

SWISS AND AUSTRIAN RAIL JOURNEYS LAKES AND ALPS IN WINTER

Saturday 13 January to Sunday 4 February 2024



Join us for a twenty-one day tour to experience the beauty of winter in Switzerland – cruise on paddleboats on Lake Lucerne, enjoy stunning rail journeys, delight in wonderful mountain railways to the ‘top of the world’ and stay in lovely hotels - as we travel by rail through the remarkably beautiful snow clad mountains and valleys of the alps of Switzerland and Austria. Experience a northern hemisphere winter that reminds us of the seasons of the year and the patterns of climate and life that mark each season. As the temperatures cool, snow covers the mountains and fields, and daily life adapts. Winter is celebrated and the remarkable efficiency of the Swiss and Austrian Rail system makes it a delight.

ITINERARY

The itinerary for the tour is shown below, with the key activities and highlights of each day. On some days additional activities will be possible at no extra cost. Optional additions to the tour (at extra cost) when shown below are followed by (O). Meals included are shown as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D).

Saturday 13 January 2024 (in-flight meals) – Australia to Zurich

Depart Australia for Zurich. There are options of one-stop flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore, Thai Airlines via Bangkok, Etihad via Abu Dhabi, Qatar through Doha and Emirates through Dubai to Zurich - or have an overnight stop in Asia or the Middle East en route. We'll discuss your air travel preferences and make the appropriate arrangements.

Sunday 14 January 2024 (B) – Zurich

Depending upon your flight choice, a morning arrival into Switzerland's very efficient Zurich Airport. Enjoy a relaxing day sightseeing in Zurich. The entire city is bathed in cheery light, the air is filled with the scent of cinnamon and mulled wine, and the sounds of festive concerts waft over the River Limmat. Depending upon your arrival time, we may be able to organise activities for this first day. Overnight Zurich.

Monday 15 January 2024 (B/L) – Zurich, lunch on Zurichsee, and to Lucerne

After breakfast we enjoy a **morning exploration of the city of Zurich**, and then **board one of the lake vessels for a cruise south to Rapperswil** – a beautiful lake with snow capped peaks surrounding us. Enjoy luncheon aboard in their restaurant, before a late afternoon rail journey on the first of many of the **wonderful SBB rail services for the short trip to Lucerne**. We walk the short distance to our hotel opposite the station. This evening enjoy a meal at one of the many fine eating options in the city. **Enjoy a stroll around the edge of the lake, and enjoy the glimmering lights of the hotels and restaurants that sparkle and reflect in the placid waters.** Overnight Lucerne.

Tuesday 16 January 2024 (B/D) – Lucerne sightseeing, Pilatus ascent

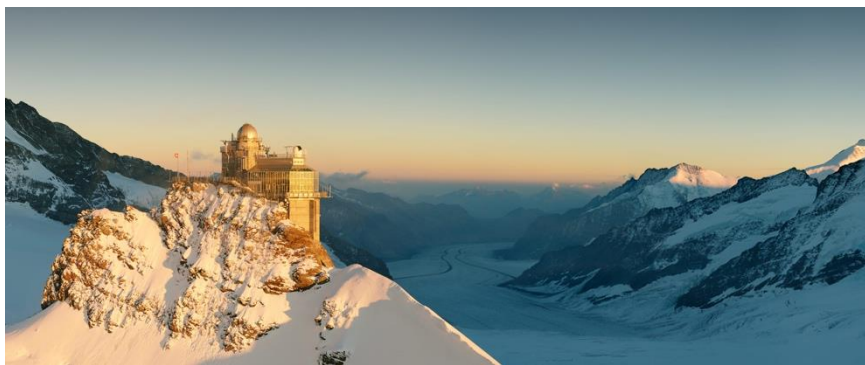
This morning enjoy a **guided tour and explore the sights of Lucerne** – its museums, historic foot bridges, churches, **world-famous Chapel Bridge and Water Tower**, the Musegg Wall, Jesuit Church, Mill Bridge, and Lion Monument. In the afternoon there are options to visit the world-class transport museum, Glacier Park, or other fine museums in the city. Or travel by local bus to Kriens to join the first of two gondolas for the ascent to the famed **Pilatus**. The panorama gondolas take around 30 minutes to glide up the first section from Kriens (Lucerne) to Fräkmüntegg at the foot of the mighty Mount Pilatus. The aerial cableway then takes five minutes to carry you from the station at Fräkmüntegg up to Pilatus Kulm at 2132-metres altitude. In good weather, the unique views of the Alps and Central Switzerland's lakeland landscape are simply stunning. This evening we enjoy **dinner together in Lucerne**. Overnight Lucerne.

