Grand Train Tour

SWITZERLAND

All winter resorts from the magazine. More information can be found on pp. 52–55

Ski resorts
1. Tenna
2. Melchsee-Frutt
3. St. Moritz
4. Flumserberg
5. Braunwald
6. Hasliberg
7. Zuoz
8. Sörenberg

Human-powered mobility
1. Montreux
2. Les Paccots
3. Riederalp
4. Braunwald

Geneva
Bern
Lausanne
Lucerne
Zürich
Melchsee-Frutt
St. Moritz
Flumserberg
Braunwald
Hasliberg
Zuoz
Sörenberg
The snow report
will tell you the state of the slopes, winter hiking trails and sled runs at all ski resorts, as well as information on the weather and ticket prices. Updated daily.

snow.MySwitzerland.com
Ski touring above Grindelwald.

© Ruedi Flück

All stories at a glance:
→ Map on the last page.

For more inspiration see:
→ MySwitzerland.com
Welcome to the Swiss winter! We owls are fortunate enough to get a bird’s eye view of the magical snow-covered landscape. The dense forests, rugged peaks, mighty glaciers (p. 22) and lively cities are truly impressive when viewed from up high.

One of my favourite things to do is to perch on a branch in the forest and watch the world go by. So I can tell you all about the people who scale mountains on skis only to glide down the untouched slopes (p. 10). I’ve been told it almost feels like you’re flying! People seem to have a great time tobogganing too (p. 42). You can hear their laughter echoing through the forest. I’m often astounded by these icy adventurers; the bravest of them will even dare to climb vertical walls of ice (p. 25). And these people don’t seem to tire even at night, as they make their way through the beautifully lit alleyways of villages and towns.

I have put together the most beautiful stories just for you in this magazine. Browse through the winter tales and set off on an adventure of your own in the fresh air. Then come back to me in the forest – you’ll find me under the leafy crown of the big oak tree. I’d love to hear the tales you have to tell.

Safe travels!
Duri
As you stand on the mountain you’ve just climbed in the early hours to catch the first rays of sunshine and then travel down pristine slopes, you get a real sense of infinite freedom in your heart.
Cross-country skis are a great way to actively enjoy winter.
A question of rhythm

Cross-country skiing is growing in popularity. Beginners will find the best conditions for their first attempts at the sport in Sedrun.

Sedrun is a popular destination for winter sports enthusiasts of all kinds – including cross-country skiers who will not only find some great trails but also a beginner-friendly practice area right in the centre of the village. This is where the pros let their pupils in on the secrets of how to move on cross-country skis. Once you’ve got the hang of things, you won’t want to stop anytime soon.

1 Step by step
“It’s worth building up your technique gradually and conserving your strength,” explains Martin Cavegn. He heads up the cross-country skiing department at Sedrun Snow Sports School. The biggest technical difference compared with alpine skiing is, according to Cavegn, the complete shift of weight from one leg to the other.

2 Feeling the rhythm
The legs do the lion’s share of the work when cross-country skiing. Nonetheless, correct use of the long poles is vital. As the mother of all step types, the pole push-off supports the one leg push-off in the 2:1 technique. Then you push off with the other leg, while both arms are brought forward again at the same time. Two steps, one arm movement: 2:1.

3 Finding a balance
Although Martin Cavegn only makes small corrections, the effect is huge. “At some stage people realise that if they can manage to move successfully on one leg then they’ve cracked it” – just like with ice skating. Balance is the magic word.

4 Exploring the wild
Once you have mastered the basics in the beginners’ area, you can enjoy flat sections over sunny terraces and along the young Anterior Rhine, with occasional short, challenging climbs. The diverse 30 kilometres of trails are used by professionals and beginners alike, or as Martin Cavegn puts it: “The point is to get out, experience something and feel the snow.”

Five techniques

- The skater step
- 2:1 symmetrical
- 1:1
- Diagonal
- 2:1 asymmetrical
Aside from Sedrun, there are other corners of Switzerland too that are ideal for cross-country skiing fun. Each of these has its own special character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award-winning quality</th>
<th>Infinite variety</th>
<th>Fun and games on over 200 kilometres of cross-country ski trails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cross-country skiing area has been recognised as one of the best in Switzerland and offers trails for beginners, advanced skiers and experts.</td>
<td>Five different areas attract visitors with plenty of cross-country skiing fun. Ski buses are on hand so that those who are keen to try somewhere new can commute from one area to another.</td>
<td>This network of trails is one of the largest in Central Europe. So strap on those cross-country skis and let's get going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenzereheide (GR)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vallée de Joux (VD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,475m a.s.l.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,160m a.s.l.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 kilometres</td>
<td></td>
<td>220 kilometres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The only permanent biathlon arena in Switzerland.</td>
<td>Guaranteed snow: top three in Eastern Switzerland.</td>
<td>Near the banks of Lac de Joux.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space to glide</th>
<th>Natural beauty</th>
<th>Looking into the wild blue yonder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The trails in Goms hug the shoreline of the River Rhone in a picturesque manner and connect four villages.</td>
<td>A landscape like something from the Far North: dense pine forests and broad plains make for a magnificent backdrop.</td>
<td>The trail not only passes the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau – Lake Thun and the Gantrisch chain also make up part of the panorama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goms (VS)</td>
<td>Campra, Valle di Blenio (TI)</td>
<td>Gantrisch (BE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,422m a.s.l.</td>
<td>1,416m a.s.l.</td>
<td>1,539m a.s.l.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103 kilometres</td>
<td>29 kilometres</td>
<td>90 kilometres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket for the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn included.</td>
<td>A sports centre of national significance.</td>
<td>Not far from Bern, Thun and Fribourg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For early birds</th>
<th>Outstanding service</th>
<th>Challenging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If snow conditions are good, the cross-country skiing season can start as early as November in the Urserental Valley – along the River Reuss, for example.</td>
<td>The cross-country ski hotels in this area have everything you could wish for: from the waxing service to the cross-country ski trail right on the hotel’s doorstep.</td>
<td>This is where Switzerland’s Cross-Country World Cup is held. It is not only popular with professionals, but with beginners too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andermatt (UR)</td>
<td>Kandersteg (BE)</td>
<td>Davos (GR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,430m a.s.l.</td>
<td>1,172m a.s.l.</td>
<td>1,556m a.s.l.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 kilometres</td>
<td>51 kilometres</td>
<td>172 kilometres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes an exciting themed trail for children.</td>
<td>At 1,934m a.s.l.: the Sunnbüel high-Alpine trail.</td>
<td>Use of the cross-country trails is free.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Switzerland boasts an impressive 5,000 kilometres of varied cross-country skiing trails. Or, to put it differently, you could cover the distance of Switzerland from west to east almost 15 times on cross-country skis. Further information about cross-country skiing ➞
Hanno, what is your idea of sustainable winter sports?
Winter sports – and ski touring in particular – are individual sports and can therefore be combined very well with sustainability if you pay attention to a few points. This starts with tour planning. If you can, it is better to drive into the mountains to spend a whole weekend there instead of just one day and also to form a car pool. It is important not to leave behind any evidence that you were here, and to negotiate your way carefully through nature.

