



44 highlights of a journey.

If you want to discover the best of Switzerland in one single route, look no further than the Grand Tour of Switzerland, which stretches for 1,600 km and whisks you through the country's most beautiful regions. You'll encounter four linguistic regions as you take in five Alpine passes, 11 UNESCO World Heritage Properties, two biosphere reserves and 22 lakes. Enjoy an unforgettable journey packed with adventure from start to finish!

1 Laténium: archaeological museum and park

Located on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel, the Laténium presents reconstructions of submerged pile-dwellings, and is Switzerland's most important archaeological museum.

Webcode: 37966

2 Town of Murten

The medieval town on the German-French linguistic border is known for its picturesque Old Town alleyways and relaxed arcade strolls.

Webcode: 28455

3 City of Fribourg

More than 200 original gothic facades from the 15th century lend Fribourg's Old Town its unique charm

Webcode: 28449





4 Gruyères town and show dairy

Near the medieval heart of town, the show dairy reveals the secrets in the making of Le Gruyère AOP cheese.

Webcode: 36226

5 Gstaad/Saanenland chalet village

Gstaad may be world-famous, but the holiday village still exudes a peaceful, relaxed atmosphere, with its authentic Alpine farms, traditional chalets and luxurious boutiques.

Webcode: 28380

Jungfraujoch

At the highest railway station in Europe, the big three of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau seem close enough to touch and a breathtaking view of the Aletsch Glacier awaits.

Webcode: 42577

Zake Brienz cruises

Natural wonders drift into view on a relaxed boat ride across the turquoise-green Lake Brienz, framed by imposing mountains.

Webcode: 39783

8 Old Town of Bern

Few cities have preserved their history as well as Bern. With 6 km of arcades, the city boasts one of Europe's longest weather-proof shopping promenades.

Webcode: 36509

9 Emmental visitor cheese dairy

Tradition meets cutting edge in this show dairy village, where you can learn all about the world-famous Emmentaler AOP cheese.

Webcode: 37291



10 Entlebuch Biosphere

With its seemingly never-ending moors and rugged karst landscapes, the UNESCO biosphere reserve brims with outstanding natural beauty.

Webcode: 36514

11 Hallwyl moated castle

Perched on an island in the River Aabach and looking back on almost 1,000 years of history, this is one of Switzerland's most beautiful moated castles.

Webcode: 64764

12 Chapel Bridge Lucerne

Dating to 1332 and defined by its central Water Tower, the world's oldest covered wooden bridge links the two sides of the city and is Lucerne's most visible landmark.

Webcode: 43991

13 Pilatus

The world's steepest cogwheel railway trundles up to this mountain above Lucerne, which commands a phenomenal panorama of 73 Alpine peaks on clear days.

Webcode: 28286

14 Tell Chapel Sisikon

According to legend, this is where Swiss freedom-fighting hero William Tell jumped off the boat to escape the brutish Austrian governor Gessler. The Tell Chapel in Sisikon was built in his honour.

Webcode: 41703

15 Einsiedeln monastery

With its breathtaking backdrop of jagged mountain peaks and a deep blue lake, the baroque monastery complex of Einsiedeln is one of Switzerland's most important places of pilgrimage.

Webcode: 28365



16 Grossmünster church Zurich

Zurich spreads out before you from the tower of the Grossmünster. The spectacular view reaches across the city rooftops to the snow-capped peaks of the Alps.

Webcode: 38276

17 Rhine Falls

Europe's largest plain waterfall is a thunderous, totally captivating spectacle, with a width of 150 m and a height of 23 m.

Webcode: 36187

18 Town of Stein am Rhein

This charming little town is famous for its well-preserved Old Town, with beautifully frescoed facades and half-timbered houses.

Webcode: 36240



Abbey of St.Gallen

Crowned by its baroque cathedral, the St.Gallen Abbey District harbours one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

Webcode: 36510



20 Painted facades Appenzell

Strolling through Appenzell is like stepping into the pages of a picture book. Brightly painted gabled houses catch the eye, their frescoed facades revealing stories, coats of arms and other motifs.

Webcode: 28403

21 Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona

Visible from afar, the Glarus thrust is defined by a razor-sharp yellow line that slices across the mountain faces of Piz Sardona between Flims and Elm. It's a geological phenomenon of global importance.

Webcode: 36517

22 Heidi's village Maienfeld

Bündner Herrschaft is the home of the much-loved children's book character Heidi. The story of the little orphan girl is brought to life in Heidi's village.

Webcode: 45944



23 Mountain village of Guarda

This quintessential Graubünden mountain village was awarded the Wakker Prize by the Swiss Heritage Society and has received the "national importance" distinction.

