

Rail holidays to Switzerland



By Rail to the Engadine Holiday



By Rail to the Engadine Holiday

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

St Moritz

Suvretta Mountain

Lake St Moritz

Chur

Silvaplana



View over St Moritz

We recommend travelling to Switzerland by train from London to St Moritz, via Paris, Zurich, and Chur. Return flights from the UK with rail travel in Switzerland can also be arranged. Your destination is St Moritz, in the shadow of the Suvretta Mountain and on the shores of the startlingly beautiful Lake St Moritz. 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 Engadine Valleys, the castles perched on high rocks, and the small villages almost completely hidden by forested mountain slopes. St Moritz itself has always been a particularly popular Swiss winter destination, but its value extends into the summer months, as the snow thaws to reveal a network of hiking trails and transforms the town itself into a chic collection of boutique shops and cafes, and gourmet restaurants. One of the highlights of your stay here will be the fantastic rail journeys that sit just on your doorstep, be it the local services that meander through the valleys or the grand Bernina Express, one of the most iconic rail journeys in Europe.

DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

Day one

Travel from London to St Moritz 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 Zurich. Here, change for Chur, and then join the Bernina railways line to St Moritz. Check into your resort hotel.

Days two to seven

Spend seven nights enjoying the highlights of the Bernese Engadine, making the most of your eight-day rail pass to explore the surrounding villages, lakes and mountains, and taking a trip on the iconic Bernina Express.

Day eight

On your eighth day, board a morning train from St Moritz back to Chur and Zurich where you board the high-speed TGV to Paris. Board the Eurostar here, arriving in London in the early evening.

CHOICE OF HOTELS

Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains 5 star
Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz 4 star

PRICES

From £2,060 per person

Based on double occupancy in a 4 star hotel, 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. Rail 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) return 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

St Moritz is situated in the southeast of Switzerland, in Grisons and the Engadine.

Expressions

At 1,822m above sea level, it is easy to see why St Moritz is popular in the winter; yet, this altitude also means excellent access to breath-taking vantage points and high-altitude rocky pathways, without compromising on proximity to three sublime lakes and a modern, chic town centre. Its population of only just over 5,000 people suggests the great extent to which St Moritz has retained its authentic Swiss character and peaceful atmosphere.

Places of interest in the Engadine

- **Via Serlas** – the main shopping street in St Moritz
- **St Moritz's leaning tower** – a remnant from the Mauritius Church, which was built in the 1500s
- **Engadine Museum** – insight into regional architecture as well as history
- **Segantini Museum** – dedicated to a local artist
- **Piz Nair** – standing at 3,057m above sea level, the summit offers fantastic views of the lakes and valleys; it can be accessed by a three hour hike or by funicular railway followed by cable car
- **Piz Corvatsch** – accessible via cable car from Surlej
- **Celerina** – home of the Cresta Run, and just a 30 minute walk from St Moritz; the bobsleigh run is the oldest in the world
- **Silvaplana** – on a stretch of land that separates two lakes, Silvaplana is a hub for water sports
- **Sils** – separated into two parts, 'Baselgia' and 'Maria,' Sils was a favourite of Friedrich Nietzsche (the Nietzsche Haus is open to the public)
- **Corviglia** – a funicular railway will take you from St Moritz, through Chantarella, to Corviglia, where there are a number of gourmet restaurants and great access to the Piz Nair
- **Muottas Muragl** – the site of the first funicular railway in the Engadine, built in 1905
- **Zuoz** – comprised of typically Engadine houses with sgraffito designs, with a very historic central square; the key to the town's prison tower can be borrowed from the tourist office
- **Mustair** – home of the 8th century Abbey of St John the Baptist, which holds unique Carolingian paintings
- **Guarda** – very well preserved village with narrow cobbled streets, sgraffito houses, and fantastic views
- **Tarasp Castle** – on the way to Scuol; it rises majestically on top of a rocky bluff in the very middle of a verdant valley.
- **Bernina Express** – take a trip on the iconic



St Moritz

Bernina Express, travelling north to Davos and Chur, Switzerland's oldest city, or south across the Italian border to the secluded small town of Tirano

- **Swiss National Park** – 169sqkm of spectacular mountain and wooded scenery; perfect for observing animals and birdlife, including Ibexes and Marmots; visitors must stick to the paths at all times; the village of Zernez is known as the 'Gateway to the Swiss National Park,' and so makes an excellent starting point
- **Staz forest** – romantic carriage rides take you through the forest and around the town