Is sustainability catching?
Yes, I think so. You can see it quite clearly in Switzerland. It is already very advanced here. Sustainability is now mainstream. These days if you don’t think along sustainable lines you’re regarded as a freak. Ten years ago it was the exact opposite.

How did you hit upon the idea of building your own skis?
I bought six different freeride skis in one season and wasn’t particularly satisfied with any of them. The idea for this came to me on a tour. I then spent a whole year collecting knowledge and basic skills together with a friend. As an engineer and architect for sustainable buildings, it was in my blood. The first ski was made during a weekend spent among friends in a workshop. Even though a lot went wrong during construction, when I tested it, it was still worlds better than all the freeride skis I had used before.

What is the recipe for success?
Compared to competitor products, the ski must be technically better in terms of weight and performance. It has to be lightweight and easy to use. First I design the best product and then I make it sustainable.

What did it feel like when you went on a tour with your own skis for the very first time and stood at the summit?
I was really motivated and excited. I had never reached an altitude of 1,450 metres as fast in my life. The descent was fabulous. The ski reacted exactly as I had hoped. I carefully recorded every movement, and it worked better in technical terms than my previous skis. The long time spent tinkering proved worthwhile and filled me with pride.

What keeps you going each day?
On nights with a full moon I like to climb the Teysachaux together with a friend and stand on the summit at midnight. The unique view of Lake Geneva and the mountains in the moonlight make me forget every stressful day at the office. I find that it’s not the most spectacular tours but rather moments like this that keep me going.

The game changer
Hanno Schwab sets new standards for sustainability with his touring and freeride skis.

EARLYBIRD SKIS
In 2014 freeskier Hanno Schwab founded the earlybird eco freeride skis brand, known as earlybird skis for short. The skis are tailored to the needs of passionate freetourers. Depending on the snow and level of ability, there are different models: for ski touring or for pure freeriding.
The name earlybird skis is synonymous with the most beautiful and first line in the mornings on the mountain, but also for an end-to-end approach to production. Not only do the environmentally friendly materials and recycling play a role, but also fair dealings with partners.

A Wooden core
The core of the ski is made of wood, making it durable and at the same time elastic and stable. The wood used is FSC-certified.

B Recyclable epoxy resin
All parts of the ski are recyclable – including the innovative, bio-based epoxy resin that holds the individual components together.

C Recycled P-Tex base
The lower surface of the ski is made of recycled P-Tex, a robust plastic that has been used in ski and snowboard manufacture since 1955.

D Natural ski wax
The wax layer consists of natural, non-toxic ingredients. This ensures that no environmentally harmful substances can enter the soil or water through abrasion.

E Hand-brushed wood
The ski topsheet is made of FSC wood or castor oil beans. The former is regularly treated with oil to extend the life of the ski.

F Castor oil beans
A polyamide foil for the topsheet made from the beans of this fast-growing wonder plant is not only light, but also robust and scratch-resistant.
Safety off-piste

A freeride tour offers freedom but also entails dangers. The risk of injury through avalanches can be minimised with the right equipment and by sticking to some important rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche transceiver</td>
<td>An avalanche transceiver can be used to locate buried tour partners quickly and accurately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche probe</td>
<td>The avalanche probe is used to determine the exact location and depth of a buried person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche shovel</td>
<td>An avalanche shovel can be used to dig out buried tour partners quickly and efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche airbag</td>
<td>Deploying the airbag increases the chances of staying near the top in an avalanche and not being buried deep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche awareness</td>
<td>It is worth taking an avalanche course so as to be able to respond quickly, correctly and effectively in an emergency situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather forecast</td>
<td>It is important to find out about the current weather conditions before starting any tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalanche bulletin</td>
<td>Check sif.ch for information from the Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research about the situation with regard to snow and avalanches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code of conduct</td>
<td>You should never venture out alone in open terrain and should always negotiate steep slopes one by one.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The safest choice for freeride tours is to go with an experienced mountain guide.

mammutalpineschool.com
On snowshoe and ski tours, as well as on downhill runs next to the pistes, you are a guest of nature, as the untouched slopes, far from the hustle and bustle, are home to wild animals. If they are disturbed, this can have fatal consequences: remember that an escape – especially through deep snow – costs a lot of energy. Animals have to conserve their energy in winter, otherwise there is a risk that their reserves will be sapped before spring arrives. To prevent this, special quiet zones and protected areas for wild animals are being created. These may not be entered or crossed at all, or only via the signposted paths. Before each tour you should check the location of these areas and which regulations must be observed there. When out and about you must avoid these quiet, protected zones. This ensures that your winter fun is not enjoyed at the expense of chamois, mountain hares, wood grouse, etc.

Respect for nature

When skiing and snowboarding off-piste, it is important to pay attention to your own safety and health. It is just as important to take care of nature and the local fauna.

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WILD ANIMALS IN OUR MOUNTAINS

We share our environment with numerous animal species. While some of them hibernate completely during winter, others are also active in the cold season and are well adapted to the conditions.

Mountain hare

Size: 48–60cm  
Weight: 1.8–3.5kg  
Population: approx. 14,000  
Status: not endangered

Thanks to its very furry hind feet, it can walk across the snow as if on snowshoes.

Chamois

Shoulder height: 70–85cm  
Weight: 35–50kg  
Population: approx. 95,000  
Status: not endangered

During the mating season in winter, the bucks eat very little food and have to live off their reserves.

Red deer

Shoulder height: 120–150cm  
Weight: 90–220kg  
Population: approx. 30,000  
Status: not endangered

“When in ‘energy-saving mode’, red deer will lower their body temperature and keep only the innermost body warm”.

For more information:  
→ natur-freizeit.ch/snow-sports-and-respect
Water is a multifaceted element. In its solid state, it acts as a storage medium, can be shaped into artistic objects or is the focus of leisure activities.
Marcio Morais creates frozen works of art in the shadow of the mountains.
Transitory art

From the outside: a full-size lorry. On the inside: an ornately decorated cathedral. What makes this experience so special: everything is made from snow. The snow sculptures of Marcio Morais impress guests and locals alike.

