



**Switzerland.**  
by train, bus and boat.

# Gotthard Panorama Express.

An eventful panoramic journey by boat and train.

[mystsnet.com/gotthardpanoramaexpress](https://mystsnet.com/gotthardpanoramaexpress)

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Gotthard Panorama Express in Fluelen, Central Switzerland



**Gotthard**  
Panorama Express



## An eventful panoramic journey by boat and train.

On the tracks of Switzerland: The Gotthard Panorama Express is not just any panorama route. Here, a combination of boat, train and two of the most beautiful regions of Switzerland blend into a first class experience.

The Gotthard Panorama Express presents Switzerland from its most diverse side: surrounded by a genuinely impressive mountain panorama, a boat cruise first takes visitors through what is deemed the truly original part of Switzerland. At Flüelen, the specially branded SBB train and a personal, multilingual travel guide are already waiting for the travellers. The journey continues through the mighty Reuss Valley in the Canton of Uri and along the world-famous Gotthard panorama route. On the train ride through the impressive Reuss Valley of Canton Uri towards Mediterranean-style Ticino, travellers hear fascinating tales that have grown around Gotthard and receive a wealth of background information about this unique region.



### History

In Roman times, the only way to tackle Gotthard was on foot or with pack animals. Despite being the shortest north-south connection, this route was hardly ever used because of the difficult passage through the Schöllenen Canyon.

Around the year 1220, the Walseans, as the locals are called, finally built the "Teufelsbrücke" (Devil's Bridge) and the Twärren Bridge across the Schöllenen Canyon. Thus, the crossing of the River Reuss was facilitated. With these two connections, the Gotthard Pass gained importance throughout Europe for the first time.

However, it was not until the year 1708 that the street was markedly improved and widened. Another hundred years passed (1831) before the full-length, five-metre-wide street across Gotthard was opened. From then on, stagecoaches operated three times a week between Flüelen and Chiasso. Even at that time, people fond of travelling boarded a boat from Lucerne to Flüelen and then changed to the stagecoach across Gotthard. The journey from Lucerne to Lugano used to take close to 23 hours.

Together with the first railway in England, the vision of a north-south railway route emerged. In 1872, construction work for the 15-kilometres long Gotthard Tunnel supervised by Luis Favre began. At times, up to 5,000 workers were employed. In 1882, the world's longest tunnel of its time was inaugurated. Since then, neither the Gotthard's popularity nor its fascination have in any way diminished. Since 1988, a panorama train – now dubbed the Gotthard Panorama Express – has taken young and old on a journey to and across Gotthard.

## Route highlights.

En route from Lucerne to Lugano, the Gotthard Panorama Express includes the following highlights:



### Lucerne City.

The city counting around 80,000 inhabitants is the starting point of the Gotthard Panorama Express. This popular touristic city, nestled in an impressive mountain panorama, thrives on the contrast between history and modern age. In particular, the Chapel Bridge, built in 1356, and the grand hotel buildings from the 19th century characterise the cityscape of Lucerne.

### Pilatus – Golden Round Trip.

By bus, passengers first travel from Lucerne to Kriens and then by cableway on to Fräkmündegg, where the spectacular Dragon Ride cableway waits. A mere four minutes later, Pilatus greets with its breathtaking view. Another highlight follows: The world's steepest cog railway leads down to Alpnachstad, where guests board the boat. A motor vessel or steamboat finally takes them back to their starting point at Lucerne. Daily from mid-May to approximately mid-November.

[laketucerne.ch/en/offers/excursions/pilatus-golden-round-trip/](https://laketucerne.ch/en/offers/excursions/pilatus-golden-round-trip/)



### Rütli.

The Rütli Meadow is the historic landmark where representatives of Switzerland's three founding cantons met in 1291 to swear an oath of eternal alliance – “never to part in danger nor distress”. This scenic site overlooking Lake Lucerne is closed to traffic. But it is accessible by boat; or on foot along the “Swiss Path” (approximately one hour from Seelisberg or Treib).

