



Switzerland.
by train, bus and boat.

Luzern–Interlaken Express.

A fascinating panoramic journey.

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Version 1, 2019



Luzern–Interlaken Express on Brüning, Central Switzerland

Luzern–Interlaken Express

 Die Zentralbahn.

The fascinating ride.

A journey that is its own reward: The train ride on the Luzern–Interlaken Express connects two world famous destinations. And time flies – faster than one would wish! That's due to the mountain scenery, the turquoise lakes and the numerous waterfalls that adorn the countryside along the way.

Lucerne and Interlaken are without a doubt two of the most popular Swiss tourist destinations. However, a delightful experience to rival the beauty of the cities is the route that connects them: stepping on board in Central Switzerland, sitting back and relaxing, and arriving in the Jungfrau region duly impressed by breathtaking scenic splendour – all in just under two hours. That's the Luzern–Interlaken Express. During 365 days every 60 minutes.

Along the way, the premium panoramic train passes five crystal clear mountain lakes as well as several waterfalls and rivers. Shortly after Giswil, the train switches to cog drivetrain technology and winds its way up to the Brünig Pass. After the descent it soon arrives at Brienz, a popular starting point for boat cruises on the lake with the same name. Also well worth a visit: the open-air museum Ballenberg.



History

1888 saw the first trains of the Jura-Bern-Luzern Railway operate between Alpnachstad and Brienz. In order to get from Lucerne to Interlaken, travellers had to make the first and last parts of the journey by steamboat. No wonder the trip took all of six hours! On the railway section, a two-axle steam locomotive pulled three light passenger coaches over the Brünig Pass. The trains operated six times daily and provided space for 90 travellers. The rack and pinion sections, helping to negotiate gradients of up to 120 per mille, turn the ancient Brünig railway into the exotic gem that it is up to this day.

After the Lopper tunnel was opened in 1889 and the gap between Brienz and Interlaken was filled in 1916, travel time was reduced by half. Almost a century later, on 1 January 2005, an announcement was made: "The launch of a new era of railway travel!" That was when the former SBB-Brünig Railway and the Luzern-Enbelberg Railway merged into zb Zentralbahn AG. Since the end of the year 2012, the train from Lucerne to Interlaken has operated under the name "Luzern–Interlaken Express".

Highlights along the route of Luzern–Interlaken Express.

On its way, the Luzern–Interlaken Express passes many attractive sights and excursion destinations:



City of Lucerne.

This city of 81,000 residents is the starting point of the Luzern–Interlaken Express. The city in the canton with the same name is immensely popular with tourists and successfully walks the line between history and modern age. Particularly the Chapel Bridge, built at Lake Lucerne in 1356, but also numerous grand hotel buildings from the 19th century define the historic townscape of Lucerne.

Glasi Hergiswil (glass factory).

Everything that can be built from glass is manufactured by hand in the Glasi Hergiswil: Visitors find out plenty of interesting things about glassmaking and can even look the glassblowers over the shoulder. In addition to a glass labyrinth and the “Glasi Park” (a glass marbles park), a factory shop with self-designed glass creations is part of the Glasi Hergiswil. This “glasshouse” is located right next to the railway station in Hergiswil.



Sarnen.

The main town of the canton of Obwalden may look like but one of many villages in Central Switzerland; The public record office, however, houses the oldest and most important history book of Switzerland. In 1470, the civic recorder of Obwalden, Hans Schriber, recorded the Tell legend for the first time: In 1291, after the farmer Wilhelm Tell had killed the Habsburg bailiff Gessler, the Landammänner (the highest ranking executive members of the cantons) of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden swore allegiance to each other. They would thereafter be one “unified people of brothers”. Switzerland was born. Many years later, in 1804, Friedrich Schiller used this plot as the basis for his play “Wilhelm Tell”.

Lake Sarnersee.

Nestling in the pre-alpine scenery of Central Switzerland, Lake Sarnersee invites visitors to an unhurried circumnavigation, a hike that can be completed in roughly five hours. Thanks to the flat terrain, it is easy to walk and suitable for everybody. There are many highlights along the way, such as the old town of Sarnen and some beautiful churches. March to November is an ideal time for this excursion.



Lake Lungernersee – a paradise for fishermen.

Every month, the Association “Fischerparadies” (fishermen’s paradise) releases roughly 6’000 fry from a breeding station into this turquoise natural reservoir. Rainbow trout, golden trout and salmon trout thrive in these waters and attract many keen anglers. In order to be allowed to fish in Lake Lungernersee, a fishing patent has to be bought for the day. Angling equipment can be purchased near the lakeshore.



Brünig Pass and Brünig safari.

The Brünig Pass links the canton of Obwalden with the Bernese Oberland. Two railway routes and one pass road lead over it. From May to October, the Brünig safari is a special tourist attraction: Between Meiringen and Giswil, 13 life-size, hand-carved animals native to the region wait to be discovered directly from the train – almost like on a real safari.

Meiringen and the case “Holmes”.

In Meiringen, things get mysterious: Both the train and the life of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes take a U-turn. By 1893, Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle had gotten tired of writing stories about the imaginary sleuth. So, while accompanying his wife Louise, who had taken ill with tuberculosis, to Meiringen for treatment, he had a brilliant idea: The impressive Reichenbach waterfall marked the end of Sherlock and his nemesis Moriarty. Crime fans may want to do some forensic research – at the waterfall or in the Sherlock Holmes Museum in the town centre.



Aare Gorge (Meiringen).

For tens of thousands of years, the turquoise blue Aare has eaten through the chalk rocks and made an impressive gorge for itself: roughly 1.4 kilometres long, 200 metres deep and in some places merely between 1 and 2 metres wide. Over wooden stairs and through tunnels and galleries, it takes the visitors some 40 minutes to walk the whole Aare Gorge. What a good thing that the way back on the Meiringen-Innertkirchen Railway is just as fascinating: The stop “Aare-schlucht Ost” is located right within the rock formation. A perfect excursion for adventurers.

Open-air museum Ballenberg.

A journey into primordial Switzerland: Ancient Swiss farmhouses have been carefully taken apart at their original location and rebuilt at the open-air museum Ballenberg. More than 100 witnesses of the past have been assembled that way. But the Ballenberg is more of a village than a museum: Visitors can participate in one of many handicraft workshops such as clay oven construction or horsehair braiding.



Woodcarving in Brienz.

Ancient wisdom says: Wherever trees grow, wood is carved. That’s exactly what was done in the Bernese Oberland for centuries, but first only as a leisure activity. When Switzerland suffered from a great famine in 1816, the Brienz turner master Christian Fischer started to adorn objects with woodcarvings and sell them to tourists. The demand was enormous: A mere 20 years later, about 2,000 professional woodcarvers offered their artwork in the Bernese Oberland. Nowadays, Brienz woodcarvings, especially bear figurines of every size, are shipped throughout the world.



Lake Briensersee.

For almost half an hour, the Luzern–Interlaken Express runs along Lake Briensersee. Astute observers will detect one of the majestic boats of the BLS navigation company. “Brienz”, “Jungfrau”, “Interlaken”, “Iseltwald”, and “Lötschberg” – those are the names of the boats on the turquoise blue lake, “Lötschberg” being the only steam vessel on the lake. After the relaxing train journey, a boat cruise to the impressive Giessbach waterfalls or to Interlaken is just the thing.

Brien Rothorn Railway.

Since 1891, the steam railway has taken mountain enthusiasts from all over the world to the Brienzer Rothorn – mainly in original locomotives from the early years. On its way up and down the mountain, the only remaining steam cog railway in Switzerland, built in the year 1931, uses up some 300 kilograms of coal. Part of this energy goes into the “Steam Sausage Express”. Every Wednesday at 10.00h (starting June) there’s a stop with delicious sausages.

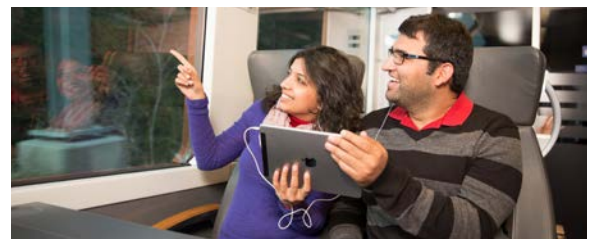


Interlaken.

Interlaken is singularly located between Lakes Thunersee and Briensersee, right at the foot of the imposing “big three” Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. This town is destination and starting point for many visitors, as well as their long-cherished vacation dream. Jungfraujoch, Harder Kulm, Schynige Platte and the Schilthorn are all just one breathtaking train ride away

«LiveGuide» App.

Passengers of the Luzern–Interlaken Express definitely see more when they use the digital travel guide: The “LiveGuide” app provides plenty of interesting information about the highlights of the region and also indicates the train’s current position on a virtual map. Thus, guests can easily follow along where they are at any given time.



«Bistro Order» App.

On the Luzern–Interlaken Express, passengers can conveniently order drinks and snacks from their seat – with the “BistroOrder” app. The selected products are served to the guest right at the seat. Quickly and comfortably.



Grand Train Tour of Switzerland

The Luzern–Interlaken 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.

Facts & Figures.

Route	Luzern–Interlaken Ost and vice versa														
Angebot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panoramic coaches 1st and 2nd class, air-conditioned ▪ Bistro und catering to the seat ▪ “LiveGuide” app: the digital travel companion on the ride between Lucerne and Interlaken with interesting information about the region ▪ “BistroOrder” app: the convenient order service 														
Eating and drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bistro ▪ Catering at the seat 														
Timetable	<p>Operates 365 days per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interlaken Ost–Luzern: hourly from 07.04h to 20.04h ▪ Luzern–Interlaken Ost: hourly from 06.06h to 21.06h 														
Travel duration	Luzern–Interlaken Ost: 1 h 50 min														
Route length	97.8 kilometres/60.8 miles														
Route stops	Luzern–Sarnen–Sachseln–Giswil–Kaiserstuhl OW–Lungern–Brünig–Hasliberg–Meiringen–Brienz–Interlaken Ost														
Seat reservation and surcharges	<p>No seat reservation is required on the Luzern–Interlaken Express. Seat reservations are possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surcharge CHF 8 (01 Jan.–17 May 2019 & 28 Oct.–31 Dec. 2019) resp. CHF 12 (18 May–27 Oct 2019) 														
Ticket information	<table> <tr> <th>Ticket</th><th>Route and fares Luzern–Interlaken Ost or vice versa</th></tr> <tr> <td>Swiss Travel Pass Swiss Travel Pass Flex Swiss Travel Pass Youth</td><td>included</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swiss Half Fare Card</td><td>CHF 16.50 in 2nd class CHF 29 in 1st class</td></tr> <tr> <td>Children from their 6th up to their 16th birthday</td><td>Free of charge with the Swiss Family Card</td></tr> <tr> <td>Without discount</td><td>CHF 33 in 2nd class CHF 58 in 1st class</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eurail</td><td>included</td></tr> <tr> <td>Interrail</td><td>included</td></tr> </table> <p>All prices are subject to change.</p>	Ticket	Route and fares Luzern–Interlaken Ost or vice versa	Swiss Travel Pass Swiss Travel Pass Flex Swiss Travel Pass Youth	included	Swiss Half Fare Card	CHF 16.50 in 2nd class CHF 29 in 1st class	Children from their 6th up to their 16th birthday	Free of charge with the Swiss Family Card	Without discount	CHF 33 in 2nd class CHF 58 in 1st class	Eurail	included	Interrail	included
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Points-of-sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At all international Swiss Travel System points-of sale: mystsnet.com/wheretobuy ▪ At every Swiss railway station. 														

