

# EXPEDITIONS



## SIGNATURE: ICONIC TRAINS OF SWITZERLAND & ITALY'S LAKE DISTRICT

10 days, Lucerne to Lago Maggiore

Trip code EZZINS

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Signature Moment: Matterhorn Museum After-Hours Visit, Zermatt
- Signature Moment: Segantini Museum, St. Moritz
- Your Foodie Moment: Chocolate Making Demonstration, St. Moritz
- Your Foodie Moment: Rocca di Angera Cooking Class, Angera
- Arrival and Departure Transfer
- Lucerne Walking Tour
- Gornergrat Visit
- Expert-led alpine walk from Riffelalp
- Expedition Leader Walk of Zermatt
- Cable Car to Furi
- Gondola to Glacier Paradise
- Glacier Express to St Moritz
- Muottas Muragl Funicular
- Confectionary shop Lecture and Chocolate Making Demonstration
- Bernina Pass Train Ride
- Cruise to Villa del Balbianello with Tour
- Expedition Leader Led Walk of Bellagio
- Rocca di Angera Cooking Class
- Walking Tour of Isola Madra
- Walking Tour of Borremeo Villa
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expert Throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing October 29th, 2025 and onwards

## ITINERARY

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## LUCERNE

Welcome to Switzerland. Your expedition begins as you touch down in Zurich, greeted by the fresh mountain air of the Swiss Alps. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Lucerne. In the evening, meet your fellow travellers and National Geographic Expedition Leader for an introduction to your journey along with a welcome reception and short presentation from the National Geographic Expedition Expert before dinner.



### Meals included

Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern (or similar) **Hotel**

Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern is a family-owned five-star landmark in the Old Town, seamlessly blending 19th-century grandeur with heartfelt hospitality. Set right on the lake and near the station, this historic hotel features unique 'storytelling rooms' dedicated to famous past guests like Mark Twain and Richard Wagner. Guests can rejuvenate in the panoramic spa, which offers saunas with alpine views and beauty treatments, or dine at the elegant Brasserie VICO. The property also boasts a modern fitness centre.



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Zürich - Lucerne

45m-1h

68km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group

Lucerne

Your opportunity to meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group. There will be an included group welcome dinner after the meeting.

Day 2

## LUCERNE/ZERMATT

Spend the morning exploring the beautiful city of Lucerne on a walking tour, strolling the waterfront and admiring the historic and majestic architecture. Continue by train deep into the Alps to the car-free village of Zermatt, lying below the iconic and imposing peak of the Matterhorn. In the evening, discover local cuisine on a walking tapas tour and sample some of the region's delicacies like Switzerland's ubiquitous fondue, while soaking in the atmosphere of this historic alpine village.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Zermama (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Lucerne Walking Tour Lucerne 1h 1km

Step through history as we visit the medieval Chapel Bridge and the storied streets of the Altstadt. We'll stop at the majestic Jesuit Church and climb the Musegg Wall towers for the city's best views—all centered around the sparkling waters of the Reuss River.

Local Train Lucerne - Zermatt 3h30m 178km

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time Zermatt

Explore Zermatt however you wish before dinner with free time this evening.

Day 3

## ZERMATT

Gather for a discussion about the natural history of the region and how climbers have been attracted to this area since the late 1800s, then board the Gornergrat train. This electric cogwheel railway is a true marvel of engineering—ascending to the heart of the mountains at 3100m (10,171ft), offering continuous, breathtaking views of the Matterhorn. Descend the mountain by train with an option to walk part of the way then enjoy some free time in the village before regrouping in the evening for a private, after-hours visit to the Matterhorn Museum. Engage in an exclusive talk with the Museum Director, detailing the history of mountaineering and the dramatic story of the first ascent by Edward Whymper. This unique access provides deep context into the human desire to conquer these rugged peaks.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Zermama (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Gornergrat Train Zermatt - Gornergrat 30m

Take this 33min train ride from the village centre in Zermatt to Gornergrat for an incredible mountain panoramic view.

