

# SWITZERLAND

## AIR CRUISE AND ROAD TOUR



Fly from Geneva to Lugano  
and from Saint-Moritz back to Geneva

Drive from Lugano to Saint-Moritz  
on convertible car

## INTRODUCTION

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Let's take advantage of this period when our distant travels are limited to take the time to discover or rediscover certain regions of Switzerland, and in particular Italian and Eastern Switzerland.

During this journey behind the wheel of a magnificent convertible car, we suggest you take the secondary roads and cross some of the most legendary passes in the Swiss Alps, such as the San Bernardino, the Splugen and the Maloja.

At each stage, we have selected a number of activities that will allow you to take an interest in the many peculiarities of the regions crossed: mountain walks, museum visits, discovery of typical villages and gastronomic moments.

As for accommodation, we have chosen establishments steeped in history: some are legendary addresses that have left their mark on the region's hotels, and others are more confidential, with refined charm and personalized welcome.

An epicurean journey, mixing good food, sensational landscapes of the Alps and charming historical hotels.



Ferrari Portofino convertible car

## THE PASSES CROSSED

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### San Bernardino Pass (2'065 meters, 6'775 feet)

This well-groomed road between Graubünden and Ticino is characterized on the Italian Swiss side by many bends and is generally considered to be an easy mountain route, although it narrows somewhat on the Grisons side. It is therefore still used for car rallies of old cars. The San Bernardino itself is an ideal starting point for hikes and a winter sports resort which, although small, is very popular. During the winter closure, which runs roughly from November to May, the San Bernardino road goes through the tunnel to Hinterrhein.



### Splügen Pass (2'114 meters, 6'936 feet))

The Splügen Pass is an alpine pass at an altitude of 2'114 meters. Located on the Italian-Swiss border, it connects the posterior Rhine valley (Rheinwald) in Graubünden via the Spluga and Chiavenna valley to Lake Como in Lombardy. It is located on the dividing line between the North Sea (Rhine) and the Adriatic Sea (Po).

This road, like that of Julier in the east, was already used by the Romans. In the Middle Ages, it became less important, because the prince-bishops of Chur had a preference for strengthening the Septimer pass.

The road fell into disrepair and since the 13th century was known as Via-mala ("wrong path"). Under the reign of the Three Leagues, from 1473, the way to the Splügen pass was extensively rehabilitated by the municipalities of Thusis, Masein and Cazis. Since the opening of the tunnel under the San Bernardino Pass in 1967, the Splügen has lost its importance and is closed during the winter season.



### **Maloja Pass (1'815 meters, 5'955 feet)**

The Maloja Pass, opened in 1828, is a pass in the Swiss Alps reaching an altitude of 1'815 meters. It connects Chiavenna in Italy to Silvaplana. It forms the main watershed between the Mera / Maira (Adriatic Sea) and the Inn (Black Sea). The Maloja Pass was, for at least two millennia, a vital passage between Lake Como and the Julier Pass, and across the Engadine to Nauders (Tyrol).

The opinion of researchers diverges on the attribution in Roman or pre-Roman times of a ramp for wagons with a gradient of 30%, discovered in 1972 at the locality of Malögin. The crossing of the pass by the Romans is mentioned from the 2nd century AC. The ancient Roman road is recognized as a Swiss cultural property of national importance. The opening of the San Bernardino (1967) and Saint-Gothard (1980) road tunnels put an end to the transit of goods through the Maloja Pass.

## DAY BY DAY

	Date	Itinerary	Transportation	Hotels	Meals
1		Arrival Geneva - Lausanne	Private transfer	Beau Rivage hotel 5*	
2		Lausanne - Lugano	Private flight + car rental	Villa Castagnola 5*	B
3		Lugano - San Bernardino - Splügen - Soglio	Car rental	Palazzo Salis 4*	B
4		Soglio - Stampa - Maloja - Sils-Maria	Car rental	Waldhaus-Sils Palace 5*	B
5		Sils-Maria - excursion Diavolezza	Car rental	Waldhaus-Sils Palace 5*	B
6		Sils-Maria - St Moritz - Zuoz - S-Chanf	Car rental	Villa Flor 3*	B
7		S-Chanf excursion lower Engadine villages	Car rental	Villa Flor 3*	B
8		S-Chanf - Samedan - Lausanne / Geneva	Car rental + private flight		B