A rasping sound breaks the silence in the mountains. A cloud of snow rises. A man can be seen kneeling on a huge pile of snow. As you get closer it becomes clear what’s going on: the pile of snow is shaped like a lorry – 15 metres long, a good 4 metres high and just as wide. An American-style lorry made entirely of snow. The inside of the snow sculpture is hollow; an immense cathedral, decorated down to the last corner with decorative details, hints of animals and curved shapes. This is the latest work by mountain railway employee Marcio Morais.

The 38-year-old grew up in the Parisian suburbs. For half his life he’d only ever seen snow on television. At the age of 18 he left the French capital and headed for the Valais side valley and Evolène, where he found his own personal paradise. “Take a look around you: everything is so beautiful here. How could you ever want to leave?” He gestures to the panorama behind his snow sculpture. At the centre of this is the Dent Blanche, the most dominant in a whole chain of impressive peaks. The mountains have become the centre of Marco’s life: he works in the ski resort throughout the winter. “Every so often there are quiet periods when there’s not much happening on the ski lift,” he explains. That’s when he began to turn the piles of snow around him into interesting shapes.

Right from the start, guests and locals alike reacted enthusiastically to this unexpected art on the mountain. This then drove Marcio to create something even crazier the next winter: human bodies, grotesque faces, animals – or, most recently, an entire lorry. The shovel from the ski lift has long been superseded by other tools. The snow groomer is now used to move hundreds of cubic metres of snow. When this has settled and solidified, Marcio uses chainsaws and handsaws, as well as all kinds of shovels. Finally, he uses small kitchen knives to carve the fine details in the snow. However, Marcio doesn’t think of himself as an artist. “I believe that anyone is capable of creating something with their hands,” he says modestly. Maybe he’s right. But his sculptures are truly one of a kind in Switzerland. Just one of the many reasons to take a trip to Evolène.
Numerous myths and legends have been woven around the glaciers of the Swiss Alps; the ice giants have always shaped the landscape and cast a spell over people. They are often referred to as the “eternal ice”. Unfortunately, this is a name that has been dramatically shown to be incorrect in recent years. That’s because the glaciers are melting, retreating and even threatening to disappear completely – a development with far-reaching consequences and effects for entire ecosystems, electricity and water supplies, as well as tourism.

This is why researchers have spent many years investigating the question of how the retreat of glaciers can be prevented or at least slowed down. For example, parts of the Rhone Glacier are covered with white sheeting in late spring. The hope is that this will slow down the melting of the snow and ice over the summer months. Another project focuses on producing artificial snow on glaciers, since a layer of snow would protect the ice below from the rays of the summer sun. However, for many glaciers, this help is coming too late: in the Swiss National Park, for example, there were still approximately 12 glaciers around 1970. Now they are all gone.
Ice games

From elegant pirouettes to daring climbing tours or bitterly cold dives: the ice offers a wealth of opportunities for sporting and relaxation activities.

A mysterious underwater world is hidden under the centimetre-thick layer of ice covering a frozen lake. Provided you have the necessary knowledge, a warm dry suit and a dose of courage, this can be experienced on a dive. At Col des Mosses on Lake Lioson in Vaud at an altitude of 1,850 metres, three ice holes are kept free throughout the winter. 😎

Ice is less dense than water, which is why it floats.
**ICE FISHING**

Ice fishing is a great way to slow down in the winter mountain landscape. In addition to the right equipment and a permit, it also requires plenty of calm and patience if you are to have a chance of pulling a fish out of the depths of the icy water. Ice fishing is permitted on selected lakes in Switzerland, including the Arnensee near Gstaad, the Silsersee in the Engadin or the Melchsee on the Melchsee-Frutt.

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The ice on a lake must be at least 8cm thick to bear the weight of a person.

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The temperature of the water at the lake bed is always 4°C.

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At -30°C the ice is almost rock hard.

**ICE SMILING**

Frozen waterfalls are a spectacle for the eyes and a winter challenge for climbing enthusiasts. Ice climbing means fighting your way up the ice little by little with crampons on your feet and ice picks in your hands. What makes this experience so special is that every climb on the frozen waterfall is different from the last, since the ice is constantly moving. The largest ice climbing area in Switzerland is in Kandersteg in the Bernese Oberland.

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An icy surface is not only beautiful to look at, but can also be used in a variety of ways: from figure skating and ice hockey to Bavarian curling – the list of possibilities is a long one. On natural ice rinks, the fun of ice skating is enriched by the beauty of the landscape; for example on the Engadin ice track near Sent.
Relax in alternating hot and cold baths

Guests at the Mountain Ashram Spa of the Cervo Mountain Resort will encounter water in all its physical states and experience relaxation rituals from all over the world.

45° Herbal steam bath
Enveloped in clouds of fragrant vapour, you can relax here and feel the stress melt away with your first deep breath.

-20° to 5° Outside temperature
The next thing that awaits outside is the clean mountain air. Temperatures range from mild to bitterly cold; either way, the fresh air is certainly always invigorating.

25° Tea yurt
Time to dive back into the warmth inside. The cosy tea yurt set up outside is an attractive prospect with its cosy feel and freshly brewed herbal teas. Destressing could hardly be easier.

90° Sauna
Things are starting to heat up: the Finnish sauna is the perfect place to sit and sweat, enjoying the beneficial effects of the heat – circulation and blood flow are stimulated, the muscles are allowed to relax and the immune system is strengthened.

-5° Snow
After a sauna session, a dive into fresh powder snow is the best way to cool off.

42° Onsen
Finally, immerse yourself in Japan's centuries-old bathing tradition, in the onsen. Surrounded by pleasantly warm water, you can enjoy the view of the Matterhorn and the snow-covered landscape from the infinity pool.

Switzerland has a range of excellent Wellness Hotels, as well as entire destinations dedicated to the topic.
MySwitzerland.com/spa
A house is so much more than just a roof over your head: it can be a contemporary witness, a repository of stories or even a masterpiece.
The Fondation Beyeler is a work of art in itself.
Buildings with stories to tell

As you stroll through the streets of Basel, you will encounter countless architectural gems. Many of them are established works by major names, but new examples are constantly being added.

A

Art hotspot
The Fondation Beyeler provides an opportunity to admire art and architecture.

The Fondation Beyeler is one of the most highly regarded destinations for modern and contemporary art. The building was designed by architect Renzo Piano. So it’s not just the art on display that is something special, but the entire building. This fits seamlessly into the landscape and blurs the boundaries between interior and exterior.

Fondation Beyeler Baselstrasse 101, Riehen

B

Indoor market delights
Relaxed shopping in Basel’s Markthalle.