### Tell's Chapel/Tell's Slab.

Tell's Chapel was built on Tell's Slab directly on the shoreline of Lake Uri in 1879/80. According to popular legend, it marks the spot where more than 700 years ago the condemned Wilhelm Tell leapt from a boat during a fierce storm to escape from his Habsburg captors. The chapel is decorated with beautiful frescoes depicting scenes from the heroic deeds of Tell.



### Flüelen, interchange station.

Flüelen is the interchange point of the Gotthard Panorama Express – from boat to panorama train. As early as 1837, the first steam vessels, loaded with all sorts of merchandise, navigated across the lake to Flüelen. Up until the opening of the railway station, those goods were reloaded to oxcarts, wagons, mules and horses. Today, it is mainly Schloss Rudenz (Rudenz Castle) from the 13th century and the “Old Church” built in 1664 that shape the townscape.



## Wassen Church.

The train line which passes Wassen is unique in that – in order to gain height within a very restricted space – it has to make the climb in a tight double loop. Passengers are able to admire the village's beautiful Baroque church no fewer than three times and from different angles – from below, close-up and from above.

## Gotthard Tunnel.

The existing 15-kilometre long Gotthard Train Tunnel between Göschenen and Airolo took 10 years to build (1872 to 1882) and was internationally acclaimed as a pioneering achievement for its time. The tunnel breakthrough took place on Sunday, 29 February 1880. Nearly 200 workers lost their lives during the tunnel construction.



## Loop tunnels.

The narrow valley of Airolo leads to the wider plain of Ambri-Piotta. It's at Rodi-Fiesco that the most impressive section of the Gotthard southern ramp begins, with its two terrain levels (Piottina and Biaschina) totalling four loop tunnels. These facilitate the 650-metre descent in altitude difference between Rodi-Fiesco (942 metres) and Biasca (293 metres) – within half an hour.

## Giornico.

In the lower Leventina, the climatic conditions strongly favour viticulture. This is certainly true for Giornico, where three churches well worth seeing are embedded between lovely vineyards. The Church San Nicolao, build around the year 1125, is considered the most important Romanesque church building in Ticino.

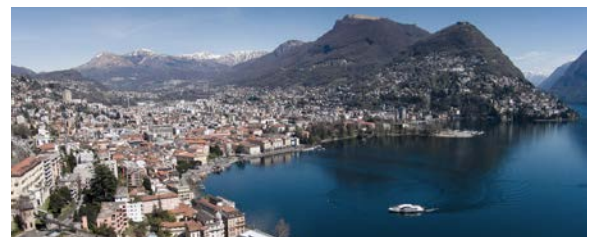


## Bellinzona Castles.

After the Riviera Valley, the three imposing castles of Bellinzona come into view – the Castelgrande, Montebello and Sasso Corbaro. The castles were built in the 15th century by the Dukes of Milan and together comprise a unique UNESCO World Heritage site.

## Lugano.

The ride on the Gotthard Panorama Express reaches its destination in Lugano, city of Mediterranean flair. As the economic and touristic centre of Ticino, it impresses visitors with many beautiful buildings, grand palaces and well-tended park areas. From the station, not only the old town and the lake but also the panorama hills Monte San Salvatore and Monte Bré are easily accessible – by public transport or on foot.





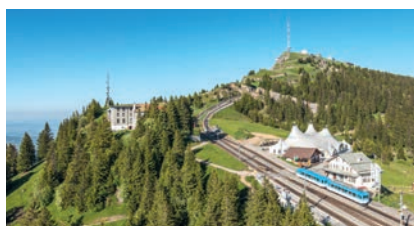
# Highlights around the Gotthard Panorama Express.

The ride on the Gotthard Panorama Express can be combined with a variety of other offers.

## Lucerne.

Whether a visit to the Museum of Transportation, a stroll over the famous Chapel Bridge, a view of the lion monument or an excursion to the Stanserhorn or the Pilatus: Lucerne offers various opportunities to explore – with something for every taste.

[luzern.com](http://luzern.com)



## Rigi.

With the new start and end point of the panoramic train at Arth-Goldau, travellers meet a wealth of new options. For example, the journey from Lugano on the Gotthard Panorama Express to Arth-Goldau can be combined seamlessly with a ride on the cog railway up to Rigi – “Queen of the mountains”.