Local sports

- Hiking and walking along the 120km of hiking trails
- Tennis and Squash in St Moritz
- Horse-riding in St Moritz
- Water sports – windsurfing is best on windy Lake Silvaplana, but also available on Lake St Moritz
- Inn Valley gorges – these winding waterways are perfect for rafting in the summer months
- Golf – on the 18-hole course in Samedan
- Fishing – permits available from the Hotel Eden
- Tobogganing in Cresta
- Ludains Ice Arena – this rink is open throughout the summer

The abundance of available activities, from exploring picturesque villages to scenic walks and hiking, will ensure that each of your days in the Engadine 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 at one of the hotels below. Other options in the Engadine are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

Expressions

KEMPINSKI GRAND HOTEL DES BAINS

5 star

The luxurious five star Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains was the first hotel to be built in St. Moritz. It was constructed in 1864 at the source of the Mauritius springs, used since Mediaeval times for their therapeutic benefits and which inspired the early development of this now famous spa resort. Offering traditional elegance in a breath-taking Alpine location, the hotel is spectacular and exhibits exquisite attention to detail in every aspect of its Italian palazzo-style design. Set against the imposing backdrop of the eternally snow-capped mountains, the turrets and two main towers of this fairytale castle strike a dramatic silhouette against the clear blue skies. Antique furniture and paintings, intricate cornicing detail and delicate chandeliers heighten the sleek grandeur and ambience of the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains. The impressive lobby has high ceilings, marble floors, and white stucco detailing worthy of a palatial residence, and the restaurant and bar Enoteca La Vigna features a 19th Century tiled stove and original frescoes which have been carefully restored to their original beauty, based on the photographs and etchings that similarly informed all of the restoration work on the hotel. Classicism and modernity have been seamlessly blended with the creation of the new Spa building, which also houses 14 suites. The extensive 2500 square metre St. Moritz Spa pays homage to the therapeutic powers of the Alpine environment in every aspect of design. Wood, water, stone, and natural lighting in every treatment room create a truly organic ambience which is similarly echoed in the styles and characteristics of the therapies. The swimming pool, heated to an inviting 29 degrees Centigrade and classically designed with an Art Deco edge to the simple black and white colour scheme, backs onto the imposing rock face of the mountainside. Fine dining is an essential feature of the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains. 'Les Saisons' offers international and seasonal cuisine; guests can select from an appetising array of a la carte dishes or from the gourmet menu which changes daily. 'Ca



Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains

d'Oro,' awarded an impressive 15 Gault Millau points, specialises in innovative variations on traditional Italian dishes. Its combination of traditional sophistication, superior service, contemporary furnishings, and vibrant modern paintings creates an ambience which is both comfortable and stylish. The guestrooms are modern and welcoming, using the warm tones of cherry wood and a soft colour palette to soothe and contrast with the brilliance of the natural landscape outside. For the ultimate indulgent experience there are two opulent suites; located in the towers of the hotel, they are flawlessly appointed in refined colour schemes of golden tones, rich reds, and champagnes befitting royalty. The Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains offers the discerning guest a luxurious pampering experience in an idyllic location throughout the year.



*Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains
Guestroom*



Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains dining



Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains spa

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Expressions

HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF ST MORITZ

4 star

Designed in the Belle Epoque style, the four star Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz has been hosting guests for over 100 years. Ever the popular destination, the hotel allows you to make the most of the fresh Alpine air, stunning panoramas, and plethora of cultural and sporting activities on offer in St Moritz. Inside, the interior design is kept simple to keep the focus on the rich blues and greens of the views, with elements that hark back to the hotels' origins and elements that suggest cutting-edge style. The guestrooms revolve around a neutral palette, with large windows that flood them with light, around which, in higher category rooms, cosy seating areas cluster. In all rooms, furnishings crafted from rich Swiss wood add classical warmth and a touch of local tradition. All of this is brought together by the bold red or blue of the bed throws and a little of what the hotel owners call 'St Moritz glitz.' In Restaurant Acla, which again blends classical wooden pieces with sleek monochromatic furniture, regional specialities are served alongside flavoursome international dishes. Try the Tafelspitz, made famous by the Habsburgs; aromatic coffee in the Acla Giardino; a grand breakfast between the high walls and beside the vast windows of the Segantini Saal; or Alpine specialities in the homely Alphutte Clavadatsch mountain lodge when it starts to get cooler. One of the highlights of your stay here will be the use of the relaxing spa facilities. Sit back in the solarium, taking in the views, in the sauna after a long day out, or enjoy a massage to revitalise your muscles after a brisk hike across the mountainsides. Finish off your day with a walk around the open-air rooftop terrace, which offers unrivalled views across the lake, the mountains, and the town of St Moritz itself.



