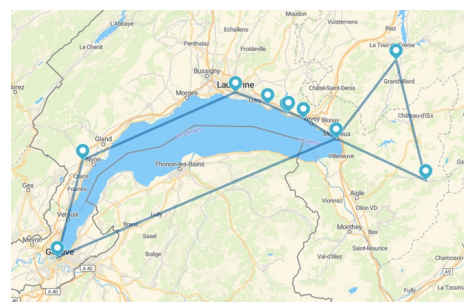




Switzerland, 6 Days · Tailor-made by car

Lake Geneva and the Alpine Foothills Route

No wonder that the Empress Sisi, the romantic poets Shelley and Byron, the great Charlie Chaplin and the sadly-missed legend Freddie Mercury used to holiday on the shores of the stunning Lake Geneva. This small and private 'inland sea' of Switzerland, the largest lake in Western Europe, and its picturesque surroundings seem to have been tailor-made for your exploration and enjoyment. And what better way than at your leisure, at the wheel of your car and travelling through the jaw-dropping landscapes along the 'Lake Geneva and Alpine Foothills' tour. On your road trip, you'll get to visit vibrant lakeside cities such as Geneva, the World Capital of Peace; Lausanne, the Olympic Capital; and Montreux, with its majestic Chillon Castle, dating back to medieval times. And while you're travelling from one location to another, you'll come across UNESCO-listed vineyards perched on hills that cascade down to the lake; you'll get a first-hand insight into the handmade process involved with the world-famous Gruyère cheese (and of course, savour a freshly-made or an aged version); and you'll be able to pay your respects at the grave of the legendary actress Audrey Hepburn, who spent the last thirty years of her life in the quaint town of Tolochenaz. These are just some of the many adventures that will make this trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The sparkly silver waters of Lake Geneva with the Matterhorn or Mont Blanc piercing through the horizon have that very effect.



NATURE

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - GENEVA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Geneva. Arrival and rental car pick-up. Geneva is known as the "World Capital of Peace", a city that hosts the European headquarters of the UN and the headquarters of the Red Cross with an unbeatable location on the shores of Lake Geneva, the "little sea" of Switzerland. On its right bank you will find a large part of the hotel and restaurant offered in Geneva, while on its left bank you will find the shopping area and the old town (Vieille Ville), whose epicenter is the Place du Bourg-de-Four. The old town is a beautiful framework of lively and well-preserved streets such as the Grand-Rue where Jean-Jacques Rousseau was born and where its most emblematic historic buildings converge such as St. Peter's Cathedral (Cathédrale St-Pierre), started in 1160 and which took more than a century to complete (Place Bourg-Saint-Pierre). It is an authentic gem of Romanesque and Gothic as it has the largest number of capitals of these styles in all of Switzerland. Do not miss the climb of 157 steps to the top of its north tower from where you can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of the city and the lake (Note. Check the website for prices and times. Not included). The United Nations Palace (Palais des Nations) is located in the middle of the Ariana Park on the banks of Lemán (Avenue de la Paix, 14) and there are guided tours in 12 languages that cover part of its rooms, such as the Board Room, decorated with beautiful frescoes, and the huge Assembly Hall. Very close to the UN headquarters is the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Avenue de la Paix, 17), housing a permanent exhibition called "The humanitarian adventure", highlighting the file of the International Prisoners of War Agency 1914-1923, registered in the UNESCO World Memory Register. The important Swiss watch industry has also left its mark on the city in the form of the "Horloge Fleuri", the flower clock of the English Garden, a world-renowned symbol of this industry in Geneva, and the Musée international de l'horlogerie (Rue Charles-Galland, 2), a museum of watches that includes a collection of jewelled pieces and music clocks (Note. Check the websites for prices and times. Not included). Geneva is also known as the "City of Parks" due to it having more square meters of green space per inhabitant than any other city in Switzerland. The Parc des Bastions (Rue St. Léger) with its sculptures by the founding fathers Calvinists, or the Parc des Eaux Vives (Rue des Eaux Vives) with its small lake navigable by boat, are just two examples of the natural wealth that decorates much of Geneva. Overnight stay in Geneva.

