

From Alpine Valleys to Snow-Capped Peaks

Experience Switzerland

For most people, the first mention of Switzerland evokes its classic imagery: high snow-capped mountains, rolling green pastoral hills, wooden chalets, charming villages and bearded mountain farmers—and let's not forget about cheese, chocolate and watches. Fortunately, this trip features all of the above. From the lakes and vineyards to the Alpine valleys and impressive mountain peaks, you'll ride e-bikes over small, beautiful, winding and rolling roads, contrasted by changing and impressive landscape. Along the way you'll meet some local characters, from the Alpenhorn player to the cheese farmer and the wine maker, each of whom will share a bit of their journey with yours. You will taste delicious cheese and wine and become a chocolate connoisseur as you (somewhat ironically, given the setting) forget to check your watch entirely as you indulge in the lifestyle of the Swiss Alps.

YOUR WHEELS

Our Scott E-Venture bikes are regular pedal bikes that provide electric assistance whenever you want it. With both the battery and the drive train in the center of the bike frame, this electric-assist bike is as stable as they come. With four different assist-level modes, state-of-the-art Bosch drive system, and an extremely comfortable ride, this bike offers it all.

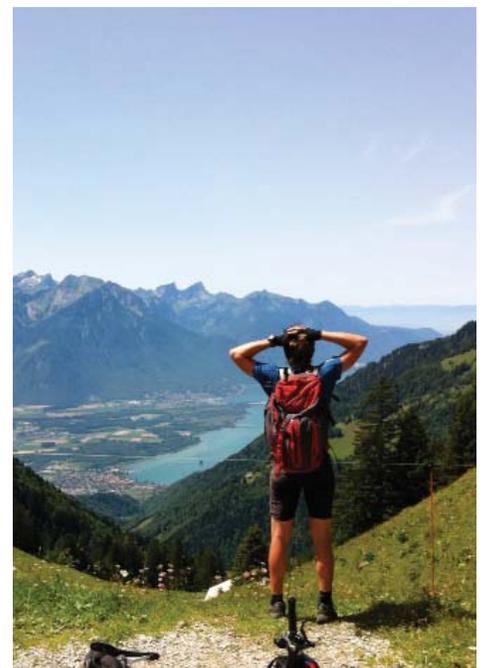
WHY TRAVEL WITH B&R?

Switzerland is small but incredibly diverse! We combine the best of three distinct regions, from the Lavaux vineyards to the lush Alpine green of Gstaad and the international buzz of Interlaken.



Other questions?
Call us at 604.925.1212

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the journey

Days 1 & 2

Swiss Farms, Vineyards and Castles

After a short drive north-east of Lausanne to the agrarian country-side, we'll set off from a farm in Savigny with a beautiful view over the pre-alps and get familiar with our e-bikes with an easy ride on small roads across the agricultural landscape and patches of forest going from village to village. Our ride will take us back towards Lac Léman where the magnificent vineyards of Lavaux, built on terraces through the centuries and a UNESCO cultural heritage site, drop down to the water. Our lunch will take place in a private winery nestled in the heart of these beautiful vineyards. With lunch we'll enjoy a glass of Chasselas, the crisp white wine grape cultivated here. The angle of the slope and the sun's reflection off the lake make it an ideal spot to grow grapes, especially the Chasselas, which has become well known in the region. More vineyard views will accompany our ride in the afternoon, which takes us along the terraces all the way to the historical town of Vevey, beside the lake. We might decide to stop in one of the famous village such as Epesses or St-Saphorin before Vevey to visit a winemaker, discover his cellar and taste the freshly vinified grapes settling in the barrels. Tonight, after cocktails on the terrace of the hotel, we will dine in one of the best gastronomic restaurants in town, within a very short stroll of the hotel.

Our next day starts with a beautiful flat ride along the lake with a stunning view of the mountains in the distance. For most of the way from Vevey to Villeneuve, we will follow the pedestrian and cycling path. We pass through the town of Montreux, home to the famous Jazz festival, and, before reaching Villeneuve, we will have no other choice than to bike right past the magnificent medieval castle of Chillon, built on a small rocky island on the water (and which we will visit on our way back). From Villeneuve we leave the shores of Lac Léman and



HOTEL

Hôtel Des Trois Couronnes, Vevey

Conveniently situated next to Lake Léman in the heart of charming Vevey, this elegant hotel, built in 1842, was the third hotel ever to open in Switzerland. It has been recently renovated and is part of the Historical Hotels of Switzerland, as well as inscribed as a cultural property of national importance. You will surely enjoy walking along the dock right at the hotel's doorstep, taking in the evening light coming down the mountains across the lake.