Descend Riffelalp Riffelalp Resort 2222m - Zermatt

Descend from Riffelalp either on foot or by train - whichever you prefer.

#### ACTIVITY

Join Beat Truffer, Museum Director, for an exclusive lecture followed by free time in the museum.

Day 4

## ZERMATT

Join your Expedition Leader this morning on a short walking tour through the village of Zermatt on the way to the cable car station. Travel along the multi-stage cable car route, ascending from the valley to Glacier Paradise at the top of Klein Matterhorn, Europe's highest cable car station. At 3,883m or 12,740ft, the crisp air accentuates the magnificent views of the surrounding glacier-glazed peaks. Descend to the quaint village of Furi for lunch, savouring traditional rösti in a spectacular setting. You can choose to return to Zermatt by gondola or take a scenic hike down into the village, traversing well-maintained trails while soaking in the mountain scenery..



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Zermama (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Walking Tour Zermatt Zermatt

Follow your Expedition Leader through the charming streets of Zermatt. Wander past sun-weathered wooden chalets, pay your respects at the poignant Mountaineers' Cemetery by the village church, and stroll the main thoroughfare as we make our way toward the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise cable station.

Cable Car to Furi Zermatt 30m-45m

Take a quick, panoramic cable car flight from the valley floor to the mountain hamlet of Furi, the gateway to the Matterhorn's high-alpine wonders.

Gondola to Glacier Paradise Zermatt

Ascend through the clouds and over deep glacial crevasses to arrive at Europe's highest mountain station.

Descend Furi Zermatt

Descend from Furi either on foot or by cable car - whichever you prefer.

Free Time Zermatt

Enjoy free time this afternoon where you can wander from designer boutiques to centuries-old wooden barns in a single, car-free stroll. It's a place where the pace is set by the surrounding peaks, inviting you to simply relax on a sun-drenched terrace while the Matterhorn looms overhead.

Day 5

## ZERMATT/ST. MORITZ

Take a seat on the world-famous Glacier Express and set off on a breathtaking journey along a true marvel of rail engineering. The train gracefully traverses three high-mountain passes, across 291 bridges, and through 91 tunnels. Soak up magnificent vistas of skyscraping, glacier-glazed peaks, feeling the constant motion of this elegant rail journey into the Upper Engadin Valley. Disembark in St. Moritz, the birthplace of winter tourism, and settle into your hotel. The evening is at leisure, allowing you to explore the chic Alpine village or relax in the cosy surroundings of your hotel.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Art Boutique Hotel Monopol (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Train

Zermatt - St. Moritz

7h45m

300km

Board the Iconic Glacier Express Train and travel in first class from the shadow of the Matterhorn to the glitz of St. Moritz, relaxing in spacious comfort as you cross 291 bridges and climb through the dramatic Oberalp Pass.

Free Time

St. Moritz

Your evening is free to soak up the legendary 'Champagne Climate' of St. Moritz.

Day 6

## ST. MORITZ

Stroll to the nearby Sagantini Museum for a private tour with the museum's curator to learn about and peruse the works of alpine artist Giovanni Sagantini—then take a funicular to the top of Muottas Muragl to admire the breathtaking landscapes that Segantini once painted. Back in St. Moritz, visit a local patisserie for an exclusive chocolate tasting and short demonstration, linking the famous Swiss chocolate tradition to the region's rich cultural history. Conclude the day with a delicious dinner in town.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Art Boutique Hotel Monopol (or similar) **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Walking **St. Moritz** 15m

Join your Expedition Leader on a 700m walk to the Segantini Museum.

#### ACTIVITY

Join curator Claudia for a private tour and lecture at the Segantini Museum, where you will gain expert insight into the life and masterpieces of Giovanni Segantini. Following the presentation, enjoy free time to explore the museum's impressive rotunda and alpine-inspired galleries at your own pace.

