

TIMETABLE  
AND IDEAS FOR  
EXCURSIONS

11 December 2016  
to 9 December 2017

JOURNEYS OF  
discovery

2017



# CLIMB ABOARD and enjoy

The Voralpen Express runs hourly between Lucerne and St.Gallen and is the most attractive way of travelling between central and eastern Switzerland. After a last look at Lake Lucerne and Mount Pilatus, the Voralpen Express speeds past the Mythen mountains and the glorious Rothenthurm moor plateau as it heads for Rapperswil. The distant views of the Lake Zurich basin are as magnificent as the castle. Travelling north and eastwards through the undulating Toggenburg countryside and over Switzerland's tallest railway viaduct (99 metres), you reach the end of the line at St.Gallen with its Abbey Precincts, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Climb aboard and discover the Alpine foothills on rails!





# Travel information





# ON-BOARD amenities

Our Voralpen Express trains offer comfort and convenience in first and standard class.

## FIRST CLASS

More room. More relaxation. More comfort: our passengers in first class benefit from a number of privileges. Climb aboard and arrive at your destination relaxed and unruffled.

- First class ambience
- Wider, comfortable seats
- More legroom
- Panoramic windows

## STANDARD CLASS

Voralpen Express trains offer a high level of comfort in standard class.

- Buffet car serving refreshments
- Spacious tables in the buffet car
- Comfortable seats

## REFRESHMENTS

Snacks and beverages are available during the journey.

Every train has a buffet car in the middle in which refreshments are available.

## BICYCLES

Up to three cycles can be carried in a designated coach identified with the cycle symbol.

## PASSENGERS WITH A DISABILITY

Please contact the specialist call centre at

[www.sbb.ch/en/station-services/passengers-with-reduced-mobility.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/station-services/passengers-with-reduced-mobility.html)

## TICKETS AND TRAVELCARDS

The Voralpen Express accepts all valid Swiss and international tickets and travelcards. For advice please call any rail travel centre during opening hours, or Rail Service on 0900 300 300 (24-hour service, CHF 1.19/min. from Swiss landlines). Tickets may be obtained from SOB rail travel centres, ticket machines or [www.sbb.ch/en](http://www.sbb.ch/en).

Seat reservations are possible for groups of ten or more.

## SWISS TRAVEL SYSTEM OFFERS ARE ALSO VALID

- Swiss Travel Pass
- Swiss Travel Pass Flex
- Swiss Transfer Ticket
- Swiss Half Fare Card
- Swiss Family Card

Visit [www.swisstravelsystem.com/en/home/tickets/ticket-overview.html](http://www.swisstravelsystem.com/en/home/tickets/ticket-overview.html) for further information on tickets for international visitors.



# ROUTE MAP

## ST.GALLEN – LUCERNE

Comfortable trains travel hourly between St.Gallen and Lucerne.  
The journey takes 2 hours and 15 minutes.

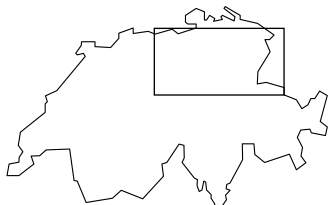
## TIPS

There's a wealth of opportunity all along the route for family outings, activities in the great outdoors, adventurous escapades and culture. Read on for further information.



## INFORMATION

Length of route	125 km	St.Gallen–Lucerne
Tallest bridge	99 m	Sitter Viaduct
Longest tunnel	8,603 m	Ricken Tunnel
Lowest point	alt. 408 m	Schmerikon
Highest point	alt. 933 m	Biberegg
Maximum gradient	50%	Pfäffikon SZ–Biberbrugg and Arth-Goldau–Biberegg