Wednesday 17 January 2024 (B) – Mt Rigi and Lake Lucerne cruise

Well over a hundred years ago, countless incorrigible adventurers and romantics, including one Mark Twain, journeyed to Central Switzerland specially to see the legendary sunrise on Mt. Rigi. Today we **cruise across Lake Lucerne** to Vitznau and then **join the Vitznau-Rigi Railway to Rigi Kulm**. Swiss engineer Niklaus Riggenschach masterminded the construction of the Vitznau-Rigi Railway in the mid-19th century. In his own words: "I want to take everyone up into the mountains, so they can all enjoy the beauty of our glorious country". Riggenschach's invention, which would guide trains across steep climbs by means of cogwheels and toothed racks, was patented in France in 1863. Today we climb from the lake below to the top of Rigi Kulm in comfort. Enjoy the vista of mountain peaks with locals skiing – and there is the option to toboggan / sledge down the slopes. After exploring the mountain peak, descend by cog railway on the eastern side of Mt Rigi to Arth Goldau. Here you have the option to **travel to Fluelen, further south along the lake's edge and join a paddlewheeler for a three-hour cruise back to Lucerne – with a late luncheon aboard (O)** – or travel directly back to Lucerne by rail to explore the city and its sights further. Dinner tonight is at leisure. Overnight Lucerne.

Thursday 18 January 2024 (B) – Brunig Pass to the Jungfrau region, Interlaken & Lake Thun

After breakfast this morning there is **free time to explore Lucerne further at leisure**. Enjoy a walk through the **old town**, visiting the shops and historic centre. In the late morning we join the Brünig express to travel across the only narrow-gauge line of the Swiss Federal Railways. It was built as a combined adhesion and rack railway (the first in Switzerland). The line links the Bernese Oberland and Interlaken with Lucerne. The railway was built in 1888, when it linked Brienz with Alpnachstad, and in 1889 it was extended to Lucerne. The next extension was in 1913, where the Brienz-Interlaken "lake line" was built. The line runs from Interlaken to Meiringen along Lake Brienz, then climbs to Brünig-Hasliberg and 1200 metres. The line then drops to Giswil where the rack part of the line starts to Alpnachstad. There are great views from the train as we first climb to Brünig-Hasliberg then descend to Meiringen. Many services have a cafe car aboard, and we plan to join one of these services so you can enjoy a refreshment as the scenery passes. On arrival in **Interlaken** we transfer the short distance to our hotel, located in the centre of town, and there is the **opportunity this afternoon to join us on Lake Thun for a cruise from Interlaken West to Thun**. Enjoy the delights of Lake Thun, from Interlaken West to the village of Thun on the western shore. There is **a restaurant aboard and we will organise a late luncheon (O)** for those who wish to enjoy it as we cruise on the lake. We are based in the foothills of the famed Jungfrau for two nights, with a range of dining options in or near our hotel. Dinner at leisure and overnight Interlaken.



Friday 19 January 2024 (B/L) – Jungfrauoch

A day **exploring the Jungfrau** – Lauterbrunnen to Kleine Scheidegg, the Jungfrauoch and Grindelwald. This unique round-trip by modern cogwheel railway takes us to Kleine Scheidegg, altitude 2061 metres, at the foot of the notorious Eiger North Wall. Here the Jungfrau Railway climbs to the Eigergletscher station, well known for its mountain restaurant and polar dog kennels. The trip continues through the **Eiger tunnel**, to Eismeer station, with a five minute halt to admire the view. **Enjoy spectacular sightseeing through large observation windows, hewn from solid Alpine rock**. Then the arrival on the Jungfrauoch, in the heart of a glorious glacier world on the very roof of Europe!

