Gas Crater • Ashgabat • Baku • Tbilisi • Telavi • Mtskheta, Uplistsikhe & Gori • Borjomi • Dilijan & Lake Sevan Yerevan

DEPARTS

September 8 - September 23, 2023



# PRIVATE CHARTER OPTIONS

Privately charter two of the world's most luxurious trains, the Golden Eagle and the Golden Eagle Danube Express.

We cater for private and corporate groups ranging from 1 to up to 100 - for voyages starting from two days. Charters are completely flexible with completely customisable itineraries, fully supported by both our UK and onboard team of travel experts.

Contact our teams for a consultation.



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