# TIMETABLE

## DEPARTURES ST.GALLEN – LUCERNE 11.12.2016 – 9.12.2017

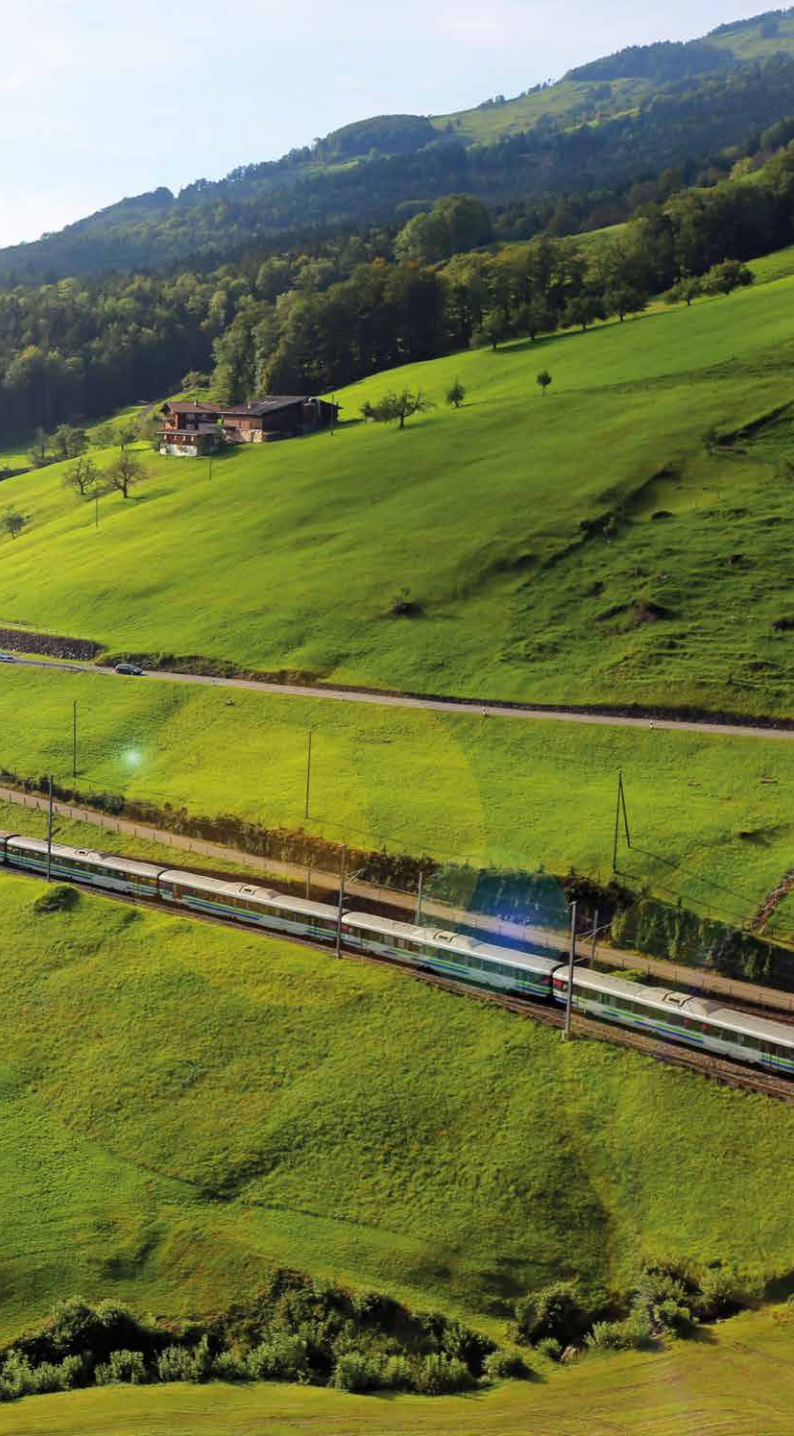
DEPARTURE	VAE 2562	VAE 2564	VAE 2566	VAE 2568	VAE 2570	VAE 2572	VAE 2574	VAE 2576	VAE 2578	VAE 2580	VAE 2582	VAE 2584	VAE 2586	VAE 2588
St.Gallen	6.05	7.05	8.05	9.05	10.05	11.05	12.05	13.05	14.05	15.05	16.05	17.05	18.05	19.05
Herisau	6.13	7.13	8.13	9.13	10.13	11.13	12.13	13.13	14.13	15.13	16.13	17.13	18.13	19.13
Wattwil	6.33	7.33	8.33	9.33	10.33	11.33	12.33	13.33	14.33	15.33	16.33	17.33	18.33	19.33
Uznach	6.45	7.45	8.45	9.45	10.45	11.45	12.45	13.45	14.45	15.45	16.45	17.45	18.45	19.45
Schmerikon	6.49	7.49	8.49	9.49	10.49	11.49	12.49	13.49	14.49	15.49	16.49	17.49	18.49	19.49
Rapperswil	6.57	7.59	8.59	9.59	10.59	11.59	12.59	13.59	14.59	15.59	16.59	17.59	18.59	19.59
Pfäffikon SZ		8.04	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04	13.04	14.04	15.04	16.04	17.04	18.04	19.04	20.04
Biberbrugg		8.20	9.20	10.20	11.20	12.20	13.20	14.20	15.20	16.20	17.20	18.20	19.20	20.20
Rothenthurm		8.28	9.28	10.28	11.28	12.28	13.28	14.28	15.28	16.28	17.28	18.28	19.28	20.28
Arth-Goldau		8.48	9.48	10.48	11.48	12.48	13.48	14.48	15.48	16.48	17.48	18.48	19.48	20.48
Küssnacht a. R.		9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	19.00	20.00	21.00
Meggen Zentrum		9.07	10.07	11.07	12.07	13.07	14.07	15.07	16.07	17.07	18.07	19.07	20.07	21.07
Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne		9.12	10.12	11.12	12.12	13.12	14.12	15.12	16.12	17.12	18.12	19.12	20.12	21.12
Lucerne		9.21	10.21	11.21	12.21	13.21	14.21	15.21	16.21	17.21	18.21	19.21	20.21	21.21

