

Alpine Scenic Trains and Romantic River Cruising

18 July – 9 August 2023

This fully escorted itinerary takes you on the very best of Switzerland's Scenic Train Journeys... beginning in Zurich, filled with twists and turns, along rivers and lakesides, through tunnels and over mountains.

Enjoy spectacular views only possible by Train, then staying overnight in beautiful small towns and hamlets along the way, carefully hand-picked for their unique charm. From Alpine Rail to European River, we connect to Viking Cruises, and continue a romantic cruise along the Rhine & Moselle Rivers to a grand finale in Paris.



YOU Travel Bethlehem

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We have taken every care on our **2023 Fully Escorted Group** to ensure we have a unique and sensual adventure encompassing the most world-famous TRAIN journeys – The Glacier Express, The Bernina Express, The Gotthard Panorama Express and the Golden Pass Line, with the No #1 world best in European River Cruising, Viking Cruises. Particular attention has been paid to each day, to ensure there is a measured balance of activity, relaxation and adventure. This fully guided tour will particularly suit those active travellers who want to explore places encompassing nature and spectacular landscapes – whilst ending with a taste of pure indulgent luxury.

Itinerary:

BB Bed & Breakfast

BBL Bed Breakfast & Lunch

BBD Bed Breakfast & Dinner

BBLD Bed Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 1 Tuesday 18 July – ZURICH (D)

Arrive into the culturally vibrant and attractive city of Zurich and settle into your hotel for your first night in Switzerland. Take an afternoon stroll to visit the best kept secret in Zurich, the “Murales de Giacometti” – known as the flower hall, this ornate police station entry hall was painted by Augusto Giacometti, and is magnifico! How about a cocktail at the Jules Verne Panorama Bar to enjoy the spectacular views over the roofs of the old town.

Day 2 Wednesday 19 July – GOLDEN PASS LINE & WENGEN (BBD)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making our way to the Zurich Train Station. Boarding the GOLDEN PASS LINE in Lucerne and travelling through to Interlaken. Transferring over to a regular train to reach the quaint alpine village of Wengen, our alpine home for 2 nights, poised on a mountain ledge this is the closest village to Jungfrau. The Local “tip” is to take a seat at dusk on the bench in front of the church, and watch the vista below you take on a watercolour dreaminess peering down into the misty Staubbach Falls in the lower Lauterbrunnen Valley. After soaking up the uplifting views, you can meet your fellow travellers at one of the many lovely local restaurants for dinner.

Day 3 Thursday 20 July – WENGEN (BB)

Decision time now...between going to the up to the highest train station in Europe, the majestic Jungfrauoch which opened in 1912, or riding the series of thrilling cable cars up to Schilthorn. Once at the top of this 2,970 metre peak, you have panoramic views of the Eiger, Monch and the Jungfrau and more than 200 other mountain tops. Try out the revolving restaurant before wandering back down through the alpine hamlet of Murren, otherwise known as “Heidi Heaven”, a great stop for lunch perhaps?

Day 4 Friday 21 July – MONTREUX (BB)

After breakfast we take the regular train from Wengen back to Interlaken, then all aboard the GOLDEN PASS LINE. The golden coloured elegant train takes us from the Bernese Oberland via the famous resort town of Gstaad, through the amazing Jaun Tunnel before the panoramic view of Lake Geneva and Montreux opens before us. Staying 2 nights at this traditional resort town on the shores of Lake Geneva, protected by 2,000 metre high mountain peaks and famous for its mild climate and subtropical vegetation. We take a walk along the foreshore which is studded with glorious 19th century hotelsor we might catch the tail-end of the Friday morning lakeside markets. Music buffs could be interested in the Museum of Montreux or QUEEN (the Band) Studio Experience or wander down the promenade to see the Freddie Mercury statue.

Day 5 Saturday 22 July – MONTREUX (BB)

In the morning we will have a guided morning visit to the beautiful Chateau de Chillon located on the Lake Geneva shoreline – said to be a “fairy-tale castle”. The water castle is said to be the most historic building visited in Switzerland. That leaves plenty of time to take the cogwheel railway up the mountainside to Rochers de Naye. The journey getting there is almost as impressive as the experience at the top, with incredible lake and mountain views and the gorgeous Rambertia gardens that await.

Day 6 Sunday 23 July – SCENIC TRAIN LINE & ZERMATT (BBD)

After breakfast today we board the SCENIC TRAIN LINE travelling from Montreux to Zermatt. Two nights in this gorgeous mountain side resort town lying at the foot of the amazing Matterhorn. Head downhill toward the noisy Vispa River along Hinterdorfstrasse, the old world street crammed with 16th century pig stalls and archetypal Valaisian timber granaries, or see a more state-of-the-art insight into Valaisian village life in the Matterhorn Museum depicting the dawn of tourism in Zermatt and the lives the majestic Matterhorn has claimed. Short films portray the first successful ascent and the tragic descent when 4 team members crashed to their deaths, and the infamous rope that broke... is on display.