When it opened in 1929, Basel’s Markthalle boasted the third-largest reinforced concrete dome in the world. And it boasts more impressive statistics besides: the dome stands 27 metres tall, has a span of 60 metres and covers an area of 3,000 square metres. After the wholesale market had closed down in 2004, the market vibe finally returned to this space beneath the mighty, yet elegant dome in 2013. Today, a myriad of different market stalls attract visitors, inviting them to take a culinary voyage around the world or to discover local handicrafts.

Markthalle Steinentorberg 20, Basel

C

Former coffee warehouse
A gourmet delight as you stay overnight at the Silo in the Erlenmatt district.

History and modern architecture go hand in hand at the Silo. It was built in 1912 according to designs by Basel architect Rudolf Sandreuter and served as a storehouse for grain and cocoa beans for many years. Renovations by the Harry Gugger Studio began in 2016, and the building reopened in 2020. These days, the Silo is a shining example of urban conversion and an exciting meeting place that offers space for a Boutique Hostel, creative restaurants and studios for various artists.

Silo Signstrasse 37, Basel

D

Worlds of sound
Enjoying classical music at Basel’s Stadtcasino.

The concert hall at Basel’s Stadtcasino is internationally known for its excellent acoustics. Numerous famous musicians have graced this stage since it opened in 1876. Between 2016 and 2020, the building was refurbished according to designs by the architects Herzog & de Meuron, restoring its splendour.

Stadtcasino Konzertgasse 1, Basel

E

Historic baths
Sauna and swimming at the Rheinbad Breite baths.

The view of the city from the Rheinbad Breite bathing spot is quite unique. You almost feel that you are floating above the river. The riveted steel structure of the Rheinbad Breite dates back to the 19th century. When it was opened in 1898, becoming the city’s fourth swimming baths, it was twice the size it is today. Over the years, there have been various plans to demolish the baths. However, the people of Basel successfully campaigned to keep their “Rhybadhysli”, as it is known locally. It now attracts bathers all year round. In summer you can take a refreshing dip in the Rhine, while the sauna can be a great way to dispel the winter blues.

Rheinbad Breite St. Alban-Rheinweg 195, Basel

Discover Basel’s architectural highlights
La Chaux-de-Fonds in the Neuchâtel Jura is the home of Swiss watchmaking. Idyllically nestled between meadows and forests, the city is also the birthplace and place of work of Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, who achieved global renown as an architect under the name Le Corbusier. A bird’s eye view of the city reveals another interesting feature: the streets are arranged in a chequerboard pattern, like you get with large American cities.

Located on a rocky outcrop surrounded by the River Saane, Fribourg is one of the most beautiful medieval cities in Switzerland. A stroll through the old town, passing by 15th-century Gothic facades, is like a journey through time. This feeling is reinforced even further on the “Frýburgi1606” city tour. Thanks to the magic of augmented reality, visitors will be transported back to the 17th century. The history of the town is brought to life with virtual animations.

Neuchâtel, standing on the shores of the eponymous lake, is a city with a rich cultural and architectural past. The city flourished during the Belle Époque era. The years between 1896 and 1914 were marked by joie de vivre, optimism and progress – visitors can immerse themselves in this period of rebirth on various city tours on the theme of “Neuchâtel à la Belle Époque”. A fitting way to end your visit is a trip on the lake steamer Le Neuchâtel, which dates back to the early 20th century.
A new view of Geneva

Looking at things from a different angle often reveals new things. The most beautiful spots along the shore stand out when you look over the city from the lake.

**A Winter oasis**
*Bains des Pâquis is the perfect place to relax and indulge.*

This lakeside lido is also popular in winter. Instead of soaking up the sun, build up a sweat in the sauna and enjoy eastern bathing culture in the hammam and Turkish bath. If you start to feel hunger pangs, it’s not far to the Buvette des Bains. The restaurant’s speciality is its delicious fondue.

*Bains des Pâquis* Quai du Mont-Blanc 30, Geneva

**B Historic monument**
*Counting the yachts and commemorating history at Port Noir.*

While sailing enthusiasts count the yachts, history buffs commemorate the arrival of Swiss troops at the monument on 1 June 1814, which marks the day Geneva became part of the Swiss Confederation. After the history lesson, head to the stylish Le 82 restaurant, located just a few steps from the harbour in the beautiful Parc La Grange.

*Port-Noir* Quai Gustave-Ador 87, Geneva

**C A pearl in a lakeside setting**
*Looking up into the mountains from the Parc de la Perle du Lac.*

The park on the lakeshore owes its name to the wife of Hans Wilsdorf, founder of the Rolex watch brand. Here you can pay a visit to the History of Science Museum or enjoy the views of Mont Blanc.

*Parc de la Perle du Lac* Rue de Lausanne 128, Geneva

**D A breath of summer**
*The exotic plants in the botanical garden provide the perfect backdrop for a stroll.*

It doesn’t matter whether the weather outside is stormy or snowy: it’s always summer in the greenhouses of the botanical garden. Tropical and Mediterranean plants from five continents thrive under the glass roofs: palm trees, orchids, giant water lilies and cacti grow here and take visitors on a journey around the world.

*Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques Genève* Chemin de l’Impératrice 1, Pregny-Chambésy

**E Circular bathing spot**
*Taking the plunge from Ponton de Cologny.*

With a diameter of 40 metres, the wooden ring floating over the water has been another eye-catcher on the lakeshore since July 2020. In winter, people practice here for the “Coupe de Noël”, Geneva’s Christmas swimming competition. This traditional event has been held every December since 1934. If that’s too cold for you, you can stay on dry land and watch the Jet d’Eau.

*Pontons du quai de Cologny* Quai de Cologny, Cologny

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Discover Geneva from the water →
Picturesque Bergün is located on the spectacular railway line from Chur to the Engadin, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site starting from Thusis.

In the heart of the mountain canton of Graubünden, the cold River Albula flows through the untamed, romantic landscape of the Parc Ela. It collects the water from hundreds of small tributaries and directs it into the mighty Rhine. This landscape is particularly beautiful on the upper reaches of the river, between the mighty Piz Kesch and Piz Ela, where the river has carved itself deep in the rock and shaped the valley into a delightful work of art with deep gorges and high waterfalls. But at one point the valley opens up and makes room for a large meadow. This is the location of the mountain village of Bergün, an old settlement with many historic houses that line the pass road, proudly showing off their fine decorative features. Travelers once stopped here on their way to the Engadin to gather strength before the last long push over the Albula Pass.

The arrival of the train brought even more travellers and goods to the Engadin, creating a spirit of optimism in Bergün. It was hoped that the increased traffic would bring the village renewed prosperity. This can be seen in the sanatorium, which was built in 1906 in the heyday of the Art Nouveau period and offered guests from the lowlands tasteful relaxation. However, instead of lingering in Bergün, these guests travelled straight on. And who could blame them? After all, the spectacular railway line is one of a kind and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008.