Superb views extend as far as the summits of the Vosges Mountains in France and the Black Forest in Germany. The Great Aletsch Glacier, at 22 km the longest ice-stream in the Alps, begins directly on the **Jungfrauoch - Top of Europe**. You can join the group for **lunch at the highest restaurant in Europe** – one of the rare occasions where the quality of the food is not inversely proportional to the height of the restaurant. Descend to Lauterbrunnen, return via a different route to Grindelwald, for a walk in this pretty village in the early evening light, before a return to Interlaken. Overnight Interlaken.

Saturday 20 January 2024 (B/LL) – the Golden Classic Express to Montreux

This morning we experience the **Golden Pass Rail journey** and travel through Zweisimmen, where the change to narrow gauge is now done enroute aboard the **Golden Classic Express**. In the style of the grand Venice-Simplon Orient Express, with a touch of glamour, this smart blue and gold train weaves through the Bernese Oberland to Gstaad and on towards Montreux, where we descend steeply into Montreux and Lac Leman (Lake Geneva) below. **Enjoy a simple luncheon platter** served at your seat, with a glass of fine Swiss wine. Enjoy stunning vistas across Lake Geneva as the train twists and descends quickly with the mountains behind. The Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic is opposite the station. Dinner at leisure and overnight Montreux.

Sunday 21 January 2024 (B/LR) – Aigle, Les Diablerets , Lac Leman and Geneva

After breakfast we travel the short distance to **Aigle** to experience the Aigle- Le Sépey - Les Diablerets railway - a most impressive journey with circular tunnels, viaducts at dizzying heights, tracks hugging steep precipices and breathtaking views. Starting from Aigle (415m) the trains stop at 12 stations before reaching Les Diablerets (1,260m). The ascent takes 50 minutes, crosses villages, meadows and forests with spectacular views of the Alps and the Rhone plain. We then **return via Montreux and head to Geneva for a short afternoon walking tour of the historic city centre**. On the return enjoy an evening drink and light refreshment aboard the train as we travel along the edge of Lake Geneva in the late afternoon light – the train journey itself is most picturesque - and the light reflects in Lac Leman on the Swiss Riviera. Dinner at leisure and overnight Montreux.

Monday 22 January 2024 (B/D) – Lake Leman, Laussane and Rocher-de-Naye

There are a range of sightseeing options today, and we will provide details for your choices. For those who enjoy the mountains and cog railways, you can join the **private railway that ascends to Rocher-de-Naye**. In just one hour, you climb by rack railway from the palm trees on the shore of Lake Geneva (Lac Leman) to the mountains above. The cog railway meanders between lake, forests and high mountain pastures to reach the summit of more than 2,000 metres – a light lunch is available at the café. From **Laussane** enjoy a **short boat journey across Lake Leman to Evian, France, with beautiful views of the snow clad mountains in both directions**. Explore Laussane, home to the Olympic Museum, or from nearby **Vevey**, visit the excellent **Chaplin Museum** - embark on an extraordinary adventure across time and through the magical world of cinema. Through three different spaces, be prepared to be moved by one of the most surprising artists of the 20th century. In the late afternoon enjoy evening light and a fine meal. Return to our accommodation and overnight at the Grand Hôtel Suisse-Majestic, Montreux.



Tuesday 23 January 2024 (B) – Castle Chillon and to Zermatt

After breakfast we travel the short distance to inspect **Castle Chillon**, a splendid edifice on the edge of the lake, with a fascinating history and an excellent historical presentation. In the early afternoon we travel along the edge of Lake Geneva to Brig. In Brig we transfer to the modern narrow-gauge **Matterhorn Gotthard Railway**, which arrives in Zermatt after an hour and a half ascent through the rugged and romantic **Nicolaital Valley**. As we climb higher we leave the cars behind at Tasch, and enter the **car-free mountain village of Zermatt**. In evening light wander the car free streets to the sounds and sights of horse drawn carriages and flickering candles - this evening enjoy the local Swiss delicacy of cheese fondue, with many restaurants in Zermatt offering such an experience. Enjoy the lovely swimming pool and spa in our hotel, and warm up after your ascent to the mountains. Overnight Zermatt.

