



Zurich to Milan via the Bernina Express

7 Night Rail Tour

Discover the beauty of Europe on this unforgettable rail journey from Zurich to Milan, travelling through some of the most spectacular alpine scenery in the world. Combining Switzerland's timeless charm with Italy's vibrant style, this carefully designed itinerary offers the perfect balance of breathtaking landscapes, cultural discovery and time to relax. From Zurich's picturesque Old Town and lakeside setting to the glamour of St. Moritz, each destination reveals a different side of this captivating region.

At the heart of the journey is the iconic Bernina Express, widely regarded as one of the world's most scenic rail experiences. As you travel across the Alps, you'll be treated to ever-changing views of dramatic peaks, glaciers and charming mountain villages, all from the comfort of your panoramic carriage. Ending in the cosmopolitan city of Milan, this holiday brings together spectacular scenery, rich culture and unforgettable moments - perfect for those looking to experience the very best of Switzerland and Italy by rail.

Highlights:

- Discover the charming Old Town and lakeside setting of Zurich.
- Enjoy a scenic rail journey into the heart of the Swiss Alps to St. Moritz.
- Experience the world-famous Bernina Express, one of Europe's most spectacular train journeys.
- Take in breathtaking views of glaciers, mountains and alpine lakes, including the stunning Lago Bianco.
- Witness the dramatic transition from Swiss alpine scenery to the Mediterranean landscapes of Italy.
- Arrive in the stylish city of Milan, renowned for its culture, cuisine and fashion.

What's included:

- Getting there: Flights to Zurich, return from Milan
- Transport: Private airport transfers, and 1st class rail between cities including 1st class on the Bernina Express between St Moritz and Tirano
- Accommodation: 7 nights total duration at your chosen hotels - 2 nights Zurich, 2 nights St Moritz, 3 nights Milan
- Meals included: Room only or bed and breakfast, depending on your chosen hotels

Not included:

- Any meals, drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature
- Optional excursion/tours
- Anything not mentioned in the "What's Included" column

Full Itinerary

Day 1: UK to Zurich

Welcome to Switzerland! On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in central Zurich.

This elegant city effortlessly combines historic charm with modern sophistication, offering the perfect introduction to your journey. This afternoon, perhaps take a leisurely stroll through the Altstadt (Old Town), where winding cobbled streets reveal medieval buildings, hidden courtyards and beautifully preserved guild houses. The atmosphere is both intimate and vibrant, with boutique shops, artisan chocolatiers and inviting cafés around every corner.

As you explore, you may come across iconic landmarks such as the twin towers of Grossmünster and the picturesque riverside setting along the Limmat. Continue towards Lake Zurich, where tranquil waters and distant Alpine views create a wonderfully relaxing setting.

This evening, you may wish to dine at a traditional Swiss restaurant, sampling regional dishes such as fondue or Zürcher Geschnetzeltes.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel in central Zurich near the train station, like 3* Best Western Plus Hotel Zuercherhof, 4* Central Plaza Hotel or 4* 25hours Hotel Zurich Langstrasse



Day 2: Exploring Zurich

Today is free for you to enjoy Zurich at your own pace.

Art lovers may wish to visit the renowned Kunsthaus Zürich, home to an impressive collection spanning classical to contemporary works. Alternatively, a scenic cruise on Lake Zurich offers a relaxing way to take in the city from a different perspective, with views of elegant villas and wooded hillsides.

For those interested in history and architecture, the beautiful Fraumünster church is well worth a visit, particularly for its striking stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall. You may also choose to return to the Grossmünster and climb its tower for panoramic views across the city.

Zurich is also perfect for wandering at leisure - browse along Bahnhofstrasse, one of Europe's most exclusive shopping streets, or relax in one of the many lakeside parks.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel in central Zurich near the train station, like 3* Best Western Plus Hotel Zuercherhof, 4* Central Plaza Hotel or 4* 25hours Hotel Zurich Langstrasse



Day 3: Zurich to St. Moritz by Train

This morning, make your way to the station and board your scenic train to St. Moritz, as you journey into the heart of the Swiss Alps.

Sit back and enjoy the ever-changing scenery from the comfort of your carriage. The landscape gradually shifts from Zurich's cosmopolitan surroundings to rolling countryside, sparkling lakes and charming villages, before climbing into dramatic alpine terrain.

On arrival in St. Moritz, you'll immediately notice its unique blend of natural beauty and understated glamour. Set within the Engadin Valley, the resort is surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery and crystal-clear lakes.

After checking in, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. A walk around Lake St. Moritz is a lovely way to take in the fresh mountain air, or you may prefer to explore the village's boutiques, galleries and cafés.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel in St Moritz near the train station, like 4* Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, 4* Crystal St Moritz or 4* Art Boutique Hotel Monopol

Day 4: Leisure in St. Moritz

Today is yours to enjoy St. Moritz and its spectacular surroundings at leisure.

For truly unforgettable views, you may wish to take the funicular up to Muottas Muragl. From here, you'll be rewarded with sweeping panoramas across the Engadin Valley, where lakes and mountains stretch as far as the eye can see.

There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, from gentle lakeside walks to more scenic hiking trails, all set within pristine alpine landscapes.

Alternatively, take a more relaxed approach and soak up the refined atmosphere of St. Moritz. Perhaps visit a local spa, browse the elegant shops or simply enjoy a coffee while admiring the stunning surroundings.

