



Star-Light Travel

Featuring LeAnn & Greg Starner

Present: First-Class Grand Alpine Explorer

Germany, Austria, Switzerland

September 10-27, 2027

Day 1 – Depart USA

Day 2 – Arrival in the Bavarian city of Munich

Arriving in Munich today, you can relax or discover the delights of this popular German city. Our 4-Star hotel is just a short distance from the main train station

Day 3 – Day on your own in the city of Munich

The day is on your own to relax or explore before meeting your fellow travelers and Tour Manager at our hotel this evening.

Day 4 – A guided tour of Munich

Today we get to know Munich and its fascinating culture and heritage on a guided sightseeing tour. Walking through the historic streets, we admire the city's charming main square, Marienplatz, home to the neo-Gothic Town Hall and the famous glockenspiel. We also see the Church of St Peter, with its exterior boasting eight clocks. Afterwards, we stop for food and drink in typical Munich style by sampling local food and beers. Munich is renowned for its beer and, after learning about the history of brewing in Bavaria and the influence of the 'Reinheitsgebot' purity law at the Oktoberfest Museum, we visit Munich's oldest beer house, the Hofbräuhaus. The rest of the day is at leisure before we regroup for dinner at the hotel. One option is to stroll round one of the city's many green spaces. The 17th-century Renaissance gardens of the Hofgarten stand behind Munich Residence, the former home of Bavarian dukes and kings, while the expansive English Garden is larger than New York's Central Park and attracts visitors to its lakes, rivers and peaceful Japanese tea house. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 – A musical welcome to cultured Salzburg and candlelit Mozart dinner

We leave Munich this morning and travel by First Class rail across the Austrian border to Salzburg. This picturesque city is renowned as the birthplace of Mozart and the setting for The Sound of Music, and on arrival we enjoy a tour of this musical city with Trudy, the singing tour guide. Overlooked by the huge 11th-century Hohensalzburg Fortress, set high on a hill, we stroll through the charming Old Town. The churches, squares and alleyways here are incredibly well preserved and dominated by fabulous Baroque spires in this UNESCO World Heritage site. This evening, we enjoy dinner with a difference. Making our way to the grand banquet hall of St Peter's, we sit down to savor a candlelit dinner accompanied by the stirring music of Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A chamber ensemble and singers dressed in Rococo costumes bring selections of Mozart's celebrated music to life while we enjoy a gastronomic menu inspired by historical recipes popular during the composer's lifetime. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 – Free day to explore delightful Salzburg

After breakfast, there is a full day to explore the grand city of Salzburg at leisure. One suggestion is to purchase a Salzburg Card which gives you access to many of the wonderful museums and attractions, as well as travel on the city's buses and trolleybuses. You are free to dine independently tonight, and from luxurious gastronomy to hearty local cuisine in a lively beer hall, Salzburg's many restaurants accommodate all tastes. Includes Breakfast

Day 7 – Discovering the tranquil Austrian Lake District

The gentle alpine hills, dense forests and emerald waters of the Austrian Lake District are our destinations today. Our first visit is to the remarkable Kaiservilla, the stately former summer residence of Habsburg Emperor Franz Josef I with beautifully decorated grounds that we can explore. Continuing to St Gilgen, there is time to grab lunch independently in this charming town of ornately decorated chalets and enticing cafés before we take a cruise across Lake Wolfgang. After soaking up the serenity of the aquamarine lake, we disembark at St Wolfgang and have time to stroll amongst its cluster of chocolate-box chalets. We then travel to pretty Mondsee on the shores of Lake Mondsee whose most famous attraction is its 15th-century Basilica of St Michael. Bedecked in a yellow Baroque façade, this impressive church featured in the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music*. We have free time here to either pay homage to the cinematic von Trapp family or enjoy a lakeside stroll on the attractive promenade before returning to Salzburg for a three-course dinner at our hotel. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 – To Innsbruck and the heart of the Austrian Alps

Leaving Salzburg after a leisurely breakfast, we travel by First Class rail into the heart of the Austrian Alps. The dramatic scenery increases on the approach to Innsbruck, with steep mountains rising either side of the Inn Valley. Arriving around noon, we get our bearings with an informative guided tour of Innsbruck's magnificently preserved Old Town. Reflecting the Tyrolean capital's history, it boasts wonderful Renaissance and Baroque buildings as well as traditional Tyrolean architecture. Along the way, we'll see Innsbruck's cathedral and Hofkirche, built by Emperor Maximilian I. On Herzog-Friedrich-Strasse, we admire the Goldenes Dachl (or Golden Roof), and the ornate Hölbling house with its imposing 14th-century watchtower. The rest of the afternoon is free to continue exploring and you could travel on the Nordkette Cable Car, a hybrid funicular and cable car system designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid. At the top, you are rewarded with otherworldly views across the Tyrolean Alps from a height of more than 7,000 feet. In the evening, we regroup at our central hotel overlooking the majestic peak for a three-course dinner. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9 – Fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle and Zugspitze Mountain Railway

