

Cycling Safaris

The Swiss Lakes Route 2018

Self guided Tour
290 km | 6 nights / 7 days



From Constance on Lake Constance to Interlaken on Lake Thun, this tour will lead you past another seven lakes. The Rheinfall Waterfall near Schaffhausen, the 'Hohle Gasse' in Kussnacht and the Einsiedeln monastery, along the well preserved cities of Luzern and Zurich are the highlight of the tour.

The route runs mainly along its own cycle paths and separate cycle routes. The route is quite hilly between Einsiedeln and Lucerne and you will have to dismount and push your bike at times.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Individual arrival in Constance

Take the chance to visit Mainau island or take a walk through the old town of Constance. The aquariums in the Sea Life Center and the Archaeological Museum are also recommended.

Day 2 Constance - Schaffhausen approx. 50 km

Following the side of Lake Constance, you pedal to Stein am Rhein with its frescoed, medieval houses. Switching several times between Germany and Switzerland you reach the canton's capitol, Schaffhausen. The town, whose citizens competed with each other in building gables on their houses, is overlooked by Munot fort.

Day 3 Schaffhausen - Rhine Falls - Zurich approx. 65 km

After breakfast, it's a short cycle ride to the Rhine Falls, one of Europe's biggest waterfalls. You can get a boat right up close to the mighty roar of the water. Next, you follow Glatt Valley, which takes you to Zurich, Switzerland's fascinating and very cosmopolitan city. It unites tradition with modernity and its unspoiled historic quarter is very inviting, thanks to the many cafes and bars here.

Day 4 Zurich - Pfäffikon - Einsiedeln approx. 35 km + train ride

You cycle along the northern bank of Lake Zurich along the so-called golden coast to Rapperswil. Take a break here and go up to the old castle. From there you have lovely views of Lake Zurich and the countryside. From Rapperswil, you cross the lake across a dam and then take the train from Pfäffikon to Einsiedeln.

Day 5 Einsiedeln - Lucerne approx. 75 km

Fortify yourself a break ready for the day as it includes the route's crowning glory. On the ride to Lake Zug, you have to cross a range of hills. In Küsnacht, you can follow the traces of Wilhelm Tell. He is supposed to have shot the bailiff, Hermann Gessler, here in the "Hohle Gasse" lane.

Day 6 Lucerne - Giswil - Brienz - Interlaken approx 65 km + train ride

Take a stroll again across Lucerne's landmark - Kapellbrücke or Chapel Bridge. It is Europe's oldest roofed, wooden bridge. The mountains to the left and right of Lakes Sarnen and Lungern get higher and higher and ever more impressive. You cross the well-known Brüning Pass, at an altitude of approx 1000m, conveniently by train and then freewheel down to Interlaken, situated between Lake Brienz and Lake Thun.

Day 7 Individual journey home or extension of your stay

Your cycling tour comes to an end after breakfast. After breakfast you may return home or extend your stay.

2018 TOUR PRICE DATES

Season A: 21 April - 4 May & 16 September - 7 October

€775.00 per person sharing

€985.00 for single occupancy

Season B: 3 June - 29 June & 25 August - 15 September

€895.00 per person sharing

€1105.00 for single occupancy

Season C: 5 May - 2 June & 30 June - 24 August

€955.00 per person sharing

€1165.00 for single occupancy

You can start any day from 21 April to 7 October

Twin rooms on request only at time of booking.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- › 6 overnight stays in double rooms with breakfast in a national 3* hotel
- › Luggage transport from hotel to hotel until Interlaken
- › Boat trip to Rheinfall Rocks
- › Entrance to the Rosgartenmuseum incl. 1 coffee
- › Train journeys as outlined
- › Comprehensive tour information and maps (one per room)
- › 7 day service hotline
- › Bike rental (7- or 21 speed)

City or visitor's tax, if payable, is not included in the travel price

Optional extras

E-Bike available for additional supplement of €100

Extra night in Zürich - €105 per person sharing / €150 single room occupancy

Extra night other places - on request

Return transfer incl. Bike (Saturday) - €85

BACK-UP-SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.

BIKE & FITNESS



Bike hire is included in the tour package.

- 7 - speed hub and coaster brake or 24 - speed derailleur
- Unisex bikes with low step-through
- Fitted with road bicycle tire " Schwalbe Marathon Plus "
- Pannier and handlebar bag , and tachometer , lock , pump and spare tire . Puncture repair kit is in the pockets.

Requirements

The cycling routes require a basic level of fitness, which you should have acquired by steady cycling. The routes can reach an altitude of 200 to 500 meters. The daily routes, of 20 - 60 km, cover some hilly terrain and can be completed without time constraints. You will also come across some longer and climbs, where walking your bike is of course advised. The roads are mostly asphalted and there is little traffic outside of holiday periods.

Helmet use is mandatory on all bike tours. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well fitted) helmet. Rental Helmets are available on board in limited number (reservation requested).

WHAT TO BRING

We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all too much sun. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

TRAVEL



Travelling by ferry from Meersburg

The car and passenger ferry between Meersburg and Constance operates a 24-hour service every 15 minutes to 1 hour throughout the year.

Travelling by catamaran from Friedrichshafen

The catamaran between Constance and Friedrichshafen operates hourly between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. throughout the year. The trip takes 48 minutes.

Travelling by rail

There are direct train services to Constance from Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Offenburg. To get to Constance from Munich, change at Lindau/Radolfzell or Stuttgart. There is an hourly train service to Constance from Zurich (airport) via Weinfelden. For more information on rail services, please call +49 (0) 800 / 1507090.

Travelling by air

- From Friedrichshafen (25 km) by car/bus or ferry, or catamaran (40 min.)
- From Zurich (75 km): hourly rail service to Constance (1 hr)
- From Stuttgart (170 km): interurban train service every 20 min. to Stuttgart railway station; regular rail service to Constance (2.5 hrs)
- From Munich (230 km) by rail (5 hrs) or car (3.5 hrs) to Constance
- From Frankfurt/Main (345 km): direct rail service (4.5 hrs) to Constance