[rigi.ch](http://rigi.ch)

## Lugano.

The old town literally radiates Mediterranean atmosphere, hiking trails abound in diversity with pristine valleys and endless views from the excursion mountains Monte Brè and Monte San Salvatore – all of it is highly recommended. Travellers staying overnight in Ticino will receive the Ticino ticket free of charge as a special treat on top.

[ticino.ch/ticket](http://ticino.ch/ticket)



## Bernina Express.

The combination with the Bernina Express yields the “Gotthard-Bernina multi-day trip”. Three travel days take guests from their starting point via Lucerne to Lugano, on to Tirano (Italy), across the 2,000-metre-high (6,560-feet-high) Bernina Pass to Chur and back.

[sbb.ch/gotthard-bernina](http://sbb.ch/gotthard-bernina)

## Centovalli.

From Locarno, the railway leads through the Centovalli, the “hundred valleys”, and the Viguzzo Valley to Domodossola in Italy. On the way, passengers admire 83 bridges and viaducts. Afterwards, they get a chance to explore a network of no fewer than 160 kilometres of hiking trails.

[sbb.ch/centovalli](http://sbb.ch/centovalli)



## Transfer to Italy.

Lugano offers numerous connections for the onward-journey to Italy. The northern Italian metropolis of Milan is only a train ride of 1 h 20 min away, for instance. For guests who use the Gotthard Panorama Express to travel across Switzerland, the southward journey turns into another highlight.

[sbb.ch](http://sbb.ch)

# Facts and Figures.

## Route

- Luzern–Lake Lucerne–Flüelen–Gotthard Line–Lugano (boat & train)
- Lugano–Gotthard Line–Flüelen–Lake Lucerne–Luzern (boat & train)
- Arth-Goldau–Flüelen–Gotthard Line–Lugano (train)
- Lugano–Gotthard Line–Flüelen–Arth-Goldau (train)

## Offer

- Steamboat or motor vessel cruise across Lake Lucerne from Lucerne to Flüelen and vice versa
- Direct, same-level transfer from boat to panoramic train at Flüelen
- Ride on the 1st class panoramic train along the historic Gotthard Line. The train offers a photo coach where windows can be opened (ideal for taking pictures)
- Multilingual travel guidance on the panoramic train
- On the section between Flüelen and Bellinzona, the journey is enriched by various stagings and experiences regarding origin and development of the Gotthard railway
- The “Gotthard Guide” app and the “Gotthard Panorama Express – Travel Guide” offer detailed information about the sights along the route and the Gotthard myth (in four languages)

## Eating and drinking

- Lunch can be taken in the boat restaurant
- Table reservation recommended for individual travellers, +41 (0)41 367 67 67, [info@lakelucerne.ch](mailto:info@lakelucerne.ch) (no later than 15.00 h on the day prior to travel date); for groups, reservation as well as advance order of a single menu choice for all persons is required, +41 (0)41 367 66 16, [gruppen@lakelucerne.ch](mailto:gruppen@lakelucerne.ch) (no later than 10 days prior to travel date)
- Drinks, snacks and cold platter can be ordered to the seat on the train

## Timetable

The Gotthard Panorama Express operates from Tuesdays to Sundays between 18 Apr to 18 Oct 2020, including on national holidays

### Gotthard Panorama Express

Luzern–Boat–Flüelen–Bellinzona–Lugano

**18 April to 18 October 2020**  
**Tuesday to Sunday, incl. national holidays**

Course 13	Motor vessel or steamboat				Course 18
11.12	dp		Luzern	▲ arr	14.47
12.10	dp		Vitznau	▲ arr	13.48
13.11	dp		Brunnen	▲ arr	12.47
13.55	arr	▼	Flüelen	dp	12.00
<b>Train 3093</b>	<b>1st class panoramic train</b>				<b>Train 3092</b>
14.10	dp		Flüelen	▲ arr	11.47
14.47	dp		Göschenen	▲ arr	11.07
15.06	arr		Airolo	dp	10.49
16.08	arr		Bellinzona	dp	09.54
16.38	arr	▼	Lugano	dp	09.22