Wednesday 24 January 2024 (B) – the Gornergratt and Sunnegga-Rothorn

Today we explore the **Gornergratt and the Sunnegga-Rothorn**. We travel first on the famous rack railway - built in 1898 and incidentally the first electric railway of its kind in Switzerland - which winds its way up the mountain letting the Matterhorn appear ever larger and more magnificent, while the village of Zermatt appears more and more like a collection of doll's houses. After our descent we head to the Sunnegga-Rothorn for an experience of a different kind. Many say that views of the Matterhorn are best viewed from this spot as they reveal its perfect form... our mountain trip commences with the underground funicular to Sunnegga. The journey continues with gondola rail to Blauherd. Finally, a large cable car takes us to the Unterrothorns summit – from where stunning views comprise many of the 38 four-thousand-meter-high-peaks surrounding Valais. We return to Zermatt, and you can warm up in the sauna, spa, or heated swimming pool in our hotel. Overnight Zermatt.

Thursday 25 January 2024 (B/D) – the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise and Zermatt Museum

Today we explore the **Matterhorn Glacier Paradise** (3,883 metres above sea level) - **the highest sightseeing point in Europe, accessible by cableway!** The eight-seater Matterhorn-Express cable railway takes us up to Furi station. From here the cableway takes you further up to Trockener Steg, where we'll find a restaurant for lunch. The highest cableway in Europe then transports us up past giant crevasses to the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise and into a breathtaking mountain landscape of glaciers and permanent snow. We return to Zermatt, and this afternoon **visit the Zermatt Museum** that depicts the history of attempts to climb the Matterhorn. Enjoy this car-free winter resort, and in the evening dinner is included at a nearby restaurant frequented by locals. Overnight at our lovely hotel, Zermatt.

Friday 26 January 2024 (B/L) – Zermatt to Pontresina on the Glacier Express

This morning travel from Zermatt to **Pontresina via Brig on the famed Glacier Express** – considered one of the most scenic and spectacular rail journeys of the world. In the roaring 1920s, and because of adventurous reports from alpine enthusiasts, the travel-keen upper-class from all four corners of the world at long last discovered the rustic charms of the Swiss Alps - previously remote mountain villages such as Zermatt and St Moritz were transformed into chic health resorts. The three railway companies of that period (VZ – later BVZ, RhB and FOB) successfully took advantage of the tourism potential at hand with the opening of the route between the Valais and Graubünden in 1926, and with the introduction of through coaches Brig – Chur and Brig – St Moritz exclusively in summer. But it was to take more than 50 years before the trains were able to also cross the impassable Furka alpine route in winter. **Enjoy travel in a first class panorama car, with a quality meal served at your table for luncheon, as you watch the amazing vista around you.** As we ascend and descend, and then follow the river valley – with skiers and hikers enjoying the winter sports - the snow capped peaks are a reminder of the dramatic nature of the landscape through which we are passing. From Chur we climb the **Albula Line across the impressive Landwasser viaduct**. The train crosses the high arched viaduct and then plunges headlong into the tunnel carved deep into the cliff wall. The line is listed amongst the **UNESCO world heritage sites** because of its unique engineering features. At Samedan we change for the short five minute connecting rail journey to Pontresina. Our hotel is fifteen minutes away on foot, although a transfer will be provided to assist with our luggage. Our 4½ star-superior **Hotel Saratz in Pontresina** is an elegant yet informal, modern yet charming property. A contemporary lifestyle merges with Engadine hotel tradition, grandezza with design, nature with architecture. The hotel sits in unique surroundings in the midst of the Engadine mountain world, boasting excellent cuisine, a spacious pool and beautiful spa facility. Overnight at the Hotel Saratz, Pontresina.

