EXCURSION DESTINATIONS

Switzerland & Nearby Countries



199 ideas · 12 regions · railways, boats, mountains and cities

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Key

GA	**Almost completely with GA Travelcard**: Train, boat and many mountain railways are included.
$	**Some additional costs**: Usually mountain railway, entrance fee or special boat in addition.
	Ideal for bad weather: city, museum or mostly independent of the weather.
	Walk or hike: From short tours to longer tours.
★	**Particularly worthwhile**: Personally highlighted destination.

The collection is organized by region. Travel times are rough guidelines from Solothurn; Please check timetables and seasonal operating times before departure.

1 Solothurn, Oberaargau and the Nearby Jura

These destinations are suitable for a spontaneous half or full day trip. You don't have to get up early, especially on days with uncertain weather.

1.1 Solothurn and surroundings

1.1.1 Solothurn and Verena Gorge GA

Culture & dining: Old Armory Museum and Art Museum; Salzhaus or Baseltor for dinner, Hafebar on the Aare for a drink.

Travel time: practically on the doorstep

Old town, St. Ursen Cathedral, banks of the Aare and then on foot or by bus to the Verenaschlucht. The combination is particularly beautiful:

Solothurn old town – Aare – St. Niklaus – Verenaschlucht – hermitage – return journey from Rüttenen.

1.1.2 Weissenstein ★ $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 35-50 minutes

By train and bus or via Oberdorf to the cable car. A very beautiful Alpine panorama and easy to more demanding hikes await you at the top.

Good variants:

Short panoramic path on the Weissenstein

Weissenstein–Hinterweissenstein

Descent towards Gänsbrunnen

Hike over the Balmberg

The cable car has to be paid separately or at a reduced price; The journey is covered by GA Travelcard.

1.1.3 Balmberg and Röti GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 45-60 minutes

By bus to the Balmberg and from there to the Röti, the highest point in the canton of Solothurn. When visibility is good, the panorama extends far across the Mittelland to the Alps.

1.1.4 Altreu and Aare boat trips GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 30-60 minutes

Altreu is known for its stork colony. A combination of boat, walk and train is particularly attractive, for example:

Solothurn – boat to Altreu – walk – bus or train back.

The respective seasonal connections must be checked at the Lake Biel boat trips companies.

1.1.5 Wangen on the Aare GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: around 20 minutes

Small historic old town, covered wooden bridge and walks along the Aare.Can be combined with Wiedlisbach or Aarwangen.

1.1.6 Wiedlisbach

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 30 minutes

Very small but pretty medieval town. More as part of a tour:

Solothurn – Wangen an der Aare – Wiedlisbach – Oensingen – Solothurn.

1.1.7 The town of Aarburg

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 40 minutes

Historic town center below the mighty fortress, Aarewaage and riverside walking path.Can be easily combined with Olten or Zofingen.

1.1.8 Zofingen

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: around 40-50 minutes

One of the most beautiful and best-preserved old towns in the Mittelland. Well suited for a leisurely half day with coffee, lunch and a short walk.

1.1.9 Langenthal and Aarwangen

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 30-45 minutes

Langenthal itself is more of a starting point. The combination with Aarwangen Castle, the banks of the Aare or a trip on the Aare Seeland mobile becomes more interesting.

2 Jura, Lake Biel and Three Lakes Region

The Jura is particularly easy to reach from Solothurn and offers gorges, historic places, lakes and uncrowded landscapes. The most famous highlights include Creux du Van, Chasseral, Doubs, Neuchâtel and St-Ursanne.

2.1 Biel and the Lakes Region

2.1.1 Biel/Bienne ★ GA

Culture & dining: New Museum Biel and CentrePasquArt; Brasserie du Bourg and the bar inside offer good urban breaks.

Travel time: approximately 35 minutes

Bilingual city with an underrated old town. Worth seeing:

Old town around the ring and Burgplatz

Lake shore and beach bottom

Walk to the Taubenlochschlucht

Watch and industrial history

Good for a shorter trip or as a starting point for a boat trip.

2.1.2 Lake Biel boat trips and St. Peter's Island ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: around 40 minutes to Biel

One of the best ways to really take advantage of the GA Travelcard. For example:

Biel - boat to St. Peter's Island - walk across the island - on to Erlach - bus and train back.

Alternatively in the opposite direction. Check the timetable and GA Travelcard validity of the specific course.

2.1.3 Erlach and Jolimont GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

Small town on Lake Biel with a castle, old town and view from Jolimont.Very nice together with St. Petersinsel or La Neuveville.

2.1.4 La Neuveville GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 55 minutes

Charming French-speaking town between the lake and vineyards.Can be easily combined with Erlach or a boat trip.

2.1.5 Twann and Twannbachschlucht ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 45 minutes

Rebdorf on Lake Biel. Particularly recommended:

Magglingen or Lamboing – Twannbachschlucht – Twann – ship or train back.

The gorge can be slippery when wet.

2.1.6 Magglingen and Taubenlochschlucht

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 50 minutes

With the funicular from Biel to Magglingen; Then hike with a view or return through the Taubenlochschlucht. The funicular is usually in the GA Travelcard area, but should be checked in the app.

2.1.7 Murten

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

Very well-preserved old town with a walkable circular wall, lake promenade and many restaurants.An ideal combination of city, lake and leisurely stroll.

2.1.8 Three Lakes Boat Trip

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

One of the best-value excursions with a GA Travelcard:

Biel – Lake Biel – Zihlkanal – Lake Neuchâtel – Lake Murten.

The complete route takes a lot of time and is seasonal.Partial routes are also attractive.

2.2 Neuchâtel Jura

2.2.1 Neuchâtel

Culture & dining: Musée d'Art et d'Histoire and Laténium; Classic stop at the Brasserie Le Cardinal.

Travel time: about 1 hour

Beautiful old town, castle, lakeshore and pleasant French-speaking atmosphere. Good combinations:

Neuchâtel and Laténium

Neuchâtel and Chaumont

Neuchâtel–Auvernier through the vineyards

Ship to Estavayer-le-Lac

2.2.2 Laténium Hauterive

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

Archaeological museum directly on Lake Neuchâtel. Very good bad weather destination; Admission is not included in the GA Travelcard.

2.2.3 Creux du Van

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1¾-2¼ hours

Spectacular natural rock cauldron. Typical accesses are Noiraigue, Travers or a seasonal bus. The classic hike from Noiraigue has great scenery, but is not short and contains considerable elevation gain.

For a less sporty day, you could consider taking a post bus or taxi combination to near the Ferme du Soliat.

2.2.4 Areuse Gorge

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

One of the most beautiful gorge hikes in western Switzerland.Common variant:

Noiraigue – Gorges de l'Areuse – Boudry or Champ-du-Moulin.

Around three to four hours, depending on the route.Good shoes required.

2.2.5 Val-de-Travers and asphalt mines

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Couvet, Travers and the history of absinthe. The asphalt mines of La Presta are an unusual destination; Guided tour and entry cost extra.

2.2.6 Saut du Doubs / $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours to Les Brenets

By train to Le Locle and on to Les Brenets. Depending on the water level and season, you can then take a boat or hike to the waterfall.Be sure to check the water level and ship operation beforehand.

2.2.7 La Chaux-de-Fonds

Culture & dining: Musée international d'horlogerie; The historic addresses around Avenue Léopold-Robert are ideal for coffee and regional cuisine.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

UNESCO-designated clock town with a chessboard-like city layout. The International Clock Museum and the architecture of Le Corbusier are worth seeing.

2.2.8 Le Locle

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1¾ hours

Smaller sister town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, also heavily influenced by the watch industry.Combines well with Les Brenets.

2.3 Bernese Jura and Canton of Jura

2.3.1 Chasseral

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1½-2 hours

Great view over the Three Lakes Region and, if the weather is clear, as far as the Alps. The best public transport connection depends on the seasonal bus service. Alternatively, hikes from St-Imier, Nods or Les Prés-d'Orvin.