What might be viewed as a misjudgement at the time is now recognised as a piece of good fortune. Although the sanatorium constantly struggled for its survival for years and had to wait a long time before it could be renovated due to a lack of funds, in 2002 the quality of the original architecture was recognised, and the largely unchanged building fabric was carefully revitalised. Since then, the sanatorium, chosen as the Historic Hotel of the Year for 2012, once again looks out proudly over Bergün, offering guests stylish accommodation in this unique landscape.
Kurhaus Bergün
ART NOUVEAU IN A ROMANTIC LANDSCAPE

In the spring of 1906, the Kurhaus sanatorium went into operation with the aim of putting Bergün on the map as a place to acclimatise to the Engadin with its higher elevations and as a climatic health resort. When opened it offered every comfort: central heating, electric lighting, a lift, a ladies’ salon, billiards and a darkroom. Many of the original features from that time have been preserved and carefully refurbished. A look at some of the details.

**Blue Rose Room**
Delicate white roses decorate the sky blue ceiling. The large ballroom with its original windows and historical wall and ceiling lights dating back to 1906 is one of the most beautifully preserved function rooms from the Art Nouveau period. The roses are probably a copy of the Glasgow roses that Scottish architect Mackintosh created at the time. During the long years in which the building housed a simple hostel for families, the little ones slept soundly here in bunk beds and played football during the day. For a few years the ceilings and walls of the hall were covered with brown paint. However, as part of the careful refurbishment carried out in 2002, they were restored to their former glory.

**Rattan furniture**
In the sanatorium’s early days, hand-woven cane armchairs from Vietnam provided comfort. Aiming to bring back the flair of bygone days, the owners found a family business that would repair and replace the rattan furniture. Since 2006, guests have been relaxing in the well-travelled armchairs in the entrance area, just as they once did, immersing themselves in books about the world around them.

**Cinema**
An old movie poster for the film «Secrets» (Mary’s Secret) from Saturday, 18 August 1924 indicates that films were shown here at an early stage. Because the sanatorium is not mentioned in earlier cinema guides, it is assumed that a travelling cinema stopped and regularly treated guests and locals to enjoyable film evenings. These days, visitors to the cinema of all ages can enjoy classics of film history.

**Fixtures and fittings**
The curved fixtures and fittings on the washbasins and bathtubs in the historic rooms are real decorative pieces. Many are original and come from the Kurhaus Bergün, while others have been salvaged from other grand hotels. In order to ensure the supply of running water to the rooms, an innovation at that time, plumbers travelled from England, because it was the British who had mastered the art of casting and bending lead. Dressed in their Sunday best, the craftsmen arrived in Bergün and manufactured the pipes behind closed doors.

**The ovens in the old kitchen**
In the basement, where the old kitchen is located, a large wood-burning stove provides a source of romantic stories and sweet smells. It was common practice at the end of the 19th century to put the kitchen in the basement. Today, the kitchen can be found right next to the dining room. During the winter months, the old stove is brought back to life. That’s because head chef Marcus Lübke has fallen in love with the old kitchen and conjures up the region and its products with a five-course meal at the long table.
The sled is considered to be the oldest man-made means of transport. These days it is used for happy adventures in the snow that can be shared by young and old alike.
The Velogemel is a true Grindelwald original.
The sled is a popular piece of winter sports equipment for young and old alike. Switzerland doesn’t just have countless beautiful tobogganing runs, but also some very special vehicles.

As far back as the Stone Age, people used sleds as a means of transport, with cave drawings providing evidence of this. This makes them the oldest man-made means of transport. These days, thanks to its wide range of options, the sled is perhaps the most popular piece of winter sports equipment of all. Even small children love to whizz down snow-covered slopes on their sled or are pulled through the winter landscape by their parents. The pros, on the other hand, race down icy runs at breakneck speed, for example on the Olympic bobsleigh run from St. Moritz to Celerina.

So much adrenaline is rarely required in normal tobogganing runs, but the fun factor is all the more important. The most common sled type in Switzerland is the Davos sled. Developed in the 19th century and traditionally made from ash, it has since been a fundamental part of Swiss wintertime.

If you want to add a little more adventure to the sledding fun, you can travel to Grindelwald, the birthplace of the Velogemel. This vehicle—a cross between a bicycle and a sled—was invented over 100 years ago by sawyer Christian Bühlmann. He was unsteady on his feet because of polio and while he was always on his bike in summer, it was difficult for him to get through the deep snow in winter. The solution: a bicycle-like wooden frame with a handlebar for steering and runners instead of wheels. Bühlmann registered the patent for his “single-track steerable snowbike” on 1 April 1911. Since then, the Velogemel has gained cult status in Grindelwald. Many locals have their own Velogemel, and visitors can rent these unusual sleds at various locations and—after a shaky first few metres—tackle the toboggan runs around Grindelwald. The Velogemel World Championships are held on Bussalp every February, when locals and guests from near and far fight for the world championship title.

The Velogemel is a cross between a sled and a bicycle.
The Lindauer sleds are a common sight on the toboggan runs in Schwyz and the surrounding area. They have been carefully handcrafted in Schwyz for four generations. Jo Lindauer has been working in the family business since 1970; his daughter Viola caught the bug for the craft more than ten years ago. Since then, the father-daughter team has been building the beautiful wooden sleds together. 🎅
With the energy of a whole team of athletes, huskies are the perfect helpers for fast-paced sledding adventures in the snow. They can pull up to nine times their own body weight and have an excellent sense of direction thanks to which they never stray off the familiar path – even when it is hidden under a thick blanket of snow. A husky trek or sled ride is an opportunity to make friends with the animals and feel their irrepressible strength.
Build your confidence on the slopes

When was the last time you were given feedback on your skiing or snowboarding style? Maybe you haven’t skied for ages or perhaps you’ve just bought your first snowboard. Would you like to improve your carving style, venture into powder snow with professional guidance or simply feel more confident on the slopes? With offices in over 150 locations, the Swiss Ski Schools are present in all winter sports resorts and a number of larger cities and offer a range of different snow sports lessons in all disciplines. Ideal for beginners, experienced skiers and those who are getting back on the slopes after an extended break, the Swiss Ski Schools offer courses for all levels and all ages.

Don’t delay, book your course today at swiss-ski-school.ch
Winter fun for the whole family

The Blatten-Belalp region in Valais offers families all they need for a great winter holiday.

7 a.m.
Fortified for the day ahead
At breakfast in your Reka holiday apartment, you will need to charge your batteries for the day; there is a lot to experience, after all.