Local Bus **St. Moritz – Samedan** 15m-30m 6km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Muottas Muragl Funicular **Samedan** 1h45m

Take the 10-minute funicular ride to the top of Muottas Muragl, where you will find a hotel featuring both a casual café and a seated restaurant. Once at the summit, you have free time to enjoy lunch on a walk-in basis or explore the various hiking trails offering panoramic views of the Upper Engadine.

Local Bus **Samedan – St. Moritz** 15m 6km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

## ACTIVITY

Visit the Hanselmann Confectionery for a private presentation on the history and craft of traditional chocolate making. Go behind the scenes for a guided tour of the kitchen to watch a live demonstration of the confectionery process.

Day 7

## ST. MORITZ/LAGO MAGGIORE

Board the Bernina Pass train for a spectacular early-morning ride, travelling in comfort through the Alpine valleys to the town of Poschiavo, then cross into Italy by coach, to the shores of iconic Lake Como. In the early afternoon, take a private boat to the Villa del Balbianello for a tour of the beautiful terraced gardens and of the elegant villa itself, noted for its appearance in several major films. Continue by boat to scenic Bellagio for a short walking tour and some free time before transferring to your hotel on Lake Maggiore.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Splendid (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Local Train St. Moritz - Poschiavo 1h15m-1h30m 40km

Board the train to traverse the Bernina Pass, a spectacular route that reaches the highest point of the UNESCO-listed Rhaetian Railway at over 2,200 meters above sea level. This journey showcases incredible early 20th-century engineering, taking you from high-altitude glaciers down to the palms of the Italian border.

Private Vehicle Poschiavo - Tremezzo 2h 102km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Boat Tremezzo - Villa del Balbianello 30m 10km

Set sail across the shimmering waters of Lake Como on a private boat cruise toward the forested peninsula of Punta del Balbianello. As you approach, you'll enjoy a unique perspective of the villa's tiered terraced gardens and iconic loggia, which have served as a dramatic backdrop for numerous world-famous films.

Villa del Balbianello Tour Villa del Balbianello 1h15m-1h30m

Follow a local expert through the villa's intimate rooms to learn about its storied past and the eccentric collections housed within. From the high-altitude maps in the library to the ancient sculptures in the

salon, this guided walk offers a deep dive into the cultural and personal history of Lake Como's most famous residence.

Bellagio Cruise and Walk

Villa del Balbianello - Bellagio

2h

Board a private boat from the villa for a scenic cruise to Bellagio, the "Pearl of Lake Como," where you can choose between a guided walking tour of its charming cobblestone streets or independent exploration. Afterward, continue your journey down the lake, passing iconic sights such as the historic Roman bridge at Nesso, George Clooney's villa, and the elegant shores of Cernobbio.

Private Vehicle

Cernobbio - Baveno

1h15m

92km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 8

## LAGO MAGGIORE

Meet this morning for a discussion about the natural history of the Italian Lake district and how it has attracted settlers over the years, resulting in the area's lavish and elegant villas. Next, travel to Rocca di Angera castle for a unique culinary experience. Participate in a cooking class inside the historic castle, learning how to prepare fresh pasta from scratch and concluding with a special lunch, enjoying your prepared pasta with cured meats, cheeses, and local wine. You'll then have time to explore the castle's famous Doll and Toy Museum and the serene Medieval Garden before returning to the Lago Maggiore area for a free afternoon and evening.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Splendid (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Baveno - Angera

1h

38km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### ACTIVITY

Travel to the historic Rocca di Angera for a hands-on culinary workshop where you will master the art of hand-rolling fresh pasta within the castle's ancient walls. Afterward, enjoy a meal featuring your creations paired with regional specialties and local wines before taking time to explore the estate's unique museum and its tranquil medieval gardens.

