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Must See Destinations of Switzerland.

Switzerland Specialist Module 3.

MySwitzerland.com



Titlis Rotair

Switzerland is a highly aspirational dream destination for many Indians. Some places you just have to see to believe, and in this chapter we look at the four destinations, which are the biggest draw. As a travel agent you have to know everything about them to make your clients happy.

Engelberg / Titlis.

Engelberg translates to 'mountain of angels'. The founders of the imposing Benedictine Monastery gave the name to the attractive village with its distinct and rustic character in 1120. It is located 25 km south of Lucerne and is a firm favourite with Indian guests looking for a



Engelberg

year-around snow experience. The houses from the Belle Époque together with the Swiss flair lend the village its very own charm.

In winter, the famous Titlis turns into the largest and most beautiful ski area in Central Switzerland with slopes that suits every ability. Special packages for guest from India who would like to try to ski or snowboard are available. Engelberg has a number of three- and four-star hotels for guests to choose from, but the preferred pick of many Indians is the Hotel Terrace. It is situated on a south-facing slope in Engelberg and is surrounded by majestic mountains. The rooms are simply furnished and all with free WiFi. During summer, the Chandra restaurant at Hotel Terrace serves an array of traditional Indian specialties.

Top Excursion: Titlis.

Titlis is a cable car with a twist. Emblazoned with the Swiss cross on its underside, the 'Rotair' revolving gondola turns around its own axis as it floats over the glacier towards the Tittlis. The journey is truly spectacular with a view of Central Switzerland's mountain range.

Experience a mind-blowing day in the snow at Mount Titlis at 3,020 meters above sea level. Up at the peak there is only one season: Winter. Enjoy snow in the midst of summer while riding a glacier chairlift, the ice-flyer, over the glacial crevice, visit the glacial caves and cross the



Titlis Cliff Walk

cool highest lying hanging bridge, the 'Titlis Cliff Walk'. If this is not adventurous enough, you can take a course on abseiling into glacial crevices or opt for the attractive downhill hike to the picturesque Trübsee Lake where rowing boats are available. There is even a self service restaurant with Indian food on top of the mountain.

Other activities:

- **Benedictine Monastery:** Built in 1120, it forms the centre of Engelberg. To date there are still approximately 30 monks living and working there.
- **Bike & E-Bike Hikes:** Biking is a great way to have fun and get fit, and here it is also a wonderful way to experience Alpine nature.
- **Kayaking & Rowing:** Discover the beauty of the Truebsee from a boat. You

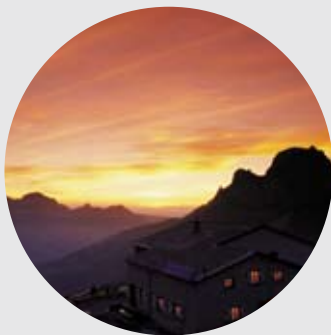




Harder Kulm and panoramic view of Interlaken

can also arrange for a barbecue at the lake.

- **Toboggan Run:** The young and the old can enjoy summer bobsledding at Ristis. It doesn't look like a steep run, but the bobsled can reach speeds of up to 50 km/ph.
- **Golfclub:** Golfing in Engelberg is a two-fold pleasure with the combination of a spectacular mountain backdrop and the challenge of the 18-hole course.
- **Hiking:** 500 km of hiking trails offer everything from leisurely to more challenging routes with pleasant places to stop and rest.
- **Cable ways 'Buirebaehni' (Farmer's Cableways):** Local farmers operate these traditional cableways. A trip on one of them is always an enchanting experience.
- **Brunni:** Welcome to the sunny side of Engelberg. This is an ideal destination for families and mountaineers amidst spectacular mountain scenery.
- **Bannalp:** The Bannalp valley has an idyllic lake and unique natural landscape surrounded by majestic mountains, making it the perfect destination to visit.



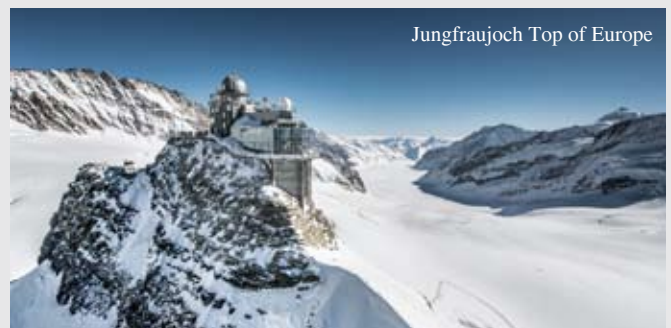
Guests from all over the world meet in Interlaken and stroll past souvenir shops, boutiques and enjoy the many cafes. From here you start countless day excursions, exploring the lakes and mountains of the region. In fact, Yash Chopra liked it so much here, that there is a statue of him in the Kursaal Garden and the five-star Victoria Jungfrau Hotel named even a suite after him.