THE BIKING

Day 1: 50 km (31 mi.) on rolling terrain, from farmyards to vineyards, with a short busy section entering Vevey.

Day 2: 55 km (34 mi.) on mostly flat terrain along Rhone valley.



enter the peaceful nature reserve of Les Grangettes. Shortly we join the Rhone River bike path, pedalling the banks on the valley floor even as impressive peaks surround us on both sides. A climb through vineyards brings to the quaint hamlet of Verschiez, but the view you will have comes as a great reward for the effort. We then enter the town of Aigle whose wine museum is well worth a detour. Today lunch is on your own in Aigle – you will be able to leave your bicycle in the centre of town with your guides for a battery recharge while you explore our favorite seasonal-dish places, all within walking distance. After lunch, we make our winding way back to the lake shore, to visit the castle of Chillon. When looking at the surroundings, water on one side and steep mountain faces on the other, you can see why this place has been occupied since the Bronze age even though the castle was built, rebuilt and renovated much later. At the cost of bloody battles, it has become the property of different empires such as the Savoie, Bernese

or Vaudois, who fought over the land and control of this strategic North-South passage. After the visit, you can opt for either a boat ride to return to Vevey – a pleasant and relaxing opportunity to gaze at the Swiss riviera from the steamboat’s deck – or to bike the few remaining kilometres for a true ‘door-to-door’ loop. Tonight we will dine in our hotel’s majestic ‘salon rouge.’

Days 3 & 4

The Pays d’Enhaut: Gruyères, Gstaad and Glaciers

The next morning we bid goodbye to the Swiss Riviera and the Lavaux vineyards as we head to the Pays d’Enhaut (the highlands) and the pre-Alpine region where the language border is located. In the Pays d’Enhaut, in one village you will hear French spoken and in the next one Swiss German! Our 40-minute

HOTEL

Le Grand Bellevue, Gstaad

Ideally situated in a small park within walking distance from everything in the famous town of Gstaad, this 5-star hotel and spa, built in 1912 and recently renovated, exudes an easy, playful sophistication. Stroll to town for some shopping, enjoy the world-class spa or simply relax in your chic room or the hotel’s green grounds.

THE BIKING

Day 3: 40 km (25 mi.) of rolling mountain valley terrain from the town of Gruyères to Gstaad with a few busier sections.

Day 4: 36 km (22 mi.) round-trip to the Col du Pillon and 2 hours round-trip of easy walking on a safe glacier trail (no mountaineering equipment needed, just comfortable hiking shoes and good weather). Plus an additional afternoon option, a 23 km (14 mi.) loop ride from Gstaad to the Lauenen Lake.

drive will take us to the famous town of Gruyères, which gave its name to the best known Swiss cheese. Gruyères is a quaint medieval village built around a castle and perched on top of a hill, well worth a visit. Maybe you will want to try a piece of cheese, but we recommend instead the meringue double crème (double cream with meringues), the classic sweet dessert of the region, which will give you all the energy you need to tackle the rolling terrain of the day. After our enjoyable wander around town, we will hop on our e-bikes and pedal along the winding valley carved by the Sarine River. On the way to Gstaad, we will climb to an alpine house perched in the pastures above Château-d'Oex, to have a typical lunch in a private house and refuel our bodies while listening to schwytszoergeli, a type of accordion only found in Switzerland. The afternoon ride brings us through beautiful villages like Rougemont and Saanen, famous for their typical wooden chalets, their antique shops and the traditional art of *découpage* (cutwork art). Upon arrival in our home for the next two nights, you will have the option to join us for a demonstration of *découpage* by a specialist; you will even be able to make your own. Or if you prefer you can visit the spa before getting ready for our Michelin-starred dinner in the hotel's inviting restaurant.

The next day, a great adventure awaits! We will climb a famous Alpine pass, the Col du Pillon, rising to 1,546 m (5,070 ft) above sea level, or 650 m (1,640 ft) of altitude gain from Gstaad. Here's where the e-bikes are worth their weight in gold! From the Col du Pillon we then take the gondola up all the way to 3,000 m (9,840 ft) to the Tsanfleuron Glacier. Weather permitting, an easy and safe one-hour walk on the glacier takes us to the mountain refuge l'Espace, where a stunning view of all



the Alps, from the Matterhorn to the Mont-Blanc, stands in front of us. Lunch is on your own today, with delicious Swiss specialties available both at the top and at the mid-station. If the mountain refuge is not too busy the "gardien" (literally guardian, the person running the refuge), might sit with us for a coffee to recount some old alpinism stories. After lunch and the descent back to the col, we'll hop on our bikes for a fun, seemingly endless downhill back to Gstaad. Once at the hotel, if you'd like a bit more riding, come explore the quiet little Lauenen Lake, nestled at the end of a typical small Alpine valley, on a short out-and-back. Or take advantage of the hotel's amenities, and explore Gstaad to find one of the many good restaurants where you can dine, as tonight will be an evening on your own; Gstaad is ideal as it offers many choices for restaurants of various culinary styles. Just before dinner, if you wish you may join your guides for a quick drive up in the mountain to visit a cheese cellar for an aperitif with the cheesemaker while he explains the secrets of cheese making.