Saturday 27 January 2024 (B) – Preda to Bergün/Bravuogn, Davos and Scuol Tarasp

For the slightly adventurous we enjoy the experience of **gentle sledging/tobogganing on the snow** covered road that descends from Preda to Bergün/Bravuogn – the tobogganing run serpentine its way through the Albula Valley just like the railway line, and features plenty of hairpin bends and spectacular views of the Alpine hamlet of Naz, taking you under several viaducts as you head in the direction of Bergün. One of Europe's longest tobogganing runs it is six kilometres in length. We catch the train to Preda, then hire a sledge for the downhill ride to Bergün/Bravuogn. We leave the sledge here and rejoin a train for a ride back up the mountain. Visit the Ratische Bahn Museum in Bergün/Bravuogn and learn of the history and development of the canton and region. In the early afternoon we head from Bergün/Bravuogn by train to Scuol Tarasp. The Scuol, Bad Tarasp-Vulpera, Sent and Ftan region is truly spoiled for sunshine.



It lies cradled between the peaks of the Silvretta range and the Engadine Dolomites, and even in winter, is a paradise for outdoor activity. Geological features allow hot gases from the bowels of the earth to pass through a gas-permeable layer of rock and reach the upper rock strata. This turns groundwater into **thermal water at over 25° C, used as mineral springs in the Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera region**. We enjoy a round trip on the **scenic railways of the Engadine**, and thanks to the relatively new Vereina tunnel linking the Engadine directly with Chur, we'll travel back to Pontresina via Davos, and Scuol. We return to our hotel in the late afternoon / early evening. Overnight at the Hotel Saratz, Pontresina.

Sunday 28 January 2024 (B/MT/L) – the Bernina Express – Ospizio Bernina and Tirano

Life does not always run in a nice, straight line. There are also bends, curves and the occasional obstacle to negotiate. And sometimes you come across things in life that really do make you realise how good it is to be alive. **The Bernina Express** is such an experience. Some things are so magical that they leave you speechless. Wonderful valleys, mountains that tower above the valleys and the eternally icy summit of Bernina. Cross graceful viaducts, through galleries hewn into the sheer rock, through switch-back tunnels, along rushing mountain streams, glaciers and even an alpine garden. Technical buffs will enjoy knowing the train climbs up to the 2253 metre high Bernina Pass without the help of a rack-and-pinion mechanism. See why these railway lines are catalogued as UNESCO world heritage sites. We'll enjoy the day in the Bernina region, and depending upon energy and desire, explore along the way. We'll travel one way on the famed Bernina Express with its panorama cars and modern luxury, and the other on the regular services that stop more frequently and allow you time to admire the scenery. We plan on a stop for Glühwein in the mountain peaks, and some opportunities for photographers to capture the train as it twists through the Italian Alps. Remember to take your passport as we arrive in **Tirano, Italy for lunch**. Overnight at the Hotel Saratz, Pontresina.

Monday 29 January 2024 (B/L/LR) – St Moritz, Gourmino Nostalgie Dining and Chur

This morning we visit St Moritz – with its sophistication and chic. Stroll down through the mountain village and enjoy window shopping – the clothing and jewellery you can purchase if you sold your home ! We then board the St Moritz to Chur midday service and enjoy a wonderful luncheon in the Gourmino Nostalgie dining car of the Rhaetian Railways. Enjoy a quality meal as we descend to Chur, crossing the Landwasser viaduct and enjoying the spectacular Albula Line from the privileged position of your dining table ! Chur is an historic city rich in culture, and we experience **a short guided historic tour this afternoon**, visit Chur Museum and explore its fascinating cathedral. We return to Pontresina, with a drink and light nibble at our seats aboard the train on the return. Overnight at the Hotel Saratz, Pontresina.