### Gotthard Panorama Express (train ride only)

Arth-Goldau–Gotthard–Lugano

**18 April to 18 October 2020**  
**Tuesday to Sunday, incl. national holidays**

Train 3093	1st class panoramic train				Train 3092
13.44	dp		Arth-Goldau	▲ arr	12.12
14.10	dp		Flüelen	▲ arr	11.47
14.47	dp		Göschenen	▲ arr	11.07
15.06	arr		Airolo	dp	10.49
16.08	arr		Bellinzona	dp	09.54
16.38	arr	▼	Lugano	dp	09.22

**Employment of boats:** Historic steam boat or modern motor vessel, depending on the season.

## Travel duration & route length

- Luzern–Lake Lucerne–Flüelen: 2 h 45 min / 38 km / 23 mi (steamboat or motor vessel)
- Flüelen–Gotthard Line–Lugano: 2 h 30 min / 144 km / 90 mi (1st class panoramic train)
- Arth-Goldau–Flüelen–Gotthard Line–Lugano: 2 h 55 min / 167 km / 104 mi
- Overall time: 5 h 30 min / 182 km / 113 mi (including transfer time between boat and train)

## Route stops

- **Boat cruise Luzern–Flüelen:**  
Verkehrshaus-Lido (Lido of the Swiss Museum of Transportation)–Hertenstein–Weggis–Vitznau–Beckenried–Gersau–Treib–Brunnen–Rütli–Sisikon–Tellsplatte–Flüelen
- **Train ride Flüelen–Lugano:**  
Göschenen–Airolo–Bellinzona–Lugano

## Seat reservation and surcharge

### Reservation surcharge required for all passengers

- Surcharge on the panoramic train between Arth-Goldau/Flüelen and Bellinzona/Lugano in addition to valid ticket
- Surcharge is paid by means of seat reservation; seat reservations for groups of 10 or more persons via [sales-gopex@sbb.ch](mailto:sales-gopex@sbb.ch)
- Surcharge per person: CHF 16
- No seat reservation available on the boat; free seating
- For the panoramic train on the stretch Arth-Goldau/Flüelen–Bellinzona/Lugano travellers in 2nd class need a class change

## Ticket information

The ticket must be issued as Luzern -> **via boat** -> Flüelen -> Lugano

### Individual passenger fares (excluding reservation surcharge):

Ticket	Routes and fares Luzern – Lugano or vice versa	Routes and fares Arth-Goldau–Lugano (only train/1st class)
Swiss Travel Pass (Flex) 1st class Swiss Travel Pass (Flex) 2nd class	included CHF 29.50 in 1st class boat and train CHF 17.50 in 2nd class boat and 1st class train	included
Swiss Half Fare Card	CHF 76.50 in 1st class boat and train CHF 64.50 in 2nd class boat and 1st class train	CHF 46.50
Children aged 6–15.99 with Swiss Family Card	free of charge	
Without reduction	CHF 153 in 1st class boat and train CHF 129 in 2nd class boat and 1st class train	CHF 93

The Gotthard Panorama Express operates only seasonally. During the winter season, a boat cruise and a train ride over the Gotthard can be combined. However, another change of transportation at Erstfeld is necessary. In this case, no surcharge applies.

All prices are subject to change.

## Points-of-sale

- At worldwide Swiss Travel System points-of-sale  
[mystsnet.com/wheretobuy](https://mystsnet.com/wheretobuy)
- At every Swiss railway station
- Online at: [sbb.ch/gotthard-panorama-express](https://sbb.ch/gotthard-panorama-express)



### Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

The Gotthard Panorama Express is part of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland. This unique route merges the most delightful panoramic lines of Switzerland into one comprehensive experience. The journey leads through charming Swiss cities and Alpine resorts as well as past impressive sights and landmarks. Numerous mountain excursions are perfect companions for the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.





#ChapelBridge #Lucerne



#MountainExcursion #Rigi



#WassenChurch



#Giorno #Ticino



#Castles #Bellinzona



#GotthardPanoramaExpress  
#Lugano