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

# FLIGHT SCHEDULE ON OPTION

	Date	Transport	Class	Destination	Schedules
1		PC 12 Pilatus	Business	Lausanne	10h00
				Lugano	10h35
6		PC 12 Pilatus	Business	Samedan	18h00
				Lausanne	18h45





## DETAILED PROGRAM

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**Day 1 :**

**Arrival at Geneva airport.**

Welcome and transfer to Lausanne at your Hotel Beau Rivage 5\*.

**Day 2 :**

**Lausanne - Lugano**

In the morning, departure of your private flight to Lugano with a PC 12 Pilatus.

Arrival 35' later at Agno airport where a splendid car will await you: a Ferrari Portofino convertible ready to attack the curves of the Alpen passes.



At the wheel, you will take the most beautiful roads in Ticino and Graubünden. From airport, you will drive to Lugano city to your Hotel Villa Castagnola 5\*



During the rest of the day, you have the choice to discover the high quality of the various exhibitions held in this city of art and architecture which attracts many enthusiasts. The MASI (Museo d'Arte della Svizzera Italiana) exhibits works by Klee, Jawlensky, Renoir and Degas among others.



From the San Salvatore and Brè mountains, you can admire the magnificent panorama of the city, the lake and the mountains.



## Day 3 :

### Lugano - San Bernardino - Splügen - Soglio

After this Swiss-Italian interlude, you will take the road to cross the Alps twice, first over the legendary San Bernardino pass (not the tunnel), then over the Splügen pass to be back at the South of the Alps.



*Pass of Splügen. c.1841, drawing of Joseph Mallord William Turner*

From the Italian city of Chiavenna, you will enter into the val Bregaglia to reach the most charming Swiss village of Soglio located at the entrance to Graubünden from Italy.

Its cobbled streets are full of charm and this village is also appreciated for its flowery side.

You will stay in a historic hotel, Palazzo Salis, built in 1630 as the residence of the Baptist of von Salis, a member of a patrician family who had lived in the area for centuries.

The Palazzo was transformed into an inn 100 years ago. Alberto Giacometti had his habits there. The historic furnishings and woodwork, elegant parquet floors, local granite stairs and floors as well as the numerous murals, stuccos and ancestral portraits create a unique and welcoming atmosphere. Its exotic garden planted with redwoods, these rare trees.



The 14 rooms are each individually decorated and the charm of yesteryear remains.



As for the cuisine, the restaurant offers refined dishes made from local ingredients, making it a point of honor to serve only local and fresh products. Meals are served in the historic restaurant and in summer in the garden among the boxwood hedges or on the terrace with a magnificent view of the Aiguilles de Sciora, with the famous Piz Badile and its north wall, one of the most beautiful of Alps.



*A table is reserved at your hotel restaurant if you wish to dine there.*

Overnight at the Palazzo Salis Hotel 4\*.

#### **Day 4 :**

#### **Soglio - Stampa - Maloja - Sils-Maria**

Departure to Sils-Maria,

The first stop is in Stampa.

The region allows you to take an interest in the work of Alberto Giacometti, a native of Borgonovo not far from Stampa. An application allows you to follow several educational paths to learn more about his work and his inspirations.

At 10:30 am, guided tour of the Ciäsa Granda Ethnographic Museum, which focuses on the people and nature of this valley. Local artists are also represented.

You will continue with a visit to the Giacometti workshop.



In the surroundings, the Palazzo Castelmur fascinates with the Gothic-Moorish style of its architecture and decoration.

The exhibition it houses gives an interesting glimpse into the life of the emigrants from Val Bregaglia who made careers throughout Europe as artisans. Pick up your vehicle and go up the Maloja pass to reach Engadine.



In Sils, you can visit the Nietzsche Museum, open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friedrich Nietzsche spent seven summers (1881 and 1883-1888) in this house, in the heart of Sils-Maria. Several personalities having recognized the cultural and historical value of the house, they made a financial commitment to open it up to a wide public. It is thanks to these people that the Foundation of the Nietzsche House in Sils-Maria was born in 1959. The Foundation, which is until today responsible for the house, follows a threefold concept.



