



## **Austria & Switzerland Glacier Express & Bernina Express Salzburg – St Moritz – Zermatt – Geneva 24 Feb – 02 March 2019**



Come and join us and experience the “slowest express train in the world!” and a whole lot more. Imagine snow-capped mountains, twisting valleys, chocolate-box villages, stunning scenery and possibly the most magical train journey in the world. We hope to encounter most, if not all of these, on our beautiful winter-wonderland experience in Austria and Switzerland. Make no mistake – this is not just another holiday; it’s an adventure and an experience!

After a direct flight from Belfast to Austria, our magical mystery tour starts with two nights in the fabulous, historical city of Salzburg. Our four-star hotel is ideally situated, just across from the station and 15 minutes’ walk from the “Altstadt”, with its narrow alleyways, market squares, palaces, cathedrals and unique shops and stores. Enjoy a tour of the city at your leisure on the Hop-On Hop-Off bus or spend some time visiting the various museums, galleries or palaces for which Salzburg is famed. Follow the trail of the “Sound of Music”. For aficionados, we will try to arrange a concert or musical during your stay.

Our rail journey sets off from here, with a journey across Salzburgerland and the Tyrol and right into Switzerland. We spend a full day travelling, arriving in St Moritz in time for a shower and a pre-dinner drink, before enjoying an evening in this stunning resort. We have secured two different hotels here, one three-star and the other four-star.....obviously at a supplement. Don’t forget, this is top-of-top season in one of Europe’s most-expensive countries, so we have tried to make it as affordable as possible but giving you the option to upgrade, if you wish. Both hotels are close together and the evening meal is included.

On the Wednesday, you have an option. Take a free day to enjoy St Moritz on your own or join us on the first of our “Express” days. Today, we join the Bernina Express, a 4-hour, 144 km (90 mile) journey between icy Switzerland and sunny Italy, through 55 tunnels and over 196 bridges, with Alpine gradients as steep as 1 in 7, on a railway built in 1896-1904 and now declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. We take in the most scenic part from St Moritz to Tirano in Italy and back, approximately, 2hrs 20mins each way and the fare is £85 per person in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class or £130 in 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Both classes have spectacular panorama carriages, with huge windows, stretching over much of the ceiling offering optimum viewing.

We set off again on Thursday on the “slowest express in the world”, the famous “Glacier Express”. A full day awaits you as we twist and turn, climb and descend through the most wondrous valleys in Switzerland. This amazing journey will carry you across almost 300 bridges and through 91 tunnels. At its highest point, the train will cross over the Oberalp Pass, 2000m above sea level. The Glacier Express is one of the most popular highlights for tourists and conveniently links two of the most popular and beautiful destinations in Switzerland, St. Moritz and Zermatt.

Under the watchful eye of Switzerland’s most famous mountain, the Matterhorn, we have two evenings here in Zermatt, again in two different hotels, one three-star and the other four-star. Dinner is included on one evening, with an option to join us at a local restaurant on the last night before the end of the holiday (details to follow). Enjoy some time in this top ski and holiday destination or take an excursion to the Matterhorn (details to follow).

On the Saturday, we set off for Geneva, arriving mid-afternoon, allowing time for some sight-seeing or shopping – if you’ve any money left! Geneva is a beautiful city with an exciting history and we’re sure you’ll enjoy it. Then, it’s only a short ride out to the airport, for our evening flight home, directly to Belfast.

What an adventure!



## Itinerary:

(Times and content are subject to change)

### Sunday, 24 February 2019

Fly from Belfast Int'l on Easyjet to Salzburg.  
Depart Belfast 3.00pm. Arrive Salzburg 6.00pm. Transfer to hotel.  
Overnight at Austria Trend Hotel. Evening meal at hotel.

### Monday, 25 February 2019

Breakfast at hotel. Day free to enjoy Salzburg or check out the Hop-On Hop-Off bus.  
Overnight at Austria Trend Hotel. Evening meal at "Sternbräu" in the Altstadt.

### Tuesday, 26 February 2019

Breakfast at hotel before departure for Switzerland by train.  
Depart Salzburg 09.45am, arrive St. Moritz 5.00pm (change en-route at Chur and Sargans)  
Overnight at 3\* Hauser Hotel Engadin, just opposite the station (or upgrade to 4\* Hotel Steffani – see price panel)  
Three course dinner at hotel. (Four course dinner at Steffani)

### Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Breakfast at hotel.  
Free day to explore St Moritz or to join us on the Bernina Express (see price panel)  
Three course dinner at hotel.  
Overnight at 3\* Hauser Hotel at Engadin (or upgrade to 4\* Hotel Steffani – see price panel)

### Thursday, 28 February 2019

Breakfast at hotel.  
Departure for our journey on the Glacier Express, a full-day experience, arriving in Zermatt late afternoon, early evening. (Times not available at time of going to press). A three-course lunch I served on board.  
Dinner at hotel or local restaurant – to be confirmed.  
Overnight at 3\* Elite Hotel Täsch (or upgrade to 4\* Hotel Ambassador – see price panel)

### Friday, 01 March 2019

Breakfast at hotel.  
At last! A day to relax or enjoy an excursion to the Matterhorn or elsewhere. (Details to follow)  
Dinner is not included tonight but we will offer the chance to join us at a local restaurant.