Tuesday 30 January 2024 (B) – Pontresina to Chur, Sargans and Innsbruck

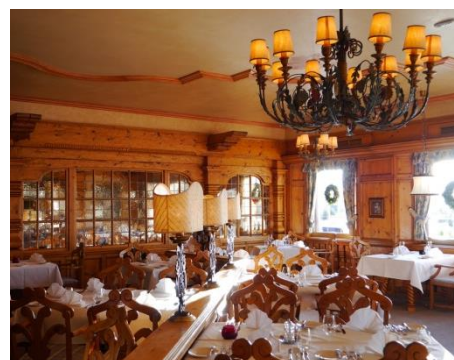
We descend from Pontresina along the Albula Line to Chur, then change for Sargans and to an **ÖBB Austrian RailJet service for Innsbruck**. The scenery along the Austrian Arlberg Line is spectacular - stretching from Bludenz in Vorarlberg via Langen am Arlberg (1217 metres above sea-level) to the Tyrolian town of Landeck, the line has a maximum gradient of 3.1% making the Arlberg Line one of the steepest railway lines on which there is regular passenger and goods traffic. Especially impressive is the "Trisanna-Bridge" in Tyrol near castle Wiesberg, which accentuates with a length of 211 m and a height of 87 m, the Paznaun valley and the "Arlbertunnel" with a length of 10.2 km. The valleys and rivers of western Austria are dramatic, with snow capped peaks on both sides of the line. In the late afternoon we arrive at Innsbruck. The Tyrolean capital sits at the base of the jagged rock spires of the Nordkette range and is in many ways Austria in microcosm: its late-medieval Altstadt is picture-book stuff, presided over by a grand Habsburg palace and baroque cathedral, while its Olympic ski jump with big mountain views makes a spectacular leap between the urban and the outdoors. **Enjoy an early evening stroll in this historic and colourful city**, with dinner at leisure.

Wednesday 31 January 2024 (B/D) – Innsbruck and to the Tyrolean Alps

This morning we visit the **Goldenes Dachl Museum (Golden Roof)**, explicitly created to commemorate the wedding of Emperor Maximilian I to Bianca Maria Sforza from Milan. Built in 1500, the golden roof's elaborate decoration with 2657 fire-gilded copper shingles attracts many photographers and visitors from all over the world. The Imperial Palace is one of the three most important cultural landmarks in Austria, built by Archduke Siegmund in Gothic style in around 1460, the castle was once the seat of the Tyrolean sovereigns. The **Hofkirche** is a Gothic church erected by Ferdinand I in memory of his grandfather Emperor Maximilian I, whose cenotaph bears an astonishing collection of German Renaissance sculpture. The most interesting amongst them are the 28 bronze statues of "black men" standing beside the tomb. Tyrol's national hero, Andreas Hofer is also buried in the church. This afternoon we catch a train the short distance to **Seefeld in Tyrol**. Our final two nights are enjoyed in one of **Austria's finest hotels, a spa resort set in the midst of the Tyrol, in a national park**. With probably **the most beautiful and luxurious spa in the Alps, it has everything to help you relax**. Spanning an area of over 5,000 m², the spa area features a panorama pool for indoor and outdoor swimming with a view onto the surrounding mountain scenery, a **luxurious Tyrolean sauna village** with a murmuring Kneipp stream and a quiet zone for those precious moments of complete relaxation. You can **swim outside with snow lapping the edge of the heated swimming pool, then relax in a warm spa**. Tonight we **enjoy a first class meal in the hotel's restaurant - the hotel chef has been awarded three stars by the Gault Millau gourmet guide**. The multi course meal features a selection for each, including an extensive salad and cheese buffet, served in the elegant wood panelled restaurant rooms or in the light-filled indoor winter garden. Choose from classic evening selections, a low-calorie alternative based on modern nutritional principles. Overnight at the five star Interlpen Hotel Tyrol.