Webcode: 36225

24 Swiss National Park

Beautiful hiking paths and impressive nature trails lead through pristine wilderness in the Swiss National Park, where nature always takes centre stage.

Webcode: 37658

25 Benedictine convent of St. John Müstair

The monastery is one of the few existing architectural examples of Carolingian dynasty and contains treasures such as the world's largest cycle of early medieval frescoes.

Webcode: 36508

6

26 Muottas Muragl

The Upper Engadine spreads picturesquely at your feet from the summit of Muottas Muragl. The view of five lakes and imposing mountains is simply breathtaking.

Webcode: 41424

27 Albula/Bernina railway line

One of the world's most spectacular train rides, the Rhaetian Railway Albula/Bernina line, is an epic 122-km journey through magnificent landscapes.

Webcode: 36516

28 Three Castles of Bellinzona

The skyline of Bellinzona, capital of Ticino, is defined by the fortifications of its three mighty medieval castles, which feature among the best preserved in Switzerland.

Webcode: 36511

29 Ascona lake promenade

Mediterranean flair awaits on the lakefront promenade, which is one of the most photographed spots in Switzerland with its brightly painted facades and view of the Brissago Islands.

Webcode: 28462

30 Monte Brè

Rising high above Lugano, Monte Brè is one of Switzerland's sunniest mountains. The view over Lugano's rooftops and the vast blue lake is simply extraordinary.

Webcode: 36265

31 Monte San Giorgio

Nicknamed the "dinosaur mountain", Monte San Giorgio is a magnet to fans of fossils. Admire finds from long-forgotten times at the Fossil Museum.

Webcode: 36513

32 Tremola, old Gotthard

On the southern flank of the Gotthard Pass, the cobbled Tremola road is a serpentine and spectacular drive. With its breathtaking bends, the road is the longest historical monument in Switzerland.

Webcode: 45836





33 Aletsch Glacier

With a staggering 27 billion tons of ice, the Aletsch Glacier is the mightiest ice flow in the Alps and the centrepiece of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Property.

Webcode: 37068

34 Matterhorn

Shaped like a pyramid and notoriously hard to climb, the mighty Matterhorn is the world's most photographed mountain. Matterhorn glacier paradise grants the most spectacular view of the Swiss icon.

Webcode: 45830

Mountain village of Grimentz

Grimentz is famous for its sunblackened timber houses and the fiery red geraniums that billow from their window boxes.

Webcode: 28443

36 Abbey of Saint-Maurice

The basilica of the Abbey of Saint-Maurice hides one of Europe's richest church treasuries and was once the spiritual centre of the Burgundy Empire.

Webcode: 36256

37 Château de Chillon

Sitting on a rocky outcrop on Lake Geneva, the medieval moated castle is Switzerland's most-visited historical monument.

Webcode: 36231

40 Jet d'eau

Geneva's most visible icon is the Jet d'eau, Europe's highest fountain at 140 m, which shoots water at 200 km/h into the sky.

Webcode: 39446

41 Creux du Van rock amphitheatre

With its 160-m-high vertical rock wall, the Creux du Van is a striking natural rock arena, which affords a spectacular view into the void.

Webcode: 57250



38 Lavaux terraced vineyards

With 830 hectares of vines, the Lavaux Vineyard Terraces are the largest continuous winegrowing area in Switzerland, with terrace after glorious terrace of breathtaking views.

Webcode: 40165

39 Olympic Museum Lausanne

The museum in the Lausanne district of Ouchy is the world's largest information centre revolving around the theme of the Olympic Games.

Webcode: 36125

La Chaux-de-Fonds / Le Locle Town Planning & Watchmaking

La Chaux-de-Fonds was once the world capital of the watchmaking industry. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Property also impresses with its unique chessboard design cityscape.

Webcode: 36518

43 Town of St-Ursanne

The picture-perfect town on the banks of the Doubs is a place of peaceful respite and beautifully preserved medieval architecture.

Webcode: 28505

44 Basel, city of culture

When it comes to culture, Basel has the cutting edge. Ever innovative and eclectic, it is home to 40 museums – more than anywhere else in the country.

Webcode: 28358



Grand Tour of Switzerland.

44 highlights of a journey.

On the trail



Recharge your batteries in the mountains.

The place to relax, slow down and find inspiration: with its fascinating realms of water, Valais is a true source of strength all year round. Ideal for action-hungry visitors who also need to unwind. Draw strength from beneficial thermal springs and let your spirits soar alongside mystical mountain lakes or explore the historic irrigation channels, the bisses. No less impressive are our glaciers, which keep the mighty reservoirs supplied with their melt water.