On the one hand, an abundant exhibition informs about the life and work of the philosopher.

On the other hand, the home is a place to stay, work and research. The Foundation offers those interested from an artistic and intellectual point of view the possibility of a research and study stay for a maximum of three weeks.

The aim is to cultivate a lively dialogue between researchers and to provide fertile ground for thought and discussion, while preventing Maison Nietzsche from being buried in museum dust. Finally, since the mid-1980s, temporary exhibitions regularly present regional contemporary art with or without connection with Nietzsche.



The Waldhaus-Sils hotel 5\*, inaugurated at the beginning of the 20th century, was created by the family Giger, passionate about the hotel industry and happy to be able to own their first establishment of their own: something "beautiful, practical and solid".



Since then, the case has remained in the family, which has allowed the Waldhaus-Sils Hotel to retain a human face and a very personal character.



Built like a fortress on a hill, it was named "Historic Swiss Hotel of the Year" in 2005. This award recognized the efforts made each year to keep it in its most beautiful setting while adapting to current customer expectations. The addition of new elements over the generations have been the subject of careful study so as not to alter the original spirit of the hotel.



Three styles of rooms are available: Classic, Modern and Nostalgic, the latter decorated with the original restored furniture from 1908.

The Spa, a temple of tranquility, seems both futuristic and close to nature. It offers 1400m<sup>2</sup> devoted to relaxation and well-being: fitness, treatments and nautical activities for all ages.



The hotel restaurants reflect the spirit of the Waldhaus: they are intrinsically linked to the forest, the gardens, and the surrounding valleys. The Arven stube restaurant, revisiting Swiss classics with a touch of modernity, is particularly original. The Swiss wine list is also well-rounded.

Overnight at the Hotel Waldhaus Sils.

## Day 5 :

### Sils-Maria: Excursion to Diavolezza (2973 m, 9'754 feet)

An impressive panorama from Piz Palü to Bellavista via Piz Bernina, this is what the Diavolezza has to offer. At an altitude of almost 3,000 meters, in the company of your guide who specializes in this exceptional environment, set out to discover the Pers and Bernina glaciers.

Here, in the middle of the largest mountain range in the Eastern Alps, dominated by the Piz Bernina culminating at 4049 meters, 13'284 feet above sea level, you can immerse yourself in the fascinating world of glaciers.



About five billion tons of ice, covering a total distance of 12 kilometers and a drop of 1000 meters, 3'000 feet, descends lethargically into the valley. The guided glacier hike provides insight into various natural phenomena, such as crevasses and moraine formation.

*Duration of the excursion: approximately 5 ours*



## Day 6: Sils Maria - St Moritz - Zuoz - S-Chanf

Today, we will go to the village of S-Chanf. Certainly, one of the best-kept secrets of the Engadine.



In St. Moritz, we recommend a visit to the Segantini Museum, whose architecture is reminiscent of a mausoleum.

It celebrates the work of Italian artist Giovanni Segantini, who spent the last years of his life on the nearby Schafberg and in the Bregaglia valley. "Becoming, Being, Disappearing": the famous triptych of the Alps by Giovanni Segantini is at the heart of the museum's exhibition.



Those who contemplate these famous paintings for the first time are dumbfounded by the realism of the light and the force of the colors. Indeed,

The artist was strongly inspired by everyday life in these Alpine landscapes and the particular sunshine conditions. This museum expresses the attachment of an entire region to this artist.

Then make a stop at the wonderful village of Zuoz



There you explore the nearby village of Zuoz, renowned as one of the most beautiful in the Upper Engadine and enlivened by its unspoiled and authentic Romanesque village atmosphere.

Numerous are the proud patrician houses which, like the Chesa Planta, majestically display their typical oriel windows and their sgraffito decorations, while mysterious alleys invite you to circuits of discovery of an eventful past.

After 5' drive, you arrive at S-Chanf



The small hotel Villa Flor immerses you in a setting worthy of the most prestigious decoration magazines.



With only seven rooms, you will stay in an intimate and cozy atmosphere. It must be said that your host, Ladina (who also speaks very good French), has an eye for detail.