9 a.m.
School for snow bunnies
While the little ones hone their skills with the Belalp Snow Sports School in Hexenland, the grown-ups can enjoy the fabulous descents.

12 noon
Time to recharge your batteries
The family meets up at midday in one of the mountain restaurants to take a break and refuel.

2 p.m.
Tobogganing fun
Tobogganing is on the programme in the afternoon. The roughly ten-kilometre descent between Belalp and Blatten is great fun for the whole family.

5 p.m.
Story time
After an action-packed day, a holiday apartment can provide a welcome refuge. This is a chance for everyone to settle comfortably on the sofa to read the story of the little Belalp witch.

7 p.m.
And so to bed
After dinner it’s just a short trip to bed for the little adventurers.

The Blatten-Belalp holiday destination on the Great Aletsch Glacier is a paradise for families: this Reka Holiday Village offers affordable accommodation options and, as an official Family Destination, its facilities and infrastructure are specifically geared towards the needs of children and their guardians. A special highlight is the winding toboggan run from Belalp to Blatten, which is an experience both by day and by moonlight.
Find the answer for a chance to win a backpack from Mammut. Take part at MySwitzerland.com/quiz
The soul of discretion – your concierge. Armed with plenty of advice and information, your concierge can tell your every wish from your eyes.
Sustainable travel in Switzerland

It’s time for a new kind of travel. Sustainable travel doesn’t necessarily mean having to go without. Here are some ideas for your next trip:

**Hop on a train**
In Switzerland, public transport will also take you to smaller and more remote places, and, with 9,000 trains a day, you’re sure to find a suitable connection. What’s more, Swiss Federal Railways will carry your winter luggage from station to station, or even from door to door, so that you can enjoy your journey in a relaxed and environmentally friendly way whatever the weather.

**Enjoy responsible cuisine**
The Michelin Guide has introduced a new symbol for 2021: the green star is awarded for sustainability in the restaurant industry. You can enjoy fine dining with regional products in the 19 listed restaurants, safe in the knowledge that a responsible approach is taken with regard to animals and the environment.

**Protect the winter**
An NGO called “Protect Our Winters” organises, among other things, ski touring and freeride weekends with climate protection experts. This means you can be guided safely through the mountains and at the same time find out what you can do to ensure that winter experiences in the mountains are still possible in 50 years’ time.

**Spend time in the cities**
Switzerland’s cities are bursting with creative minds who are also committed to the issue of sustainability in their businesses and who live this out in the form of locally, fairly produced products or innovative restaurant projects. All of these can be discovered on a city trip.

Campaign for greater sustainability
Swisstainable sheds light on what is already available in terms of sustainability and creates an incentive for new ideas.

Find out more:
» MySwitzerland.com/swisstainable
Sustainable travel

Let yourself be inspired
Switzerland Tourism has spent some time with people who are committed to achieving greater sustainability with new ideas or an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Some beautiful stories have emerged that leave you wanting more.

“My Swisstainable Journey” is a series of inspiring, personal stories.
Sustainable winter experiences: over 600 excursions using public transport at the click of a mouse.

» SwitzerlandMobility app
» switzerlandmobility.ch/winter
Travel by train and bus through the snow-covered landscape and enjoy the special magic of nature in its soft winter coat while snowshoeing, winter hiking or sledding. These tips are the perfect way to enjoy the peace and quiet of wintertime. All stories at a glance → Map on the last page.

SNOWSHOE HIKES

→ Montreux
A tour with a “sea view”
Sunset high above Lake Geneva.
Hardly anyone would associate the shores of Lake Geneva with snowshoeing – but they’d be wrong! A snowshoe tour in Caux at the foot of the Rochers de Naye offers great views that are hard to beat, especially as the sun goes down. A glass of local wine completes the experience.
Cog railway to the summit of Rochers de Naye.

→ Les Paccots
Culinary tour
Fondue from your rucksack in the Fribourg Pre-Alps.
With the fondue kit in your rucksack, you can set off on the circular route away from the slopes and ski lifts. The motto is: stop wherever you like, prepare a fondue and feast. However, it can take a while to decide on a place to stop and rest, as there are so many fantastic vantage points.
Try Fribourg cuchaule (saffron bread) in Châtel-St-Denis.

→ Riederalp
Within touching distance of the sky
Views of glaciers, 4,000m peaks and primal forests.
On this guided snowshoe hike, you’ll be struck dumb as you view the Aletsch Glacier, the largest Alpine glacier in Europe, and the majestic 4,000-metre peaks.
Enjoy a Valais platter on the sun terrace of the golf hotel.

WINTER HIKING

→ Braunwald
Taking the air in Glarus
Gentle trails at the foot of impressive peaks.
The hike leads through the magical Braunwald mountains and offers views of the Tödi and other Glarus peaks. The ice gallery in the rock and the deepest valley in Switzerland are particularly impressive; almost 3,000 metres in altitude separate the Tödi, the highest mountain in Glarus, and the village of Linthal.
The sun terrace of the the listed Ortstockhaus.

→ Savognin
In search of game
Deer watching in winter.
Armed with binoculars and accompanied by a local guide, it takes just 15 minutes to reach a south-facing slope that is popular with deer. So as not to disturb the animals, a minimum distance is always maintained during observation.
Make sure you wrap up warmly. The temperature drops as night falls.

→ Kandersteg
Far from everything
A winter hike far from civilisation.
After the cable car ascent from Kandersteg to Sunnbüehl, there is still a 400-metre difference in altitude and a four-hour walk before you reach the Gemmi Pass. This is an impressive route that was the central link between the Bernese Oberland and Valais back in the Middle Ages.
With a bit of luck, the photo you take at the finish on the Gemmi Pass might even include a bearded vulture flying overhead.
Hotel Schwarenbach offers a refuge away from it all.

TOBOGGANING

→ Grindelwald
A sled with a difference
Riding a Velogemel below the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau.
Sled + Bicycle = Velogemel. This vehicle is a Bernese Oberland invention and was once used as a means of transport, not a leisure sport. Things are quite different today: the fun begins at Grindelwald train station, where the vehicles are available to hire. Then you take the bus up to Bussalp, where the fast-paced adventure can begin.
There are superb views of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau as you start out.

→ Stoos
Dizzying depths and distances
Ten lakes, countless peaks, a rapid descent.
Thanks to the exposed location, the view from the Fronalpstock is phenomenal. The rapid sledding to the middle station is at least as tempting. The speedy route full of bends offers the finest tobogganing fun – although perhaps not for beginners.
Let’s go to the Stoos ridge on the steepest funicular railway in the world!

