

# Rail holidays to Switzerland



## By Rail to the Bernese Oberland Holiday



## By Rail to the Bernese Oberland Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Grindelwald

Wengen

Interlaken

Lauterbrunnen

Eiger

Monch

Jungfrau



Bernese Oberland

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to Grindelwald, via Paris, Basel, and Interlaken. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is Grindelwald, in the shadow of the Jungfrau and just a stone's throw from other picturesque villages such as Wengen and Lauterbrunnen, and the perfectly poised town of Interlaken. Use your time here to explore the surrounding mountain peaks on foot or by funicular, rack railway, or cable car, taking in the views across the Swiss Mittelland and Valais and Ticino south of the Jungfrau. The peaks of the Monch and the Eiger, the caves around Interlaken, the undulating green hills and agricultural fields, and the chocolate box villages nestled in the narrow valleys provide plenty of sporting and cultural activity to populate your stay here. This region of Switzerland is arguably the most scenic, and a stay of any less than seven nights would undoubtedly require an extension.

### DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

#### Day one

Travel from London to Grindelwald by rail on your first day; or fly into Zurich and travel the rest of the journey by rail. The Eurostar leaves early in the morning for Paris, where you change to a TGV train headed to Basel. Here, change for Interlaken, and then join the cogwheel railway up the mountainside to Grindelwald. Check into your resort hotel.

#### Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Bernese Oberland, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the surrounding villages, lakes and mountains.

#### Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from Grindelwald back to Interlaken and Basel where you board the high-speed TGV to Paris. Meet the Eurostar here and cross the Channel, arriving in London in the early evening.

### CHOICE OF HOTELS

#### Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof, Grindelwald

5 star (4 star options are available in neighbouring Wengen)

### PRICES

#### From £3,270 per person

Based on double occupancy, with flights to and from, and rail travel within Switzerland in 2nd class.

1st class rail travel can be added for a supplement.

### DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week. For more information regarding rail services to and within Switzerland, view our train guide.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Rail travel from London to Switzerland via Paris and back in standard class (first class can be booked at a supplement), OR scheduled return flights from the UK to Zurich
- 8 day Swiss rail pass (first class can be booked at a supplement)
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast in your resort hotel

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers in Paris
- Transfers in Switzerland station to hotel unless offered by your hotel

A luggage transfer service is available within Switzerland, please contact us for further details.



## ABOUT THE RESORT

Grindelwald sits in the eastern of the two valleys below Interlaken, Lake Brienz, and Lake Thun.

Expressions

With the Eiger directly to the south east, Grindelwald is not only enveloped in phenomenal views, but over 90km of hiking paths for all abilities. The Schwarzer Lutschine River runs to the south of the main street, which adds to the idyllic feel. To the west of the Grindelwald Valley is the Lauterbrunnen Valley, unusually square in shape, and sculptured over time by glaciers. Here, you will find waterfalls that cascade over the entrance to caves, as well as more hiking paths and the village of Wengen.

### Places of interest in the Bernese Oberland

- **Jungfrauoch** – the ‘top of Europe,’ this is the highest railway station in Europe, at 3,454m above sea level, and is accessible via a narrow cog railway
- **Aletsch Glacier** – the longest glacier in Europe
- **First** – hiking routes from First will take you to Schwarzhorn, Grosse Scheidegg, the Upper Glacier, Lake Bach, Faulhorn, or back to Grindelwald in under three hours each way; a longer hike of over five hours will take you to Schynige Platte
- **Upper Glacier** – accessible on foot in an hour and a half, or by postbus, with ice grottoes naturally decorated with ice bubbles that create colourful patterns; a track and a series of wooden ladders from the grottoes allow you to walk alongside the ice
- **Glacier Gorge** – within walking distance of Grindelwald
- **Cable cars** in the local area facilitate access to Pfingstegg and the local mountain summits
- **Pfingstegg** – offers the option of shorter hiking trails and access to the Lower Glacier
- **Yodelling Festival** – held in Grindelwald in July each year
- **Staubbach Falls**, outside Lauterbrunnen
- **Trummelbach Falls** – best viewed from inside the mountain, where the water is illuminated; rocks have been sculpted by the huge amount of water
- **Schilthorn** – at 2970m, the Schilthorn offers fantastic views across the mountains and valleys below, and the summit can be reached by the Stechelberg cable car; it was here that the famous scenes from On Her Majesty’s Secret Service were filmed
- **Piz Gloria Restaurant** – a revolving restaurant set on the hiking path up to the summit of Birg; breaks up the long hike
- **Lake Thun and Lake Brienz** – head to Thun, Brienz, or Interlaken to begin a lake cruise



Jungfrauabahn

- **St Beatus Caves** – impressive rock formations and a museum lie within
- **Harder Kulm** – a funicular railway takes you up past the panoramas on the way to the summit
- **Chasdorfli** – this dairy near Hoheweg offers demonstrations during the summer for visiting groups
- **Big Pintenfritz** – Europe’s longest toboggan run

### Local sports

- Hiking and walking along the many hiking trails
- Water sports – Interlaken, Faulensee, Darligen, and Gunten are good destinations for water sports
- Tobogganing outside Interlaken

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Bernese Oberland is unique and memorable. This seven night rail holiday allows you to make the most of this variety and get to know the region in-depth.