Day 7 Monday 24 July – ZERMATT (BB)

Relax over breakfast today before you hit the main street of Zermatt, Bahnhofstrasse... lined with boutique shops! Try your skills at one of the outdoor Ice skating rinks, or ride the spectacular Gornergrat open-air cog wheel train to the summit. Visit the mountain ledge hotel Hotel Gornergrat which has spellbinding views of the Matterhorn. Perhaps the more active could walk back down the trail into Zermatt, taking about 90 minutes – the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 8 Tuesday 25 July – GLACIER EXPRESS TRAIN & ST MORITZ (BB)

An early start today to join the magnificent GLACIER EXPRESS TRAIN in the Panoramic Viewing Cabin from Zermatt to St Moritz. Travel along the deep Rhone Valley, and through an incredibly fascinating part of the Alps as it drives over the Oberalp Pass and further on through the impressive Rhine Gorge. A night to relax in the town of Europe’s rich and famous, after a fabulous day on the train!

Day 9 Wednesday 26 July – ST MORITZ (BB)

Today you can stretch your legs and enjoy some of the galleries in the village centre, or time for window shopping in this cosmopolitan hotspot amongst exquisite delicatessens, jewellers and interior design stores. Perhaps indulge in the ultimate guilty St Moritz pleasure – an Engadin Walnut Tart! Filled with cream, caramel and chunky walnuts.

Day 10 Thursday 27 July – BERNINA EXPRESS – ST MORITZ – TIRANO – LUGANO (BB)

After breakfast today we embark on yet another UNESCO World Heritage route, the BERNINA EXPRESS linking vastly different language regions and their respective cultures. Lean back and soak up a kaleidoscope of wonderful views of the vast Lago Bianco, the glaciers of the Bernina Massif and further into the valley of Val Poschiavo before leaving the comfort of this grand old lady...to transfer onto the final leg to Lugano on the Bernina Bus – an exhilarating winding spectacular road trip through the Valtellina valley and along Lake Como, we must remember to sit on the left side of the bus, for the very best views.



VIKING CRUISES 12 day River Cruise Tour Zurich through to Paris on Long ship VIKING HILD - You will be accommodated in comfortable Outside Staterooms 205sqft with floor to ceiling sliding glass doors opening to a full sized verandah. Either Double or Twin configuration with luxury linens and pillows. FREE WIFI, 110/220 volt outlets and USB ports. Your own private Bathroom with a spacious glass enclosed shower, heated bathroom floor and antifog mirror. Premium Freyja toiletries, plus robes and slippers. Hotel stays in both Zurich and Paris are included on this cruise-tour with daily included excursions. There is fabulous scenic cruising past the town of Sankt Goar, home of the Lorelei Rock and through the stunning Rhine Gorge, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Viking has their unique Aquavit Terrace Deck at the very forward bow of the ship for supreme viewing.

Day 11 Friday 28 July – LUGANO (BB)

A hearty breakfast before/ or after an early morning stroll along the shores of glacial Lake Lugano. Take in the main square Piazza della Riforma, which is ringed with gorgeous pastel coloured neoclassical palazzi. Today we enjoy a guided tour with our local guide Anna on a boat ride across the lake to the picturesque town of Gandria, a fishing village perched at the bottom of Monte Bre, famous for its romantic atmosphere, featuring tiny streets and stairways with views of gorgeous landscapes.

Day 12 Saturday 29 July – GOTTHARD PANORAMA EXPRESS & ZURICH (BB)

After breakfast we board the GOTTHARD PANORAMA EXPRESS from Lugano back to Fluelen. The train reaches Bellinzona, the lowest point in the route via amazing spiral loops and then takes you all the way from the Mediterranean south right back, into the heart of Switzerland via the GOTTHARD TUNNEL which was built in 1882, all 57 kilometres and reaching a depth of 2300 metres underground. Our final connection to the Zurich Rail link from Fluelen – to meet Viking River Cruises in Zurich.

Day 13 Sunday 30 July – ZURICH (BB)

After breakfast today we discover Zurich during a city walk and take a fully narrated scenic cruise tour of the lake. See the twin-spired Grossmünster church with its stained glass windows by Augusto Giacometti which reminds us of our first day in Zurich when we visited the police station. Across the Limatt River, admire the Fraumünster with its distinctive green spire. Marc Chagall created five windows of the abbey's choir. Let your creativity be explored today during a special hands on workshop in chocolate-making at the Lindt Headquarters in Kilchberg.