HOTEL***Victoria Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa, Interlaken***

In the heart of the Bernese Oberland, nestled at the foot of the majestic Alpine peaks of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, this 5-star hotel and spa is without doubt the best place in Interlaken to spend our last night together. If it's a clear day, you will be able to see the impressive north faces of the Jungfrau right from the hotel. This is a perfect location to either enjoy some wellness treatment or to take a walk around the luxurious shops of the town.

THE BIKING

Day 5: 42 km (26 mi.) on very rolling terrain, with some narrow country and forest roads and spectacular views. One short busy section as we make our way into the heart of Interlaken.

Day 5**Lake Thun to Interlaken**

For our last day together we will start with a bit more than an hour's drive north of Thun Lake. The drive is well worth it, as we can start biking right in the pre-Alpine hills overhanging the lake with a spectacularly open view of the high Alpine peaks in the distance. We will start our bike ride just outside the city of Thun, in the village of Goldiwil, passing through several hamlets and typical farms which will give us a good feeling of the local life. The setting of today's ride is perfect for cheese fondue, the most traditional Swiss dish! Enjoy fondue in the most traditional way in a real alpine cheese farm, nestled in the high remote secret valley of Justistal. Once our stomachs are satisfied, we'll continue our panoramic

Other questions?

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route towards Interlaken, which lies on the flat plain in between the Thun and Lake Brienz. The change from the rural environment we have biked through during the day to the more luxurious town of Interlaken is a delicious contrast, highlighting the uniquely Swiss atmosphere we experienced today and throughout the trip. After enjoying the spa or a walk in the town, we will meet for our final dinner in one of our hotel's private salons.

**Day 6
Farewells**

After breakfast, we'll arrange a taxi at your leisure to the Interlaken train station, with convenient connections to both Geneva and Zurich. Or perhaps you'll decide to stay on and explore more of the Alps, take Europe's highest train to the Jungfrau or climb a peak! It is time to say *au revoir et bon voyage!*



A Fairy Tale Come True

By **Fanny Viret**

To be born and raised in Switzerland is like a fairy tale come true. Growing up here, you have no choice but to fall in love with the mountainous surroundings and the magnificence of the Alps. So it feels very natural that all my outdoor activities are connected with the mountains. In summer time, I love to just hop on the train with my bike and go to the other side of the Alps in order to bike back home. It's always a great adventure going from the bottom of a valley up to a high pass, only to discover yet another hidden alpine valley behind where life follows seasonal rhythms.

Coming down from a pass that I have climbed – whether on an e-bike or otherwise – always feels like a special achievement, and the reward offered by the landscape feeds the eye and pleases the heart. At the bottom, there is always a quaint little village with a bakery or a café to stop in and contemplate the moment before heading to the next pass. Biking across the Alps is a journey through nature's beauty, a journey through history and geology, through time and through oneself.

But Switzerland is more than just the Alps, it's a country at the heart of European history, a country that has forged its character through the influence of all the empires and civilizations that have attempted but never succeeded at enclosing its territory. From the Romans who built the first roads across the Alps to Charlemagne and the Carolingian dynasty, the kingdom of Burgundy,



the house of Habsburg and even Napoléon himself, many ancient European dynasties have participated in defining the Swiss character. The Helvetians (so named for the ancient Gallic tribe that occupied much of the Swiss plateau) have always managed to remain more or less independent, living in small feudal communities, each with their own rules and currencies.

With such a historical perspective, Switzerland encompasses a very rich terroir made of mixed European cultural heritage. Such a heritage is translated in the daily life of the Swiss people through their love for good food, great wines and keeping the traditions alive. Experiencing a journey across this geological miracle of the Alps and sharing in its moments of beauty is like a *voyage dans le temps* learning to reconnect with the life's pleasures.

B&R REGIONAL EXPERT

Fanny Viret

Swiss-born Fanny's natural curiosity has led her to some of the world's most out-there destinations: she lived in the Congo for six months while working with Médecins Sans Frontières, she rode her bike through the Caucasus mountains of Georgia and through the Tian Shan mountains of Kyrgyzstan. But she feels most happy at home in her own Swiss Alps, where you will find her on her bike in the summer or with backcountry skies and mountaineering gear in winter.



the details

2015 Price:

From \$6,995
(\$1,000 single supplement)

Single supplement is based on the most affordable rooms within B&R's allocation. Upgrades often available.