## DEPARTURES LUCERNE – ST.GALLEN 11.12.2016 – 9.12.2017

DEPARTURE	VAE 2561	VAE 2563	VAE 2565	VAE 2567	VAE 2569	VAE 2571	VAE 2573	VAE 2575	VAE 2577	VAE 2579	VAE 2581	VAE 2583	VAE 2585	VAE 2587	VAE 2589	VAE 2591
Lucerne				7.39	8.39	9.39	10.39	11.39	12.39	13.39	14.39	15.39	16.39	17.39	18.39	19.39
Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne				7.46	8.46	9.46	10.46	11.46	12.46	13.46	14.46	15.46	16.46	17.46	18.46	19.46
Meggen Zentrum				7.49	8.49	9.49	10.49	11.49	12.49	13.49	14.49	15.49	16.49	17.49	18.49	19.49
Küssnacht a. R.				7.58	8.58	9.58	10.58	11.58	12.58	13.58	14.58	15.58	16.58	17.58	18.58	19.58
Arth-Goldau				8.14	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	13.14	14.14	15.14	16.14	17.14	18.14	19.14	20.14
Rothenthurm				8.28	9.28	10.28	11.28	12.28	13.28	14.28	15.28	16.28	17.28	18.28	19.28	20.28
Biberbrugg				8.37	9.37	10.37	11.37	12.37	13.37	14.37	15.37	16.37	17.37	18.37	19.37	20.37
Pfäffikon SZ				8.54	9.54	10.54	11.54	12.54	13.54	14.54	15.54	16.54	17.54	18.54	19.54	20.54
Rapperswil	6.03	7.03	8.03	9.03	10.03	11.03	12.03	13.03	14.03	15.03	16.03	17.03	18.03	19.03	20.03	21.03
Schmerikon	6.11	7.11	8.11	9.11	10.11	11.11	12.11	13.11	14.11	15.11	16.11	17.11	18.11	19.11	20.11	21.11
Uznach	6.16	7.16	8.16	9.16	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	14.16	15.16	16.16	17.16	18.16	19.16	20.16	21.16
Wattwil	6.28	7.28	8.28	9.28	10.28	11.28	12.28	13.28	14.28	15.28	16.28	17.28	18.28	19.28	20.28	21.28
Herisau	6.47	7.47	8.47	9.47	10.47	11.47	12.47	13.47	14.47	15.47	16.47	17.47	18.47	19.47	20.47	21.47
St.Gallen	6.55	7.55	8.55	9.55	10.55	11.55	12.55	13.55	14.55	15.55	16.55	17.55	18.55	19.55	20.55	21.55



# Excursion tips





# CULTURE

tips

## SHOW DAIRY, STEIN

[www.schaukaeserei.ch/en](http://www.schaukaeserei.ch/en)

Since it opened in 1978 in Appenzell, more than seven million visitors have passed through this show dairy's doors. You'll find out all there is to know about the famous Appenzeller cheese – and even watch it being made before your very eyes. The products in this cheese idyll are cared for by specialists – namely robots! The composition of the herbal brine used to make Appenzeller is a closely guarded secret, but there's plenty more for you to see and do here.