Day 14 Monday 31 July – BASEL (BBD)

Transfer to Basel after breakfast. A fascinating blend of modern and traditional with a thriving arts scene. You can get acquainted with its Market Square of guild houses and Gothic Renaissance and baroque splendour. Its Dinner aboard VIKING HILD this evening.

Day 15 Tuesday 01 August – STRASBOURG (BBLD)

Today we visit Strasbourg, the cultural centre of France's Alsace region, which boasts a convivial mix of cultural influences. See the well preserved OLD Town, or Petite France, enclosed on all sides by the little ILL River. Stroll the cobblestone streets lined with half-timbered houses and intersected by picturesque canals. In addition to the Highlights of Strasbourg excursion we will visit the Mercedes Benz Car Factory and witness the precision that goes into every Mercedes vehicle on this fascinating tour.

Day 16 Wednesday 02 August – SPEYER (BBLD)

Exploring the quiet German town of Speyer, on the west bank of The Rhine. Visit its stunning Romanesque imperial cathedral considered to be a pivotal structure in the evolution of European architecture. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the burial place of eight emperors including some of the most famous Holy Roman Emperors. Stroll the charming shop lined main street of Speyer, and see the impressive clock tower, the OLD Town Gate.

Day 17 Thursday 03 August – MAINZ (BBLD)

Arriving into the heart of the Rhine wine region, Mainz. Visit one of the Rhines most dramatic cathedrals here, Mainz Cathedral with its six towers reaching upwards. Browse the Gutenberg Museum dedicated to the inventor of moveable type and book printing. The collection includes many beautiful books and fascinating print technologies including a replica of Gutenberg's workshop.

Day 18 Friday 04 August – KOBLENZ (BBLD)

Cruising the Middle Rhine and enjoying the scenic Rhine Gorge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Passing Sankt Goar, Rhine Fels Castle, the largest fortress on the Rhine. We stop in Koblenz and take a stroll around this romantic town where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet.

Day 19 Saturday 05 August – COCHEM (BBLD)

Disembarking to the quaint town of Cochem. Take a tour of this stunning medieval town and its millennium old Reichsburg Castle perched on a hill. Visit the scenic Moselle wine country where some of the finest Rieslings in the world are produced among terraced slopes. During the tour you can delve into a wine making history that dates back nearly 2,000 years to Roman times. Stop at a local winery for a tour and tasting before returning to Viking HILD.

Day 20 Sunday 06 August – BERNKASTEL & TRIER (BBLD)

Today sees us docking in Bernkastel & Trier. One of Moselle's most beloved medieval villages and wine centre. Continue cruising this afternoon to Trier, Germany's oldest city. See the wonderfully preserved Roman Porta Nigra gate, Trier Cathedral and the Church of Our Lady.

Day 21 Monday 07 August – REIMS & PARIS (BB)

We disembark in Trier this morning and transfer to Paris. Passing through Luxembourg on route, where you can visit The American Cemetery, homage to thousands of soldiers who lost their lives in WW2 during the Battle of the Bulge. Stopping in Reims to visit the cathedral and to have lunch, before arriving into the romantic capital of France, le Paris!!

Day 22 Tuesday 8 August – PARIS (BBD)

A day to explore Panoramic Paris and the major sites of the city. Tonight we enjoy our final night and Farewell Dinner aboard VIKING HILD in Paris.

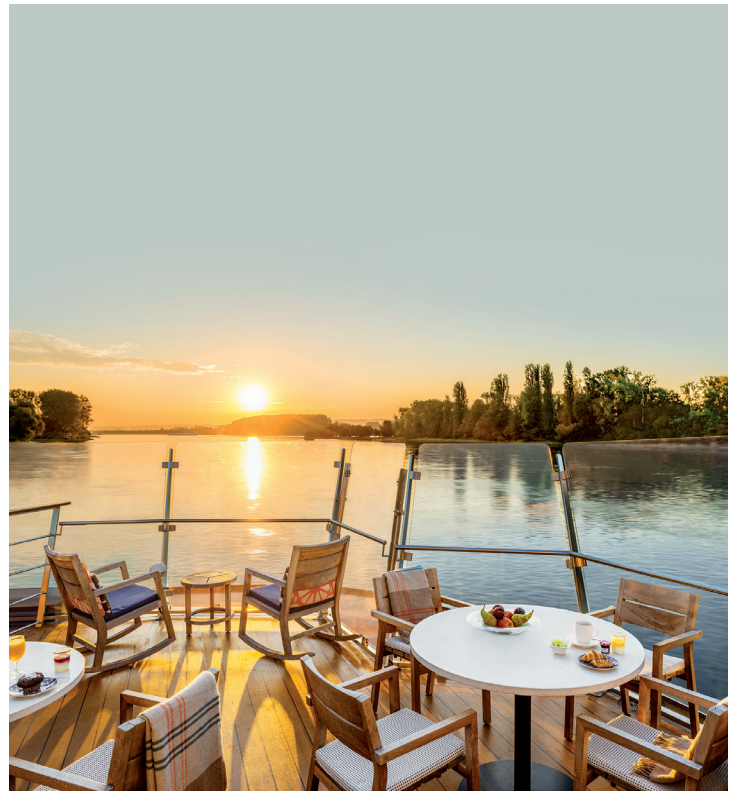
Day 23 Wednesday 9 August (BB)