Duration

6 Days / 5 Nights
Please see our website for list of departures.

Start

Lausanne
Beau-Rivage Palace
9:00am

Finish

Interlaken
Train station
At your leisure

HOTEL TYPE

Signature Hotels

Hotels on our Signature trips are unique expressions of the region. Oftentimes that means they've had a previous life as a monastery or a castle, but in every case it means they offer both an exceptionally comfortable stay and a taste of the region's culture. Best of all, we're friends with our hoteliers. (Translation? Preferential treatment for you.)

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

Recreational

While our daily routes average 40 to 50 km (25 to 31 mi.) daily, e-bike technology brings the peaks within everybody's reach. The Swiss hills are indeed alive though, and the more time you've spent in the saddle the more you will enjoy the ride.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation
- 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners, including wine
- Services of B&R guide(s) and support van
- Use of a Scott E-Venture electric-assist bike, equipped with handlebar bag and helmet
- Detailed maps, route suggestions and water bottle
- All special events and private tours
- All baggage transportation
- All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off
- All gratuities for baggage, porters and hotel service

BEAU-RIVAGE PALACE, LAUSANNE

www.brp.ch

Set on ten acres of private gardens on the shore of Lake Geneva in Lausanne, the Beau-Rivage Palace exudes serenity and history. During the early 20thC, the Belle Époque hotel was the scene of two peace-treaty signings. Today, it attracts international attention with its two-Michelin-star restaurant, Anne-Sophie Pic. Three other restaurants offer local fusion, Japanese and Italian cuisine, while the 75,000-bottle wine cellar contains many vintages from the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Lavaux vineyard. The Cinq Mondes Spa has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, nine treatment rooms and two tennis courts.

MORE INFO

How do I get to Lausanne?

Most international flights arrive to the Geneva airport, which is very well-connected to Switzerland's incredibly efficient rail network. Hop aboard from the train station beside the airport, where 50-minute trains depart every half an hour to Lausanne. Alternatively, you can arrange for a car & driver from the Beau-Rivage Palace hotel, or hop a taxi (approximately 260 CHF).

Other questions?
Call us at 604.925.1212

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather may also necessitate minor alterations. Prices are per person and in USD. © 2016 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.



your next steps

At Butterfield & Robinson, the guiding starts while you're still at home. We make sure you know everything you need to know before you've even left your living room.

READY TO BOOK?

- Call or email Yvonne Kabata with any remaining questions, and to reserve your space. **604.925.1212 / yvonne@prime-travel.com**
- Reserve your flights to and from the region.
- Book your hotel accommodation for the night before your B&R trip.
- Make sure your passport is up to date.
- Enquire after travel insurance.

Once you are confirmed on a B&R trip, you will receive a Confirmation Email that links to tons of information to help you prepare for your trip. Then, about a month before you leave, we will send you a list of your fellow travellers, final rendezvous instructions and your hotel contact numbers.

Weather: Interlaken

month	high	low
Jan/Feb	38	27
Mar/Apr	51	35
May/Jun	65	47
Jul/Aug	74	54
Sep/Oct	63	47
Nov/Dec	42	31

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Like B&R on Facebook and get the latest news and photos from the road, updates from guides and more.

ROOM UPGRADE

If you would like to upgrade your accommodation on this trip, please enquire at time of booking to learn cost and availability.

YOUR BIKE

Our Scott E-Venture bikes are regular pedal bikes that provide electric assistance whenever you want it. With both the battery and the drive train in the center of the bike frame, this electric-assist bike is as stable as they come. With four different assist-level modes, state-of-the-art Bosch drive system, and an extremely comfortable ride, this bike offers it all! To learn more and see pictures of what you'll be riding, visit us at butterfield.com/about/equipment/bikes.

EXTENDING YOUR TRIP

Stay on in Interlaken to take Europe's highest train – or a mountain guide and climbing gear – up the famous Jungfrau peak! Or train on to Zurich for its art, architecture, opera and charming old town.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Sign up to receive *The Slow Road* our e-newsletter that is full of travel news, unique offers and B&R insider info.

PHOTO CONTEST

While on your trip, keep in mind you can win some great prizes with the B&R Photo Contest. We've created three categories that capture the true spirit of B&R adventure: Faces, Places and Moments. Submit your top shots and show us how you see the world with B&R. Full details are at www.butterfield.com/photocontest.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about your B&R experience—big, small or downright quirky—please call a Travel Advisor, or contact your travel professional. We are always happy to help.

Other questions?
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