



Switzerland

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Sample Tour Program

featuring Vaduz, Lucerne, Interlaken, Grindelward, Montreux, Lausanne, and Geneva

day 1 - Overright flight

Begin your 10-day Swiss performance tour with this evening's overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

day 2 - Lucerne

Arrive at Zurich Airport, where your **full-time bilingual tour manager** will welcome you abroad. Explorations begin right away with a side trip to <u>Vaduz</u>, the capital of the principality of Liechtenstein. Upon arrival, join a **local guide** who will introduce you to the sixth smallest country in the world. Begin with a viewing of the Vaduz Castle, the official residence of the royal family, and stroll through the small city center. Cross the historic wooden Alte Rheinbrucke bridge between both countries, where you can literally put one foot in Lichtenstein and another in Switzerland. There is also a stop at the Vaduz tourist information center where you can purchase an official stamp of entry for a nominal fee. **There may be the possibility to provide an informal performance today.** Enjoy free time for lunch on your own, before departing for **Gutenberg Castle** in nearby Balzers. Continue to the charming lakeside city of <u>Lucerne</u>, where you can check-in to your hotel and rest after your journey. This evening, **dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

day 3- Lucerne

Breakfast is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. Join a local guide this morning for an introductory walking tour of one of the world's prettiest cities, and home to the famous Lucerne Festival. Embedded within an impressive mountainous panorama, and complete with gable paintings, the covered medieval Chapel Bridge forms the centerpiece of Lucerne's townscape and is one of the oldest covered bridges in Europe. Learn of the area's history, and see the famous Lion Monument, commemorating the Swiss Guards who were massacred in 1792 during the French Revolution. Afterwards, transfer to the pier and begin your Mount Pilatus excursion involving a boat trip, cog railway, and panorama gondola and aerial cableway. After a relaxing cruise from Lucerne to Alpnachstad, you can look forward to a spectacular ride on the world's steepest cog railway to reach the Pilatus Kulm station at an altitude of 2132 meters. You will be amazed by the panoramic views of the Alps! Have a walk around the station to admire the splendors of the region. Enjoy free time for lunch and relaxation, before taking the aerial and panorama gondola cableways down to Kriens, and your coach back to Lucerne. Enjoy a multi-course fondu dinner this evening.

day 4 - Lucerne

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning visit the village of <u>Brunnen</u> with a **local guide** for an orientation and tour of the famous **Swiss Army Knife Victorinox visit center**. The company was founded in 1884, and since 1891 has delivered knives to the Swiss Army. Return to Lucerne, for leisure time and further exploration with your tour manager or in small groups, and lunch under your own arrangements. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom**



selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint performance with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance. Dinner is served at a local restaurant.

day 5 - Interlaken

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel and proceed to <u>Brienz</u> for a journey to the past, in the most peaceful village of Switzerland. Visit the **Open Air Museum of Ballenberg**. Since the 1970's many old farmhouses, stables, bakehouses and barns are no longer demolished when they are due to be replaced. Instead, the buildings are dismantled stone by stone, and rebuilt at the museum. Enjoy free time for lunch, before continuing to <u>Interlaken</u>. Meet with a **local guide** for a cultural walking tour to discover traditional arts and crafts. Included is a demonstration to see how Swiss chocolate is made. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

day 6 - Interlaken

Breakfast at the hotel. The Jungrau region awaits. Explore nearby <u>Grindelward</u> with a hike. Begin with a **gondola ride** from the village center, passing through the intermediate stations of Bort and Schreckfeld, and arriving at First. Here there are a network of trails offering great views of some of Switzerland's most famous mountains: Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau. At the gondola station, there is a restaurant and panoramic terrace for snacks and lunch on your own. Return to Interlaken for the remainder of the day. Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance. Dinner is served at a local restaurant.

day 7 - Lausanne

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Lausanne, and along the way stop in Montreux with free time for lunch and discovery of the city with your tour manager. Located on the shore of Lake Geneva, Montreux hosts the seasonal Jazz Festival and the Christmas Market. As a town of music, it has had privileged relations with celebrities through the modern ages, including Freddie Mercury and Igor Stravinsky. Later this afternoon proceed to Lausanne and meet with a **local guide** for an introductory tour. The "Olympic Capital" offers a breathtaking view on the Leman Lake, and is built on three hills, surrounded by vineyard-covered slopes, with Lake Geneva at its feet. Check-in to your hotel, and enjoy **dinner**.

day 8 - Lausanne

Breakfast at the hotel. Your full-day excursion brings you to nearby <u>Broc</u>, for a visit of the Nestle Cailler factory with an exclusive **chocolate making workshop**. Discover the origins of chocolate and the secrets of its wonderful flavor. As the featured dish, participants choose their favorite ingredients and combine them with the best chocolate, mold, and decorate to create your own masterpiece. Proceed to <u>Gruyeres</u> village to enjoy the medieval, charming architecture so typical of the place, known for its superb gastronomy and modern show dairy. Here there is time for lunch on your own. This afternoon visit <u>Chardonne</u> and the Lavaux area, famous for its vineyards. Ride the **city train** to explore part of the UNESCO World Heritage site, the largest contiguous vineyard region in Switzerland. After the ride, enjoy wine tasting at a local cellar before returning to Lausanne. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant.

day 9 - Genera

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out of your hotel, and transfer to Geneva for the last full day of your tour. Upon arrival meet with a **local guide** for a panoramic and walking tour of the city. Geneva prides itself as being one of the most beautiful and cultured cities in the world, combining the splendors of nature with a rich palette of historic, architectural offerings. The Old City is a pleasant combination of art galleries, bistros, antique stores, and cafes that every visitor to the city is anxious to take in. Additional attractions include the Geneva Water Fountain and Flower Clock, and a visit to the **U.N. Headquarters** with a **guided tour**. Check-in to your hotel and enjoy free time. Celebrate the end of your tour with traditional Swiss food and customs, and a **special dinner** including local specialties and music!

day 10 - Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last *au revoir*!