We enjoy our final breakfast today before disembarkation from the vessel. You will have the option to add a post-cruise 2 night Hotel add-on here in Paris, if you plan to stay longer. By adding the extension your luggage will be transferred to the hotel for you. If you are returning home to NZ today or you are confirmed on flights to another destination, we will transfer you from the vessel to the appropriate airport. Whatever your plans, we say goodbye today to our friends on board Viking HILD and all our fellow passengers. Travel safely, thank you for being part of our journey – will look forward to seeing you on our next adventure! Au Voir!



Inclusions:

- ✓ Fully Escorted by Kay Rogers from Zurich to Paris
- ✓ 22 nights accommodation with Meals as specified in the itinerary (ALL breakfasts included)
- ✓ Drinks and Welcome Dinner in Zurich 29 July
- ✓ Swiss Travel Pass in 1st Class with all Seat Reservations where possible including the Swiss Museum Pass
- ✓ Visit Murales de Giacometti in Zurich – take your passport!
- ✓ Choice to visit Jungfrauoch or take the cable car up to Schilthorn
- ✓ Visit the Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- ✓ Ride the Gornergrat open-air cog wheel train to the summit in Zermatt
- ✓ Excellence Class Seats on the Glacier Express Train in Panorama Class from Zermatt to St Moritz
- ✓ Boat ride excursion from Lugano to Gandria across Lake Lugano
- ✓ 7 night river cruise on Viking HILD in Outside Staterooms with Balcony
- ✓ All onboard meals (including alcoholic refreshments) and FREE WIFI on Viking Hild
- ✓ One fully guided Viking shore excursion per day – additional optional excursions
- ✓ Excursion to the Mercedes Benz Car Factory
- ✓ Chocolate making workshop at the Lindt Headquarters in Kilchberg
- ✓ Gratuities and Porterage included on Viking Cruises
- ✓ Transfers from the airport on arrival and departure in Zurich



Your tour escort

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23 Day Tour – Cruise Package NZD\$ To be confirmed*

TWIN/DOUBLE share per person (land/rail/cruise only – no air flights)
 Single supplement NZD\$ To be confirmed

What is not Included:

- Airfares
- Travel Insurance (this is mandatory)
- Currency fluctuations
- Passport and visa fees
- Items of a personal nature
- Meals and Beverages other than those detailed in the itinerary

***Terms and Conditions** – All tour participants need to provide Proof of Covid Vaccination to confirm a space on this Cruise-Tour. Confirmation will be confirmed on receipt of \$1000.00 per person deposit. Travel Insurance cover is mandatory. Full and Final payment is due on or before Thursday 30 April 2023. All payments are to be paid by Internet Banking. Payments by credit card will incur a 2.5 % credit card surcharge. Our Terms and Conditions needed to be signed and returned to You Travel Bethlehem with copies of Passports and completed TOUR Registration Form. Pricing is based on Per Person Sharing a Double or Twin room, single supplement on application and availability. All pricing is in NZ Dollars and we reserve the right to charge any new TAXES/ FEES that are made mandatory after the costing and printing of this brochure (10NOV2021). We reserve the right to amend/change any accommodation/excursions included in the itinerary to a similar product of equal value. In the event of any portion of this Tour being cancelled/changed by the Operator after the printing of this brochure which is outside YOU Travel control. Funds will become non-refundable, once overseas suppliers are paid as at 8 May 2023. Up until this time all funds are refundable less a \$500 per person irrecoverable cost fee. Once funds are paid to overseas suppliers any Tour postponement due ONLY to any global pandemic or Border closures preventing travel between NZ and Europe will result in 100% funds being transferred to a later date. Please refer to our YOU Travel Terms and Conditions in addition to this specific flyer.