



Small group train tour

4 - 13 JUNE 2026

Join us on our 10-day small group train tour adventure at the special group rate of **R46 990** per person. Various highlights, such as the Swiss Alps train rides and visits to Mount Pilatus, Vaduz (Liechtenstein), and Tirano (Italy), are included.

Itinerary

Day 1: Thursday, 4 June JOHANNESBURG →

The big day has finally arrived! We depart in the early evening from Cape Town and Johannesburg to **Switzerland**. Overnight on board with dinner served.

Day 2: Friday, 5 June → GENEVA

After an early breakfast, we land in **Geneva**, Switzerland. The train station is at the airport, and our first train ride lasts only about six minutes from the airport to our hotel at the Geneva (Gare de Cornavin) station. We will stay the next two nights at the neat **Cristal Design Hotel**. After unpacking, we meet in the lobby to explore this beautiful city together. Among our visits will be the flower clock (consisting of 6,500 plants) in the Jardin Anglais, the Jet d'Eau, which shoots water 140 meters into the air, and the remarkable St. Pierre Cathedral, dating from the 11th century and located in the old part of the city. The famous Reformer, John Calvin, often preached there between 1536 and 1564. In the late afternoon, we will visit the striking Broken Chair monument in the United Nations area of the city, or take a boat ride on Lake Geneva (cost included with our Swiss Travel Pass).



The Jet d'Eau, a Geneva landmark since 1951



The Zytglogge in Bern's Old Town

Day 3: Saturday, 6 June GENEVA → BERN → MONTREUX → GENEVA

After a delightful Swiss breakfast, we walk just across the road to the station for our two-hour train journey to **Bern**. Bern is the capital of Switzerland, and it's easy to explore the city on foot from the station. We will stroll through the medieval Old Town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the Zytglogge (clock tower), visit Albert Einstein's residence from the early 20th century, and walk across the Aare River to Barenpark, where we can observe the antics of a few bears. The city of Bern is named after bears!

On our way back to Geneva, we travel to the picturesque **Montreux**. There will be an opportunity to see the statue of Freddie Mercury, as well as visit the Queen Studio Experience.

Day 4: Sunday, 7 June GENEVA → CHUR

After breakfast, we pack our bags and head east across Switzerland! Our train journey follows a different route from yesterday, passing by Lake Neuchâtel and Bielersee. The train ride takes about five hours. Early in the afternoon, we arrive in the beautiful **Chur**, Switzerland's oldest city. We will stay the next five nights at the charming **Ambiente Freieck Hotel**. The hotel is just a seven-minute walk from the station, situated in the heart of Chur's Old Town. Built in 1575 and renovated several times, the hotel offers a lovely base for exploring. We also have time to wander around the Old Town today.

This afternoon, we also have the chance to ascend the Brambrüesch Mountain via a cable car ride.

Day 5: Monday, 8 June CHUR → LUCERNE → ALPNACHSTAD → MOUNT PILATUS → CHUR

After breakfast, we walk to the station for our two-hour train ride to the picturesque town of **Lucerne**, located by Lake Lucerne. We'll have time to explore the town and walk across the famous Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke), which dates back to the 14th century. Afterward, we take a boat ride across Lake Lucerne (also known as Lake Vierwaldstätter) to **Alpnachstad** for a magnificent excursion to **Mount Pilatus**. We'll ride the world's steepest cogwheel railway to the top, enjoying breathtaking views of the surrounding Alpine mountains. Mount Pilatus became especially famous when Queen Victoria ascended the mountain on horseback in the 19th century. The highest peak stands at 2132 meters. In the late afternoon, we'll return to our home base in Chur.



Our unique hotel in the heart of Chur



Walk with us across Lucerne's famous Chapel Bridge



Mount Pilatus Excursion



Zurich, Switzerland's Financial Capital

Day 6: Tuesday, 9 June – GLACIER EXPRESS: CHUR → ANDERMATT → ZURICH → CHUR

After another hearty Swiss breakfast, we board the world-renowned **Glacier Express** at 09:26 from Chur to **Andermatt** (arriving at 12:08).

Travel through untouched natural landscapes rich with ancient, fragrant mountain streams and valleys steeped in tradition and centuries-old culture. Enjoy a journey on the world's slowest express train! Throughout the trip, fascinating background information and stories about the route are shared through the train's information system.

In the early afternoon, we continue by train from Andermatt to **Zurich** (a journey of around two hours) to get a taste of this bustling city. From the central station, it's easy to walk along the Limmat River to the shores of Lake Zurich. While there won't be time to explore Zurich's more than 50 museums and 100 art galleries, we'll certainly soak in the atmosphere of the city. A visit to the Lindt Home of Chocolate is also highly recommended.

In the early evening, we return by train to Chur (approximately a one-hour journey).



All aboard the Glacier Express!



The Vaduz Castle in Liechtenstein

Day 7: Wednesday, 10 June CHUR → VADUZ (LIECHTENSTEIN) → MAIENFELD / AROSA / LANDQUART → CHUR

After breakfast, we depart by train and bus to **Vaduz**, the capital of Liechtenstein (with a total population of just 39,500). Liechtenstein is located on the border between Switzerland and Austria — only 25 km long and 12 km wide! There will be time to explore this compact city. The word you'll hear most here is "Hoi!" (hello).

Vaduz is the capital of Liechtenstein and also the seat of the national parliament. The city, located along the Rhine River, has 5,696 residents. The most prominent landmark of Vaduz is **Vaduz Castle**, perched atop a steep hill overlooking the city. It is home to the reigning prince of Liechtenstein and the princely family. The city's distinctive architecture is visible in landmarks such as the **Cathedral of St. Florin**, **Government House**, **City Hall**, the **National Art Gallery**, and the **National Museum**.

