# Goldtimers presents... Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains

September 12 – 22, 2024



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! see inside for details

Direct Travel personalized experiences For more information contact Direct Travel 309-834-3739 or 866-592-0455 reservations@directtravelgroups.com





11 Days • 13 Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Zurich, Glacier Express Train, Zermatt, Lake Maggiore, Borromeo Palace, Choice on Tour: Villa Taranto or Pallanza Art Museum, Island Dinner, Bernina Express Train, St. Moritz, Lucerne, Mount Pilatus

#### **ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Day 2	Hotel Krone Unterstrass, Zurich
Days 3, 4	Hotel Alex, Zermatt
Days 5 – 7	Zacchera Hotels, Lake Maggiore
Day 8	Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz
Days 9, 10	Hotel Astoria Lucerne, Lucerne
	On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

VIRTUOSO EXCLUSIVE

PER PERSON

\$100 credit toward Economy Air or Premium Economy / \$250 credit toward Business-Class Air \$100 credit toward tour add-ons (anything beyond land package and waiver; including pre/post nights, pre/post tour extensions, optional excursions, etc.)

\*These are combinable with any other offer in market. \*If land only and no pre/post or option purchase, the \$100 does not get credited towards anything else.

#### Day 1: Thursday, September 12, 2024 Overnight Flight

Breathtaking Alpine vistas await as you travel through Switzerland and Italy. Experience dramatic views aboard railways and lake cruises while enjoying cultural experiences in charming villages.

**Day 2: Friday, September 13, 2024 Zurich, Switzerland - Tour Begins** Welcome to Switzerland's largest city – Zurich. Enjoy some free time exploring its charming Old Town or one of its many museums on your own. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers over a welcome dinner. (D)

#### Day 3: Saturday, September 14, 2024 Zurich - Andermatt -

**Zermatt** Say "good morning" to Zurich with a walking tour of the city. A local guide will teach you the city's history and make a few *sweet* stops along the way. Learn the history behind the chocolate shops and taste some delicacies for yourself. Treat your taste buds to even more flavors of Zurich with free time for lunch on your own. After that, it's all aboard! You're off to Andermatt to experience the world-renowned Glacier Express train. Natural backdrops of the Swiss Alps, thick forests, gurgling streams, and deep valleys bring this mountain dream to life. Complete your day in the unique, car-less village of Zermatt. (*B*, *D*)

**Day 4: Sunday, September 15, 2024 Zermatt** Start your morning with a Tour Manager-led walk to get familiar with the quaint mountain village of Zermatt. With free time for the rest of the day, let your curiosity get the best of you while uncovering history in the Matterhorn Museum. Perhaps your adventurous side will bring you on the Gornergrat Railway to experience elevated views of the Matterhorn. (*B*)

Day 5: Monday, September 16, 2024 Zermatt - Lake Maggiore, Italy Take on the day as you depart Zermatt and head towards Italy. Enjoy scenic mountain views on a drive through the Simplon Pass, used for centuries as a main trading route between northern Italy and Switzerland. Learn how Napoleon used the Simplon Pass to cross the Alps into Italy and gain control of Milan and Venice. Continue to a tranquil resort area with crystal clear waters set against the backdrop of the Alps, known as Lake Maggiore. Take time this afternoon to stroll the cobbled streets of Stresa. Long-favored by European aristocracy because of its blend of elegance, Stresa has inspired artists and writers since the late 1800s. Step inside a local wine shop where the family teaches you all about some of Italy's local specialties and invites you to try some. As the day draws to a close, settle in for a 3night stay at your hotel. (*B*)

**Day 6: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 Lake Maggiore** The entire day is yours. You might want to soak up the sun along the waterfront, relax in an outdoor café, or head out on the waves by boat. Perhaps you'll take an optional tour to picture-perfect Lake Orta – a hidden gem surrounded by romantic villages and filled with quaint islands. As the evening approaches, board a private boat for a cruise to Isola dei Pescatori. On the island, toast to your Italian experiences during dinner at a local restaurant. (*B*, *D*)

