

Swiss Alps

THE ITALIAN LAKES



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ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association

October 21-30, 2026

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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 Tirano, a charming Italian 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





Discovery begins here



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: "The Last Supper" fresco by Leonardo da Vinci, Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan
Cover: Lake Como | Mail panel: Scenic village, Swiss Alps | Decorative ceramic tiles at Isola Bella, Borromean Islands

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**.



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 hotel.

Join us for a Welcome Reception tonight.

Day 3 | St. Moritz

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

St. Moritz Walking Tour. Enjoy a walking tour in the famous mountainous resort of St. Moritz. Admire jaw-dropping Alpine vistas and glimpse daily life at local shops.

Free Time: Enjoy leisure time this afternoon.

Day 4 | St. Moritz

Free Time: Soak up the pleasures of St. Moritz at your own pace. Take a slow stroll by the lake, tackle a nearby 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 5 | Bernina Express | Tirano, Italy | Zuoz, Switzerland | St. Moritz

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 enjoy lunch before continuing to Zuoz by coach.

Zuoz Walking Tour. Explore this endearing Upper Engadine village on a guided tour. Stroll along the charming streets of Zuoz and view the beautiful cobblestone main square, bubbling fountains and colorful 13th century buildings.

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. See sparkling glacial lakes and meadows, punctuated by Swiss villages, along the dramatic landscapes of the Maloja Pass. 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 world have found inspiration in Bellagio. With its inviting sun-splashed squares

Maloja Pass





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.

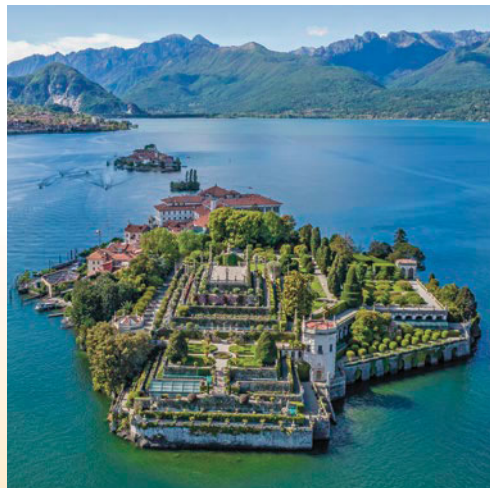
Check in to the hotel and gather for a delicious Italian dinner this evening.

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

Borromean Islands, Lake Maggiore



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 summer-house 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 Leonardo 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, one of the artist’s greatest paintings, is painted on the wall of a dining hall in the monastery’s



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 24 guests.
- **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 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.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:**
We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.



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 visit 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.

Activity Level

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 and boats

Tirano





Bellagio, The Pearl of Lake Como



Traditional Engadine houses, Zuoz



Duomo Square, Como

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **October 21-30, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **October 22-30, 2026**

* 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 Savings Price*
Village View	\$5,245	\$4,495
Lake View	\$5,745	\$4,995

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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.

The single supplement for Village View is \$895 per person, Lake View is \$1,095 per person (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1979A?schoolId=69>.

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 before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

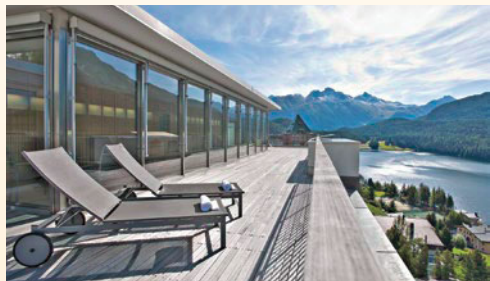
Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

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

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

Accommodations

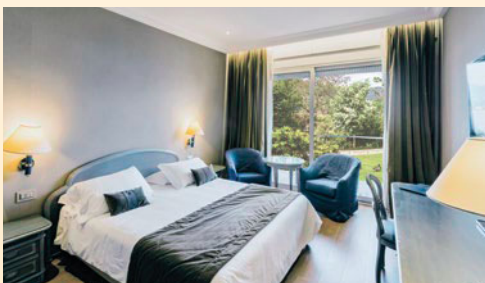
Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the accommodations,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



Hotel Schweizerhof | St. Moritz



Hotel La Palma | Stresa



Duomo, Milan



Piedmontese cooking



Book your journey today!

844-414-0369

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

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Discover the beauty and culture of Switzerland and Italy!

Committed to connecting travelers
to the people, places and cultures
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