→ Fiescheralp
Never-ending descent
Sledding fun in Valais.
The run from the Fiescheralp to Lax is more than 13 kilometres long. It winds its way quickly down the mountain through snow-covered forests. You can take the shuttle bus back to Fiesch and have another go – if you still have any energy left.
After a tasty fondue, you can take your sled down into the valley by the light from your head lamp.
Swissrent
Get straight off your couch and into the snow: thanks to the extensive range of rental equipment from Swissrent, snow sports enthusiasts are well equipped for every adventure. » swissrent.com
With around 7,000 kilometres of slopes, Switzerland is an eldorado for snow sports enthusiasts. Experienced experts, up-and-coming piste skiers and powder connoisseurs will all find something to their liking here. This is made possible by modern technology and contemporary offers. All stories at a glance → Map on the last page.

FAMILY DESTINATIONS
For young and old
Perfect family holidays from A to Z.
Families will receive a warm welcome in the 25 holiday resorts that have been awarded the Family Destination label. The offerings are specifically geared towards the needs and wishes of children and their guardians. Our highlights:

MySwitzerland.com/family

On the slopes

More Sustainability

→ Tenna
A solar-powered ski lift
A pioneer celebrates a birthday.
The Safiental valley in Graubünden is home to the world’s first solar-powered ski lift. The 450-metre-long lift system carries winter sports enthusiasts up the mountain while at the same time generating solar energy. The installation is ten years old this year – happy birthday!

→ Melchsee-Frutt
Making snow without electricity
The height of ingenuity.
In 2013, the people of Central Switzerland started a pilot test, and now they have 19 “Nessy Zero E” snow lances. The Swiss invention uses just water pressure to produce snow. This pressure is delivered by the lakes high up on the Melchsee-Frutt.

→ St. Moritz
Vision
100 % water recycling
A world first in the Engadin.
St. Moritz aims to use snow makers on its pistes that only use recycled water by 2025, and is also planning a second reservoir that will hold melt water at 2,500 metres above sea level, which can then be returned to the slopes as snow in the autumn. The people of the Engadin hope to save a total of over 4GWh of electricity, which corresponds to the annual consumption of 900 family households.

→ Flumserberg
Measuring the snow with a snow groomer
More expertise – less snow.
The Flumserberg cable cars were the first to rely on Snowsat, a technology that measures the depth of snow under the snow groomers. This means that less snow is required to compensate for unevenness; snowmaking and grooming costs can be reduced as a result. 190 snow groomers in 28 ski areas throughout Switzerland are now equipped in this way.

→ Braunwald
Kinderland Hüttenberg
The children’s play area for the whole family.
In addition to 30 kilometres of slopes, Braunwald has Kinderland Hüttenberg with two rope lifts for the little ones as well as jumps, a parcours course and plenty of opportunities for practice.

→ Hasliberg
Skihäsliland Bidmi
The ultimate ski school training area.
Meiringen-Hasliberg has more than 60 kilometres of ski slopes and Skihäsliland with its six ski lifts, a carousel and fun park.

→ Zuoz
Gian Plaiv fun slope
Fun on the slopes for the whole family.
Gian Plaiv has an extraordinary mix of slopes, a snow park and cross-country trails, and is equally popular with young and old, beginners and advanced skiers.

→ Sörenberg
A paradise for kids
A wide variety of fun and games.
Something for every age group, from the Kids Village to Kinderland with a covered magic carpet and the Kid’s Freestyle Line for more grown-up kids.
Klar im Vorteil

Fit für die Piste!

Eine Mütze für Sie …

Ob Anfänger oder Fortgeschrittene – alle Kinder und Jugendlichen im Alter von 8 bis 15 Jahren rüsten ihr Können in den Raiffeisen Snow Camps für die Piste auf.

An den packenden Schweizer Ski-Weltcuprennen live mit dabei sein! Als Raiffeisen-Mitglied und Kunden von YoungMember Plus von 50 % Rabatt auf bis zu sechs Tickets profitieren.


In der Wintersaison 2021/22 gibt es die Tageskarten für Raiffeisen-Mitglieder mit 40 % Rabatt. Eine Region ausknobeln und ab auf die Piste!

Fast geschenkt

Schneespektakel

Raiffeisen-Mitglieder profitieren rund ums Jahr von attraktiven Angeboten.

raiffeisen.ch/memberplus
welovesnow.ch
raiffeisen.ch/winter

Shop.
Experience.
Enjoy.

Also open on Sundays.
A magical winter trip by train

Frozen lakes, fluffy powder snow and majestic glaciers: all are guaranteed on the new Winter Magic Tour! The journey takes you from Lucerne via the Jungfrau Region to Zermatt, where the world-famous Matterhorn awaits. After an excursion to the Gornergrat, the Glacier Express takes passengers through a winter wonderland to the Engadin. It crosses beautiful landscapes where the roads are impassable in the colder months. It has never been easier to experience winter in all its splendour. → MySwitzerland.com/wintermagic

One country, one ticket
From the economy day ticket to the Swiss Travel Pass – the right ticket for every guest. → MySwitzerland.com/tickets

Carefree travel
Without any inconvenience or unnecessary waiting times. The easy way to send your luggage from station to station, or even from door to door. → sbb.ch/luggage

Explore, collect, reap the benefits
With the Grand Train Tour app. → MySwitzerland.com/traintourapp

Grand Train Tour of Switzerland
Enjoy a relaxed ride from highlight to highlight and marvel at the breathtaking landscape through the train window.
» 1,280 kilometres
» World-famous panoramic routes
» Top sights and mountain excursions
Two new cable cars now run from Grindelwald right into the heart of the mountains. The Eiger Express, the most modern tricoable gondola in the world, will take you directly to the Eiger Glacier, the highest point in the ski area, in just 15 minutes. It starts from the new terminal in Grindelwald, where the departure point for the Männlichen cable car can also be found.

Gornergrat Bahn
The Matterhorn up close and personal

Gornergrat at 3,089 metres, is a place that you have to have visited at least once: it’s hard to find a better view of the majestic Matterhorn, after all. The journey itself provides plenty of opportunities for picture-postcard shots: snow-covered larches and impressive mountain panoramas.

Zermatt → Gornergrat

Zermatt → St. Moritz

Glacier Express
Spectacular pass rides

Deep gorges, high passes, mighty mountains and sparkling lakes: a ride on the Glacier Express is packed full of natural highlights. Passing through untouched winter landscapes, the trip from Zermatt to St.Moritz is a treat for all the senses.
Snowy experience in panorama trains
The rails are cleared and heated early in the morning – for a trip with the kitsch factor. ➔ MySwitzerland.com/panorama
What wonderful air! Once you’ve discovered the Upper Engadin, you will want to return to this idyllic place again and again. Hotel Nira Alpina is located at the highest point in the picturesque village of Surlej. It glitters in the sunshine. The special location right by the ski slope makes the hotel the ideal base for snow sports enthusiasts. Outside there are plenty of sporty adventures to be enjoyed and inside guests can expect pure comfort – including a whirlpool with a direct view of the wonderful mountain panorama.