**Day 7: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 Lake Maggiore** Today, explore the twin towns of Verbania and Pallanza where **it's your choice!** In Verbania, wander through the enchanted gardens of Villa Taranto. Among the dreamy landscapes and captivating reflections are mysterious flowers from the farthest corners of the world **-OR**-visit Pallanza and tour the Troubetzkoy statuary collection housed in the town's museum, Museo del Paesaggio. This afternoon, set sail to *Isola Bella* – known as the "beautiful island." With an expert guide beside you, journey into the Borromeo Palace – a lakeside Baroque beauty adorned with an exotic garden. (*B*)

**Day 8: Thursday, September 19, 2024 Lake Maggiore - St. Moritz, Switzerland** Experience sweeping coastal views on your drive along the picturesque shores of Lake Como during your full morning bus transfer to Tirano. Spend the afternoon traveling along





# **Book Now & Save \$250 Per Person:**

Double <del>\$6,349</del> Single <del>\$7,349</del> Triple <del>\$6,249</del> **Double** \$6,099\* **Single** \$7,099 **Triple** \$5,999 Book Now & Save \$250 Per Person

# For bookings made after Mar 13, 2024 call for rates.

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Group Transportation between Bloomington and Chicago, Round Trip Air from OHare Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$449 per person

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from ORD

# Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Business Class \$3,990

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

one of the world's most scenic railways. Take a journey through the Bernina Express en route to St. Moritz, Switzerland. Witness the striking landscapes of the Italian and Swiss Alps throughout your voyage – including the famed Morteratsch Glacier. Make your final stop in St. Moritz and enjoy the evening at leisure to relax or stroll the lakeside boulevard. (*B*)

**Day 9: Friday, September 20, 2024 St. Moritz - Lucerne** Slow and steady wins the race today. Enjoy a leisurely start in St. Moritz before heading to Lucerne, the "Swiss Paradise on the Lake." Follow the ancient pathways of the city on a walking tour through an *Altstadt* (Old Town), passing through the covered 14th-century Chapel Bridge. Along the way, see the famous Water Tower that once served as a prison. Pause at the renowned Lion Monument, carved from

sandstone to commemorate heroic soldiers. The evening is yours to relax or explore. (B)

**Day 10: Saturday, September 21, 2024 Lucerne** Today, enjoy the splendor of pure nature while gliding over a clear landscape in panoramic gondolas and spectacular cable cars. Ascend Pilatus on a unique excursion along the steepest railway in the world. From the top, soak in the magnificent Alpine views from 7,000 ft. above sea level. Enjoy leisure time at the summit, where you can stroll the walkway for new vantage points. Venture back down the mountain by panoramic gondola for another bird's eye view. Gather tonight for a farewell dinner featuring Swiss specialties. (*B*, *D*)

**Day 11: Sunday, September 22, 2024 Lucerne - Tour Ends** Your scenic journey comes to an end today in Lago Maggiore. (*B*)

#### Experience It! Bernina Express Train

Ascend the Bernina Pass and discover why this is considered one of the most beautiful train journeys in the region. As you surpass the tree lines, witness views of rugged, high-alpine landscapes from panoramic windows. Once past the small station of Ospizio Bernina, you'll reach the highest point of the route at over 7,390 feet above sea level – an ideal location for hiking enthusiasts and nature lovers. You'll venture towards villages like Poschiavo, where Swiss and Italian cultures blend seamlessly before reaching the posh resort town of St Moritz.

# For more information visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1208576

#### PLEASE NOTE:

#### Book Now rates valid until Mar 13, 2024, valid on air inclusive packages only. IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Effective for travel in 2024, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://www.etiasvisa.com/

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Triple rooms are not available.

To complete your tour, we <u>include</u> roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your <u>own air</u>, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Zacchera Hotels is a hotel chain in Lago Maggiore. The exact hotel to be used will be available 15 days prior to the tour departure date.