Private Vehicle

Angera - Baveno

1h

38km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 9

## LAGO MAGGIORE

Explore the jewels of Lake Maggiore today – the enchanting Borromean Islands. Board a private boat for a picturesque ride across the lake to Isola Madre, for a guided tour of the elegant Palazzo. Next, head to Isola dei Pescatori for some free time to discover the charming atmosphere of this small island. Tonight, the expedition culminates in an unforgettable farewell dinner on picturesque Isola Bella. You'll first take a sunset cruise to the island, enjoying an aperitif on a veranda overlooking the lake before a private dinner in the historic Villa, celebrating the end of your magnificent exploration of the Swiss Alps and Italian Lakes.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Splendid (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Walking Tour Isola Madre

Isola Madre

1h

Stroll through the lush botanical gardens of Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands, renowned for its rare exotic plants and roaming peacocks. This guided walk takes you through a "green paradise" of curated landscapes, featuring the historic palazzo and one of Europe's finest collections of camellias, azaleas, and ancient cypress trees.

Free Time

Isola dei Pescatori

Explore Isola dei Pescatori, the only Borromean Island to be inhabited year-round, to explore its narrow winding lanes and traditional fishing harbor. You can browse the local boutiques, visit the historic Church of San Vittore, or simply relax at a lakeside café to soak in the authentic atmosphere of this charming, timeless village.

Isola Bella Visit and Dinner

Isola Bella

2h

Experience the ultimate in lakeside luxury with a private visit to Isola Bella. Enjoy a personalized tour of the villa's historic halls followed by an alfresco reception on the veranda and a multi-course dinner, offering a rare opportunity to savor the island's beauty in a serene, intimate setting.

Your expedition concludes today. Transfers are provided to the airport at any time during the day.

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## Meals included

Breakfast

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## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Transfer **Lago Maggiore - Milan**

You will be met at your hotel in Lake Maggiore and transferred to the Milan airport at the end of your adventure.

## What's included

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## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Enjoy a spectacular early-morning ride through Alpine valleys travelling in comfort into the Italian-speaking area, Enjoy an exclusive post-closure talk with the Museum Director detailing the mountain's history and first ascent, Learn to prepare fresh pasta inside the historic Rocca di Angera castle followed by a wine tasting, Gain insight into Alpine art and landscapes during a curator-led tour of the Segantini Museum in St. Moritz, Take a private walking tour of the Borromeo Villa on Isola Bella followed by an exquisite farewell dinner with spectacular views of Lake Maggiore.

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## Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **What is the group leader like?**

All National Geographic Signature group trips are accompanied by one of our National Geographic Expedition Leaders throughout. The aim of the Expedition Leaders is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max. 22, Avg. 16.

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private vehicle, train (first class or best available seating), cable car, gondola, local bus, private boat, walking.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (9 nts).

## **What are the joining instructions?**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Signature Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition Leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## **What happens if I experience problems when arriving?**

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

G Adventures Berlin office: +441858378000

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 394 5416

Calls from UK: 0800 041 8146

Calls from Germany: 0800 181 9454

Calls from Australia: 1 800 204 905

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 424 389

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

### **Italy and Switzerland:**

- Comfortable walking shoes (Comfortable walking shoes with good grip for cobblestone streets and light alpine gravel paths.)
- Layers (Layers are essential for moving from high-altitude glaciers to the humid Italian lakes.)
- Outlet adapter (Type J (Switzerland) and Type L (Italy) adapters (Note: many modern Italian hotels use Type C/ Europlug))

### **Smart Dress:**

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

### **Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

## What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work. Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros, Swiss Franc (CHF), and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates:  
[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however a guideline would be \$10 per person per day.

In addition, please note that tipping is not required or expected for the Expedition Expert.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our Expedition Leaders if they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions. Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our Expedition Leaders to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s). Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our Expedition Leaders have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your National Geographic Signature Specialist or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

# Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.