### OPTIONAL

Combine this holiday with one of our Iconic Swiss Rail Journeys or another long stay in a different part of the country.

## HOTELS

As part of this single centre rail touring holiday, we include a seven night stay in Grindelwald. Other options in the Bernese Oberland are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

*Expressions*

### ROMANTIK HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF

5 star

A five star property in the chocolate box village of Grindelwald, the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof is an authentic and charming option in the Bernese Oberland. Jagged icy mountains and towering pine forests provide an imposing and sublime backdrop to the very traditional main hotel building, adorned with Swiss flags, red shutters, and carved wooden balconies. Flanking this grand, authentic chalet are several smaller luxury chalets, connected to each other and to the main building by underground passageways, which are built out of modern light wood, and house bright, contemporary guestrooms within. 'Mittellegi,' 'Ostegg,' and 'Rotstocki,' are the affectionate names of these chalets, which can be booked as a whole for large groups, or by floor for couples or families seeking large suites. In Chalet Rotstocki, look out from your Superior Suite furnished in cutting-edge Italian design onto the Eiger North Wall and its neighbouring mountain peaks. In the main 'Residence' hotel building, the rooms have a much more traditional air. Rich fabrics and colours contrast the neutral palette of the chalets. Wooden furnishings, all of which have been beautifully finished, sit beside plush, regal armchairs and coffee tables topped with fruit baskets. Those travelling with children and who still prefer the traditional style have the option of the two or three bedroom suites in the 'Residence.' The Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof has three main restaurants, the Schmitte, the Gaststübli, and the Alpterrassen. Each has its own unique character. Schmitte serves a varied a la carte menu in a colourful setting, and is represented in the Michelin guide by three forks. Gaststübli serves very authentic and hearty Grindelwald and Bernese Oberland specialities in a homely dining room reminiscent of the famous Swiss stüblis. The Alpterrassen restaurant serves a complimentary mix of regional and international dishes in a very light and airy



*Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof*

setting. In the summer, guests can also dine in the Schweizerhof Gardens, or on the romantic terrace. Hot drinks, aperitifs, and cocktails are served in the Hotel Bar throughout the day. The specially crafted Swiss wood seen on the exterior and in the rooms is used again in the bar to create the warm, welcoming feel of a mountain lodge. The Schweizerhof Spa is a chic haven of tranquillity, centred around the relaxing pool. Whirlpools and saunas, with atmospheric mood-lighting, are tucked into steamy corners, and indulgent massages and beauty treatments are administered in private treatment rooms. With two different hotel styles, which both channel two aspects of Swiss culture, the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof has something to offer each of its guests. Luxurious accommodation, food, and spa facilities come together to create a truly special five star hotel.



