

THUN & VILLARS

SWITZERLAND

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



Tucked into the cultural and geographic heart of Europe, Switzerland is an alpine idyll. Start your journey in Thun, nestled by a lake in Switzerland's German-speaking region. Enjoy guided walks of varying levels of difficulty to view the splendor of alpine meadows, crystal lakes and broad vistas of Switzerland. Then spend time in Villars-sur-Ollon in the French-speaking area. Come, experience the timeless magic of Alpine vistas and glacial lakes!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Groups are limited to 28 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- See the Old City of Bern, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- Discover Switzerland **by train, bus, boat and on foot**.
- Taste delicious Swiss cheese and chocolate at tastings in **Gruyères**.
- Explore the gardens and fountains lining the lakefront of **Montreux**. Then take a lake steamer to **Château Chillon**, made famous by Lord Byron's poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon."
- Take in the **Lauterbrunnen Valley**, which you can explore on foot or by train.
- Ride a **steam train up the Brienzer Rothorn** and **cruise Lake Geneva**.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Groups are limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.

Accommodations

- **Five nights** in Thun, Switzerland, at the first-class **Hotel Freienhof**.
- **Four nights** in Villars-sur-Ollon at the first-class **Hotel du Golf**.

Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.
- A custom Swiss rail pass is included.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy nine breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Zürich, Switzerland.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 ~ THUN

Upon arrival, transfer† to Thun and the Hotel Freienhof.

Excursion: Thun. A classic Swiss town in the Bernese Oberland, Thun is ideal for exploring on foot. Enjoy a walking tour of the city.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY 3 ~ THUN/KANDERSTEG

Educational Focus: Introduction to Switzerland.

Excursion: Kandersteg. Board a scenic train ride to Kandersteg. Take the lift to Lake Oeschinen, where you can stretch your legs on a walk around the lake.

Local Flavor: Sample local specialties at lunch in Kandersteg.

DAY 4 ~ BERN

Excursion: Bern. Visit the Swiss capital of Bern. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this beautiful, historic city. Some of the city's most popular sites include the Clock Tower, Einstein House and the Cathedral of Bern, a stunning example of late Gothic architecture.

DAY 5 ~ BRIENZ/INTERLAKEN

Excursion: Bernese Mountains.

The lakeside town of Brienz is steeped in the tradition of woodcarving. Take a breathtaking train ride up the Brienzer Rothorn, the highest point in the canton of Lucerne. From here, you can see peaks of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. After returning to Brienz, take a boat to the town of Interlaken.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch with a view atop the Rothorn.

DAY 6 ~ LAUTERBRUNNEN VALLEY

Educational Focus: Mountain Climbing.

Excursion: Lauterbrunnen Valley.

Journey by train to the Lauterbrunnen Valley. Take the train or walk the flower trail at Allmendhubel to the car-free village of Mürren and enjoy spectacular mountain views.

Local Flavor: Enjoy dinner in Thun.

DAY 7 ~ GRUYÈRES/VILLARS-SUR-OLLON

Today, travel over the Jaunpass to Villars-sur-Ollon in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

Excursion: Cheese and Chocolate.

Visit a dairy farm to try the local cheese. Continue to the pretty town of Gruyères. Next, visit a chocolate factory to learn about Switzerland's other famous food and enjoy a sample.

Independent Exploration: Spend some time at leisure in Gruyères for lunch and exploring on your own. Upon arrival in Villars, check in to the Hotel du Golf & Spa.

DAY 8 ~ MONTREUX

Excursion: French Connection.

Travel to the Edwardian town of Montreux, which has charmed artists, musicians and literati for centuries. Cruise Lake Geneva to visit the castle that inspired Lord Byron's epic poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon."

DAY 9 ~ ZERMATT

Excursion: The Matterhorn.

Journey to Zermatt, the charming Alpine resort town, to see the mighty Matterhorn, glaciers, waterfalls and mountain flora.

Educational Focus: Swiss Wine.

DAY 10 ~ VILLARS

Independent Exploration: Spend the day at leisure.

Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Reception and a special fondue dinner.

DAY 11 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the Geneva airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Available at an additional cost

Two Countries, One Lake. Explore the picturesque town of Lausanne before cruising across Lake Geneva to Évian, France, one of France's leading spa towns on Day 10. Enjoy guided walks in both cities.

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL FREIENHOF Thun

The Hotel Freienhof, built in 1958, sits on the site of a 15th-century inn. It is ideally located in a quiet area just five minutes from Thun Station. Two restaurants provide food for every taste, and the bar is the perfect place to meet for drinks before or after dinner. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



HOTEL DU GOLF & SPA Villars-sur-Ollon

This charming hotel offers panoramic views from all of its rooms and is a perfect base of operations for your adventures in Villars-sur-Ollon. Its two restaurants serve Swiss specialties, and the Panoramic Restaurant has magnificent views of the Dents-du-Midi mountains. At the spa, enjoy a massage or soak in the outdoor Jacuzzi. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

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