2.3.2 St Imier and Mont Soleil GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

With the funicular or hiking trail to Mont-Soleil. Known for solar and wind turbines and wide Jura heights.

2.3.3 Bellelay and Maison de la Tête de Moine GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Historic abbey and place of origin of Tête de Moine cheese. Arrival by train and bus.Museum or tasting separately.

2.3.4 St Ursanne ★ GA

Culture & dining: Musée lapidaire and monastery complex; regional cuisine in the Maison du Tourisme or in the inns on the Doubs.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

One of the most beautiful small historic towns in Switzerland. Medieval bridge, collegiate church and banks of the Doubs. From the train station it is a relatively steep descent into the town.

2.3.5 Porrentruy GA

Culture & dining: Castle Museum and Ô Vergers d'Ajoie; Try Ajoie specialties in the old town inns.

Travel time: around 1½ hours

Castle, old town and French flair. Combines well with St-Ursanne; for example, outward journey via Biel and return via Basel.

2.3.6 Saignelégier and Franches-Montagnes ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Wide plateaus, horse pastures and typical Jura landscape. We recommend a trip on the Chemins de fer du Jura, combined with a short walk.

2.3.7 Etang de la Gruère ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1¾–2 hours

Raised moor lake with an easy circular route. The last section takes place by bus and a short walk.One of the most atmospheric natural destinations in the Jura.

3 Basel, Aargau and northwestern Switzerland

3.1 Basel and surroundings

3.1.1 Basel ★ GA

Culture & dining: Basel Art Museum, Fondation Beyeler and Museum Tinguely; Classics include Cheval Blanc, Volkshaus Basel and the Bar Les Trois Rois.

Travel time: approximately 55 minutes

Basel is big enough for several GA Travelcard days:

Old town and cathedral

Rhine promenade

Ferries across the Rhine

Art Museum

Beyeler Foundation in Riehen

Tinguely Museum

Paper mill

Basel Zoo

The GA Travelcard covers travel and urban transport; Entrance fees and Rhine ferries are separate.

3.1.2 Rheinfelden GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1 hour

Beautiful old town directly on the Rhine. A walk over the Rhine bridge into Rheinfelden, Germany, is possible.Take ID with you.

3.1.3 Augusta Raurica GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

Roman excavation site near Augst with theater, museum and extensive grounds. Very easy to reach by train and bus. Parts of the site are freely accessible; Museum and special offers may be subject to a charge.

3.1.4 Laufen and Laufental GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1 hour

Small old town and starting point for walks along the Birs.Combines well with Delémont or Basel.

3.1.5 Wasserfallen near Reigoldswil $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

Train and bus to Reigoldswil, then gondola lift to the Wasserfallen.Beautiful Jura hikes and views; Mountain railway additional or reduced.

3.2 Aargau

3.2.1 Aarau GA

Culture & dining: Aargauer Kunsthaus and Schlössli City Museum; Mürset restaurants are considered an Aarau institution.

Travel time: about 35 minutes

Old town with the famous painted roof soffits, banks of the Aare and Naturama.Good as a half day or combined with Lenzburg Castle.

3.2.2 Lenzburg Castle GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1 hour

One of the most impressive hilltop castles in Switzerland. Accessible from the train station by bus and footpath.Entry separately.

3.2.3 Baden GA

Culture & dining: Langmatt Museum and Baden Historical Museum; Roter Turm and the bars in the Bäderquartier combine cuisine and atmosphere.

Travel time: about 1 hour

Old town, Stein ruins, Limmat promenade and spa district. Very good for a leisurely city and wellness trip.

3.2.4 Brugg, Windisch and Königsfelden Monastery GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 55 minutes

Roman history, medieval Brugg and the famous stained glass windows of the Königsfelden monastery church.Several sights within a short distance.

3.2.5 Hallwil Lake and Hallwyl Castle GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1-1½ hours

Ship, lakeside path and moated castle can be ideally combined. Depending on the timetable:

Train to Mosen or Beinwil am See – boat – Hallwyl Castle – bus/train back.

4 Bern, Emmental and Gantrisch

4.1 Bern and surroundings

4.1.1 Berne ★ GA 🌧

Culture & dining: Paul Klee Center, Bernese Historical Museum and Art Museum; Della Casa, Kornhauskeller and Altes Tramdepot are well-known addresses.

Travel time: approximately 35-45 minutes

Bern also deserves several visits:

Old town and arcades

Minster platform

Rose garden

Bear Park

Aare bank

Federal Palace

Paul Klee Center

Gurten

4.1.2 Gurten $ 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1 hour

Bern's local mountain with views, walking trails and restaurants. The funicular may incur additional costs depending on the tariff status; Check in the SBB Mobile app.

4.1.3 Wohlensee and Bremgartenwald GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 50-70 minutes

Quiet walking and hiking region just outside Bern. Less spectacular, but ideal for an uncomplicated day.

4.1.4 Laupen GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

Historic town at the confluence of the Sense and Saane with a castle. Can be easily combined with Murten or a hike on the Sense.

4.1.5 Guggisberg and Guggershörnli GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Classic foothills of the Alps. A short, sometimes steep climb leads from the village to the Guggershörnli with a panoramic view.

4.2 Emmental

4.2.1 Burgdorf ★ GA

Culture & dining: Burgdorf Castle Museum; stop off in the castle restaurant or in the bars in the upper town.

Travel time: approximately 35-45 minutes

Beautiful upper town, castle and banks of Emme. Ideal for half a day or as an introduction to the Emmental.

4.2.2 Lützelflüh and Gotthelf Center GA 🌧

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 55 minutes

Village and landscape of Jeremias Gotthelfs.Small, culturally interesting destination.

4.2.3 Langnau in the Emmental GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: around 1 hour

Typical regional center with cheese, traditional buildings and good train travel through the Emmental.

4.2.4 Kemmeriboden-Bad GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Beautiful scenic journey deep into the Emmental. Known for the meringues. Ideal as a pleasure trip with a bit of a walk.

4.2.5 Napf region GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½-2 hours

The Napf itself is not directly accessible by train, but various hikes start or end at post bus stops, for example in Mettlenalp, Lüderenalp or Wasen. Just for a day with stable weather and good fitness.

5 Bernese Oberland

With its old town, castle, Aarequai and lake, Thun is an excellent gateway to the Bernese Oberland. From there you can easily combine boat, train and post bus.

5.1 Lake Thun and Interlaken

5.1.1 Thun ★ GA

Culture & dining: Thun Art Museum and Thun Castle; Restaurant Schloss Schadau and the Aarequai restaurants are particularly atmospheric.

Travel time: about 1 hour

Old town with high sidewalks, castle, locks and lake shore. An ideal full day trip, even without any other attractions.

5.1.2 Lake Thun boat trips ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1 hour to Thun

One of the best GA Travelcard tours:

Solothurn – Thun – ship to Interlaken West – train back via Bern.

Or in the opposite direction. The long boat trip gives you a real holiday feeling and makes excellent use of the GA Travelcard.

5.1.3 Oberhofen Castle and Oberhofen GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Castle with park located directly on Lake Thun. Ideally accessible by boat from Thun.Entry separately.

5.1.4 Spiez ★ GA

Culture & dining: Museum of Local History and Viticulture Museum; Restaurant Belle Époque in the Hotel Eden or a fish terrace by the lake.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

Bay, castle, vineyards and mountain panorama. Very relaxed trip with a short walk from the train station to the lake.

5.1.5 Interlaken and Unterseen GA

Culture & dining: Unterseen Tourism Museum; Grand Café Schuh and the hotel bars around the Höheweg are established meeting points.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Interlaken is touristy, Unterseen is much quieter. Recommended are the Aare promenade, Unterseen old town and the path towards the Weissenau nature reserve.