→ www.visitvalais.ch/grandtour/energy



A relaxing break in the

thermal baths - Leukerbad

Relax in the natural and healthy

hot springs with fresh mountain

air and spectacular views on the imposing mountains all

2 The longest ice stream

in the Alps - Aletsch Arena

Ride the mountain railway to

in the Aletsch Arena (Hohfluh/

one of the three viewpoints

Moosfluh, Bettmerhorn or

Eggishorn) and admire the

UNESCO World Heritage

Property from above.

around.



3 Magical water & irrigation channels experience – Grächen

Dive into the fascinating world of magical water! Experience exciting variety in the invigorating water playground and discover new places to relax.

4 Nature trail Kneipp – Blitzingen

Boost your health with Kneipp water therapy as you stroll across meadows, walk barefoot through cold mountain streams and learn about natural remedies.

5 Charming alpine lake – Champex

With its lake reflecting the Combins mountain range, its forests and wooden chalets, Champex definitely deserves its nickname, "Switzerland's little Canada".

6 Bisse, House of the Forest and Trail of the Senses – La Tzoumaz

The path that follows the course of the longest irrigation channel in Valais takes you past the House of the Forest, with its exhibitions and café, on the Trail of the Senses.

7 Aquatic pleasure – Anzère Spa & Wellness

A range of pools for the entire family. Spa and wellness facilities for adults offer a moment of pure relaxation with a majestic alpine panorama.

8 The land of the bisses – Nendaz

Unique in the world, a network of bisses offers 98 km of walks at an altitude between 800 m and 2,200 m, along eight of these historic irrigation canals (six of which still carry water).

Japanese Garden,a work of nature – Nendaz

Magnificent natural site where the water runs in innumerable meanders, very popular with children. A two-hour walk from Siviez or one hour by chairlift.





10 The unfathomable ways of water – Brigerbad

The unique rock strata on the Simplon Pass channels water down to 5,000 m beneath the Rhône Valley. From here it rises again as hot springs in the Brigerbad thermal baths.

11 Walk along the water's edge – Bisse of Vex from Veysonnaz

As you wander alongside an ancient irrigation channel carved out of the rock, this walk tells the story of the local population's fight against drought, taking you through forests and over bridges.

The world's tallest gravity dam – Grande Dixence

There are various ways to visit the Grande Dixence dam: you can take a walk along the tunnels inside it, travel to the top in a cable car, or stroll the length of the lake.

(3) Old sawmill in Nax and the Moulin from Mase

Explore the sawmill, a historic building still in working order, and the unusual watermill with a horizontal paddle wheel plus housing.

4 Sunny relaxation for family – Saillon

Saillon thermal baths give you an incomparable sense of well-being. Experience the bubbling pools, the thermal river, the sauna village and the Carpe Diem area.

The delicious taste of authenticity.

Anyone with a liking for local foods will love the products of Valais. Fabulous wines, marvellous fruit, flavoursome spices and golden cereals. From the popular Valais Platter – meat and cheese specialities served up on a small wooden board – to the legendary "Raclette du Valais AOP": there is a wonderful range of culinary specialities to choose from. And given the warmth of Valaisan hospitality, there are just as many options for relishing them to the full.

→ www.visitvalais.ch/grandtour/tasting





Cep à la Cime trail – Chamoson

This four-hour hike in unique surroundings of vines, woods and water is an invitation to explore Chamoson's landscapes, architecture and monuments.

2 Fish farm - Biel (VS)

You can fish to your heart's content at the fish farm in Grafschaft. And there's more to enjoy than just catching the trout – you can also barbecue them on-site.

3 Château de Villa "Temple de la Raclette" – Sierre

This nobleman's home houses a restaurant featuring Valaisan specialities, as well as a wine shop with over 650 wines made by 110 producers from all across Valais.

4 Europe's highest vineyardVisperterminen

The famous Heida wine grows in Visperterminen up to 1,150 m above sea level. Get to know our wines at a tasting or on a wine walk through Europe's highest-altitude vineyard.

5 Restaurant in the middle of an alpine pasture – Thyon

Set in a traditional alpine pasture at an altitude of 2,000 m and with a cheese dairy nearby, this restaurant gives you an opportunity to relax and enjoy some traditional local products.

6 Agritourism site – Ossona

Explore this unique place where human beings, agriculture and nature come together: a dairy farm with cows and goats, open to visitors.





Local products bearing the Val d'Hérens label

Try the region's high-quality, traditional products, such as the "Tête de Vache" (Tomme cheese shaped like a cow's head) and sausages, either at the farms where they are produced or in local restaurants.

