

11 DAY CHEESE DISCOVERY OF SWITZERLAND

Join Tom from The Red Cow on an 11-day cheese discovery of Switzerland! Meet expert local cheese makers, learn about their production processes and enjoy cheese degustations throughout the spectacular cheese producing regions of Gruyère, Emmental and Toggenburg. Plus, experience the down-coming of the cows from their summer residences high up in the alps with a town-wide cheese festival in the picturesque city of Solothurn. Furthermore, you get to see how different varieties of the famous Swiss raw milk cheese is produced high up in the alps as well as in modern facilities down in the valleys. Last but not least you will also get to explore the historic, vibrant and scenic towns of Geneva, Bern and Zurich.



11 DAY CHEESE DISCOVERY OF SWITZERLAND

Travel Dates: 30 Aug-09 Sep 2020

FROM
\$4279*

7 nights |

Your package includes:

- 10 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- 1 traditional cheese fondue dinner
- Swiss flexi rail pass
- 3 cheese degustations with local cheese makers
- Alpage cheese production visit
- Local guided walking tour of Bern
- Market tour & Old Town visit of Solothurn
- City visits of Geneva, Bern, Zurich and St Gallen





DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Sun 30 Aug 2020: Geneva

Welcome to Geneva! Situated along the banks of Lake Geneva at the foot of the Alps, Geneva sparkles as one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Transfer by rail to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day to settle in and prepare for your adventure.

Hotel: Hotel Ibis Centre Gare

Day 2 Mon 31 Aug 2020: Geneva to Gruyères

Today, transfer by rail to the scenic hilltop, medieval town of Gruyères. Here you'll have a visit of the show dairy where some of the famous cheese is produced. This evening, enjoy a traditional cheese fondue dinner in a local restaurant.

Hotel: Hotel de Gruyères

Day 3 Tue 01 Sep 2020: Gruyères Alpine production

Enjoy a day of exploration of the picturesque Fribourg alps. After breakfast you will take a mini bus to a high altitude dairy where they still produce cheese like 100 years ago. Get to explore the unique flair of producing alpine cheese. Grab a bite at the adjacent restaurant for lunch (at your expense) and then have the choice of a light downhill trek or the comfort of the mini bus. The rest of your afternoon/evening is at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel de Gruyères in Gruyères

Day 4 Wed 02 Sep 2020: Gruyères via Emmental to Bern

Today after breakfast, your coach will transfer you to beautiful Bern - Switzerland's capital. Enroute you'll visit the fairy-tale like area of Emmental. The Emmental is one of Switzerland's most authentic areas with big farmhouses, storybook scenery and well-preserved traditions. Whilst here, you'll enjoy a degustation of probably the world's most iconic cheese, the Emmental before arriving in Bern which has an historic Old Town, beautiful architecture and a vibrant culture. A local guide will take you on a 2hr walking tour to explore. The rest of your evening is at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Alpenblick in Bern

Day 5 Thu 03 Sep 2020: Bern to Solothurn to Bern

Today is the traditional coming down of the cows in the medieval town of Solothurn. This tradition is celebrated with a townwide cheese market. We will go on a short, guided tour of some of the most iconic market stalls and producers. After that you will have time to explore the rest of the festivities and mix in with the locals.

Hotel: Hotel Alpenblick in Bern

Day 6 Fri 04 Sep 2020: Bern to Zurich

Transfer from Bern to Zurich by train. After checking into your hotel in Zurich, we will endeavour on another city centred cheese degustation with a local affineur.

Hotel: Hotel Royal in Zürich

Day 7 Sat 05 Sep 2020 & Day 8 Sunday 06 Sep 2020: Zurich

Enjoy the next 2 full days at leisure in Zurich - the largest city and the financial centre of Switzerland. Explore the city's old town brimming with historical buildings, cobblestone alleys and medieval houses. The city is surrounded by gentle rolling hills, tranquil woods, dazzling lakes and rivers, and scenic villages.

Hotel: Hotel Royal in Zürich

Day 9 Mon 07 Sep 2020: Zurich to Toggenburg area

Today, transfer by rail to the Toggenburg region. Here, you'll get to experience the production of one of Switzerland's most talented cheese makers and world cheese award winner, Willi Schmid. The first day will have us experience Willi Schmid's cheese as part of a degustation in his production facilities.

Hotel: Hotel Sorell Hotel City Weissenstein in St Gallen

Day 10 Tue 08 Sep 2020: Toggenburg area

We will return to Willi Schmid today early in the morning where we will experience the production of some of Willi Schmid's cheese first hand. Get to see how world class raw milk, artisan cheese is produced in small batch production.

After that you have time to explore the city of Lichtensteig and have lunch at one of the local restaurants (at your own expense). In the afternoon we will walk with Willi Schmid to one of his farmers and their cows where you will learn more about terroir and the all importance of the freshest possible milk.

Transfer back to St Gallen late afternoon. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Sorell Hotel City Weissenstein in St Gallen

Day 11 Wed 09 Sep 2020: St. Gallen to Zurich

Transfer back to Zurich by rail after breakfast where your tour ends.

PRICING

Pricing is listed as per person, twin share based on the below participant size groups:

10 Adults minimum
\$4,495
per person/twin share

11 Adults minimum
\$4,423
per person/twin share

12 Adults minimum
\$4,387
per person/twin share

13 Adults minimum
\$4,333
per person/twin share

14 Adults minimum
\$4,279
per person/twin share

Terms & Conditions: From price based on per person/twin share for group size of 14 participants travelling. 10 participants minimum to operate the group departure. Prices vary based on participant numbers reached. Group minimum numbers must be reached by 10 May 2020. Full payment must be made within 7 days of confirmation from this date. Non-refundable once paid in full. Recommend travel insurance is purchased individually. Pricing includes all land arrangements outlined in day by day itinerary. Airfares, city taxes, insurance and anything of a personal nature not included.