This evening, you may wish to enjoy a leisurely dinner, reflecting on your time in this iconic mountain resort.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel in St Moritz near the train station, like 4* Hotel Schweizerhof St Moritz, 4* Crystal St Moritz or 4* Art Boutique Hotel Monopol



Day 5: Scenic Bernina Express to Tirano then onwards to Milan

Today promises to be a true highlight of your journey as you board the iconic Bernina Express for one of the most spectacular rail journeys in the world.

Travelling along the historic Bernina Railway, part of the Rhaetian Railway network dating back to the early 1900s, this remarkable line was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2008 in recognition of its pioneering engineering and breathtaking alpine route.

Departing St. Moritz, the train climbs steadily into the high mountains, passing pristine lakes, forests and dramatic peaks. Along the way, you'll enjoy views of the impressive Morteratsch Glacier and the majestic Piz Bernina - the highest peak in the Eastern Alps and the route's namesake.

Crossing the Bernina Pass, the line reaches the highest railway crossing in the Alps at over 2,200 metres above sea level. Here, you'll pass the striking Lago Bianco, its milky turquoise waters contrasting beautifully with the rugged mountain surroundings.



The scenery transforms dramatically with the seasons, from snow-covered landscapes and frozen lakes in winter to lush green valleys, wildflowers and rushing streams in spring and summer, while autumn brings golden forests and crisp mountain air.

Descending into Italy, alpine views gradually give way to Mediterranean scenery as you arrive in Tirano. From here, continue by local train towards Milan, with sections of the journey offering glimpses of the beautiful Lake Como - a fitting final touch of scenic splendour before arriving in the city in the early evening.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel near the station in Milan like 4* Sanpi Milano, 4* Inside Milano Torre Galfa or 4* Starhotels E.c.ho. Milano

Day 6: Discovering Milan

Today is free for you to explore Milan, a city known for its style, culture and rich heritage.

A visit to the impressive Duomo di Milano is a must. This magnificent Gothic cathedral is one of the largest in the world, with intricate detailing and breathtaking interiors. For panoramic views, you may wish to visit the rooftop terraces.

Art enthusiasts may also choose to pre-book a visit to see *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci, one of the most celebrated artworks in the world.

You could also enjoy a stroll through the elegant Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, home to luxury boutiques and historic cafés.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel near the station in Milan like 4* Sanpi Milano, 4* Ininside Milano Torre Galfa or 4* Starhotels E.c.ho. Milano



Day 7: Milan at Leisure

Enjoy a final full day at leisure in Milan.

You may wish to explore the charming Navigli district, known for its canals and lively atmosphere, particularly in the late afternoon when locals gather for aperitivo.

Alternatively, consider an optional excursion to Lake Como, where beautiful lakeside scenery and elegant villas offer a peaceful escape from the city.

Milan is also a fantastic destination for shopping, whether you're browsing designer boutiques or independent stores. Equally, its many piazzas provide the perfect setting to relax with a coffee and watch the world go by.

ACCOMMODATION: Any hotel near the station in Milan like 4* Sanpi Milano, 4* Inside Milano Torre Galfa or 4* Starhotels E.c.ho. Milano



Day 8: Return to the UK

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK. Depending on your departure time, you may have some free time to enjoy a final stroll, relax at your hotel, or soak up the last moments of your time in Milan.

As your journey comes to an end, take time to reflect on the wonderful contrasts experienced along the way - from the cultural charm of Zurich to the breathtaking alpine scenery of St. Moritz, and the vibrant elegance of Milan.

FAQs

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO TRAVEL?

This journey can be enjoyed throughout much of the year, with each season offering its own unique charm. Spring (April to June) brings fresh alpine landscapes, blooming wildflowers and fewer crowds, making it a lovely time for relaxed sightseeing. Summer (July to September) offers longer daylight hours and lush green scenery, ideal for enjoying the full beauty of the mountains and lakes, although it is also the most popular time to travel. Autumn (late September to October) is particularly scenic, with golden forests and crisp, clear views across the Alps. Winter departures (December to March) transform the journey into a magical experience, with snow-covered peaks, frozen lakes and a true winter wonderland atmosphere - especially spectacular aboard the Bernina Express.

DO I NEED A VISA?

UK passport holders do not need a visa to travel to Switzerland or Italy for up to 90 days in a 180 day period. Please refer to the FCDO website for more information.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?

There are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter Switzerland or Italy. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.

TRAIN TRAVEL

You will be provided tickets for 1st class travel on direct services between each city.

WHAT IS SEATING LIKE ON THE BERNINA EXPRESS?

Seating on the Bernina Express is comfortable and designed to make the most of the spectacular scenery, with large panoramic windows offering uninterrupted views throughout the journey.

Seats are spacious with good legroom, and while they do not recline significantly, they are well-suited for enjoying the views. A trolley service offers drinks and light refreshments, available to purchase onboard.

Luggage travels with you and can be stored on overhead racks or in designated areas within the carriage.

For the best views, we recommend requesting seats on the right-hand side when travelling from St. Moritz to Tirano.

RAIL STATIONS

Transfers will not be included to and from the train stations. You can choose an accommodation near the station, use public transport or a local taxi service.

CAN I CHANGE THIS ITINERARY?

Our itinerary can be fully customised; you can extend the duration, change the hotels, add optional excursions, or even modify the destinations.

We are able to arrange the majority of train journeys across Europe and beyond, tailoring the experience to suit your preferences.

Please contact our Tailormade Sales Team who are able to assist with your enquiry.