A family tradition since 1889 – Martigny

Apples, apricots and pears are what give the world-famous liqueurs, brandies and Williamine® from the Morand Distillery their incomparable flavour.

The Fromathèque and its specialities – Martigny

Discover a selection of Valais wine producers and savour local specialities like our delicious mountain cheeses.

Vineyard trail - Martigny

The stroll starts at La Bâtiaz
Castle and follows the
vineyards above Martigny,
ending at the typical Valais
village of Plan Cerisier
with its wine-growing museum.

11 Cheese-making workshop – Verbier

Learn the secrets of making Bagnes cheese with the help of a professional and leave with the finished cheese!

② Creative terroir cuisine and rare wines –

Landschaftspark Binntal There is a high density of

There is a high density of first-class restaurants in the Binntal landscape park – the most prominent being the Albrun, the Castle, the Gommerstuba and the St. George – offering some superb premium wines.

Melting pot of culture.

Fortresses and castles stand majestically enthroned atop mighty rocky outcrops. Museums, exhibitions and galleries look back at life in the past and works of art in the present. They extend an invitation to marvel and reflect. Guests are surprised at the innumerable historical and cultural highlights that Valais has to offer. Unique local customs and traditions going back hundreds of years are still alive and well in many villages and valleys. A Valais without these utterly typical traditions is unconceivable.

→ www.visitvalais.ch/grandtour/culture





Cultural stop – Saint-Pierre-de-Clages

The Romanesque church is the jewel in the crown of this picturesque village. It is also Switzerland's "Book Village", with second-hand bookshops open all year round and a Book Fair in August.

2 Adventure Trail – Reckingen-Gluringen

This adventure trail appeals to the senses with themes that are embedded in our land-scape. All the content, topics and ideas it features characterise the cycle of life in this unique mountain valley.

3 Culture Trail – Münster–Geschinen

Houses, farm buildings and religious sites are presented in some detail, with information plaques on all the buildings.

The legendary St. Bernard dogs – Great Saint Bernard Come and meet the legendary St. Bernard dogs and visit the hospice, its treasure chamber and museum on the Great St. Bernard Pass at 2,470 m.

5 Discovery of the Museum of Bisses – Ayent

Find out about the history and origin of the bisses, the irrigation channels of Valais, at this museum housed in a typical building. From May till November.

In the footsteps of Stockalper, the "King of Simplon" – Brig-Glis

A touch of world history can be found in the Brig-Glis region.
Visit historic Stockalper Castle.
Request information about the tours from Brig Simplon tourist office.

Tours of villages – Val d'Hérens

Take guided tours of typical villages with their sun-darkened wooden chalets, still very unspoiled and a reminder of mountain life in a bygone era.

3 Experience life on a farm – Hérémence

Visitors young and not-soyoung can get a close-up view of local Herens cattle, Valais Blacknose sheep, donkeys, horses, ponies, rabbits, chickens, pygmy goats, and pigs.

A well-kept treasure – St-Maurice

Founded in 515, St. Maurice Abbey is the oldest Christian monastery in the West. The treasure is now showcased in a new museum.

The famous Gianadda – Martigny

A Gallo-Roman museum, displaying sculptures and exhibitions by great artists, the Pierre Gianadda Foundation is a temple of art and culture in Martigny.

A world-famous dog – Martigny

At the St. Bernard Dog Museum, discover the story of the Great St. Bernard Hospice and Pass and take time to pet a dog or take a picture of their lovely face.

12 Felix Kamil – a Bellwalder original

So a crafty poachers as Kamil gave it no other else. But this is just one side of Kamil, the eponym of the theme hike which in 2015 will be realised in Bellwald.





Fauna and flora in Valais.

Valais and the sun – a true love story: our valley is blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year, bathing the wonderfully unspoilt landscapes in a glorious light. Endlessly varied hiking trails let you explore the stunningly beautiful mountain landscape with its unique animal and plant world. In the middle of 45 four-thousanders, the glaciers, nature reserves, forests and mountain lakes lead you through thousands of years of natural history. The Valais countryside is where natural beauty meets peace and quiet.

→ www.visitvalais.ch/grandtour/nature



Unique: guided glacier tour - Aletsch Arena

The daily guided tours on the Great Aletsch Glacier are a unique experience among the magnificent 4,000 m peaks.

2 Hiking paradise – Aletsch Arena

Paradise on earth: experience the unique mountain landscape on more than 300 km of hiking trails and refresh body and soul in the protected Aletsch Forest.