5.1.6 Harder Kulm $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours to Interlaken

Panoramic mountain directly above Interlaken. The funicular costs extra or is reduced.Impressive when visibility is good, but touristy and often full.

5.2 Lake Brienz

5.2.1 Brienz and Lake Brienz ★ GA

Culture & dining: Swiss Wood Sculpture Museum; Grandhotel Giessbach for a classic stopover with a view.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Woodcarving village, lake promenade and impressive turquoise lake. Nice tour:

Lucerne – Brünig – Brienz – ship to Interlaken – Bern – Solothurn.

5.2.2 Giessbach Falls ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

By boat to the Giessbach See station and then with the historic funicular or on foot to the Grand Hotel and the waterfalls. The funicular is separate; Depending on the course, the ship is in the GA Travelcard area.

5.2.3 Brienzer Rothorn $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours to Brienz

Spectacular historic cog railway. Expensive addition, usually discounted with GA Travelcard.Only makes sense if the weather forecast is clear.

5.2.4 Ballenberg GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: around 2 hours

Large open-air museum with historical buildings from all parts of the country. Bus arrival from Brienz or Brünig-Hasliberg. Plan at least a full day; Entry separately.

5.3 Lauterbrunnen, Grindelwald and Mürren

5.3.1 Lauterbrunnen ★ GA

Culture & dining: Lauterbrunnen Valley Museum; Hotel Oberland and the restaurants in the village center are tried and tested places to stop off.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Spectacular valley with Staubbach Falls and vertical rock faces. Even the normal train journey to Lauterbrunnen is a worthwhile GA Travelcard excursion.

Possible walks:

Village–Staubbach Falls

Valley path towards Trümmelbach Falls

Continue by bus to Stechelberg

5.3.2 Mürren ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: Mürren Sports Museum; Stägerstübli and Hotel Eiger combine mountain cuisine and views.

Travel time: about 2½ hours

Car-free mountain village opposite the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. Round trip:

Lauterbrunnen – Grütschalp – Mürren – Schilthornbahn to Stechelberg – bus to Lauterbrunnen.

Depending on the section, GA Travelcard or discounts apply differently; Check connection in advance.

5.3.3 Wengen GA

Culture & dining: Village museum and historic Belle Époque hotels; Restaurant Bären and the hotel bars in the center.

Travel time: about 2¼ hours

Car-free village above Lauterbrunnen. The regular train to Wengen is a nice excursion without necessarily having to go further to the Jungfraujoch.

5.3.4 Kleine Scheidegg $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2¾ hours

High alpine pass landscape directly below the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. The tourist section costs additionally or is reduced. Very nice as a round trip via Wengen and Grindelwald.

5.3.5 Grindelwald ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: Grindelwald Museum; Barry's and the bars of the traditional hotels are well-known meeting places.

Travel time: about 2¼ hours

The village and the valley panorama are worth it. Additional cable cars to First, Männlichen or Eiger Glacier cost extra.

5.3.6 Grindelwald First and Bachalpsee $ 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours to First

Gondola lift plus easy to moderate hike to Bachalpsee. Very popular and correspondingly full.Only really worthwhile if visibility is good.

5.3.7 Jungfraujoch $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

One of the most famous but also most expensive excursions. The GA Travelcard reduces costs depending on the route, but does not fully cover the final tourist section. Because of the price, altitude and crowds of visitors, I would only do it when visibility is very good and early in the morning. Jungfraujoch and Gornergrat are among the most famous high alpine rail excursions in Switzerland.

5.4 Kandertal, Adelboden and Simmental

5.4.1 Kandersteg and Oeschinensee ★ $ 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½ hours to Kandersteg

One of the most beautiful mountain lakes in Switzerland. From the train station to the gondola, then a walk or hike.Gondola lift separately or reduced price.

5.4.2 Blausee GA / $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Train to Frutigen or Kandersteg, then bus. Small, intensely colored lake in a natural park. Admission separately; nice, but visited relatively quickly. Combine with Kandersteg.

5.4.3 Adelboden and Engstligen Falls GA / $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Post bus to Adelboden or Unter dem Birg. The waterfalls are impressive from below; The cable car to Engstligenalp costs additionally or is reduced.

5.4.4 Lenk and Simmen Falls GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 2¼ hours

Long but beautiful train journey. From the village by bus or walk to the Simmen Falls.Suitable for a full day of travel.

5.4.5 GoldenPass route Zweisimmen–Montreux ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: full day round trip

One of the finest trips with a GA Travelcard:

Solothurn – Bern – Zweisimmen – Gstaad – Montreux – Lausanne – Biel – Solothurn.

Regular trains can generally be used without reservation requirements. A seat reservation may be useful or necessary for special panoramic trains.

6 Central Switzerland

The region connects Lucerne, Lake Lucerne, Rigi, Pilatus, Titlis, Sarnen, Lungern and Einsiedeln. Round trips that combine train, boat and cable car are particularly effective.

6.1 Lucerne and Lake Lucerne

6.1.1 Lucerne ★ GA

Culture & dining: Museum of Transport, Rosengart Collection and Bourbaki Panorama; Old Swiss House, Mill'Feuille and the hotel bar in the Schweizerhof.

Travel time: about 1 hour

Several possible days:

Old town and Chapel Bridge

Musegg Wall

Museum of Transport

Richard Wagner Museum

Walk by the lake

Boat trips

Glacier Garden

6.1.2 Lake Lucerne tour ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1 hour to Lucerne

A particularly rewarding excursion with a GA Travelcard. Examples:

Lucerne–Weggis–Lucerne

Lucerne–Vitznau–Brunnen

Lucerne – Flüelen and back by train

Lucerne–Beckenried bus to Stans–train back

The long drive to Flüelen leads through the most impressive parts of the lake.

6.1.3 Rigi tour ★ GA /check

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours to Vitznau or Arth-Goldau

Classic:

Lucerne – boat to Vitznau – Rigi Kulm cog railway – cog railway to Arth-Goldau – train back.

The Rigi-Bahnen are traditionally one of the particularly GA Travelcard-friendly mountain railways. Nevertheless, check the specific connection and the current scope. The combination of ship and cog railway is one of the most beautiful tours in Switzerland.

6.1.4 Pilatus tour ★ $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours to Alpnachstad or Kriens

“Golden Tour”:

Lucerne – boat to Alpnachstad – Pilatus Kulm cog railway – gondola to Kriens – bus to Lucerne.

GA Travelcard covers the normal public transport sections, the Pilatusbahnen are additional or reduced. Mount Pilatus is very easy to reach by public transport.

6.1.5 Stanserhorn $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Historic funicular and convertible aerial cable car. Original mountain experience; Additional costs or GA Travelcard discount.

6.1.6 Klewenalp $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½ hours to Beckenried

Boat or bus to Beckenried and cable car to Klewenalp.Good views and various hiking trails.

6.1.7 Bürgenstock and Felsenweg $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Boat to Kehrsiten-Bürgenstock, funicular to the resort and walk on the rock path. The Hammetschwand lift costs extra and may be closed due to weather.

6.2 Uri and Schwyz

6.2.1 Rütli and the Swiss Way ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: around 2 hours

By ship to Rütli. Then hike to Bauen, Seelisberg or Flüelen. The entire Swiss route circles Lake Uri in several stages; Individual sections can be easily connected by ship and train.

6.2.2 Brunnen GA

Culture & dining: Federal Chapel and Swiss History Forum in nearby Schwyz; Weisses Rössli for classic cuisine.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Lake promenade and starting point for ships on Lake Uri. Nice in combination with Rütli, Treib or Flüelen.

6.2.3 Stoos and Fronalpstock ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1¾ hours to Stoos

Spectacular funicular to the car-free mountain village. The onward journey to the Fronalpstock typically costs additionally or is reduced. The Klingenstock–Fronalpstock ridge hike is very beautiful, but only when the weather is dry and you are sure-footed.

6.2.4 Einsiedeln ★ GA

Culture & dining: the monastery and Diorama Bethlehem; Milchmanufaktur and the inns on Klosterplatz.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Important Benedictine monastery with a large baroque church. Can be easily combined with a walk along Sihlsee.Einsiedeln is one of the most striking cultural destinations in Central Switzerland.

6.2.5 Schöllenen Gorge and Andermatt ★ GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 2 hours

Train to Göschenen and on to Andermatt. On the way or from Andermatt, walk to the Devil's Bridge and through the Schöllenen.The gorge is one of the most historic sections of the Gotthard route.

6.2.6 Gotthard panoramic route ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Full day trip

Instead of driving through the base tunnel over the old Gotthard mountain route:

Lucerne – Göschenen – Airolo – Bellinzona.

Pay attention to connections via Göschenen or the Gotthard panoramic route.The spiral tunnels and the gain in height are a railway experience.

6.3 Obwalden and Engelberg

6.3.1 Engelberg GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Monastery, village, mountain scenery and walking paths. Worth a trip even without the Titlis cable car.

6.3.2 Titlis $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: around 2½ hours to the mountain station

High alpine excursion with significant additional costs or discounts.Only if visibility is clear and the weather is stable.

6.3.3 Lungern and Lungerersee ★ GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Very beautiful mountain lake on the Brünig line. Walk by the lake or connection with Brienz.Less touristy than many well-known mountain destinations.

6.3.4 Lucerne–Interlaken Express ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Full day trip

The route via Sarnen, Lungern, the Brünig Pass and Brienz is an attraction in its own right. A possible grand circuit is:

Solothurn – Lucerne – Interlaken – Bern – Solothurn.

The connection is considered one of the most attractive direct panoramic routes between Lucerne and Interlaken.

7 Zurich, Schaffhausen and Eastern Switzerland

7.1 Zurich and surrounding areas

7.1.1 Zurich ★ GA

Culture & dining: Kunsthaus, State Museum and Museum Rietberg; Kronenhalle,zeughauskeller and Widder Bar are Zurich classics.

Travel time: approximately 1 hour

Several days possible:

Old town and Lindenhof

Lake Zurich

Uetliberg

State Museum

Art House

Zurich West

Rieter Park

Botanical Garden

7.1.2 Uetliberg GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

With the S-Bahn almost to the summit. Short climb to the view. The planet path towards Felsenegg is possible; Return journey by cable car and train, whereby the validity of the cable car tariff must be checked.

7.1.3 Lake Zurich boat trips GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: around 1 hour

Half or full lake tour. Attractive combination:

Zurich – ship to Rapperswil – train back.

7.1.4 Rapperswil ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Castle, old town, rose garden and wooden footbridge to Hurden. Particularly nice by boat from Zurich and back by train.

7.1.5 Winterthur GA

Culture & dining: Photo Museum, Art Museum Winterthur and Technorama; National and Bloom are established addresses.

Travel time: about 1¼ hours

Ideal for rainy days:

Technorama

Photo Museum

Oskar Reinhart Collection

Old town

7.2 Schaffhausen and Rhine

7.2.1 Schaffhausen ★ GA

Culture & dining: All Saints Museum; Güterhof and the bars at Herrenacker connect the old town and the Rhine.

Travel time: about 1½ hours

Old town with bay windows, Munot and Rhine. Can be easily combined with the Rhine Falls.

7.2.2 Rhine Falls ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Arrival via Neuhausen Rheinfall or Laufen Castle at the Rhine Falls.Some viewing points are free, platforms and boat trips cost extra.

7.2.3 Stein am Rhein ★ GA

Culture & dining: Lindwurm Museum; Restaurant Wasserfels and the Rhine terraces provide a historical backdrop.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

One of the most beautiful historic small towns in Switzerland. Painted facades, Rhine promenade and St. Georgen Monastery.

7.2.4 Rhine boat trips route Stein am Rhein–Schaffhausen ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: whole day

Very nice long river trip. As a round trip:

Solothurn – Winterthur – Stein am Rhein – ship to Schaffhausen – Basel – Solothurn.

Check GA Travelcard validity and seasonal timetable for the specific course.

7.3 Thurgau, St. Gallen and Appenzell

7.3.1 Lake Constance: Romanshorn–Kreuzlingen ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Shore path, harbor towns and a wide view over Lake Constance. The Lake Constance shore path between Kreuzlingen and Romanshorn conveys a real holiday feeling.

7.3.2 St. Gallen ★ GA

Culture & dining: Abbey library, textile museum and art museum; Restaurant Schlössli and military canteen are well-known addresses.

Travel time: around 1¾ hours

Abbey district with baroque cathedral and world-famous library, old town with bay windows and textile history.Entrance to the library separately.

7.3.3 Appenzell ★ GA

Culture & dining: Appenzell Museum; Gass 17 and the traditional inns on the main street.

Travel time: approximately 2¼ hours

Colorful houses, main street, cheese culture and typical foothills of the Alps.The train journey from St. Gallen is already attractive.

7.3.4 Hoher Kasten $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2½ hours to Brülisau

Aerial cable car with a great panoramic view. Additional costs or discounts. Combines well with Appenzell.

7.3.5 Ebenalp and Wildkirchli ★ $ 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 2½ hours

Train to Wasserauen and cable car to Ebenalp. Hike to the Wildkirchli and Berggasthaus Aescher.Popular and sometimes steep; good shoes.

7.3.6 Säntis $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2½–3 hours

Train and post bus to Schwägalp, then cable car. Only with good visibility; Additional costs or GA Travelcard discount.

7.3.7 Walensee and Quinten ★ GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Spectacular location under the Churfirsten. Quinten can only be reached on foot or by boat and has an almost Mediterranean climate. Possible round:

Train to Weesen or Walenstadt – boat to Quinten – on to Murg – train back.

Check the ship's schedule and GA Travelcard validity.

8 Graubünden and the Major Panoramic Routes

The Rhaetian Railway is one of the best reasons to use a GA Travelcard intensively. The Albula and Bernina lines in particular offer spectacular landscapes without having to book an expensive special train.

8.1 Graubünden and panoramic routes

8.1.1 Chur ★ GA

Culture & dining: Graubünden Art Museum and Rätisches Museum; Marsöl and the bars in the old town.

Travel time: approximately 2¼ hours

Oldest city in Switzerland, compact old town and starting point for the Rhaetian Railway.

8.1.2 Arosa railway ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 3¼ hours to Arosa

The route begins almost like a tram in Chur and then climbs through Schanfigg to Arosa.An excellent pure rail excursion.

8.1.3 Lenzerheide and Heidsee GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 3 hours

Train to Chur, then post bus. Walk along Heidsee or continue to Valbella.Long for a day trip, but doable.

8.1.4 Davos GA

Culture & dining: Kirchner Museum and Winter Sports Museum; Golden Dragon and the bars in the center of Davos Platz.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

Long but scenic journey. Walk on Lake Davos or visit the town.Mountain railways cost additionally.

8.1.5 Landwasser Viaduct ★ GA 🥾

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 3 hours

The train ride over the viaduct is already impressive. For the familiar view from outside, you can get out in Filisur and hike to a viewing point.

8.1.6 Albula route Chur–St. Moritz ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 4 hours to St. Moritz

One of the world's greatest railway routes with viaducts, spiral tunnels and high alpine landscape. Very long for a day trip from Solothurn; ideal with an early departure or an overnight stay.

8.1.7 St. Moritz and Engadin lakes ★ GA

Culture & dining: Segantini Museum and Engadine Museum; Chesa Veglia and the traditional hotel bars.

Travel time: about 4 hours

St. Moritzersee, Lej da Staz or trip to Sils and Maloja. Best combined with an overnight stay.

8.1.8 Bernina line St. Moritz–Tirano ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Very long travel day or overnight stay

The regular RhB trains run the same spectacular route as the Bernina Express and usually do not require a paid panoramic train reservation. Highlights:

Morteratsch

Bernina Pass

Alp Grüm

Brusio circular viaduct

Tirano

The Valposchiavo is one of the most varied railway landscapes in Switzerland.

8.1.9 Pontresina and Morteratsch ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: about 4 hours

Short hike from Morteratsch to the glacier foreland. As the glaciers retreat, the development of the landscape becomes very visible.

8.1.10 Scuol and Lower Engadine ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3¾ hours

Engadin houses, the River Inn, the historic village centre and mineral-water fountains. A long journey, but worth it for the scenery.

8.1.11 Rhine Gorge ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

The “Swiss Grand Canyon” landscape between Reichenau and Ilanz can be viewed from the train or combined with a hike.Suitable stopping points are Versam-Safien, Valendas-Sagogn or Ilanz.

9 Ticino

Thanks to the Gotthard Base Tunnel, Ticino is suitable for a day trip. For a more intense experience, I recommend at least once the quick outward journey and the return journey via the old Gotthard route.

9.1 Ticino

9.1.1 Bellinzona ★ GA 🌧

Culture & dining: Castles and Museo Villa dei Cedri; Locanda Orico and the grotti above the city.

Travel time: approximately 2¼ hours

Three castles, old town and Italian lifestyle. A very good destination because all the main attractions are relatively compact.

9.1.2 Locarno and Ascona ★ GA

Culture & dining: Museo Castello San Materno and Ghisla Art Collection; Cittadella, Seven and the bars on Piazza Grande.

Travel time: about 2¾ hours

Locarno with Piazza Grande and lakeshore; Ascona by bus with a picturesque lake promenade. Can be combined well on a long day.

9.1.3 Centovalli Railway ★ GA /check cross-border validity

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: all day

Drive from Locarno through deep valleys and over numerous bridges towards Domodossola. A big tour:

Solothurn – Bern – Brig – Domodossola – Centovalli – Locarno – Gotthard – Solothurn.

For Italian or international sections and surcharges, check the exact GA Travelcard validity.

9.1.4 Valle Verzasca ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

Post bus from Tenero or Locarno. Highlights:

Dam wall

Lavertezzo and Ponte dei Salti

Sonogno

Very popular on warm weekends. The current of the Verzasca is dangerous; Only go to the water in designated or safe places.

9.1.5 Lugano ★ GA

Culture & dining: LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura and MASI; Grand Café Al Porto and Galleria Arté al Lago.

Travel time: approximately 2½ hours

Lake shore, old town, Parco Ciani and Mediterranean ambience.

9.1.6 Monte Brè $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3 hours

Funicular or bus and train to the panoramic mountain above Lugano.Check the tariff status of the mountain railway.

9.1.7 Monte San Salvatore $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3 hours

Classic Luganese panoramic mountain.Funicular additional or reduced price.

9.1.8 Morcote ★ GA

Culture & dining: Church of Santa Maria del Sasso and Scherrer Park; Ristorante della Torre and the lakeside terraces.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

One of the most beautiful villages on Lake Lugano with a waterfront promenade, arcades and church above the village.Particularly beautiful by ship; Check specific GA Travelcard validity.

9.1.9 Swissminiatur Melide GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2¾ hours

Miniature Switzerland outdoors. Admission separately; suitable in slightly uncertain weather, but not in heavy rain.

9.1.10 Mendrisio and Monte Generoso $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3 hours

Mendrisio has a pretty historic core. The cog railway to Monte Generoso costs extra or is reduced.

10 Valais

10.1 Upper Valais

10.1.1 Brig ★ GA

Culture & dining: Stockalper Castle; Stockalperhof and the bars on the town square.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Stockalper Castle, old town and sunny Valais ambience. Good as a trip on its own or in combination with Domodossola.

10.1.2 Domodossola ★ GA /check cross-border validity

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2 hours

Italian market town with old town, cafés and a significantly different attitude to life. Depending on the connection, the international border section belongs to the extended GA Travelcard area of validity; Check the specific connection in SBB Mobile and take your ID with you.

10.1.3 Fiesch and Eggishorn $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2¾ hours

Starting point for a view of the Aletsch glacier. Mountain railway additional or reduced. Only when visibility is good.

10.1.4 Bettmeralp and Bettmerhorn ★ $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

Car-free alp, mountain lake and glacier panorama. The feeder and mountain railway regulations differ; check carefully in advance.

10.1.5 Zermatt ★ GA

Culture & dining: Matterhorn Museum; Chez Vrony, Whymper-Stube and the hotel bars in the village.

Travel time: approximately 3 hours

The train ride and the car-free village with a view of the Matterhorn are worth it.Possible without expensive cable cars:

Village walk

Zmutt

Hiking trail towards Furi

Gornerschlucht

10.1.6 Gornergrat ★ $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 3¾ hours

One of the most impressive cog railway rides in Switzerland with views of the Matterhorn, Monte Rosa and the glacier.The tourist section is chargeable or reduced with a GA Travelcard ticket.

10.1.7 Saas Fee GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3 hours

Car-free glacier village. Long day trip, but impressive. Additional mountain railways. Saas-Fee is surrounded by numerous high peaks and glaciers.

10.2 Middle and Lower Valais

10.2.1 Sion ★ GA

Culture & dining: Musée d'art du Valais and history museum in Valeria Castle; Brasserie du Grand Pont.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Old town and the two castle hills Valère and Tourbillon. One of the most beautiful city hills in Switzerland.

10.2.2 Leuk and Leukerbad GA / $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2½ hours

Historic Leuk, then post bus to Leukerbad. Thermal bath and cable cars separately. Good as a wellness trip.

10.2.3 Martigny GA

Culture & dining: Pierre Gianadda Foundation; Café de Paris and the wine bars in the center.

Travel time: about 2¼ hours

Roman history, Fondation Pierre Gianadda and starting point towards Great St. Bernard or Chamonix.Museum entry separately.

10.2.4 Lac d'Emosson $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 3½ hours

Spectacular reservoir above Martigny with several tourist railway sections. additional costs and seasonal operation; rather with an overnight stay or a very early departure.

11 Fribourg, Vaud and Lake Geneva

11.1 Freiburg and Gruyereland

11.1.1 Fribourg/Freiburg ★ GA

Culture & dining: Espace Jean Tinguely–Niki de Saint Phalle and Museum of Art and History; Café du Gothard.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

Bilingual city with medieval lower town, cathedral, bridges and Saane. Very good city walk downhill into the lower town and up again by funicular.

11.1.2 Romont ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Small walled hilltop town with castle and Vitromusée. Very pleasant and significantly less crowded than more well-known destinations.

11.1.3 Gruyères ★ GA / $

Culture & dining: Gruyères Castle and HR Giger Museum; Le Chalet and the HR Giger Bar are integral parts of the visit.

Travel time: approximately 1¾ hours

Medieval town, castle, HR Giger Museum and cheese dairy in Pringy.Entrance fees separately.

11.1.4 Broc and Maison Cailler GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Chocolate experience in Broc. Reservation can make sense; Entry separately.Combine ideally with Gruyères.

11.1.5 Moléson $

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Train and bus, then funicular and cable car. View over the Fribourg Prealps and Lake Geneva; Additional costs.

11.2 Lavaux, Lausanne and Montreux

11.2.1 Lausanne ★ GA

Culture & dining: Plateforme 10 and Olympic Museum; Café de Grancy, Brasserie de Montbenon and Beau-Rivage Bar.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

Cathedral, old town, Metro, Ouchy and Olympic Museum. More strenuous than a flat city due to the hillside location. Lausanne has a real, fully automatic metro between the lake, the train station and higher-lying districts.

11.2.2 Lavaux ★ GA

Culture & dining: The focus here is on landscape and movement. Choose regional mountain inns, lakeside terraces or village inns to stop off; Opening days are often seasonal and should be checked in advance with the official destination.

Travel time: approximately 1½ hours

UNESCO wine terraces between Lausanne and Montreux.Good hikes:

St-Saphorin–Rivaz

Chexbres–St-Saphorin

Lutry–Cully

Cully–Epesses

The hike from St-Saphorin through the vineyards takes around three hours, depending on the variant.

11.2.3 Vevey ★ GA

Culture & dining: Alimentarium and Musée Jenisch; Ze Fork and the terraces at Grande Place.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Lake promenade, old town, Chaplin statue and Alimentarium. Nice, quiet stop between Lausanne and Montreux.

11.2.4 Chaplin's World GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2 hours

Museum in Corsier-sur-Vevey. Very good bad weather destination; Bus arrival with GA Travelcard, entrance fee separate.

11.2.5 Montreux ★ GA

Culture & dining: Queen Studio Experience and Musee de Montreux; Montreux Jazz Café and Bar at Fairmont Le Montreux Palace.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Long lake promenade, Belle Époque hotels and mountain scenery.Combine with Chillon Castle.

11.2.6 Chillon Castle ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Accessible by bus, train or boat. One of the most famous castles in Switzerland.Entry separately.

11.2.7 Rochers de Naye $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2½ hours

Cog railway from Montreux with a view over Lake Geneva. Additional costs or discounts. Only when the visibility is clear.

11.2.8 Lake Geneva boat trips ★ GA /check cross-border validity

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Extremely useful with GA Travelcard:

Lausanne–Montreux

Lausanne–Vevey

Lausanne–Nyon

Montreux–Chillon

Different tariffs apply for trips to French ports such as Évian or Thonon.

11.3 Western Vaud and Geneva

11.3.1 Morges GA

Culture & dining: Morges Castle and Musée Alexis Forel; Le Petit Manoir and the restaurants at the harbor.

Travel time: approximately 1¾ hours

Small old town, castle, harbor and lake promenade.Less hectic than Lausanne.

11.3.2 Nyon ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2 hours

Castle, Roman history and beautiful views over Lake Geneva to the Alps.

11.3.3 Vallée de Joux ★ GA

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2½ hours

Train journey to Le Pont, Le Brassus or Le Sentier. Calm lake, Jura forests and watchmaking industry.Particularly pleasant on hot summer days.

11.3.4 Geneva ★ GA

Culture & dining: Musée d’Art et d’Histoire, Patek Philippe Museum and MAMCO; Café du Soleil, Les Armures and Bar des Bergues.

Travel time: approximately 2¼ hours

International Geneva, old town, Jet d’Eau, lakefront, UN Quarter, museums and botanical garden.Due to the long journey, plan a whole day.

11.3.5 Saleve in France $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 2¾ hours

From Geneva by bus or French connection to the valley station and by cable car to the viewing mountain. GA Travelcard does not apply automatically on all French sections; Separate ticket and ID required.

12 Excursions to Nearby Countries

The GA Travelcard scope extends on individual routes to foreign border stations such as Konstanz, Domodossola, Tirano, Delle or Annemasse. However, this does not mean that all urban transport or onward journeys abroad are included.Always check the specific connection.

12.1 Germany

12.1.1 Konstanz(DE) ★

Culture & dining: Rosgarten Museum and State Archaeological Museum; Council and the harbor bars.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Old town, harbor, council building and Lake Constance. The train journey to Konstanz is often in the GA Travelcard area; German city buses and ships must be examined separately.

12.1.2 Mainau Island(DE) $

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

From Konstanz by bus or boat. Entrance and German transport sections separately.Particularly beautiful during the flowering period.

12.1.3 Lörrach(DE)

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: approximately 1¼ hours

Small German town right near Basel. More interesting as a supplement to Basel or Fondation Beyeler.

12.1.4 Freiburg im Breisgau(DE) $

Culture & dining: Augustinian Museum and Museum of Nature and Man; Feierling brewery and Alte Wache – house of Baden wines.

Travel time: approximately 2 hours

Beautiful old town, Münster and Bächle. A German connecting ticket is required from Basel Badischer Bahnhof.

12.1.5 Weil am Rhein and Vitra Campus 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 1½ hours; Basel–Weil am Rhein by tram or regional transport.

A strong day of design and architecture just across the border. The Vitra Campus brings together buildings by Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Herzog & de Meuron and other influential architectural firms.

Sights & museums: Vitra Design Museum, Vitra Schaudepot, an architecture tour and Rheinpark; Basel's Three Countries Corner makes a good optional addition.

Food & Drink: VitraHaus Café and inns in Alt-Weil; For fine dining, nearby Basel is the most reliable addition.

Planning: Book campus tours and special exhibitions in advance; GA Travelcard does not automatically apply on the German sections.

12.1.6 Badenweiler and Markgräflerland 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Around 2 hours by train and bus via Basel or Müllheim.

Health resort between the Black Forest and the vineyards with Roman heritage, parks and thermal baths.

Sights & museums: Roman bath ruins, Baden Castle, spa park, Chekhov Salon Literary Museum and Cassiopeia Therme.

Food & Drink: Hotel-Restaurant Schwarzmatt and the Markgräfler Weinstuben; Try Gutedel from the region.

Planning: Thermal baths and museums are good options in bad weather; check bus connections and admission separately.

12.1.7 Titisee and Hinterzarten 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip, mostly via Basel and Freiburg.

Classic High Black Forest excursion with lake, railway landscape and easy to medium hikes.

Sights & museums: A walk around the lake, Ravenna Gorge, Hinterzarten Ski Museum and the nature discovery trail; a classic winter-sports atmosphere in the colder months.

Food & Drink: Café Schwarzwaldmaidle and regional inns; Black Forest cake is part of the program.

Planning: Busy on weekends; Ravenna Gorge only in suitable weather and with good shoes.

12.1.8 Feldberg in the Black Forest 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Freiburg and Titisee; last section by bus.

Highest mountain in Baden-Württemberg with a wide view over the Black Forest, the Vosges and, on a clear day, as far as the Alps.

Sights & museums: House of Nature, Feldberg Tower, Feldsee and signposted summit trails.

Food & Drink: St. Wilhelmer Hütte or Baldenweger Hütte when open; Check seasonal rest days.

Planning: Check weather and last bus connection; Plan for different routes and equipment in winter.

12.1.9 Schluchsee and St. Blasien 🥾 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Basel and Freiburg.

Combination of Black Forest Lake, railway romance and one of the most impressive classical domed churches north of the Alps.

Sights & museums: The Schluchsee lakeside path, seasonal boat trips, St Blasien Cathedral and the museum at Haus des Gastes.

Food & Drink: Black Forest house in St. Blasien and inns at Schluchsee; regional trout and game dishes.

Planning: Check the boat, bus connection between See and St. Blasien and opening times separately.

12.1.10 Meersburg on Lake Constance ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 3 hours via Konstanz and ferry or via Friedrichshafen.

Steep, historic town on Lake Constance with two castles, viticulture and excellent lake views.

Sights & museums: Alte Burg, Neues Schloss, Zeppelin Museum Meersburg, Fürstenhäusle and the lakeside promenade.

Food & Drink: Restaurant 17xx in the New Castle and Winzerstuben in the upper town.

Planning: Lake Constance ships and ferries are not generally included in the GA Travelcard; check the seasonal timetable.

12.1.11 Lindau and island city ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via St. Gallen or Bregenz.

Bavarian island town with a cohesive historic old town and striking harbor entrance.

Sights & museums: Mangturm, New Lighthouse, Lion at the Harbor, Cavazzen City Museum after reopening and waterfront promenade.

Food & Drink: Valentin and the wine bars on Maximilianstrasse; Aperitif at the harbor.

Planning: For a relaxed visit, start early or combine it with an overnight stay in Bregenz.

12.1.12 Waldshut-Tiengen and High Rhine 🌧

Getting there from Solothurn: Around 1½ to 2 hours via Olten and Koblenz.

Two historic city centers on the High Rhine, well suited for a quiet day of culture and shopping.

Sights & museums: Kaiserstrasse and Oberes Tor in Waldshut, Tiengen Castle, KlettgauMuseum and Rhine walk.

Food & Drink: Old post office and inns in both old towns; Baden cuisine and regional wines.

Planning: Check cross-border tickets; Limited shopping opportunities on Sundays.

12.2 France

12.2.1 Colmar(FR) $

Culture & dining: Unterlinden Museum, Bartholdi Museum and Toy Museum; Wistub Brenner and the wine bars of the old town.

Travel time: approximately 2½ hours

Very nice Alsatian old town. French ticket required from Basel.The city can be very busy on weekends.

12.2.2 Mulhouse(FR) $ 🌧

Culture & dining: Cité de l'Automobile and Cité du Train; Maison Kieny in Riedisheim or Alsatian Winstuben in the center.

Travel time: about 1¾ hours

Particularly interesting because of the Cité du Train railway museum and the automobile museum.French connecting ticket and museum entry required.

12.2.3 Annemasse(FR)

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

Travel time: about 2½ hours

Reachable with Léman Express. Annemasse itself is less spectacular, but serves as a starting point for French destinations.Check cross-border GA Travelcard validity specifically.

12.2.4 Évian-les-Bains(FR) ★ $

Culture & dining: Palais Lumière; Les Cygnes and the bars on the lake promenade.

Travel time: approximately 2½–3 hours

Very nice crossing from Lausanne over Lake Geneva. The French ship ticket is usually not fully covered by the GA Travelcard.The old town and lake promenade are worth a day trip.

12.2.5 Strasbourg ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 2½ hours via Basel; good whole day.

European cultural city with a Gothic cathedral, half-timbered quarters, museums and modern EU architecture.

Sights & museums: Münster, Petite France, Palais Rohan, Musée Alsacien, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and European Quarter.

Food & Drink: Maison Kammerzell, Au Crocodile and traditional Winstuben; Wine or beer in the bars around Place du Marché Gayot.

Planning: Check time slots for the cathedral platform and boat trip; buy a separate ticket for the French section.

12.2.6 Eguisheim and Alsatian wine route ★ 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Via Basel and Colmar; last section by bus, bike or taxi.

Ring-shaped winegrowing village with colorful half-timbered houses and vineyards.

Sights & museums: Village wall ring, Place du Château, wine trails and, if you are in good condition, the three castles of Eguisheim.

Food & Drink: Caveau Heuhaus and local domaines for tastings; Alsatian tarte flambée and Riesling.

Planning: Buses don't always run closely; Reserve wine tastings and arrange your return journey in advance.

12.2.7 Riquewihr and Kaysersberg ★ 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Colmar; regional buses required.

Two of the most beautiful places on the Alsatian wine route with fortified streets, vineyards and Renaissance houses.

Sights & museums: Dolder Museum in Riquewihr, Albert Schweitzer Museum in Kaysersberg, castle ruins and wine hiking trails.

Food & Drink: La Table du Gourmet in Riquewihr and Winstuben in Kaysersberg; Reservation recommended.

Planning: Best outside of high season or with an overnight stay in Colmar; Check regional bus schedules.

12.2.8 Belfort and citadel 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 2 hours via Basel and Mulhouse.

Compact fortress town between the Vosges and Jura, influenced by Vauban and Bartholdi.

Sights & museums: Lion of Belfort, Citadel, Museum of History and modern art in Tour 46.

Food & Drink: Les Capucins and brasseries around the old town; regional cuisine between Alsace and Franche-Comté.

Planning: Plan to climb to the citadel; Check combination tickets and opening days of the museums.

12.2.9 Besançon ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Neuchâtel or Basel-Mulhouse.

Elegant town in a Doubs loop with a UNESCO citadel and an important watchmaking tradition.

Sights & museums: Citadelle de Vauban with Musée de la Résistance, Musée du Temps in the Palais Granvelle and Musée des Beaux-Arts.

Food & Drink: Le Saint Cerf and traditional Comté addresses; Try vin jaune and regional cheese dishes.

Planning: Allow at least half a day for the citadel; Overnight stay increases the enjoyment significantly.

12.2.10 Yvoire on Lake Geneva ★ 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Via Geneva or Nyon; Seasonally particularly beautiful by boat.

Medieval village on the French side of the lake with flower-filled streets and a small harbor.

Sights & museums: Jardin des Cinq Sens, Saint-Pancrace church, riverside paths and boat trips.

Food & Drink: Restaurant Les Jardins du Léman and harbor bars with fish from the lake.

Planning: Check ship connections, border regulations and GA Travelcard validity seasonally; arrive early in midsummer.

12.2.11 Annecy ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Geneva; more like an overnight stay.

Canals, pastel-colored old town and an exceptionally clear alpine lake make Annecy one of the region's strongest destinations.

Sights & museums: Palais de l'Île, Château d'Annecy, lakefront, Jardins de l'Europe and seasonal boat trips.

Food & Drink: Clos des Sens for a special menu, L'Etage for Savoyard cuisine and bars in the old town.

Planning: Check direct buses from Geneva; very busy on summer weekends.

12.2.12 Chamonix and Mont Blanc massif ★ 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip via Martigny or Geneva; Overnight stay recommended.

Legendary alpine resort beneath Mont Blanc with spectacular cable cars, glaciers and alpine history.

Sights & museums: Aiguille du Midi, Montenvers–Mer de Glace, Musée Alpin and walks in the valley.

Food & Drink: Albert 1er for fine cuisine, La Calèche for Savoyard classics and Chambre Neuf as a well-known après-ski bar.

Planning: Mountain railways expensive and dependent on the weather; Organize reservations, ID and international tickets in advance.

12.2.13 Lyons ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip; more sensible as a weekend destination.

UNESCO old town, Roman heritage, modern architecture and one of the most important gastronomic cities in Europe.

Sights & museums: Vieux Lyon and Traboules, Fourvière Basilica, Musée des Confluences, Musée des Beaux-Arts and Les Halles Paul Bocuse.

Food & Drink: Traditional bouchons with a quality seal, Brasserie Georges and renowned houses of the Bocuse tradition.

Planning: Plan at least one overnight stay for Lyon; High-speed trains require reservations and a surcharge.

12.3 Italy

12.3.1 Domodossola(IT) ★

Culture & dining: In addition to the highlights mentioned, it is worth taking a look at the local regional or local history museum. For restaurants and bars, check the current selection of the official destination as well as Michelin or GaultMillau; reserve at excellent hotels.

As described above: Italian old town, market and starting point for the Centovalli railway.Very good “abroad feeling” without an extremely long journey.

12.3.2 Tirano(IT) ★

Culture & dining: Palazzo Salis and Museo Etnografico Tiranese; Parravicini and the wine bars in the old town.

End point of the Bernina line. Extremely long for a day trip from Solothurn; makes more sense with a night in the Engadin or Tirano.

12.3.3 Como and Brunate ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via Lugano or Chiasso.

Elegant lakeside town with cathedral, rationalist architecture, silk culture and funicular to Brunate.

Sights & museums: Cathedral, Tempio Voltiano, Museo della Seta, lake promenade and Funicolare Como–Brunate.

Food & Drink: The Market Place and traditional eateries in the old town; Aperitivo in Piazza Volta.

Planning: Check Italian ticket from the border, funicular timetable and seasonal ships.

12.3.4 Varenna, Bellagio and middle Lake Como ★ 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip; better with overnight stay.

The classic backdrop of Lake Como with villa gardens, steep streets and ferry connections between towns.