Alighting point: St.Gallen or Herisau – then bus to Stein AR, “Post”



Show Dairy, Stein

## GUIDED TOUR OF LUCERNE

[www.luzern.com/en/sightseeing-tours](http://www.luzern.com/en/sightseeing-tours)

Stroll around the town in the company of an expert and see its landmark Chapel Bridge and octagonal Water Tower. Discover a wealth of other sights, including the KKL and pretty town squares and historic facades in the Old Town. Tours set off from the tourist information centre on platform 3 in the railway station. They are conducted in German and English and take around two hours.

Alighting point: Lucerne

## IBERG RUINS

In 1240 the abbot of Wattwil had a castle built to safeguard the important passage over the Ricken and Laad mountain passes. Already a ruin by 1883, the castle was handed over to the municipality of Wattwil. These days only the tower remains as testament to a chequered past. Visit the remnants and immerse yourself in their history. Wonderful views over Wattwil reward visitors who make the 20-minute ascent. The site is open daily 26 March to 29 October 2017 from 10 am to 7 pm.

Alighting point: Wattwil

# WALKING tips

## GONTENBAD–JAKOBSBAD BAREFOOT TRAIL

There is a 5 km-long barefoot trail between Gontenbad and Jakobsbad. Way-marked in both directions, this moderately easy trail mostly takes you along very pleasant grassy paths through meadows and pastures, with short stretches on asphalt or gravel. Dotted along the path are barbecue spots where you can take a break. Jakobsbad has other attractions too, such as a rope park and bobsleigh run.

Alighting point: Herisau on the S-Bahn 23 train to Jakobsbad



## STANSERHORN – THE HIKING TRAIL

[www.cabrio.ch/en](http://www.cabrio.ch/en)

Feel the wind in your hair on the double-decker Cabrio® aerial cable car with its open-air top deck: the Stanserhorn is a great hiking mountain for all levels of walker. Whether you go for a 30-minute tour of the summit or a four-hour hike from Stans up the Stanserhorn, the choice is yours. Either way, the views of the Stans and Engelberg valleys – and of Obwalden – are spectacular. The Cabrio® aerial cableway to the Stanserhorn operates a half-hourly service between mid-April and mid-October. We recommend sturdy footwear with high-grip soles.

Alighting point: Stans on the Lucerne – Engelberg InterRegio train

## WAY OF ST. JAMES, SWITZERLAND PFÄFFIKON – EINSIEDELN SECTION

[www.jakobsweg.ch/en/eu/ch](http://www.jakobsweg.ch/en/eu/ch)

The hilly trail from Pfäffikon (Canton of Schwyz) to Einsiedeln starts with the ascent to the Etzel Pass as you make your way to St. Meinrad. You walk southwards along well-maintained paths through forests and across meadowland before reaching the pass at an altitude of 540 m. From St. Meinrad, a small road leads down to the Devil's Bridge, where the Way of St. James continues on to the Lake Sihl plateau to the south. Einsiedeln is a place of pilgrimage famous for its monastery, which has a library with a large collection of priceless manuscripts and early printed books.

Alighting point: Pfäffikon/Canton of Schwyz

Way of St. James, Rapperswil





# FAMILY tips

## WOLHUSEN TROPICAL CENTRE

Situated in the heart of the Canton of Lucerne is the Wolhusen Tropical Centre, a treat for the senses in the form of exotic plants, colourful flowers and sweet-smelling herbs. Highly informative guided tours take place on Saturdays and Sundays. Afterwards, seated under a canopy of banana leaves and enveloped in exotic fragrances in the MAHOI, the centre's own restaurant, why not savour some tropical delicacies made on the premises?

Alighting point: Wolhusen on the S-Bahn train from Lucerne, then bus to Wolhusen, "Tropenhaus"



Wolhusen Tropical Centre

## ST.GALLEN CLIMBING GYM

Immerse yourself in the thrilling world of climbing and put your physical and mental abilities to the test. Also popular with beginners and offering a range of attractions, this up-to-the-minute climbing facility located next to the Kybunpark maintains high standards of safety. Open virtually all year round, it is suitable for people of all ages. Families of three or more climbers receive 20% off admission.

Alighting point: St.Gallen, then bus to "Arena St.Gallen"

## WILDHAUS CURLING CENTRE

Fancy a new sporting challenge? This is the place to try it! The Wildhaus Curling Centre is open all year round, summer and winter. It offers two-hour family-friendly sessions led by qualified curling instructors.

