

# Into the Swiss Alps



LUCERNE

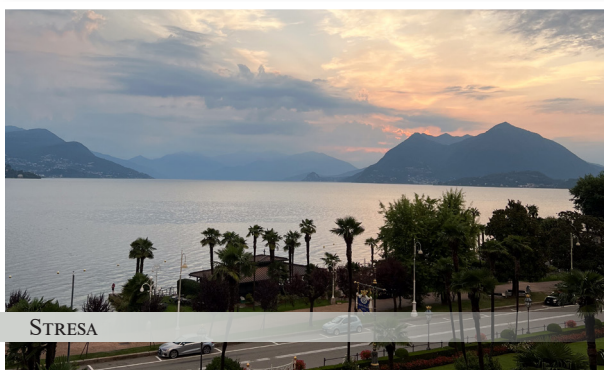


AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> 2024

The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range that lies entirely within Europe, stretching 750 miles from east to west across 8 different countries, with by far the largest section in Switzerland.

Starting in Italy, we wend our way north *Into the Swiss Alps* to the cities of Lucerne and Zurich. In 218 BCE, Hannibal crossed the Alps in the opposite direction with elephants—our journey will be much more comfortable! Firstly we explore part of the Italian Lake District, tucked into the foothills of the Italian Alps, with a stay in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Leaving the mild climate of Ticino we enter the Swiss Alps, where we'll spend some time in Lucerne, nestled in the shadow of Mt. Pilatus, before continuing to Zurich. The largest city and the financial capital of Switzerland, Zurich is renowned for its quaint neighborhoods, waterways, important museums and shopping.

Despite the fact that Switzerland has four official languages, the geography of the area transcends linguistic boundaries and gives the region a distinct, shared cultural identity, typified by traditional activities such as cheese-making and woodworking—and in more modern times, by winter sports. This spring, join us for an adventure through stunning scenery as we journey *Into the Swiss Alps*.



STRESA

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

<b>LAND ONLY:</b>	<b>\$ 4350</b>
<b>SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b>	<b>\$ 1150</b>

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:**

<b>HOTELS:</b>	8 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel including all hotel taxes and service charges
<b>COACHING:</b>	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
<b>MEALS:</b>	Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
<b>ENTRANCES:</b>	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
<b>GUIDES:</b>	Discover Europe guide throughout, and a local guide in Zurich

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.*

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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from your chosen US city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>** - Your arrival at Milan's Malpensa Airport will be met for the short, scenic drive to our hotel in Stresa. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax at the hotel with stunning waterfront views of Lake Maggiore. This evening we'll gather for drinks and enjoy a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>** - We'll begin our day with a boat transfer to Isola Bella for a morning walking tour. Literally translated as 'beautiful island' this is one of the Borromean Islands of Lake Maggiore. The Palace, with its surrounding Italianate garden historically offered an elaborate setting for sumptuous parties and theatrical events for the nobility of Europe. The palace, begun in 1632 by Carlo III, from the influential House of Borromeo, was to be dedicated to his wife Isabella D'Adda (from whom the island takes its name). We'll stop for lunch on Isola Pescatori before heading to Isola Madre. A walking tour will acquaint us with the largest of the three islands in the archipelago. We'll wander among the well-known English style gardens—the Giardini Botanici dell'Isola Madre—dating from about 1823, which cover 20 acres on the site of a former citrus orchard. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>** - Heading up through the Alps today, we travel north from the Italian-speaking, Swiss canton of Ticino and on into the heart of the mountains. We'll break our journey in the lakeside town of Lugano just after crossing the border and then enjoy the breathtaking mountain scenery on the way to Lucerne. After checking in to our hotel, there will be time to relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning a walking tour of the old town takes us across the famous covered bridge, the Kapellbrücke, past the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) and through the unspoiled pedestrian areas of Kornmarkt and Weinmarkt to see the remains of the old city walls. There will be free time to shop, explore and have lunch before we gather again for an afternoon excursion up nearby Mt. Pilatus. We ascend by cable car and come back down by the steepest cog railway in the world! Should the weather take away the views, you can always spend the afternoon in Bucherer's, Switzerland's largest clock and watch outlet, but remember, it will always be sunny on top of the mountain above the clouds. The evening is free to explore Lucerne nightlife. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**



LUGANO CITY VIEW

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>** - Our excursion today takes us through archetypical beautiful Swiss countryside of mountains, valleys and lakes. Our first stop pays homage to William Tell at the Hohle Gasse to see the commemorative chapel that marks the place where Tell lay in wait for the evil bailiff Gessler, to get his revenge. From here, we return to the shores of the Vierwaldstättersee (also known as Lake Lucerne) at Kusunacht and follow the lakeshore south to the picturesque town of Weggis. We'll stop to explore this beautiful lake side resort town and have lunch. A short boat ride on the lake brings us to the charming town of Vitznau, where we meet our bus and return to our hotel in Lucerne for an evening at the Stadtkeller, a Lucerne institution, where you can enjoy traditional Swiss food and entertainment. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE**



VIEW OF FRAUMUNSTER CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>** - Leaving Lucerne, we stop in the lakeside town of Zug on our way to Zurich. We'll take a gentle walk around historic downtown Zug, ending at the Galerie Gmurzynska for a visit. For a small town, the gallery has very impressive exhibits by internationally-acclaimed modern artists. After a break for lunch, we'll take the Zugerberg Bahn funicular railway up into the mountains. The views overlooking the lake and its surroundings are stunning. On our return to Zug, there may be time to do a little shopping before we continue to our hotel in Zurich. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>** - Our morning sightseeing with a local guide takes us through Zurich's historic town center on foot. We'll see the guild houses, and the three great churches of St. Peter, Grossmunster and Fraumunster. And of course we'll stop at a chocolate maker for a tasting! The afternoon is free—you may choose to take one of the many lake cruises on offer. The evening is also free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we drive to the town of Appenzell. Here we'll have lunch and visit a cheese factory for a demonstration of the cheese-making process. We return to Zurich for a free afternoon. This evening we gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: ZURICH**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfers to Zurich Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

SCAN THE BELOW QR TO REGISTER FOR THIS TOUR!



\*Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner