

THE BERNESE OBERLAND TOUR

Guided Inn to Inn Trek in the Swiss Alps

Detailed itinerary, 11-day trip:

Day 1 Arrival Day

Arrive in Switzerland, and transfer by train to Meiringen to start the Bernese Oberland tour. We'll meet there, and a short and scenic bus ride takes us up to the quiet farmhouse at Schwarzwaldalp. Waterfalls and imposing mountains watch over us in this relaxing corner of the Alps. (Schwarzwaldalp Inn)

Day 2 Grindelwald

After a hearty breakfast, we'll hike over the Grosse Scheidegg pass and enjoy our first views of the Eiger and of the Grindelwald valley. With 10,000 vertical feet separating valley from peak, Grindelwald sits at the base of one of the most impressive vertical mountain walls in the world. Perhaps we'll detour via the postcard-perfect Bachsee lake before winding down to the glacier village of Grindelwald and our lovely 3-star hotel. (Hotel Wolter or Derby)
Obersteinberg is a favorite stop on the Bernese Oberland tour

Day 3 Wengen

Today we'll explore the Grindelwald valley and hike to the famous Kleine Scheidegg pass. The entire day is dominated by great close-up views of the Eiger North Face - perhaps the most notorious climb in the Swiss Alps. We'll descend to the quiet village Wengen for a restful night. (Hotel Bären)

Day 4 Lauterbrunnen

We'll enjoy spectacular views of the Jungfrau and surrounding mountains on the way down from Wengen. Our trail winds through flowery meadows and dense woods to the lush Lauterbrunnen valley floor. After a break for lunch, we'll hike to a wild and isolated corner of the Lauterbrunnen valley for a memorable night in a remote mountain inn in one of the most spectacular corners of the Bernese Oberland. (Obersteinberg Inn)

Day 5 Mürren

We can take an optional morning hike to small glacial lake in the back of the valley. Afterwards, a beautiful wooded hike brings us through sleepy Gimmelwald to the car-free village of Mürren, with its unparalleled cliffside views of the surrounding mountains. Stay in a 3-star hotel. (Hotel Jungfrau)

Day 6 Mürren

There are numerous dayhike possibilities around Mürren. One beautiful trail leads up to the local peak, Birg, for superb all-around views, and past a small glacial tarn. Or feel free to just unwind in one of the most scenic and relaxing villages in the Alps. (Hotel Jungfrau)

Day 7 Griesalp

Our trail meanders back into the deep recesses of the Sefinen valley. There we'll hike over the first of two major passes, Sefinenfurke, into the tiny hamlet of Griesalp. A moderate but long climb past Rotstock hut and over the pass, followed by a very steep descent, is rewarded by a friendly welcome at the lovely pension Waldrand. (Pension Waldrand)

Wildflowers abound in the Bernese Oberland

Day 8 Kandersteg

We'll need an early start for our most challenging day of the tour. Crossing our second major pass, Hohturli, we'll hike past glaciers and high mountain peaks to the jewel-like Oeschinen lake (which has to be seen to be believed!). We stay in a 3-star hotel in the quiet village of Kandersteg for the night. (Hotel Adler)

Day 9 Gasterntal

We'll quickly escape town on a quiet path leading south towards the Klus gorge. The power of the Kander river is impressive as we climb through this narrow gorge into the hidden Gasterntal valley. This is a picture-perfect hideaway - a small, U-shaped valley, carpeted with wildflowers and guarded by savage cliffs. Waterfalls bursting from the sides of cliffs add to the scenery. (Steinbock Inn)

Day 10 Gasterntal

For our grand finale we'll choose from a couple great hikes. One of our favorites is a strenuous climb to the nearby Lötschen pass. Old Roman trails lead us through meadows and woods, with a short stretch across a glacier, to the small hut at the pass where the views to the south are superb! We'll return to the same inn at the bottom of the valley that night. A fitting way to end a great tour. (Steinbock Inn)

Day 11 Departure Day

Today we say good-bye to the Bernese Oberland and depart for Kandersteg and our post-tour destinations.

The Bernese Oberland Express Part A will start in Meiringen, and guests will depart from Mürren.

The Bernese Oberland Express Part B will start in Mürren with the day-walk, and guests will depart from Kandersteg.