After our visit to Vaduz, there are **three excursion options** to choose from:

→ **Visit Maienfeld**, where the original **Heididorf** (Heidi's Village) is located. The 300-year-old **Heidi's House** was the inspiration for the world-famous story *Heidi*, written by Johanna Spyri between 1880 and 1881.

It's about a **40-minute walk** to reach the original Heididorf, but those who prefer not to walk that far can visit the special **Heidi gift shop** in the charming village of Maienfeld, right near the station.

→ Enjoy a scenic **train ride to Arosa**, a picturesque Alpine village (about one hour from Chur), high up in the Alps.

→ Visit the **Designer Outlet Village Centre**, with over 70 interesting stores, located right next to **Landquart Station** (about a 10-minute ride from Chur).

Day 8: Thursday, 11 June BERNINA EXPRESS: Chur → Tirano (Italy) → St Moritz → Chur

After breakfast, another highlight awaits us: a scenic train journey on the **Bernina Express**! Experience the route through **55 tunnels and over 196 bridges** from Chur to Tirano on the **highest railway line in Europe**!

Travel along the highest railway line in the Alps. Enjoy sensational views of the Alps—from towering glaciers to the valleys far below—all through the train's fabulous panoramic windows. The marvels of nature and the achievements of man merge in what is considered one of the best ways to experience the Alps and this UNESCO World Heritage Site!

The **Bernina Express** **departs at 08:32** from Chur Station and arrives at **12:49 in Tirano**, Italy. We'll have about an hour to explore **Tirano** on foot. At **14:07**, we depart from Tirano on the Bernina Express again and arrive at **16:19 in St Moritz**.

St Moritz is a high Alpine resort in the **Engadine region of Switzerland**, located at around **1,800 meters above sea level**. It is the largest town in Upper Engadine and a municipality in the district of **Maloja** in the Swiss canton of **Graubünden**.

Once again, the train station in St Moritz is centrally located, and we'll take a short walk to explore this magical world of Alpine tourism. We can choose how long we wish to stay before taking the train back to **Chur** (the journey takes approximately two hours).



The picturesque St Moritz



The world-renowned Bernina Express

Day 9: Friday, 12 June CHUR → ZURICH →

After one last Swiss breakfast, we have a few final hours to enjoy beautiful and interesting Chur.

Switzerland's oldest city charms visitors with its fine mountain setting, twisting alleys and historic buildings. Numerous boutiques, restaurants, bars, museums and galleries in the largely traffic-free Old Town create a Mediterranean-style atmosphere. Celts, Romans, Ostrogoths, Franks — all once ruled **Chur**, the gateway to important trade routes and alpine passes. What remains today is a 5,000-year history, documented by Early Stone Age and Bronze Age finds and artifacts from the Roman period, as well as more recent historical monuments such as the 800-year-old Cathedral near the bishop's residence.

We now know the path from the hotel to the station well, and mid-morning it's time for our last train ride in this incredible country. We depart, luggage in hand, to **Zurich Airport** for our return flight to South Africa. The train ride takes about two hours, and there are more than 52 trains per day on this popular route. Dinner will be served on board our flight tonight.

Day 10: Saturday, 13 June → JOHANNESBURG

Breakfast is served early on our flight. After an unforgettable **Swiss train adventure**, we land in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE:

- ✓ International flights in economy class from and to Johannesburg. An additional cost of **R1 850** applies for the return flight from and to Cape Town.
- ✓ Airport taxes and fuel levies for all flights.
- ✓ Accommodation for seven nights in two selected hotels (as indicated in the itinerary).
- ✓ Breakfast daily.
- ✓ All sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary.
- ✓ 8-day Swiss Travel Pass (valued at R9,100), with unlimited travel by train, bus, and boat.
- ✓ Guaranteed train tickets for the Glacier Express and Bernina Express.
- ✓ A Mount Pilatus excursion with a rack train and cable car ride.
- ✓ The services of an experienced tour leader throughout.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- The tour price of **R46,990** is based on air travel and land arrangement costs in March 2025. This is based on an exchange rate of CHF1 = R21 and is subject to exchange rate fluctuations.
- Visa costs of approximately **R1 800** for a Swiss Schengen visa, as well as approximately **R500** for handling fees at the visa application center, are not included in the tour price. We will assist with everyone's Schengen visa applications and provide the necessary documents.
- The single supplement for those requesting a single room is R6,500.
- If there are issues with booking one of the mentioned hotels, a similar hotel will be used.
- At least **14 passengers** must travel together, and the maximum number of tour members that can be accommodated on this tour is 20.
- Tour members must be able to handle their own luggage at stations and walk reasonable distances.
- Fair and comprehensive group travel insurance from **TIC Europ Assistance** is available for all tour members under the age of 76 years at R350 for the ten days. (An additional fee applies for those over 75 years old).
- There are no gratuities payable for this tour.
- A deposit of **R12 500** must be paid as soon as possible to secure your place on the tour and confirm accommodation at the mentioned hotels. The deposit amount is higher than for our other tours as individual flight tickets must be issued with booking.
- The balance of the tour payment must be paid by **7 March 2026**.
- **Credit card payments** are unfortunately not accepted.

How to book:

Complete the booking form and waiver form, Email to: info@vandyktours.co.za

Pay the deposit to the following account:

Bank: Nedbank Account Number: 119 1533 964 Branch: George | Branch Code: 198 765
Account Holder: Van Dyk Travel Account Type: Current / Business Reference: SWITS / your surname

For inquiries, contact the tour leader: **Gerhard van Dyk** | Phone: 082 767 8400 | Email: info@vandyktours.co.za



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