Returning to Germany by coach this morning, our route crosses the impressive Fern Pass enroute to one of the most beautiful and famous castles in the world - the glorious Neuschwanstein Castle. A magnificent fairytale structure built into the mountains, the brilliant white of Neuschwanstein contrasts stunningly against the surrounding forests. King Ludwig II of Bavaria commissioned the castle's construction in the late 19th century on a rocky outcrop near his childhood home, reportedly having dreamt of building a castle there since he was a child. This symbol of Romanticism has appeared in countless movies, from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* to *The Great Escape* and also inspired Walt Disney's *Sleeping Beauty Castle*. Afterwards, we embark on a journey aboard the cheerful Zugspitze Mountain Railway, ascending to the summit of the Zugspitze for fabulous views of elemental rocky peaks. Climbing more than 2,500 feet in seven miles, the cogwheel railroad passes the crystal-clear Eibsee lake on its way up the highest mountain in Germany. From the top, there are astonishing views across Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. Includes Breakfast

Day 10 – Remarkable journey through the Alps to stylish St Moritz

A free morning provides the opportunity to explore Innsbruck, before we embark on a spectacular First Class train journey through the Alps. The route starts by winding alongside the Inn River, the jade waters rushing between steep peaks dotted with thick pine forests. Shortly after leaving the Inn at Landeck, the Arlberg Line passes Weisberg Castle at the eastern end of the impressive Trisanna Bridge, widely considered to be one of Austria's finest. As the track climbs higher towards the popular resort of St Anton, traditional chalets pepper this beautiful alpine landscape. Looping briefly into the tiny double-landlocked principality of Liechtenstein, we are welcomed to Switzerland by delightfully scenic views. The last leg of our journey takes us on the UNESCO-listed Albula Line, which zigzags and spirals its way round mountains and over bridges, including the curved Landwasser Viaduct. After a panorama of deep ravines, snow-capped peaks and rushing waterfalls, we arrive in chic St Moritz, where a three-course dinner awaits at our central hotel which boasts uninterrupted views of the glamorous town's serene lake. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11 – Across the Alps to Italy in First Class on the Bernina Express

An incredible experience awaits today as we climb the Alps on the astonishing Bernina Express in First Class. From our panoramic cars, the exceptional alpine scenery continuously impresses throughout our journey. A truly memorable experience is to be had when we step off the train at Alp Grüm. Greeted by jaw-dropping views of the Palü Glacier, we soak up these magical surroundings. This stunning route then twists its way down the mountains, spiraling round the remarkable corkscrew viaduct at Brusio before crossing the border into Italy. Free time in our destination of Tirano allows you to explore the narrow, cobbled streets and characterful piazzas of the charming Italian valley town, where you can enjoy lunch. A regional specialty is pizzoccheri, a hearty buckwheat pasta dish made with potato, cabbage and cheese. We return to St Moritz on a local service, which provides an opportunity to pull down a train window for spectacular photos, before we sit down for a three-course dinner at our hotel. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 12 – At leisure in glamorous St Moritz

With panoramic views of the mountains and lakes of the Engadine Valley, chic St Moritz provides many options for a free day. Via Serlas is one of the world's most famous shopping streets, brimming with upmarket fashion boutiques right outside our hotel. The St Moritz resort card provides free travel on the cable cars and funiculars surrounding the town so you can be ferried up to the snow-capped peaks in minutes. Meanwhile, the Swiss Travel Card's 50% discount on trains allows you to explore further afield, including the fashionable resorts of Davos or Klosters. You could visit the church of St Maurice, also known as 'the church of the springs', around which the town was built or enjoy a traditional 1930s Swiss high tea at Badrutt's Palace Hotel. Alternatively, absorb local culture at the Segantini Museum, dedicated to the works of alpine painter Giovanni Segantini. For a relaxing day, St Moritz's serene lake can be enjoyed on a gentle stroll or from our hotel's glorious terrace along with uninterrupted mountain views. Includes Breakfast

