

# Swiss Alps

## THE ITALIAN LAKES



**SMALL  
GROUP**  
Maximum of  
28 Travelers

SPONSORED BY

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

October 9-18, 2024

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

From glamorous St. Moritz to the glorified Italian Lakes, the beauty, history and traditions of Switzerland and Italy are revealed on this epic eight-night journey. Travel through two distinct countries and enjoy stays in St. Moritz, Switzerland, a chic resort town, and Stresa, Italy, tucked on the shores of shimmering Lake Maggiore.

Each day, discover coveted destinations, untouched natural landscapes and celebrated heritage. Journey by train to Zuoz, a charming Engadine village, and witness storybook scenery — from snowcapped mountains to palm trees perched along reflective lakes. Cruise by private boat to the enchanting Borromean Islands and visit the romantic lakeside hamlet of Bellagio on Lake Como. In Milan, stand before Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," and admire a centuries-old baroque palace on Isola Bella. Plus, learn to prepare regional dishes at a family-owned restaurant in the Piedmontese region!

This expertly planned itinerary features the perfect blend of guided excursions and time to enjoy the thrill of discovery on your own. Space is limited on this popular program, so please make your reservations without delay!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Rhaetian Railway in the Bernina Landscape, Switzerland and Italy
2. Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci, Milan, Italy



Rhaetian Railway



Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan





# A World of Discovery



Uncover a depth of treasures on a journey through Switzerland and Italy. From the spectacular Swiss Alps to the seductive lakes district of Northern Italy, each day brims with engrossing history and long-standing traditions. Whether gazing at lauded works of art, savoring diverse gastronomy or traversing storybook landscapes, we'll help you unlock the secrets and unique identities of these great destinations.

Top: Bernina Express | Above: Alphorn musician

Cover: Colorful town, Lake Como

Mail panel: Bregaglia Valley, Swiss Alps | Lake Como

## Inspiring Moments



- Witness majestic scenery carved by ancient glaciers aboard the **Bernina Express**, the highest rail crossing in the Alps.
- Indulge in the cosmopolitan ambience of **St. Moritz**, a jet-set resort town.
- **Cruise on the azure waters of Lake Como**, soaking up golden sunlight.
- Stroll through beautiful botanic gardens on the **Borromean Islands**.
- Wind your way over the stunning **Maloja Pass**, a canvas of pristine lakes and picture-perfect villages.
- Witness Leonardo da Vinci's inspiring **"The Last Supper"** in Milan.
- Discover Northern Italy's cuisine during a **farm-to-table cooking lesson**.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®



St. Moritz

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for Zürich, Switzerland. 🚗

### Day 2 | Zürich, Switzerland | St. Moritz

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to St. Moritz and check in to the elegant Hotel Schweizerhof.

Join us for a Welcome Reception tonight.

### Day 3 | St. Moritz | Zuoz

**St. Moritz & Zuoz Walking Tours.** Enjoy walking tours that showcase these appealing destinations. Begin in the mountain resort of St. Moritz. Take in jaw-dropping mountain vistas, and glimpse daily life at local shops. Continue via train to Zuoz, an endearing Upper Engadine village. Stroll along the charming streets of Zuoz, viewing the beautiful cobblestone main square and bubbling fountains. Many of the buildings were built in the 13th century.

**Free Time:** After returning to St. Moritz, craft your own path during leisure time.

**Enrichment: *Essential Switzerland.*** An expert shares the unique elements of Swiss culture.

### Day 4 | Bernina Express | Tirano, Italy | St. Moritz, Switzerland

**Bernina Express Train.** Wind your way from craggy mountain peaks to palm-lined streets during a train ride to Tirano, Italy. The Bernina Express, one of Europe's most impressively engineered rail routes, traverses magnificent mountain passes, sweet villages and valleys. Get to know Tirano on a walking tour and sit down to lunch before returning to St. Moritz.

### Day 5 | St. Moritz

**Free Time:** Soak up the pleasures of St. Moritz at your own pace. Take a slow stroll by the lake, tackle a trail on an active hike or share a bottle of wine at a sidewalk café.

**Enrichment: *Meet the People.*** Learn about life in the Swiss Alps while talking with residents about their lifestyles and traditions.

Join your group for a typical Swiss dinner.

### Day 6 | Lake Como, Italy | Bellagio | Stresa

After breakfast, bid goodbye to Switzerland and begin your journey to the shores of Stresa, Italy.