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz lobby



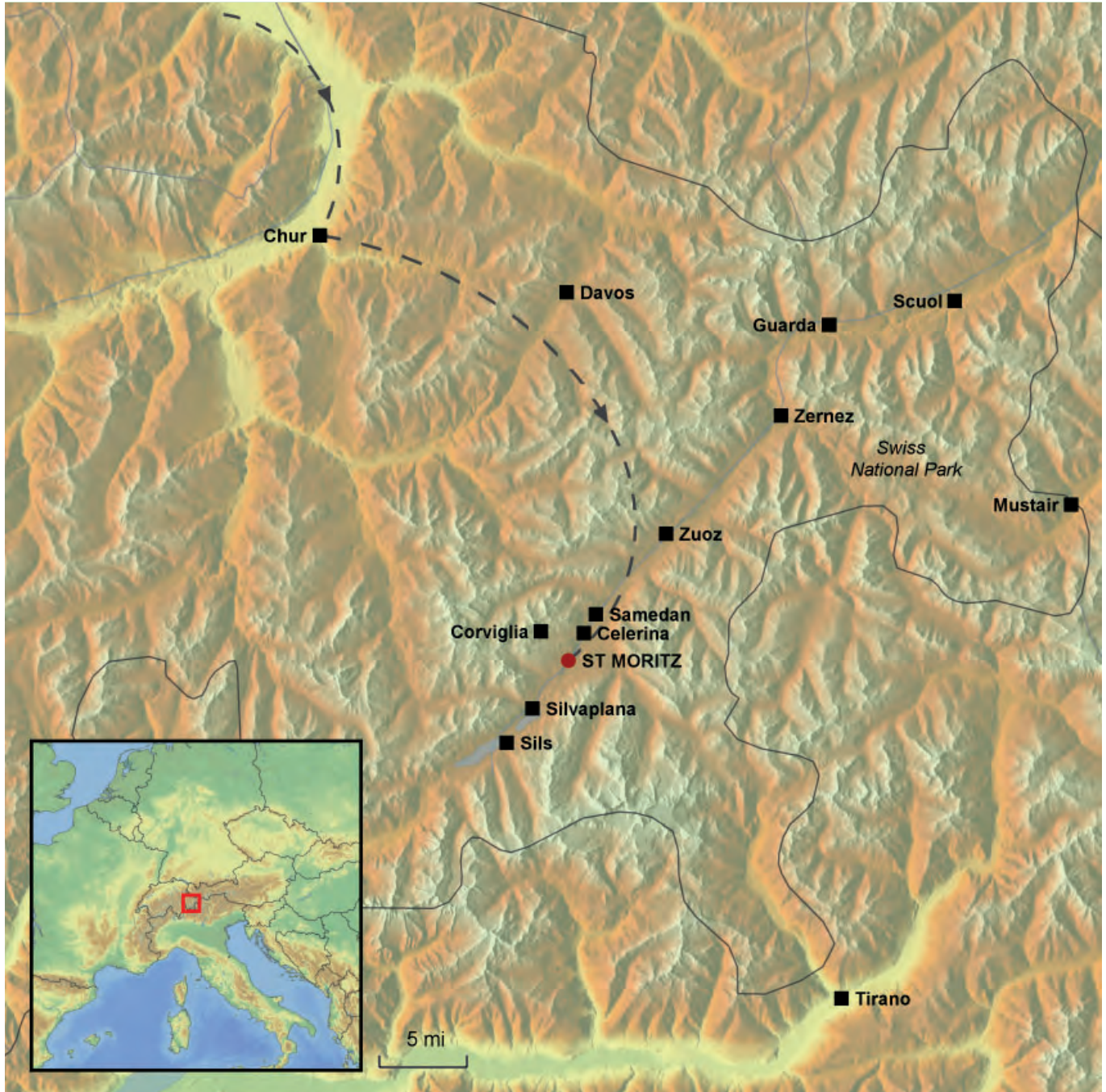
Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz terrace



Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz spa terrace

MAP OF BY RAIL TO THE VALAIS 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, 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 Hotel Schweizerhof.

From £2,060 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

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

From £2,060 per person

Supplement: First class on all trains £210 per person

Rail (standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains) from London and throughout back to London at the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains.

From £2,350 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £430 per person

Flights to/ from Switzerland and second class travel in Switzerland at the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains.

From £2,240 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
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

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.