*Gaststübli Restaurant*



*Hotel lobby*

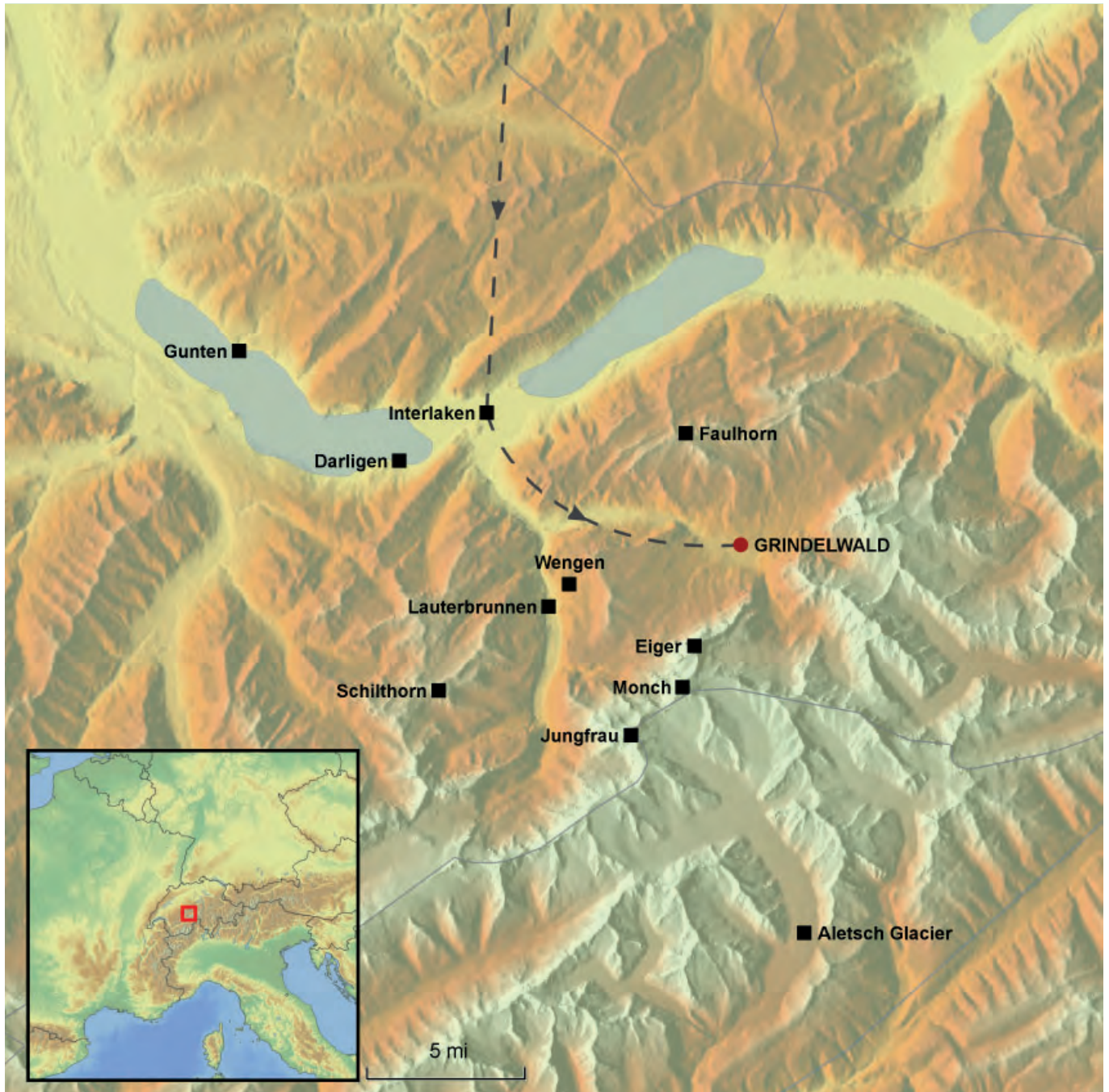


*Guestroom*



## MAP OF BY RAIL TO THE BERNESE OBERLAND HOLIDAY

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with places of interest highlighted.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

This rail holiday is one of several suggested rail holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

The logo for Expressions Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

### OUR TOURS

**Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.**

### FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

### FLEX PASS INCLUDED

We include travel to and from your first and last hotel but also a Flex pass is included for the rest of the holiday, depending on its length. For example, on a long stay we would include an 8 day Flex pass. This gives you 8 non-consecutive but selected days of travel within a one-month period.

#### The pass gives you a choice that includes

- Unlimited travel by rail, road and waterway on your selected days of validity, including most panorama routes and public transport in 75 towns and cities
- Free admission to more than 490 museums on the selected days of validity
- Children under the age of 16 travel free of charge when accompanied by at least one parent holding the Swiss Family Card

If we have included a panoramic route in your holiday, we will automatically include any applicable supplements for that train.

### TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

### FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the TGV trains from France to Switzerland, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. Within Switzerland, first class gives you again more space and more comfortable seats, often with a quieter environment. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

### LUGGAGE TRANSFER SERVICE

**Swiss rail operates an efficient transfer service for your luggage. This works in a number of ways:**

For travel to Switzerland by air, you can check-in your baggage with any airline, from any airport in the world and it will be forwarded to our destination station in Switzerland from Zurich, Bern or Geneva airports. Simply collect your baggage from the station at your destination.

For departure from Switzerland if flying with Swiss, you can check-in for your flight at the train station the day before you fly (major stations only). You receive your boarding pass and your seat allocation and your baggage will be transported onto the aircraft.

For departure from Switzerland with other airlines eg British Airways or Easyjet, you can have your baggage transported to the airport train station ie Zurich or Geneva and you collect it from there to take it to check-in as usual. Just allow enough time for the luggage to reach the airport station, so well before you travel. Your station will be able to advise a day or two beforehand.

Within Switzerland you can transfer your luggage from one location to another. The Fast Baggage service is available between 45 destinations. You just have to check-in your luggage before 9am at your departure station and collect it by 6pm on the same day at your destination (or sometimes the following day, depending on the actual destination). The cost of this service is approximately £17 per item.

### TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi. In Switzerland, depending on the location, hotels sometimes have their own transfer vehicles that they will send to collect you if we advise them in advance (eg in St Moritz and Zermatt this is usual) but elsewhere some hotels are within walking distance and others are a short taxi ride away.

## OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

## PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

**Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains)** from London and throughout back to London at the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £3,270 per person**

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £420 per person

**Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland** at the Romantik Hotel Schweizerhof.

**From £3,270 per person**

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 per person

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

## FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays  
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## HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

**01392 441217**

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.