In winter, cross-country skiers and toboggan riders are well catered for in the vicinity and the centre of Interlaken is transformed in to a winter wonderland. You will love the ice skating area with its various ice rinks and cosy restaurants.



Top Excursion: Jungfrau – Top of Europe.

The cog-wheel railway takes you 9 kilometres from Kleine Scheidegg to the Jungfrauoch. The highest railway station in Europe is located 3,454 metres above sea level and gives you access to a high-Alpine wonderland of ice, snow and rock.



Jungfrauoch Top of Europe

Interlaken / Jungfrau.

Interlaken is situated between the Lakes of Thun and Brienz, and below the world famous 'Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau' mountain trio. It is the touristic centre of the region, which is a top destination for adventure sport. Paragliding, river rafting, bungee jumping, glacier trekking and canyoning are just a few of the endless options you have here.



The First Cliff Walk by Tissot

The journey takes you through tunnels built between 1896 and 1912. Two stops in the tunnel permit spectacular views of the Eiger north wall and the surrounding glacier world.

The views over the Aletsch Glacier, the largest glacier in the Alps and a UNESCO World Heritage, and the surrounding mountains Jungfrau, Mönch and Schilthorn are just magnificent. On clear days you can even see as far as the Black Forest in Germany from the Sphinx viewing platform.

In the 1930s, two guides began carving a huge hall from the glacier ice. Enjoy your stroll under the vaulted ceilings and arches of the Ice Palace with its amazing ice sculptures.

After a walk through the eternal snow or even a few hours in the Snow Fun Park you must be ready for some refreshments in one of the three restaurants. How about some good Indian cuisine in the restaurant Bollywood?

Other Excursions:

- **First:** The First Cliff Walk by Tissot, First Flyer, First Mountain Cart and Trottibike Scooter make this a great spot for adventurers and lover of outdoor activities.

- **Harder Kulm:** It only takes 10 minutes by cable car from Interlaken to come to this amazing vista point with a restaurant that looks like a small castle.
- **Schilthorn:** The mountain top featured in '007 On Her Majesties Secret Service' has a revolving restaurant with superb views and interactive Bond World 007 exhibition.
- **Schynige Platte:** This excursion with a nostalgic cog railway is FOC with your Swiss Pass. The higher you climb the better the views.
- **Ballenberg Open Air Museum:** Entry is FOC with your Swiss Pass. The museum awards an insight in the rich cultural heritage of Switzerland.
- **Jet Boat:** Take a seat in Switzerland's first commercial jet boat, and enjoy a spectacular ride on the turquoise waters of Lake Brienz.
- **Lake Cruise:** Ply the waters of Lake Brienz or Lake



Jet Boat

Thun on one of the many ships, which even include historic paddle steamers.

Chapel Bridge Lucerne



Lucerne / Pilatus.

Lucerne is embedded within an impressive mountainous panorama. Thanks to its attractions, its souvenir and watch shops, the beautiful lakeside setting and the nearby mountain excursion, the town is a must-see destination for many travel groups and individuals on their journey through Switzerland.



Historic Town House

Complete with gable paintings, the covered, medieval Chapel Bridge forms the centrepiece of Lucerne's townscape and is considered to be one of the oldest, covered wooden bridges in Europe. Historic houses decorated with frescoes line the picturesque town squares in the car-free old town.

Make sure to visit the figure of a dying lion, which was hewn from the face of rock in remembrance of the heroic death of Swiss guards killed during an attack on the Tuileries in 1792, it is one of the best-known monuments in Switzerland.

Tradition and modernity stand side-by-side with ease in Lucerne, as the town has also earned a reputation for itself with innovative design. The futuristic Culture and



KKL

Convention Centre (KKL), designed by leading French architect Jean Nouvel, is one of the architectural highlights of the town and home of many cultural events during the year.

Top Excursion: Pilatus 'Golden Round Trip'.

Standing 2,119m high, Pilatus is the city of Lucerne's home mountain. Once a legendary mountain associated with dragons, today the Pilatus is a popular excursion point, viewing platform and place of adventure at the door to Lucerne. High ropes park and the longest toboggan run on the Fräkmüntegg, rock gallery, ibex observations and short hikes to the Tomlishorn as well as newly renovated Hotel Pilatus-Kulm add further adventure to scenic excursions.

