



Eiger to Matterhorn Hiking Tour

Trip Length:	8 days, 7 nights
Starting point:	Grindelwald
Finishing Point:	Zermatt
Difficulty:	Moderate

The two greatest icons of any hiking tour in Switzerland are certainly the Eiger and the Matterhorn, in the Bernese Oberland and Zermatt regions, two of the most spectacular areas in the Alps. Mountain ranges with glaciated peaks surpassing 4000 m/13150 ft. in height frame lush valleys filled with alpine flowers and emerald blue lakes. With a local expert guide, we venture into a true alpine environment, and offers a close encounter with the north face of some of the most notorious mountains in the Alps, justly referred to as “the walls of heaven” by traveller and mountaineer Sir Martin Conway. We journey across the heart of the Swiss Alps/Jungfrau-Aletsch region, a UNESCO World Heritage property, which provides an outstanding example of the formation of the High Alps, and includes the largest glacier in Eurasia. Diverse ecosystems provide a wealth of information about mountains and glaciers, as well as climate change. Its impressive landscape has also played an important role in European art, literature, mountaineering and alpine tourism. The Zermatt valley, with its superb cirque of spectacular glaciers, and the unique and impressive shape of the Matterhorn, have beckoned visitors and climbers since the middle of the 19th century. Our Swiss hiking tour is a celebration of these two famous mountains and their satellites, such as the Mönch, Jungfrau, and Monte Rosa massif. The length of the hikes can be shortened to suit specific needs.

YOUR JOURNEY

Day 1, 2 ■ Grindelwald and Surroundings

Grindelwald is a small town with historical charm strategically located beneath the renowned Eiger North Face. The valley in which it is located was isolated until the late Middle Ages, when a slight migration from the

Valais started to penetrate in the area. In the 19th century, the town became internationally renowned, and it enjoyed a reputation of “glacier village”. On an easy afternoon hike, after arrival, we explore the surroundings. With the village and the valley below us, we make our way into a true alpine environment, surrounded by pure natural beauty. We reach the summit of the Faulhorn, where we find the oldest and highest mountain hotel in the Swiss Alps and a breath-taking balcony view facing the majestic peaks of the Bernese Alps. On one side, sharp, fin-like peaks jut out of glaciers and form a jagged and dramatic crest line, which hides a severe alpine. On the other, a serene landscape of verdant hills and mountains, and the turquoise waters of Lake Brienz provide a stark contrast. Bachsee, mirroring the snow-capped mountains in its waters, is the idyllic location to take off our boots and refresh our feet after a satisfying hike. Transfers by public transport.

Accommodations - Boutique Hotel Glacier, Grindelwald. www.hotel-glacier.ch

Day 3 ■ Eiger North Face - Kandersteg

The famous north face of the Eiger, a wall of ice and rock of 1600 m/5250 ft. has challenged climbers through the years. Hard to imagine, as we leisurely hike along, that this imposing rock face has taken so many lives since the first summit attempts in the early 20th century. In 1938, Heinrich Harrer and three other alpinists successfully summited the mountain. A story he later retold in his famous book “The White Spider”. The famous Jungfrau Railway makes its way inside the Eiger North Face and the Mönch, and continues to the Jungfraujoch, Europe’s highest altitude railway station. Rescue teams have operated from the windows of the intermediate station in the Eigerwand (Eiger Wall) to reach climbers in difficulty. The impressive north face was the location for James Bond’s “The Eiger Sanction”. Our magnificent trail leads us along the bottom of the Eiger North Face and the world of the Bernese Oberland opens up in front of us, from the Grosse Scheidegg and Wetterhorn to the Blumlisalp. Transfers by public and private transport.

Accommodations - Belle Epoque Hotel Victoria, Kandersteg. www.hotel-victoria.ch

Day 4 ■ Kandersteg Surroundings - Oeschinensee

A beautiful hike takes us from the valley floor into the mountains and a beautiful glacial valley. Vantage points offer an astounding view over the surrounding mountain ranges. The majestic peaks surrounding Kandersteg are, in fact, the highest limestone formations in Europe. The spectacular cirque of mountains framing the unique, splendid alpine lake of Oeschinensee once upon a time was the bottom of an ancient ocean. Numerous fossils found in the area testify to forms of life of the original sea. Powerful tectonic movements exposed these sedimentary layers during the formation of the Alps. We are immersed in an extraordinary natural environment, where orchids, lilies, gentians, alpine roses, and edelweiss find their ideal habitat. Hiking in silence and with a keen eye, we can spot ibexes, chamois (wild goats) and marmots. Transfers by public transport.