Day 13 – First Class experience on the iconic Glacier Express

Today is a highlight of any rail vacation to Switzerland as we embark on one of Europe's most iconic train journeys - the incredible Glacier Express to Brig in First Class. The 'slowest express train' delves into the Rhine Gorge, where our panoramic cars provide great views of the 'Swiss Grand Canyon'. Averaging a steady 24mph, the Glacier Express allows us to enjoy the continually impressive scenery while we enjoy a two-course lunch at our seats. Snow-dusted peaks pass by as the train climbs over the Oberalp Pass, the peak of the route, before entering the nine-mile-long Furka Base Tunnel and spiraling down through picture-perfect Swiss villages on the approach to Brig. Here we change trains and travel in First Class to Interlaken, via the pretty lakeside town of Spiez. Interlaken is a delightful town nestled between two glacier-fed lakes and towering peaks. Our 4-Star hotel is on the main street, providing great views of mountains and the nearby castle grounds. After checking in this evening, we enjoy a three-course dinner. Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 – An unforgettable trip to the 'Top of Europe' on the Jungfrau Express

A jaw-dropping journey to Jungfrauoch - Europe's highest train station - awaits today. We travel by First Class rail to the mountainside village of Kleine Scheidegg where we board the sensational Jungfrau Express, a cogwheel train that climbs the final section of the route. On our trip, the train enters an incredible tunnel which cuts through the Eiger. Even more incredible are the carved-out viewing windows meaning we can enjoy the scenery from inside the tunnel. On reaching Jungfrauoch station, the vistas from the Sphinx viewing platform are absolutely spellbinding. At the top, we're treated to panoramic vistas across an eternally snowy wonderland that includes the Aletsch Glacier - a UNESCO World Heritage wonder - that stretches as far as the eye can see. With free time in this alpine paradise, you could also visit the Lindt Swiss Chocolate Heaven or enter the Alpine Sensation exhibition which pays tribute to the miners who built the railroad more than 100 years ago. This First Class experience continues as we descend via the charming village of Grindelwald before returning to Interlaken and dining independently this evening. Includes Breakfast

Day 15 – A day to explore revitalizing Interlaken at leisure

You're free to explore attractive Interlaken today. The town's historic center is compact, so it's easy to discover the medieval monastery, castle and ancient square on foot. Interlaken is also a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, so whether you're looking for an adventure or just a peaceful stroll, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Maybe take the funicular for a 10-minute trip to the summit of Harder Kulm, where you can enjoy panoramic views across the mountains and Lake Brienz. Another great option is to take a peaceful lake cruise on a vintage paddle steamer - your Swiss Half Fare

Travel Card gives you a 50% discount on this and other boat tours, as well as for most trains and mountain railroads. The travel card can also be used for a day out to historic Lucerne or charming Meiringen. Here, you can board a quaint funicular to the Reichenbach Falls that played an important part in the Sherlock Holmes stories or visit the town's museum honoring Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective. We gather tonight at the hotel for our final three-course dinner together. Includes Breakfast, Dinner

Day 16 – Final train to Zurich

Our incredible alpine train vacation concludes after breakfast this morning, as we board the train to Zurich. The train journey takes us through delightful mountain scenery, providing one final train spectacle on this fantastic trip. Upon arrival in Zurich, you can relax or explore this Swiss city. Includes Breakfast

Day 17 – Day on your own in Zurich

Today is on your own to relax or tour the largest city in Switzerland

Day 18 – Homeward bound

Flying across the Atlantic, you can reflect on this great alpine exploration and the unforgettable experiences you have enjoyed.

What's included??

- Tour Manager
 - Services of a professional tour escort and knowledgeable local guides for touring
 - Gratuity
- Transportation
 - Round-trip Flights (airport to be determined)
 - To & From all Airports; local and in destination
 - First Class rail travel where available
 - All rail and coach travel throughout your tour
- Accommodation
 - 16 nights' 4-Star hotel accommodation
- Luggage
 - Inclusive Luggage Transfer
- Excursions & Entertainment
 - Swiss Travel Card, permitting 50% discounted fares on free days for rail, boat and most mountain railway journeys
 - Salzburg Guest Mobility Ticket for free travel on the city's public transport
 - St Moritz resort card for free travel on the town's cable cars and funiculars
 - All guided tours and excursions
- Food & Drink
 - Breakfast each day, 1 lunch and 8 dinners

Not Included

- Cancellation & Travel Insurance

Space is limited to 28 seats! The deposit required to confirm your seat = \$700 per person. Please give deposit check to LeAnn made payable to Krouse Travel or mail to 1284 Greensprings Drive, York, PA 17402, Attn: Krista Getz.

Cost per person: Double = \$10,773 per person / Single = \$12,521 per person

Questions? Please contact LeAnn or Krista Getz at Krouse Travel, kgetz@krousetravel.com, 717-244-6410.