\*On some departures, the cogwheel train may be unavailable and both the ascent and descent will be by panorama gondolas and aerial cableway.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 2. This means you like a balanced approach to travel. Walking two to three miles over the course of a day is no problem for you. You can partake in a two-hour leisurely walking tour, covering up to two miles (with included breaks). You can handle a variety of terrains, from cobblestone streets to moderate hills with relative ease and without assistance. You can climb two flights of stairs with ease. There may be 1 to 2 days on this tour when walking tours can cover 3 to 4 miles over uneven terrain. Expect some full days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. You can handle altitudes up to 6,000 feet. On the last tour day, you will have an included experience at Mount Pilatus that reaches heights of 6,800 feet. While this level is appropriate for travelers that require mobility assistance devices, there could be times when you may have to sit out on some of the included activities.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

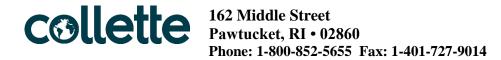


Our air passengers will arrive and depart from Zurich, Switzerland airport. Arrival flights should land in Zurich by 3:00 p.m. Departure transfers will leave from Lucerne for Zurich airport. Return flights from Zurich should not be booked prior to 10:00 a.m.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of March 06, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by July 14, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until March 13, 2024.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279



If paying by credit card, please complete this form and return to Direct Travel. We can only charge your credit card for the amount noted if the signature, address and phone number are listed below. Thank you!

# **CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM**

BOOKING NUMBER: 1208576	TOUR: Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains featuring a cruise on Lake Maggiore and scenic trains in Switzerland & Italy GROUP NAME: Goldtimers		
DEPARTURE DATE: September 12, 2024			
Name of Passenger:			
Salutation:First Name:N (Mr., Mrs., Rev.)	Middle Initial: Last Name: Please print as it appears on Passport)	Suffix: (Jr., Sr.)	
Cardholder Name:	<u>.</u>		
Cardholder Address:			
Cardholder Phone:			
Credit Card Type:American Express	DiscoverMasterCard	Visa	
Credit Card Number:			
Expiration Date:	Amount to be charged: \$		
Cardholder's Signature:	Date:		

I agree to pay according to the card issuer agreement. I understand and accept Collette cancellation policy, terms and conditions.

Participating credit card companies are now requiring a billing address and phone number for **FRAUD PREVENTION**. All information MUST be provided. Thank you for your cooperation! If using your credit card for payment, please return this Authorization Form by mail to:

**Direct Travel** 2415 E Washington St Ste D BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704-1609

Above credit card information has been called in to Collette.



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#### BOOKING NUMBER: 1208576

TOUR: Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains featuring a cruise on Lake Maggiore and scenic trains in Switzerland & Italy

DEPARTURE DATE: September 12, 2024

**GROUP NAME:** Goldtimers

### **Available Options**

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.

Children under the age of 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

#### Lake Orta

# **Treasures of Lake Orta**

Journey to picture-perfect Orta, a scenic subalpine lake surrounded by ancient villages. During a guided tour, visit one of Italy's Sacri Monti (UNESCO)—chapels built in a scenic location above the lake as pilgrimage sites for those who could not afford the journey to Jerusalem. Then enjoy a boat ride to San Giulio Island, a rocky island in the middle of the lake that provides impressive views of the surrounding shore. Take a walk around the island before returning to the mainland for time at leisure in the old town of Orta, replete of quaint cobblestoned lanes and local cafes. *Duration: Approximately 6 hours.* Transportation is included.

PASSENGERS NAME: (Please sub Salutation: First:	Middle: Last:	Suffix: Nickname:	
(Mr., Mrs., Rev.) (Please print <b>EXACTLY</b> as it appears on Passport)		(Jr., Sr.)	
$\checkmark$	Option	Price Per Person (USD)	
Treasures of La	ake Orta	85.00	

Please make checks payable to Direct Travel and send to:

Direct Travel 2415 E Washington St Ste D BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704-1609

# \$85 USD

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A deposit of \$698 per person is du March 06, 2024 are based upon av YOUR INFORMATION:		are made on a first come, firs y 14, 2024. Deposits are refun	dable up until March 13, 20	ns made after the deposit due date of )24.
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