

Traveling Aggies

# The Association of FORMER STUDENTS: SWISS ALPS & THE ITALIAN LAKES ANEXClasive Educational and Travel Experience





#### LAND PROGRAM

May 23-31, 2015

Full	Special	Special	
Price	Savings	Price	
\$3,545	\$250	\$3,295*	

\*Special Price valid if booked by 10/1/2014.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.



All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air program costs (unless otherwise stated) and valid until October 1, 2014. Please contact us for current pricing and information. Single accommodations are an additional \$745 (limited availability).

## **SWISS ALPS &** THE ITALIAN LAKES An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



Literary luminaries in the 19th century heralded the idyllic treasures of Switzerland and Italy in praise-filled travelogues. Since then, not much has changed in this pristine part of Europe. At an elevation of 6,089 ft., the village of St. Moritz is billed as the "Top

of the World." Wooden chalets, weathered to a soft shade of gray and bedecked with red geranium boxes, are a charming complement to lush valleys and snow-capped peaks. On the southern side of the mountains, golden sunshine glints across the turquoise waters of Lake Maggiore and its lovely village of Stresa. Come experience the timeless magic of Alpine vistas and glacial lakes!



#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Groups are limited to 36 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- Explore Switzerland and Italy by rail, cable car and boat.
- Indulge in the cosmopolitan ambience of the jet set resort town of **St. Moritz**, nestled in an Upper Engadine valley.
- Steep yourself in traditional Swiss mountain culture with a visit to the picturesque village of **Zuoz**.
- Board the historic **Bernina Express** and travel a scenic Alpine rail route to **Tirano**. A portion of this amazing journey is distinguished as a **UNESCO** World Heritage site.
- Visit Milan and see Leonardo da Vinci's magnificent "The Last Supper."
- Embark on leisurely cruises on three of Italy's magnificent lakes, Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta.

#### **INCLUDED FEATURES**

#### Accommodations

- Four nights in St. Moritz, **Switzerland,** at the first-class Hotel Schweizerhof.
- Four nights in Stresa, Italy at the first-class Hotel La Palma.

#### **Transportation**

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.
- Swiss Mountain/Gondola Pass.

#### **Activities and Events**

- Informative educational programs presented by local **experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- All excursions as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Personal VOX listening device to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a Welcome Reception and
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception** and **Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

#### **Extensive Meal Program**

- Enjoy eight breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional **specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

#### MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director** throughout your stay.
- Tipping of excursion guides and
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

#### **DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT**

Depart for Zurich, Switzerland. † \* Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

#### DAY 2 ~ ZURICH/ST. MORITZ

Upon arrival, transfer<sup>⋆</sup> to St. Moritz and the Hotel Schweizerhof.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

#### DAY 3 ~ ZUOZ/ST. MORITZ

**Excursion:** *Zuoz.* Travel to Zuoz, a picturesque Upper Engadine village. A walking tour showcases its beautiful main square, adorned with flowers and fountains. Stroll along winding, cobblestone streets lined with brightly-painted houses, many built in the 13th century.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend the rest of the day at leisure in St. Moritz. Use your gondola pass to ascend the mountains and take in spectacular views.

Educational Focus: Swiss Icons — An Introduction to Switzerland.

#### DAY 4 ~ TIRANO

#### Excursion: Bernina Express.

Embark on a scenic train journey that traces one of Europe's most impressively engineered rail routes. Admire stunning views of mountains, lakes, waterfalls and forests. The journey includes the Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a truly awe-inspiring experience.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy some free time in the historic city of Tirano, Italy. Stroll along its ancient, winding streets lined with cafés and restaurants and have lunch on your own

**Educational Focus:** *Meet the* **People.** Talk with local residents about life in Switzerland.

#### DAY 5 ~ ST. MORITZ

**Independent Exploration.** Spend the entire day at leisure in St. Moritz. Explore the shops in town, relax at the spa or take the train to one of the nearby Upper Engadine villages.

#### DAY 6 ~ VARENNA/BELLAGIO/ STRESA

Depart St. Moritz for Stresa. Travel alongside lovely lakes and rivers, past

picture-perfect Swiss villages to Varenna, Italy, situated on Lake Como. **Excursion:** *Lake Como Cruise*.

Enjoy a scenic cruise on Italy's deepest lake from Varenna to Como, with a stop in Bellagio.

**Local Flavor:** Sample regional specialties during lunch in Bellagio. Upon arrival in Como, transfer to Stresa by motorcoach and check in to the Hotel La Palma.

#### DAY 7 ~ LAKE ORTA

Educational Focus: Development of the Lake District.

Excursion: *Lake Orta*. Travel to Orta and set off on a walking tour of the town. Take a boat trip on Lake Orta to the island of San Giulio. Admire the marvelous frescoes housed in the fourth-century San Giulio Cathedral. Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Orta.

#### DAY 8 ~ MILAN

**Excursion:** *Milan.* See some of the world's most magnificent art and architecture in stylish Milan. Visit Santa Maria Delle Grazie and its rectory to see da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper. Visit the museum at La Scala, Italy's premier opera house, before entering the opulent Duomo.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend some time on your own in Milan.

### DAY 9 ~ THE BORROMEAN ISLANDS

Educational Focus: Golden Age of the Renaissance.

#### **Excursion:** The Borromean

**Islands.** Cruise Lake Maggiore to Isola Madre and visit its botanical gardens. Then walk along the narrow streets of Isola dei Pescatori, a peaceful fishing village. Continue to Isola Bella, where you'll visit a 17th-century palace teeming with antiques.

Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Dinner.

#### **DAY 10 ~ IN TRANSIT**

Transfer to the Milan airport for the return flight to your gateway city. \*

**NOTE:** The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**



#### HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF St. Moritz

Built in 1896, the legendary hotel is ideally located in the center of St. Moritz. Amid the ambience of a traditional family-run inn, it offers two quaint restaurants serving Alpine specialties, a rooftop wellness center with a sauna and massage treatments, and picture-perfect lake and mountain views. Each guest room features contemporary décor and is equipped with individual climate controls, a minibar, asafe, cable television, Internet access and a hair dryer.



#### HOTEL LA PALMA

#### **Stresa**

Situated in a quiet, centrally located neighborhood on Lake Maggiore, the Hotel la Palma, offers comfortable, well-appointed guest rooms; a stylish restaurant specializing in Italian and international cuisine; a rooftop lounge, which affords superb views over the Borromean Islands; and a lakeside swimming pool, spa and fitness center. Each air-conditioned guest room features a balcony or terrace, and is appointed with a minibar, safe, satellite television, telephone, Internet access and hair dryer.

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Stresa
Zuoz



AHI Travel International Tower 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Suite 600 Chicago, IL 60631

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St. Moritz, Switzerland Milan, Italy





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