It's hard to imagine what awaits the visitor behind the walls of this bourgeois building with the appearance of a manor house, an architecture that is atypical to say the least in the region: a neoclassical style with Art Nouveau decor.

Vintage furniture immerses you in another time, while the walls are dressed in paintings or artistic photos. Some rooms feature painted moldings and friezes such as the original of the house.

The rooms, all different, offer excellent comfort as well as a few surprises, such as an old stove for one of them or even elements with modern lines contrasting with the old side of the place





Only breakfast is offered on site but meals can be taken at Zuoz at restaurant Crusch Alva (1 km)



Overnight at Villa Flor 3\*



## **Day 6 :**

### **S-Chanf: excursion to val Trupchun**

In the company of Ladina, the owner of the hotel where you are staying in

S- Chanf, take a hike through the Swiss National Park. The suggested route crosses the lush alpine meadows of Val Trupchun, an idyllic side valley. This extremely rich route offers an insight into the unique flora and fauna of the Upper Engadine.

A deer paradise, the Swiss National Park is a strictly protected nature reserve where flora and fauna can develop freely. The circuit crosses land cut with a forest with very varied alpine species such as Swiss pine, spruce, larch and mountain pines. Many colonies of marmots live here. This path with very varied landscapes then leads to the Val Mela rest area.

From there, with a bit of luck, you will be able to observe deer, ibex and chamois with the naked eye, but even better with binoculars. You then continue to Alp Trupchun. The return will cross the Val Trupchun and you will follow a tumultuous stream. At the Alp Purcher, geological structures (folds) impressively present the formation of the Alps.



The duration of the excursion is estimated at 4:15 (14km, 620m of elevation).

Overnight at the Villa Flor Hotel.

## Day 7 :

### S-Chanf: excursion Lower Engadine

Departure for an exploration of the Lower Engadine.

In Susch, you can discover a medieval monastery and its brewery, reconverted into a museum like no other. An experimental place dedicated to contemporary art and which aims to be inspiring.



Stop at the village of Guarda. It is so beautiful that it won the Wakker Prize and was declared a "site of national importance".



One of his opulent dwellings served as a model for Alois Carigiet for the house of Schellenursli, the hero of his famous children's book.

Located at an altitude of 1653 m, 5423 feet, the village sits on a sunny terrace facing south.

In both summer and winter, well-maintained hiking trails allow you to explore the surroundings of the village, known for its beautiful painted Engadin houses dating from the first half of the 17th century.

You can then make a stop in the village of **Tarasp**, dominated by the most impressive of the Grisons castle.



Dating from the 11th century, the imposing **Tarasp Castle** sits above the village of the same name. After having belonged to Austria until 1803, it was besieged several times, was the stake of many battles but was never taken.

Renovated between 1900 and 1916, the castle, with its knight and ceremonial rooms, its old bedrooms, its chapel and its 2,500-pipe organ, has since been accessible to the public.

A little further down the valley, Scuol is the ideal stopover to admire the most beautiful painted houses and the typical Engadine squares. A local guide, a veritable well of knowledge, will introduce you to the history of the region's architecture and the sgraffito, which contribute so much to the charm of the Engadin villages.



You will finally arrive at the picturesque village of Sent, which enjoys a sunny and panoramic position overlooking the valley, in the heart of vast farmlands and forests. Today the village has almost 900 inhabitants and is a stronghold of Romansh.



The Pensiuin Aldier where you make a stop, is an address like no other, one of those secrets whispered to each other like a treasure. Because yes, this hotel located in a pretty picturesque village does not lack character.



The surprise that awaits you on site, and which in itself represents the originality of the place, is the museum hidden by the hotel in the vaulted cellar, presenting the largest collection of graphic works by the famous artist Alberto Giacometti. There are more than 200 works there.



The 16 rooms with light paneled walls are all unique. Furniture in darker tones gives a certain contemporary style to the spaces.

Overnight at Villa Flora 3\*

**Day 8 :**

**S-Chanf - Samedan – Lausanne**

It will be time to reach Samedan Airport, the highest in Europe, where you will leave your vehicle and take off to Lausanne in a private flight.