The 'Golden Round Trip' starts with a relaxing cruise on



Dragon Ride, Mount Pilatus

Lake Lucerne to Alpnachstad. There you change to the world's steepest cogwheel railway, which takes you up to Mount Pilatus through the woods, fields and walls of rock on a maximum 48% climb. On the summit enjoy the most amazing views of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding Alps and some hearty food in one of the two restaurants. To return back to Lucerne you decent on the other side of the mountain floating through the air in the new Dragon

Ride cable car that feels like a helicopter cockpit. This is a truly unique day trip.

Other Excursions:

- **Lake Lucerne Cruise:** The flotilla consists of 5 nostalgic lake steamers and 15 elegant salon motor boats. Together they ply the lake on various routes that add up 38 km.
- **Indian Dinner Cruise:** From April to August you can combine a cruise with an authentic Indian dinner and enjoy the unique landscape while feasting on a sumptuous Indian buffet.
- **Stanserhorn:** Start your ascent in the open funicular



railway that rumbles just as it did 120 years ago, then change to the futuristic CabriO cable car with open top deck. You've never seen anything like it before.

- **Rigi:** The Queen of the Mountains is reached by cog-wheel trains from Goldau and Vitznau, and a cable car from Weggis. This beautiful excursion is FOC with the Swiss Pass.
 - **Museum of Transport:** The history of mobility and communication is documented in exhibitions and theme parks, with simulations, interactive stations and films.
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Zurich – World Class. Swiss Made.

Switzerland's biggest city is a vibrant and elegant metropolis by the water with a magnificent view of the snow-capped Alps on the horizon. The city has developed from a Roman custom station into a tourist destination, bustling with life.

A stroll through the Old Town on both sides of the River Limmat is a must. You can spend hours in the car free lanes with unique shops, restaurants and bars. Don't forget to stop at the Lindenhof, a quiet oasis with great views.

Merchant guilds have played a big part in the history of Zurich and date back to the Middle Ages. Their traditions are still very much alive and their fine guild houses are the pride of the city. Check them out as many double up as restaurants serving excellent local specialties.

Zurich is a shopping paradise, home of Switzerland's liveliest nightlife, numerous events and an active cultural scene with over 50 museums and more than 100 galleries. You can also admire Giacometti's entrance hall in the main police station, the choir windows by Marc Chagall in Fraumünster abbey or Jean Tinguely's open-air Heureka by Lake Zurich, all at no cost.

Speaking of Lake Zurich, in summer the many public baths at the lake and river is where the locals go and relax. Why not join them for a dip in the refreshing water.

Zurich is the ideal place as a base to explore the region and even destinations further afield. Last year, over 30% of hotel bookings made by Indians in Switzerland were





Lake Zurich

in Zurich. The city has a vast inventory of hotels, which offer attractive rates and know how to make Indian guest feel at home. Here you really have all of Switzerland at your finger tip.

Excursions:

- **Lake cruise:** Cruising on the lake is the perfect way to spend a few hours. Why not go all the way to charming Rapperswil with its landmark castle and lake promenade?
- **Uetliberg:** Zurich's house mountain towers above the roofs. From the top you can enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of city and lake.
- **FIFA World Football Museum:** Opened in Spring 2016, this interactive experience world for people of



all ages is guaranteed to get all football fans' pulses racing.

- **Zurich Zoo:** Is home to 340 animal species in near natural habitats. The Masoala rainforest hall and Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park have been created to allow animals to roam freely.
- **Zurich West:** This former industrial area is now Zurich's trend-setting district with a colourful urban lifestyle. Check out Frau Gerolds Garten: the charming city garden with restaurant and bar, neighboring Friday container tower (flagship store of the uber cool 'Friday' brand) and leisure and pleasure mile to stroll beneath the arched viaducts.



Zurich West Viaduct shopping area

- **Rhine Falls:** Stand high above Europe's largest waterfall and feel the roar and vibration of water over your entire body. By boat you can reach a rock in the midst of waterfall followed by a visit to Castle Laufen, which overlooks the falls.
- **Stein am Rhein:** At the eastern tip of Lake Constance, you will find this little town famous for its well-preserved Old Town featuring painted facades and half-timbered houses.



Rhine Falls

- **St. Gallen:** The Abbey precinct with the cathedral and Abbey Library has been accorded UNESCO World Heritage listing. Entry is FOC with Swiss Pass.

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