

Engadin Inn-to-Inn Hiking at its Best



ALPS HIKING IN THE ENGADIN VALLEY NEAR ST. MORITZ

Activity Level

Our trips are designed for people who are energetic, active, and filled with a spirit of adventure. We rate this trip as moderate. You should be capable of walking 5 to 7 hours per day on good trails with some steep ascents and descents at an elevation up to 9,000 feet above sea level.

Overview

In all the world, is there any more perfectly enjoyable way to spend eight days than to walk through Switzerland's Engadine Valley? We think not. This is an unforgettable sojourn from one charming village to another, punctuated with traditional inns, splendid cuisine, and all wrapped in spectacular mountains. If great cuisine is your favorite part of a European vacation, you'll be in heaven in the Engadine arguably featuring the finest restaurants and overall culinary treatment of any tour we offer.

If wildflowers are your passion, you'll find an amazing variety in the Engadine, and a guide ready to show you more diversity and exotic varieties than you ever imagined. Late June is an ideal time for wildflower enthusiasts to explore the Engadine.

We wisely start in the more gentle terrain of the Lower Engadine and work our way into the more wild and rugged sections of the Upper Engadine where we find ourselves in the midst of glaciated peaks and spectacular scenery.

Throughout the trek we take time-honored paths from quaint villages to shimmering lakes, past castle ruins, alpine meadows, and panoramic summits. This is inn-to-inn hiking at its best, supported with luggage transfers on all nights, so that you travel light by day, and enjoy all the finer comforts and cuisine by night.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive Switzerland, Scuol

You'll be met upon arrival in Zürich take a scenic journey down a wide valley, with mountains ascending steeply on both sides to our starting point in the village of Scuol. Our inn is set overlooking this deep-cut river valley. We'll have time for an acclimating walk to Tarasp Castle, dating to the 11th century, then it's dinner and a group orientation at our 4-star boutique hotel set in a 400-year old Engadine house overlooking the village of Scuol. D

Day 2 - Val Tasna, Guarda

We take a gondola to a high elevation making for a leisurely walk to Prui. We pass two alp dairies, one of which makes only goat cheese, and provides a wonderful lunch stop. We descend Val Tasna and into the tiny village of Guarda, arguably the most romantic village in the Engadine, where we spend the evening in a beautifully restored 16th century home. BSD

Day 3 - Lai de la Mezza Glünna (Macun Lakes)

We ascend to a collection of tarns in the cirque of the mountains at the head of Val Zeznina and into an island of the Swiss National Park. A steep descent leads into the village of Zernez. Easier walking options on the valley floor are also a possibility. Evening in Zuoz, the best preserved village in the Upper Engadine. BSD

Day 4 - Swiss National Park

Zernez is the gateway to the Swiss National Park, the country's only true wilderness area, and uniquely protected as such. We have all day to explore the best routes and sight within the park and opportunities for wildlife viewing are excellent. Evening in Zuoz. BSD

Day 5 - Zuoz

Mountains now begin to rise higher and the scenery becomes even more enticing as we enter the Upper Engadine. The village of Zuoz is a perfect base for a variety of short hikes in the area or a longer traverse to the village of Pontresina. Tonight we enjoy the quaint intimacy of the Hotel Steinbock in Pontresina. BSD

Day 6 - Pontresina, St. Moritz

Today the options are many, but in fair weather a climb of Piz Languard, over 3000 meters high, is a great way to start the day. We stay a second evening at the Hotel Steinbock. BSD

Day 7 - Sils Maria, Zürich

Today we explore trails through deep larch forests, passing shimmering lakes and arriving in St. Moritz, a glitzy resort with an Olympic legacy before returning to Zurich for the final night. BSD

Day 8 - Depart Zürich

An early morning departure from Zürich. B

Included

The services of an expert trip leader, all accommodations (7 nights hotel and traditional inns), all meals as shown (B=breakfast, S=snack, D=dinner), all luggage transfers, ground transportation including trams and mountain railways, admissions.

Not Included

Beverages (beer, wine) with meals, items of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, room service)

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