**The Road to Stresa.** Take in dramatic landscapes along the Maloja Pass, where sparkling glacial lakes and meadows are punctuated by Swiss villages. Your drive takes you through breathtaking scenery and across the border into Italy. Arrive at Tremezzo and board a boat to cross over to Bellagio. It's easy to see why poets and writers from around the

Maloja Pass







Stresa

world have found inspiration in Bellagio. With its inviting sun-splashed squares to the quaint cobblestone streets bordered by cream and peach façades, we think you will also find inspiration in the “Pearl of the Lake!”

Following lunch, enjoy a scenic private cruise to the town of Como, gliding by a shoreline brimming with colorful flower gardens, famous villas and forests. Disembark in Como and continue to Stresa via motor coach.

Check in to the Hotel La Palma and gather for a delicious Italian dinner.

## Day 7 | Borromean Islands

**Enrichment: *Italy's Lake District.*** Discover how this region became a favorite retreat.

**The Borromean Islands.** These famous islands are located in the turquoise waters of Lake Maggiore and are named after the Borromeo family who has owned them since the 15th century. Cruise aboard a private

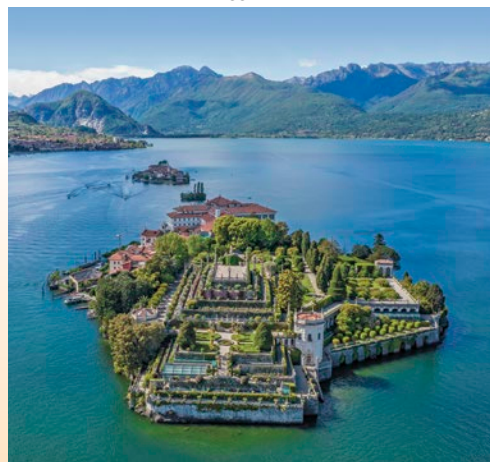
motorboat to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands. Enjoy a guided visit to the island's English-style gardens filled with flowers, rare plants and ancient trees. You may also spot a variety of peacocks, parrots and pheasants! Travel on to discover the sweet, quiet charms of Isola dei Pescatori; then cruise to Isola Bella, the “Beautiful Island.” Explore a palatial baroque palace and summerhouse that is home to a mosaic grotto and an astounding collection of antiques and art from the Borromeo family's private collection. Cap off the excursion with a relaxing walk through the island's terraced hanging gardens.

**Enrichment: *Golden Age of the Renaissance.*** Join an expert to learn about the true genius of Michelangelo and da Vinci.

## Day 8 | Milan

**Exploring Milan.** Venture beyond Stresa to Italy's economic powerhouse. Visit Milan's Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to witness da Vinci's “The Last Supper.” This masterpiece,

Borromean Islands, Lake Maggiore



Duomo, Milan



## Included Features



### Accommodations {with baggage handling}

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

### Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.



one of the artist's greatest paintings, is painted on the wall of a dining hall in the monastery's refectory. Next, discover the world of opera at La Scala Museum where Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" and Verdi's "Otello" were first performed. See the Duomo, Milan's most famous building. This symbol of the city dominates the Piazza del Duomo.

**Free Time:** Craft your own path through Milan. Explore shops in the fashion district or take in views from the roof of the Duomo.

#### Day 9 | Stresa

**AHI Connects | The Piedmontese Kitchen.** Journey through the hills to a family-owned restaurant. Join an expert chef to learn how to prepare a variety of traditional Piedmontese dishes. This authentic cuisine is based on using locally grown produce and ingredients. Tuck into a tasty lunch, complemented by sprawling lake views.

**Free Time:** Spend your final afternoon relaxing by the lake or sip an apéritif with friends.

Tonight, celebrate the end of a wonderful journey at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

#### Day 10 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the Milan airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and 🔄 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and trains

Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper"





## Accommodations



**Hotel Schweizerhof | St. Moritz**



**Hotel la Palma | Stresa**



Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the accommodations, services and amenities, allowing you to fully enjoy your stay.

 **Tripadvisor**

Como



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates ✈

**October 9-18, 2024**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**October 10-18, 2024**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Price*
Village View	\$4,545	\$4,295
Lake View	\$4,945	\$4,695

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

**Receive Bonus Savings when you Pay in Full at booking.**

**Call for details.**

VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1829A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays





Bellagio



Charming Engadine architecture



Old church, Zuoz



Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore



Piedmontese cooking class

## AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel Coordinator** offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

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