

Discover Switzerland: August 8-22, 2013

This detailed schedule contains useful information. Please read it carefully and carry it with you for reference.
Please arrive at scheduled meeting points a few minutes early: Trains don't wait!
Please note that the itinerary is subject to change according to weather conditions, train schedule changes etc. Please always refer to my most up-to-date itinerary on the flip chart in the hotel lobby.

Breakfast buffet is served daily in the hotel restaurant from 7.00 am to 10.00 am.

Thursday, August 8 - Arrival

5.30 pm: Beat Jet Lag! Join your fellow travellers for a brief orientation walk to familiarize yourself with the hotel's vicinity.
The walk takes approx. 30 minutes at a leisurely pace.
Please bring your Swiss Pass for validation at the train station.

6.00 pm: Welcome Reception in the lecture room on Floor 1.

7:00 pm: Welcome Dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Friday, August 9 – Meiringen, Mägisalp, Aare Gorge, Reichenbach Falls

8.30 am: Lecture: "Mountaineering"

9.45 am: Walking tour of Meiringen,
followed by taking a cable car to Reuti and a gondola from Reuti via Bidmi up to Mägisalp.
Return from Mägisalp to Meiringen

1.00 pm: Enjoy a group lunch at the Aare Gorge Restaurant

2.00 pm: Visit of the Aare Gorge and the Reichenbach Falls
Walk back to the hotel or alternatively take the PTT Postauto bus

6 p.m.: Lecture: "The Heroic Epoch of Swiss History"

7.00 p.m.: Dinner at the hotel

Saturday, August 10 - Brienz, Giessbach, Interlaken

9.20 am: Train departure to Brienz (arr. 9.34 am)

Free-time in Brienz. Suggestion: walk along lakefront and back through the village

10.40 am: Boat tour from Brienz to Giessbach (arr. 10.50 am)

Funicular up to the Giessbach Hotel, free-time for walk up to and behind the waterfall

12.30 pm: Take funicular back down to lake

12.50 pm: Boat tour from Giessbach to Interlaken (arr. 1.53 pm)

Short orientation walk of Interlaken, followed by free-time.

Lunch and return to Meiringen at leisure

(Suggestion: visit the Harder Kulm, Interlaken's home mountain, by funicular, CHF 13.50 round-trip pp with Swiss Pass)

7.00 p.m.: Dinner at the hotel

Sunday, August 11 - Montreux

8:21 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 8.55 am)

9.00 am: on to Spiez (arr. 9.21 am)

9:36 am: on to Visp (arr. 10.02 am)

10.08 am: on to Montreux (arr. 11.17 am)

Lunch at leisure

12:40 pm: Boat to Château de Chillon (arr. 1.00 pm)

Audio guide for tour of castle: CHF 6 (available inside the castle in room #4 on castle map)

2.15 pm: One-hour walk back to Montreux along the waterfront

(Alternative: Bus 201 runs every ten minutes between Montreux and castle, 11-minute ride from castle to train station)

3.44 pm: Train Departure from Montreux to Zweisimmen on Goldenpass Panoramic Train (arr. 5.32 pm)

5.38 pm on to Interlaken Ost (arr. 6.49)

7.04 pm on to Meiringen (arr. 7.35)

8.00 pm: Dinner at the hotel

Monday, August 12 – Lauterbrunnen, Mürren

8.46 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 9.24 am)
9.35 am: on to Lauterbrunnen (arr. 9.55 am)

10.01 am: Cable car to Grütschalp
One-and-a-half hour scenic hike to Mürren via Winteregg
(Alternative: take train to Winteregg to shorten the walk, or: take train all the way to Mürren)
Free-time in Mürren and lunch at leisure. Suggestion for nice weather: trip to Schilthorn, price approx. CHF 39 pp.

3.25 pm: Cable car from Mürren via Gimmelwald to Stechelberg
(Alternative if weather is not so nice: earlier cable car to Stechelberg and visit of Trümmelbach Falls, approx. CHF 11 pp.)

3.42 pm: Postauto bus from Stechelberg back to Lauterbrunnen (arr. 3.55 pm)

4.03 pm: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 4.24 pm)
4.33 pm: on to Meiringen (arr. 5.10 pm)

7.00 pm: Dinner at the hotel

Tuesday, August 13 – Bern

8.00 am: Lecture: "Sonderfall Schweiz (1939-2001)"

9.46 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 10.24)
10.30 am: on to Bern (arr. 11.23 am)

Two-hour city tour, followed by free-time and lunch at leisure
Independent return to Meiringen
Dinner at leisure

Wednesday, August 14 – Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure
7.00 pm: Dinner at the hotel

Thursday, August 15 – Thun, Spiez

8.21 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 8.55)
9.00 am: on to Thun (arr. 9.31 am)
Enjoy free time in Thun to visit the castle or enjoy the lakeside promenade

12.40 pm: Boat tour from Thun to Spiez (arr. 1.30)
Free time to visit castle or enjoy waterfront