Gommer Höhenweg – Oberwald-Bellwald

The Höhenweg trail lies between Oberwald and Bellwald along the sunny slopes of the Goms. It passes through a fascinating landscape of prairies and forests.

4 Panoramic Path at 2,200 m - Nendaz

More than a simple walk: games, educational signs, viewing platforms and magnificent views to please children and adults alike along a circuit of under 2 km.



6 Hike and experience culture - Simplon

Hike along the Stockalper Trail from the Simplon Pass to Simplon Dorf and experience the nature and cultural landscape of Simplon Eco-Museum in around two-anda-half hours.

Tour of the Mont Rouge (2,491 m) - Veysonnaz

This panoramic trail takes you past the Gouilles, along the mountain ridge and up to the summit of Mont Rouge. A head-spinning 180° view over the Rhône Valley and the Alps awaits you.

360° panoramic hike – Moosalp-Stand

Experience all that nature has to offer in the Moosalp region! Across moors and alongside Alpine lakes, enjoy breathtaking views over the mountains of Valais.

8 An unforgettable panorama at 3,330 m -Verbier and Nendaz

Make your way to the top of Mont-Fort for an amazing view over the Matterhorn and Mont-Blanc and, on Thursdays in summer, a "sunrise breakfast".

Wildlife walk – **Thyon Region**

Stags, hinds, ibex, chamois... take your binoculars and follow the guide if you want to observe these animals in their natural habitat.

10 Val d'Hérens Hiking Tour, **Educational trails**

Spend a couple of days (or more) exploring the valley on foot, with luggage transport provided. Our family-friendly sensory trails are an excellent way to get to know the region.

111 Coolness from the **Durnand Gorges - Bovernier**

Take in 14 wild waterfalls from wooden footbridges, while hiking in the coolness of the mountains. The way back is through the forest.

12 "Heido" irrigation channel hike - Visperterminen

The historic Heido bisse above Visperterminen was created pre-1305 to irrigate the famous Heida Vineyards. Pleasure meets nature and culture.



The playground of the Alps.

Valais is the perfect place for an active sports holiday: spectacular mountain bike trails wind their way across mountainsides and through dense forests. Nerve-tingling fixed rope routes provide thrills galore. And even at the height of summer, glacier pistes guarantee sheer fun in the snow. Anyone seeking an active holiday in the Valais mountains can look forward to the heights of enjoyment. Leave the daily grind far behind you in this unique natural arena and experience a rush of happy hormones and adrenaline at the highest level.

→ www.visitvalais.ch/grandtour/adventure



1 Furka Cogwheel Steam Railway – Oberwald–Realp

It's full steam ahead past flower-strewn meadows, over precipitous viaducts, through narrow tunnels and past the Rhône Glacier.

2 Parc Forêt Aventures – Vercorin

The Adventure Forest is a circuit dotted with thoroughly safe obstacles (rope bridges, rope swings, zip-lines, aerial walkways, children's games).

3 200 km of MTB with the tour of Mont-Fort – Nendaz

Discover the area with the Tour of the Printse (tdlp.ch) and the Tour of Mont-Fort (tdmf.ch). Take advantage of the option of loading your bike onto all ski lifts.

4 Play Disc Golf at 2,000 m – Thyon and Veysonnaz

Try out this new game above the legendary Piste de l'Ours ski slope. It involves throwing a disc around a nine-basket course, avoiding natural obstacles such as trees, bushes and rocks.

5 Via Ferrata – Nax and Evolène

Climb up high for breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside! Various routes to suit different ability levels.

6 Swin Golf and archery – Nax

Enjoy a round of golf on the superb nine-hole course at Tsébetta, or follow the 3D archery trail through the forest, which has 12 animal-shaped targets positioned along a lovely footpath.



Off-road scooters – Evolène Region and Thyon Region

Adventure in the great outdoors, excitement guaranteed! Try our different routes, which range from gentle to strenuous, on an off-road scooter, and a guide if required.

8 The mountain-bike paradise – Verbier

Ready for 826 km of sheer enjoyment? Discover our 500 km of cross-country trails, two circuits around Mont-Fort, 21 enduro routes and seven downhill runs.

Downhill in Top of GomsBellwald bike park

The bike park in idyllic Bellwald features two routes on natural surfaces with many jumps. You can hire bikes directly in Bellwald.

[©] Valais/Wallis Promotion: Silvano Zeiter, Christian Pfammatter, Christian Perret, Pascal Gertschen, Giovanni Castell Switzerland Tourism: Marcus Gigerl, Roland Gerth | Martigny Tourism | Aletsch Arena | Leukerbad Tourism | cparide.ch | Nax Tourism