Sights & museums: Villa Monastero, Castello di Vezio, Bellagio, Villa Melzi and Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo.

Food & Drink: Crotto di Pino at Varenna and Ristorante Bilacus in Bellagio; Lake fish and risotto.

Planning: Ferries run seasonally and can be busy; Don't pack too many places into one day.

12.3.5 Varese and Sacro Monte ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 2½ to 3 hours via Mendrisio.

Villa city with gardens, contemporary art and a UNESCO pilgrimage route above the city.

Sights & museums: Villa Panza, Giardini Estensi, Sacro Monte and Museo Baroffio.

Food & Drink: Luoghi di Pitti and the bars in Santa Maria del Monte; Lombard cuisine.

Planning: Check bus connections to Sacro Monte; Villa Panza is an excellent option in bad weather.

12.3.6 Stresa and Borromean Islands ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip via Domodossola; Overnight stay recommended.

Belle Époque town on Lake Maggiore with palaces, gardens and island panoramas.

Sights & museums: Isola Bella with Palazzo Borromeo, Isola Madre, Isola dei Pescatori and Stresa lake promenade.

Food & Drink: Ristorante Il Vicoletto and hotel bars on the promenade; Regional fish cuisine on the Fischerinsel.

Planning: Island boats and palaces are seasonal; Plan combination tickets and return journey via Domodossola in advance.

12.3.7 Milan ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 3 hours; Long but doable city day.

Art, design and fashion metropolis with world-class museums and a dense gastronomy scene.

Sights & museums: Cathedral and roof terraces, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Brera, Castello Sforzesco, Museo del Novecento and Fondazione Prada.

Food & Drink: Ratanà, Trippa and Camparino in Galleria; Make reservations well in advance for Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper.

Planning: Check international ticket and possible reservation; Several museums are closed on Mondays.

12.3.8 Bergamo ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip via Milan; ideal as a weekend destination.

The Città Alta, surrounded by Venetian walls, is one of the most beautiful historical city complexes in Lombardy.

Sights & museums: Piazza Vecchia, Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore, Cappella Colleoni, Accademia Carrara and funiculars.

Food & Drink: Da Mimmo, Trattoria Parietti and Aperitivo in Piazza Vecchia; Try Casoncelli.

Planning: Can be combined with Milan, but staying overnight on your own makes the visit more relaxing.

12.3.9 Turin ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip; at least one overnight stay.

Baroque residential city with exceptional museums, historic coffee houses and Piedmontese cuisine.

Sights & museums: Museo Egizio, Mole Antonelliana with cinema museum, Palazzo Reale and automobile museum.

Food & Drink: Del Cambio, Consorzio and historic cafes like Baratti & Milano; Try Vermouth and Bicerin.

Planning: Museo Egizio and high-speed trains reserve; two days makes sense.

12.4 Liechtenstein

12.4.1 Vaduz ★ 🌧

Getting there from Solothurn: About 2½ hours via Sargans or Buchs; LIEmobil can be used with GA Travelcard.

Small capital with a surprisingly dense museum landscape and a view of Vaduz Castle.

Sights & museums: Liechtenstein Art Museum, Hilti Art Foundation, Liechtenstein State Museum, Treasury and government district.

Food & Drink: Restaurant Torkel for a special occasion and Altenbach or New Castle for an uncomplicated break.

Planning: Vaduz Castle is not open to the public; Museums are compactly located on Städtle-Strasse.

12.4.2 Triesenberg and Walser culture 🥾

Getting there from Solothurn: Via Vaduz with LIEmobil; Combines well with Vaduz.

Viewpoint village above the Rhine Valley, shaped by the history of the Walser people.

Sights & museums: Walser museum, village church, viewing terraces and themed trails.

Food & Drink: Restaurant Kainer and mountain inns with Käsknöpfle and Ribel.

Planning: Adapt bus timetables and mountain routes to the season; Combine a museum visit with Vaduz in fog.

12.4.3 Malbun and Sareis 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Via Sargans–Vaduz–Triesenberg; last section by bus.

Compact alpine resort for hikes, family trips and winter days.

Sights & museums: Sareis chairlift, Princess Gina path, Galina falconry and easy valley paths.

Food & Drink: Sareis mountain restaurant and hotel restaurants in the village; Opening times seasonal.

Planning: Mountain railway costs additionally; Check weather, operations and last bus connection.

12.5 Austria

12.5.1 Feldkirch ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: About 2½ hours via Buchs or Sargans.

Very well-preserved medieval town with arcades and a mighty shadow castle.

Sights & museums: Schattenburgmuseum, Marktgasse, St. Nicholas Cathedral and wildlife park.

Food & Drink: Lingg Inn and Schattenburg Castle Restaurant; Try Vorarlberger Käsknöpfle.

Planning: Buy a separate ticket for the Austrian section; Combines well with Vaduz.

12.5.2 Bregenz and Pfänder ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via St. Gallen or Feldkirch.

Cultural city on Lake Constance with modern architecture, lake stage and local mountain.

Sights & museums: Kunsthaus Bregenz, vorarlberg museum, lake stage, Oberstadt and Pfänderbahn.

Food & Drink: Weiss and Kornmesser; Drinks at Kornmarktplatz or on the lake promenade.

Planning: Book festival dates early; Pay separately for Lake Constance ships and the Pfänderbahn.

12.5.3 Dornbirn and Rappenloch Gorge 🌧 🥾 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via St. Gallen and Bregenz.

Industrial town with surprisingly strong museums and a spectacular gorge on the outskirts.

Sights & museums: inatura, Rolls-Royce Museum, Rappenloch Gorge and Karren cable car.

Food & Drink: Red House and Karren panoramic restaurant.

Planning: Check canyon conditions after storms; inatura is ideal in bad weather.

12.5.4 Hohenems and Jewish Quarter 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Long day trip via St. Gallen.

Small town with an internationally renowned Jewish museum and Renaissance palace.

Sights & museums: Jewish Museum Hohenems, former Jewish quarter, Hohenems Palace and Schubertiade Museum.

Food & Drink: Frida organic shop & café as well as regional restaurants on Schlossplatz.

Planning: Check museum days and concert dates; Combines well with Dornbirn.

12.5.5 Innsbruck ★ 🌧 $

Getting there from Solothurn: Very long day trip; better suited to a weekend trip.

Alpine city with imperial heritage, important museums and direct access to the high mountains.

Sights & museums: Golden Roof, Hofburg, Hofkirche, Tirol Panorama, Bergisel and Nordkettebahn.

Food & Drink: The Wilderin, Stiftskeller and Bar 360°; Tyrolean cuisine and modern Alpine cuisine.

Planning: Check international connections and reservations; plan at least one overnight stay.

Editorial Notes and Sources

Editorial status: July 2026. Timetables, GA Travelcard validity, mountain railway and boat trips operations, museum days and restaurant opening times change. Before each trip, check the linked original sources and the specific connection.

SBB: current GA Travelcard scope: https://www.sbb.ch/de/billette-angebote/abos/ga/ga-geltungsbereich.html

Switzerland Tourism: Travel destinations and sights: https://www.myswitzerland.com/de-ch/reiseziele/

Guide MICHELIN Switzerland: https://guide.michelin.com/ch/de/selection/switzerland/restaurants

Freiburg and Black Forest – official tourism portal: https://visit.freiburg.de/

Visit Alsace: https://www.visit.alsace/

Strasbourg Tourism: https://www.visitstrasbourg.fr/

Colmar Tourism: https://tourisme-colmar.com/

Lake Como – official tourism portal: https://www.visitlakecomo.info/en

Liechtenstein Tourism: https://tourismus.li/

Vorarlberg Tourism: https://www.vorarlberg.travel/

Bregenz Tourism: https://visitbregenz.com/

Gastronomy: Mentioned houses are editorial examples and not paid recommendations. Awards, concepts, rest days and ownership may change; reserve before long journeys.