2.30 pm: Bus to train station

3.05 pm: Train from Spiez to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 3.28)
3.33 pm: on to Meiringen (arr. 4.10)

7.00 pm: Dinner at the hotel

Friday, August 16 – Kandersteg, Lake Oeschinen

8:46 am: Train departure to Interlaken Ost (arr. 9.24 am)
9.29 am: on to Spiez (arr. 9.50 am)
10.12 am: on to Kandersteg (arr. 10.41 am)

20-minute walk from train to gondola station (must walk, no bus)
Take gondola up, then 30-minute walk from gondola to Lake Oeschinen (Here you can take an electrovan at CHF 10 one-way)
Lunch at leisure at the lake: Restaurant or bring picnic

1.30 pm: Walk back to gondola station (or take van), take gondola down and walk to train station

3.13 pm: Train departure to Spiez (arr. 3.44 pm)
4.05 pm: on to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 4.28 pm)
4.33 pm: on to Meiringen (arr. 5.10 pm)

Dinner at leisure

Saturday, August 17 – Murten

8:21 am: Train departure to Interlaken Ost (arr. 8.55 am)
 9.00 am: on to Bern (arr. 9.52 am)
 10.08 am: on to Murten (arr. 10.43 am)

Guided walking tour through the old town (11.00-11.45 am)
 Free-time and lunch at leisure

2.00 pm: Boat tour across Lake Murten to Motier (arr. 2.20)
 Short walk to a winery (visit and wine-tasting)

3.40 pm: Boat trip back to Murten (arr 4.30 pm)
 20 min walk from the ship dock to the train station of Murten.

5.17 pm: Train departure from Murten to Bern (arr 5.52 pm)
 6.04 pm: on to Interlaken Ost (arr 6.57 pm)
 7.04 pm: on to Meiringen (arr 7.35 pm)

8.00 pm: Dinner at the hotel and *Swiss Music Night!*

Sunday, August 18 – Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure
 Lunch and dinner on your own

Monday, August 19 – Zermatt

8.21 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 8.55 am)
 9.00 am: on to Spiez (arr. 9.21 am)
 9.36 am: on to Visp (arr. 10.02 am)
 10.10 am: on to Zermatt (arr. 11.13 am)

Short orientation walk, followed by free-time and lunch at leisure

Suggestion: visit Gornergrat mountain ridge (elev. 3,100 meters) with spectacular views of more than 20 mountains incl. the Matterhorn
 (Swiss Pass approx. CHF 41 pp round-trip. Runs every 20 minutes. One-way transfer duration: 40 minutes)
 Another suggestion: enjoy your free-time in town and don't miss the Matterhorn museum (free of charge with Swiss Pass)

4.13 pm: Train departure to Visp (arr. 5.23 pm)
 5.28 pm: on to Spiez (arr. 5.53 pm)
 6.05 pm: on to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 6.28 pm)
 6.33 pm: on to Meiringen (arr. 7.10 pm)

7.45 pm: Dinner at the hotel

Tuesday, August 20 – Grindelwald, Rosenloui

8.21 am: Train departure to Interlaken-Ost (arr. 8.55 am)
 9.05 am: on to Grindelwald (arr. 9.39 am)
 Free-time in Grindelwald

11.04 am: Postauto bus via scenic Grosse Scheidegg to Schwarzwaldalp (arr. 11.55 am)

30-minute walk from Schwarzwaldalp to Rosenloui gorge
 (Alternative: take bus to gorge or take bus all the way to Rosenloui hotel)

Approx. 45 minutes to walk through the gorge. Inside gorge: difficult walking, 240 steps up, steep and can be wet and slippery.
 Then walk five minutes from gorge to Rosenloui hotel

1.30 pm: Included lunch at the Rosenloui Hotel

3.05 pm: Postauto bus from Rosenloui hotel back to Meiringen (arr. 3.40 pm)

Dinner at leisure

Wednesday, August 21 – Lucerne

8.46 am: Train departure to Lucerne (arr. 10.04 am)

10.35 am: Boat tour of Lake Lucerne (approx. one hour)
followed by walking tour of the city (approx. one-and-a-half hours)

Lunch at leisure and free afternoon in Lucerne
Independent return to Meiringen

6.30 pm: Farewell Reception in the lecture room

7.30 pm: Farewell Dinner in the hotel restaurant

Preparation for Departure

It would help if you paid for any hotel charges **before** retiring in order to avoid long lines in the morning. Even if you are sure that you owe nothing, please check that there are no incorrect or unexpected charges. This will help to ensure that departure is not delayed.

Thursday, August 22 - Departure

Transfer to Zurich airport departing the hotel at 9.00 am for the following guests:

XX on LX#038 to SFO at 1305

XX on LH#2369 to MUC at 1315

Requesting transfer:

XX

11 guests on the group transfer – Please meet me in the lobby, I will transfer with you to the airport.

Guests Departing Individually:

XX

Enjoy Switzerland!