### Saturday, 02 March

Breakfast at hotel.  
Depart mid-morning for train to Geneva, arriving mid afternoon. We have some time for sightseeing, shopping before heading to the airport. (Luggage can be left in lockers).  
Dinner is not included tonight but we will offer the chance to join us at a local restaurant.  
Depart Geneva at approx. 9.00pm for flight to Belfast, arriving approx. 10.30pm

## Flights:

Our flights are with Easyjet from Belfast International and 15kgs of checked luggage is included in your fare, along with a piece of hand luggage. We suggest, though, that you travel as lightly as you possibly can. We will be getting on and off trains, taking lifts and escalators and occasionally stairs. Stowing large luggage on trains is always a bit frenetic, so please give that some thought. It's up to you but we can assure you, the lighter you can travel, the easier it will be and the more comfortably you will travel. We definitely DO NOT recommend taking or paying for extra luggage!

### Sunday, 24 February 2019

Fly from Belfast Int'l on Easyjet to Salzburg.  
Depart Belfast 3.00pm. Arrive Salzburg 6.00pm.

### Saturday, 02 February 2019

Fly from Geneva to Belfast International  
Depart Geneva approx. 9.00pm. Arrive Belfast approx. 10.30pm

Flight times to be confirmed and may change moderately.

## Hotels:

### Austria Trend Hotel, Salzburg.

This is a very modern, four-star hotel, right beside Salzburg Railway Station. The hotel offers nice, reasonably spacious accommodation and has a nice restaurant/bar, serving excellent food. Just fifteen minutes' walk or five minutes taxi-ride from the "Altstadt", the location is ideal. (Note: We stayed in this hotel in January 2018 and found it to be excellent)

### Hotel Hauser, Engadin, St. Moritz (Three-star)

Situated right in the heart of St. Moritz, just 150m from the station, this is a charming hotel, which gets excellent reviews. Close to all amenities, shops, boutiques and restaurants, the hotel offers comfortable accommodation and good dining. All our single rooms are located here. Includes three-course dinner each night.

### Hotel Steffani, St. Moritz (Four-star)

Just across from the Hotel Hauser, this hotel offers a slightly higher standard of accommodation, with a choice of restaurants, including St. Moritz' only Chinese Restaurant. There is also a lovely wellness centre with heated indoor pool, sauna, steam room and massage facilities. Those of our customers who travel to Zell am See with us will experience similar facilities and ambience here, we trust. We know this hotel costs more but we highly recommend it. Includes superb four-course dinner each night, worth £at least £45 per night!

### Elite Hotel Täsch (Three-star)

Located close to the Täsch train station, and the hotel's non-stop shuttle service, provides for easy access to Zermatt, just 3 miles away. The Elite offers free Wi-Fi and almost all rooms have a balcony offering mountain views. We cannot guarantee any particular room, I'm afraid. From December to April, the spa area of the Hotel Elite offers relaxation in the sauna or steam room after a day out in the mountains or a day's travelling.

### Ambassador Hotel (Four-star)

This luxury hotel is set in the heart of Zermatt, just a short hop from the station. The hotel features restaurant and bar, along with a swimming pool, sauna and whirlpool. Shops, cafes, ski-lifts and entertainment are all close by.

#### Included in the fare:

- Return flights from Belfast International with Easyjet
- 15kgs checked luggage plus one piece hand luggage, per person
- 2 nights on B&B basis in Austria Trend Hotel, Salzburg
- 2 nights on B&B basis in Hotel Hauser Engadin, St. Moritz
- 2 nights on B&B basis in Elite Hotel Täsch, 3 miles from Zermatt
- Transfer from Salzburg Airport to hotel.
- Train journeys in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, as specified in itinerary and to Geneva Airport
- Glacier Express with three-course lunch
- Five evening meals (Option to join in on other evenings)
- Full ATOL Protection (No. 11029)
- All local taxes
- Escorted by Alan and Ann Couser

#### Not included in the fare:

- Hotel upgrades (See price panel)
- Upgrade to 1<sup>st</sup> Class on trains
- Taxis or any other transport not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions (See price panel)
- Drinks or meals not included in the itinerary
- Gratuities (See note on gratuities)
- Travel insurance
- Transport to/from Belfast Airport
- Laundry or any other item of personal expenditure



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### Fares

£1455 per person, based on sharing double room  
£1555 per person, based on single occupancy

Upgrade to Hotel Steffani in St Moritz  
£135 per person, based on sharing double room  
No option for single rooms, sorry!

Upgrade to Ambassador Hotel in Zermatt  
£140 per person, based on sharing a double room  
£150 per person, based on single occupancy

Upgrade to First Class rail in Switzerland  
£130 per person.

Bernina Express  
£70 per person in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
£120 per person in 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Option to add one more nights in Geneva  
From approx. £60 per person, based on sharing  
Call for full details and options

#### Gratuities

In Austria and Switzerland, it is very rare that anyone will insist on a tip or a gratuity. That is not to say that it is not appreciated or welcomed. We have not included any gratuities in this holiday whatsoever, but we now offer you a guideline as to what you might wish to consider.

Overnights in hotels. Leave a tip at reception, which will be divided amongst all staff. The guideline is €4-€5 (CHF4 – CHF5) per guest, per night. This will also cover waiting staff at dinner.

Meals and drinks outside hotel. Generally 7.5% - 10% is the norm but is entirely at your discretion.

Taxis. Not normally required or expected. Maybe round the fare up to the next full Euro or Franc for short journeys. Longer journeys, €5 or CHF5 is usually fine.