Accommodations - Belle Epoque Hotel Victoria, Kandersteg. www.hotel-victoria.ch

Day 5 ■ Gemmi Pass - Leukerbad - Zermatt

We hike in a magnificent area, smoothed out by the passage of glaciers. During medieval times, it was a very important commercial route connecting the Canton of Berne with the Canton of Valais. Our pleasant hike takes us through an extraordinary valley, a high plateau and a natural reserve flanked by the regal summits of the Altels, Balmhorn, and Rinderhorn. Once we reach the historic Gemmi Pass, the Alps of the Valais, with some of the highest peaks as Matterhorn, Weisshorn, Dom, towering over 4000 m/13125 ft. of elevation appear into our view. Along a historic trail, we descend into the valley floor and transfer to Zermatt. Transfers by public and private transport.

Accommodations - Hotel Daniela, Zermatt. www.julen.ch/de/hotel-daniela

Day 6, 7 ■ Zermatt - Matterhorn

A cragged rock “tooth” reaching for the heavens, the Matterhorn has fascinated travellers and climbers alike for centuries. In 2015, Zermatt celebrated “the mountain of mountains” on the 150th anniversary of its first ascent. We spend two days in the presence of his majesty the Matterhorn. Superb panoramas from higher elevations, stretching from the Mitschable range, across the Monte Rosa massif, to the Breithorn. With one of its several peaks, Dufourspitze, standing at 4634 m/15203 ft., Monte Rosa is the second highest mountain in Western Europe after Mont Blanc, but its dramatic beauty and overwhelming proportions stand second to none. Its 2000 m/6562 ft. east face, the highest rock face of the Alps, confers upon this elegant giant the title of “Mountain of Himalayan Proportions”. It is said that one of the origins of its name is, in fact, its glaciers. In the ancient Franco-Provençal language, “roiseaux” means roses. Locals thought that the contorted ice and crevasses resembled the petals of a rose.

Accommodations - Hotel Daniela, Zermatt. www.julen.ch/de/hotel-daniela

Day 8 ■ Departure

The trip ends after breakfast. Transfer on your own to your next destination. If you continue to another destination in Switzerland or Italy, you can connect to the train of your choice in Sion or at Geneva Airport. Let us know if you need assistance with private transfers.

MEALS - Breakfast.

NET TRIP PRICE TO MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

SFr. 4290 p/p (7-10 participants)

SFr. 4790 p/p (4-6 participants)

Prices are quoted per person, in Swiss Francs, and based on shared, double accommodations.

If you wish a single accommodation, a single supplement of SFr. 790 will apply.

[Contact us](#) for a quote for two or three participants.

INCLUDED IN TRIP PRICE

English-speaking guide for the duration of the trip • guide's accommodations, meals and expenses while with clients • clients' accommodations as per itinerary • tourist taxes • seven breakfasts, six lunches, five dinners • water, coffee/tea with group meals • luggage transfers • rescue and evacuation insurance • public transport (aerial cableways, trains, etc.) as per itinerary • private transport with driver as per itinerary.

NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP PRICE

Any insurance (trip cancellation, baggage loss, medical, etc.), other than rescue and evacuation • one lunch, three dinners • personal expenses (sodas/alcoholic beverages, telephone calls, etc.) • additional expenses due to unexpected changes to the itinerary or added activities • anything else not mentioned in "Included in Trip Price".

Unused transportation during the tour, or missed/meals activities, will not be reimbursed.

TRIP DIFFICULTY

This trip is moderate, and it is designed for people who like to hike up to 5 hours a day in an alpine environment. Each day is active, and the hikes are on a great variety of terrains, with some ascents and descents. Weather is very unpredictable in the mountains, and one needs to be prepared both physically and mentally for rainy days and the possibility of snow. Please keep in mind that the hours of hiking per day listed in the itinerary are based on a good level of fitness and do not account for breaks. You need to be in excellent health and physical condition to enjoy this trip.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

PLEASE NOTE: due to the COVID-19, currently our Terms and Conditions are very flexible. You can safely book the tour with us. In the event of governmental travel restrictions during our tour dates, you will not lose your non-refundable deposit or any cancellation fees, if applicable. We will apply the money you already paid to the same tour at a later date, as soon as travel is permitted again. However, if travel is permitted and you choose to cancel the tour for other reasons, the above does not apply and you will be subject to our regular Terms and Conditions listed below.

For a detailed itinerary and our Terms & Conditions, please contact us at

tours@alpsandbeyond.com