SNOW SPORTS HOTELS
MySwitzerland.com/snowsportshotels

These accommodation options are ideal for winter sports enthusiasts – the perfect place to relax after an action-packed day on the slopes, have your equipment serviced and be the first one back on the mountain the next day. The needs of guests are the top priority here.

Nira Alpina
Silvaplana-Surlej

Hotel Castell
Zuoz

Hotel Bella Vista
Zermatt

Lenkerhof
Lenk

Huus Gstaad Hotel
Saanen
TYPICALLY SWISS HOTELS
MySwitzerland.com/typically

Regional building style, traditional decor or a menu of Swiss specialities: the Typically Swiss Hotels – from aristocratic townhouses to country inns – are sure to please any fan of Switzerland.

Hotel Fafleralp A
Blatten

Hotel Krone
Sarnen

SWISS DELUXE HOTELS
MySwitzerland.com/deluxe

Elegant architecture, state-of-the-art facilities and top-notch service: Swiss Deluxe Hotels offer an exclusive ambience in which every moment makes a lasting impression.

Four Seasons Hotel B
Geneva

SWISS FAMILY HOTELS & LODGINGS
MySwitzerland.com/familyhotels

Crèches, storytelling, children’s spas, cinemas or adventure playgrounds: the needs of the little ones are the focus for Swiss Family Hotels & Lodgings.

Reka Holiday Village E
Belalp

DESIGN & LIFESTYLE HOTELS
MySwitzerland.com/designlifestyle

High creative standards, a distinct design and carefully selected materials: with their inspiring architecture, a stay at one of Switzerland’s Design & Lifestyle Hotels will be a lifestyle experience for guests with a sense of style.

Marktgasse Hotel
Zurich

BOUTIQUE-HOTEL Guarda Val F
Scuol

SWISS HISTORIC HOTELS
MySwitzerland.com/historic

Whether you choose a grand hotel from the Belle Époque or a baroque inn, guests at Swiss Historic Hotels sleep within walls steeped in history and can enjoy the atmosphere of a bygone era.

Schloss Wartegg G
Rorschacherberg

INSPIRING MEETING HOTELS

Host meetings against a beautiful mountain panorama, in a former monastery or in a luxurious high-tech tent: Inspiring Meeting Hotels help promote successful meetings with their unusual locations and their exceptional support programmes.

Pilatus Kulm Hotel D
Kriens/Lucerne

Sorell Hotel
Zürichberg
This way for more hotels and accommodation options.
The Swiss Alps by numbers
The Alps make up 58% of Switzerland’s overall area. A total of 48 mountains are over 4,000 metres high.

At 4,048 metres, the Piz Bernina is the highest mountain in the Eastern Alps and the only 4,000-metre peak in Graubünden.

Highest point
The Dufourspitze in the Valais Alps is 4,634 metres high.

The highest community
The village of Juf, which lies 2,126 metres above sea level, is lived in all year round.

Lowest point
Lake Maggiore in the canton of Ticino lies at 193 metres above sea level.

Sustainable public transport
Several trains and mountain railway/cable car services already run entirely or largely on renewable energy, setting new standards for sustainability.

Energy recovery
Gornergrat Bahn
Hydroelectric power
Rhaetian Railway
Solar energy
Staubernbahn

The snowflake
10^18
A snowflake consists of around a trillion water molecules.

60°
The points of snowflakes are always arranged at an angle of exactly 60°.

Deepest measured snow
816 cm
Measured on the Säntis in April 1999.

The official Swiss low temperature record
-41.8°C
Measured on 12 January 1987 in La Brévine (NE).

3,821 m a.s.l.
Highest upper station
In the ski area of Zermatt.

10 km
Longest secured glacier descent
The piste above the Morteratsch Glacier in the Engadin.

76%
Steepest descent
The “Le Mur Suisse” piste at Champéry in Valais.

The most famous piste
The descent from the Lauberhorn to Wengen is probably the best-known, thanks to the ski race.

Holidays in Switzerland
We’ll be happy to help you plan your best possible holidays in Switzerland.

Call us free on*:
00800 100 200 30

*Local charges may apply
Just relax
SWISS Alpine Lounge

The SWISS Alpine Lounge brings together the best of both worlds: the charm of a rustic alpine hut and the customary comfort of an established SWISS lounge.

The world is your oyster
Public transport is highly reliable and will take passengers to even the most remote valley – quickly, in comfort and right on time. The Swiss Travel Pass offers international visitors unlimited travel using the Swiss public transport network practically around the clock.

Arrival with SWISS
Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is the airline of Switzerland. It serves Switzerland’s Zurich and Geneva airports from numerous destinations worldwide.

Find tickets and book: swiss.com

A taste of the best chocolate high above the clouds
Merci!
The SWISS mini chocolate bars are a token of our regard for passengers of SWISS and a tasty sample of one of the things for which Switzerland is known worldwide.

Every little counts
Flying with CO₂ compensation
Compensaid makes it possible for you to reduce the CO₂ emissions of your flight by buying synthetic kerosene (sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF for short) or by offsetting them through the myclimate foundation.

Help to reforest Nicaragua.

Fly with sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). Compared to fossil fuels, SAF reduces CO₂ emissions by up to 80%.

78g CO₂ per passenger kilometre are produced by the SWISS fleet. In the case of a small car, the CO₂ emissions are around 110g/km.

-50% CO₂ by 2050: this is the target identified by the aviation industry.

There is an increase of just 50% in petrol consumption, while passenger numbers and transport capacity have more than doubled.

SUSTAINABILITY IN FIGURES

Tradition meets modernity
Always skilfully building bridges between old and new.

Hospitality
Making the guest feel at home, wherever they may be.

Reliability
Reliability in every possible situation.

Mobility

World of SWISS
SWISSness
As an airline, SWISS carries the values for which Switzerland is famous all over the world every day.

Background stories and travel tips.

INDULGENCE ON BOARD

SWISS Saveurs
The new concept transforms the journey into a high-flying delight.

SWISS Altitude 1150
Refreshing pure mineral water from Glarus is served during flights.

Sprüngli × SWISS
Two brands with a strong tradition provide great tasting moments on board.

INDULGENCE ON BOARD

SUSTAINABILITY IN FIGURES

Every little counts