Alighting point: Wattwil, then PostBus to Wildhaus, "Post"

# ADVENTURE

## tips

### MUOTATHAL CANYONING

[www.erlebnisswelt-muotathal.ch/en](http://www.erlebnisswelt-muotathal.ch/en)

Explore one of the Muotathal Valley's most breathtaking gorges. If you're someone who likes slipping and sliding, swimming and jumping into crystal-clear pools, then this is an adventure you won't want to miss. It includes some short abseils. Experience action-packed thrills away from all the stress of daily life.

Alighting point: Arth-Goldau on the InterRegio train to Schwyz, then bus to Muotathal, "Schützenhaus"

### RAPPERSWIL – WATTWIL E-BIKE TOUR

[www.veloland.ch/en](http://www.veloland.ch/en)

The 54 km route from Rapperswil to Wattwil has a lot going for it in terms of sights. It includes an ascent along hilly flanks – with views of the whole of Lake Zurich – and a ride through the Canton of St.Gallen's Goldingtal, a valley imbued with the Alpine foothills' charm. The tour ends with a long descent via the Toggenburg to Wattwil.

Alighting point: Rapperswil or Wattwil



## SÄNTISPARK ABTWIL

With its extensive swimming, sports and sauna facilities, and spa, gym and treatment amenities, the Säntispark is a great place for fun, relaxation and exercise. The Fairplay bistro and Migros restaurant offer a large range of snacks, meals and thirst-quenching beverages – ideal for rounding off a visit to this, eastern Switzerland's largest leisure centre.

Alighting point: St.Gallen, then bus to Abtwil SG, "Säntispark"

E-Bike Tour, Herzroute AG





An aerial photograph of a lush green golf course. In the middle ground, a white house with a red roof sits on a grassy slope. The background features a large lake, a town, and distant mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds. A semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text 'Package deals'.

Package  
deals



# Great Swiss Express Adventure

ENJOY THE VORALPEN EXPRESS, THE NEW GOTTHARD BASE TUNNEL, THE BERNINA EXPRESS, AND THE GLACIER EXPRESS SECTION BETWEEN ST.MORITZ AND CHUR

Our exclusive Express<sup>high3</sup> package includes Switzerland's finest express train connections. In three days you cross eastern and central Switzerland to enter Ticino, the sunniest corner of the country, then arrive in Graubünden after a short trip on Italian soil. On the Voralpen Express and Bernina Express trains you travel in first class comfort, while the Glacier Express section of line takes you onto the Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes UNESCO World Heritage Site with its famous Landwasser Viaduct.

\* Examples of 3-star hotels: Lugano Hotel Continental Park, St.Moritz Hotel Soldanella

Examples of 4-star hotels: Lugano Hotel City, St.Moritz Hotel Reine Victoria

Prices correct from 1 April to 22 October 2017

3-DAY ROUND TRIP  
EXPRESS<sup>HIGH3</sup>

RAIL TRAVEL AND \*\*\*HOTEL  
FROM CHF 456.-\*



Contact the Südostbahn reservations desk for details (058 580 76 30)  
or visit [www.voralpen-express.ch/en](http://www.voralpen-express.ch/en).



# Great Swiss Bridge Adventure

ST.GALLEN – LUCERNE –  
LOCARNO / ASCONA – MONTREUX

In four days, experience Switzerland's 444 finest railway bridges – the Bridges<sup>high444</sup> round trip takes you from eastern Switzerland via Ticino all the way to Montreux, a town steeped in music. Enjoy first class comfort in the Voralpen Express, then from Lucerne travel in a first class coach to Locarno. After that, the Centovalli Railway – nicknamed the “Centovallina” in the Ticino and the “Vigezzina” in Italy – takes you along the most direct – and fascinating – route between the Lake Maggiore region and francophone western Switzerland.



4-DAY ROUND TRIP  
BRIDGES<sup>HIGH444</sup>

RAIL TRAVEL AND \*\*\*HOTEL  
FROM CHF 465.-\*



\* Examples of 3-star hotels: Lucerne Hotel Ambassador or equivalent  
Locarno Hotel Garni du Lac  
Montreux Helvétie or equivalent  
Examples of 4-star hotels: Lucerne Continental Park Hotel or equivalent  
Locarno Ramada Hotel  
Montreux Eurotel Montreux  
Prices correct from 1 November to 31 March 2017  
Further prices on our website

Contact the Südostbahn reservations desk for details (058 580 76 30)  
or visit [www.voralpen-express.ch/en](http://www.voralpen-express.ch/en).