Thursday 1 February 2024 (B/D) – the Tyrolean Alps – a walk in the snow clad forest and a horse drawn carriage experience

A day in the Tyrolean Alps provides an opportunity to relax in and around the hotel and explore the national park. **Enjoy a lavish breakfast buffet as you look out through glass at the snow covered slopes of the Tyrolean Alps**. After the excitement of mountain tops, cable cars and rack railways, we'll enjoy a more relaxed day - a mid morning walk through the snow (weather permitting) and then an afternoon treat in the forest. We experience **a horse drawn carriage ride through snow clad forests to a local inn where the publican offers refreshments - Glühwein or a cleansing ale, hot coffee or chocolate, and his famous apple strudel**. Then return to the hotel, and perhaps indulge in a spa, sauna, massage or swim. Tonight we enjoy our last dinner together in the hotel's fine dining restaurant – a gala Sunday dinner with multiple courses of fine cuisine. Overnight at the Interlpen Hotel Tyrol.



Images from a previous SJR tour to Switzerland and Austria in Winter – photos courtesy of Takako Ishige

Friday 2 February 2024 (B) – Seefeld in Tyrol to Zurich

After another fabulous breakfast buffet, we transfer late morning to the nearby railway station and catch our rail service to Zurich. The rail journey sees us travelling again along the Arlberg line through Landeck, St Anton and Bludenz and is particularly scenic as we traverse narrow gorges and cross deep viaducts. Enjoy our final rail journey in Europe before we arrive at Zurich, where we then travel the short distance to Zurich Airport, from where group members return to Australia or to their further destinations. Evening flight departures to Australia. Those continuing on the SJR Northern Lights tour to Scandinavia stay overnight in Zurich, and then fly on 3 February to Oslo.

Saturday 3 February 2024 (B/D) – en route to Australia

En route to Australia. Meals aboard the flight.

Sunday 4 February 2024 (B) – arrival in Australia

A morning arrival in Australia.

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Accommodation is generally in 4 – 5 star hotels. In some locations we have chosen simpler accommodation due to its proximity to the station, and in some locations we have selected superior hotels as they are part of the experience of the location. Breakfast is included almost every morning, and dinners as identified in the itinerary. Where there is a range of lunch and dinner options, we have not included these in the itinerary to provide choice in style and time of dining. Travel will be by a combination of first class rail, light rail, mountain railways, cable cars, funiculars and lake cruises.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour fare is \$16,790 per person on a twin share basis, plus airfares from Australia. With our travel agent at Travel Associates, Paddington, we will identify the best airfare to meet your travel needs. **Sole occupancy in hotels is a supplement of \$3,490.** Please complete the attached booking form and return it to us.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After payment of further deposits towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1,000 per person; within three months, \$2,000 per person. No refund will be made one month prior to departure from Australia. Cancellation fees for hotel, rail, coach and other travel components apply in accordance with the terms and conditions of the providers. (Note conditions relating to COVID-19 below.) All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. **Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts as the organiser of the tour. Some transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by licensed travel agent, Travel Associates, Paddington. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly, all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. Passports and visas – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport or visa documents. Full details of terms and conditions: if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to

you. **Special conditions relating to Government imposed restrictions** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

We strongly advise that you have a comprehensive travel insurance policy to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. On receipt of your booking, an insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Travel Associates Paddington, for your consideration. Please let us know if you would like us to send it to you. Obtaining insurance cover for the tour is your responsibility.



SWISS AND AUSTRIAN RAIL JOURNEYS LAKES AND ALPS IN WINTER

Saturday 13 January to Sunday 4 February 2024

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:
Address: Suburb: Postcode:
Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:
Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in your passport:)

Passenger 1 Name:
Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:
Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:
Passenger 2 Name:
Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:
Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

FOR ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS PLEASE PROVIDE THE ABOVE DETAILS ON A SEPARATE SHEET

PAYMENT

I enclose \$ as deposit (\$3,000 per person) for the above. Cheques payable to Scenic Journeys by Rail, sent to SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) details below. A letter acknowledging receipt will be forwarded.

Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail (trading as St James Rail)
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: Swiss (and your surname)

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM EUROPE

Please contact me to discuss flight arrangements to/from Europe
I/we will make our own flight arrangements to/from Europe

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: Double rooms: Twin (two bedded) rooms:

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :
.....
.....
.....

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent at Travel Associates, Paddington, NSW, 2021.

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March 2023