● DAY 2 · GENEVA - NYON - TOLOCHENAZ - LAUSANNE

As soon as you leave Geneva on the road to Lausanne, you'll start enjoying the beautiful, quintessentially Swiss landscapes that will accompany you during your entire road trip: idyllic sweeping views of Lake Geneva, hillsides blanketed with vineyards and lush forests with Alpine peaks forming a crown on the horizon. The first stop of the day will introduce you to the charms of Nyon, located 25 kilometres north of Geneva. Nyon is famous around the world for playing host to the official headquarters of UEFA, the governing body of football in Europe. And also for its numerous archaeological remains dating from Roman times found both in the old quarter and at the Colonia Iulia Equestris, on the outskirts of town. Many of the findings are on display at the Musée Romain (Rue Maupertuis, 9), where you can see amphoras, coins, murals and sculptures. Another must-see is its imposing castle with five towers (Place du Château), a 12th-century fortress that houses the Museum of History and Porcelain of Nyon (Musée Historique et des Porcelaines, in French), which will give you a first-hand insight into the main events that shaped the character of this town, as well as the evolution of art along the shores of Lake Geneva. In fact, art and culture play a huge role in Nyon's range of tourism attractions, which include the shorefront Lake Geneva Museum (Musée du Léman), and the internationally famous Paléo Festival, an event that began in 1976 and that over the years has gained prominence as a rock festival that each July pulls in thousands of enthusiasts from around the world. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). Make sure you stop off in the pretty pocket-sized town of Tolochenaz, where you can pay your respects at the grave of the legendary actress Audrey Hepburn, who spent the last thirty years of her life in this lakeside hideaway, popular with other celebrities such as the Swiss tenor Nicolai Gedda. The tour then continues eastwards on the A1 motorway for just sixteen kilometres over to your next destination. Lausanne is the second most important city on Lake Geneva and the world capital of the Olympic movement. What's more, it boasts an attractive medieval old town with steep streets and steps covered by a timber roof and crowned by the stunning Notre-Dame de Lausanne Cathedral (Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Lausanne). Described as the most beautiful and impressive work of the early Gothic period in Switzerland and located on the Place de la Cathédrale, construction began in the mid-12th century and lasted just over a hundred years. As a cultural reference in western Switzerland, Lausanne boasts several important museums, including the Collection de l'Art Brut at the Beaulieu Castle (Avenue des Bergières, 11), which since 1971 has exhibited a unique collection of works by social outcasts, prisoners and psychiatric patients, and the Fondation de l'Hermitage (Route du Signal, 2), which not only offers temporary art exhibitions but also spectacular views over Lake Geneva and the Cathedral. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). The area surrounding the Cathedral and the waterfront neighbourhood of Ouchy are full of shops and restaurants, where you can enjoy many regional dishes such as the traditional "Saucisses au Chou", pork sausages with cabbage, or "Papet Vaudois", which is the version of the "Saucisse au chou" accompanied by gratin potatoes and leeks. Other typical dishes of the region are "Malakoff" (fried cheese balls usually served as a starter) and "Carac" (delicious chocolate tarts). Enjoy your meal! Overnight stay in Lausanne.

DAY 3 · LAUSANNE - LAVAUX - PUIDOUX - CHEXBRES - VEVEY - MONTREUX

Lausanne is first and foremost the "Olympic Capital", as it's the base of the Olympic Committee and the Olympic Museum (Le Musée Olympique, in French, located on Quai d'Ouchy, 1). This is the world's largest information centre about the Olympic Games and reviews the history of this sporting event from the 1896 Athens Games to the present day. Take the opportunity to soak up the "Olympic spirit" in this avant-garde building while walking around the interactive exhibitions and checking out the documents, films and collections of valuable objects related to Olympism. The next stage of this road trip will allow you to explore the beautiful and bucolic eastern coast of Lake Geneva following the course of the popular "Train of the vines" (Train des vignes), a romantic and pleasant tour of the most famous wine-growing region of Switzerland. Our first recommended stop is at the beautiful Lavaux vineyard, planted on terraces dug out of the lakeside slopes and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2007.

From there, head towards the city of Montreux, passing through the vineyards of Puidoux, Chexbres and Vevey, with their traditional wineries linked by a major network of hiking trails that command stunning panoramic views.

Nestled in a bay of Lake Geneva, Montreux is a beautifully elegant city of parkland and stately homes that has been popular for decades with celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin and Freddie Mercury as a holiday hideaway. Very close to the town, along a lakeside path snaking through vineyard-blanketed slopes, is one of the most visited places in the whole of Switzerland, Chillon Castle (Château de Chillon). This thirteenth-century fortress with huge turrets and beautiful halls standing on a rocky island was Lord Byron's inspiration for his famous poem "The Prisoner of Chillon". (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). Montreux also has a close relationship with music. Freddie Mercury spent the final years of his life here (his ashes are said to have been scattered into Lake Geneva opposite the statue erected in his memory), while the group Deep Purple group experienced a fire during a Frank Zappa concert that inspired their famous hit "Smoke on the Water". What's more, in the month of July, Montreux turns into the world capital of jazz when it hosts the famous Montreux Jazz Festival which, since its launch in 1967, has attracted all the major stars from styles such as jazz, blues, rock, world music and soul. (Note: Not included). German, French and Italian cuisine have a great influence on food in Montreux, where typical recipes include "Maissuppe" (a meat broth with sweetcorn and pork fat) and "Rösti" (potato fritters fried in butter and lard). Overnight stay in Montreux.

DAY 4 · MONTREUX - GRUYÈRES - LES DIABLERETS - MONTREUX

Today you'll head towards the canton of Freiburg in the heart of Switzerland. Your destination is a beautiful town where cheese also takes centre stage, Gruyères (Greyerz, in German), birthplace of the ever-so-tasty and internationally famous gruyère cheese, protected by the Le Gruyère protected designation of origin. So as soon as you set foot in the town, head over to the "Maison du Gruyère" (Place de la Gare, 3), where you can enjoy the process of artisan cheese-making and, of course, try a recently-made mild or matured variety. Delicious! And if that wasn't enough of an attraction, there's a delightful medieval atmosphere in Gruyères, as if time had stood still in this pocket-sized Swiss town. You can visit the majestic Gruyères Castle (Château de Gruyères, in French), a fortification built at the end of the thirteenth century, and the Saint-Germain Castle (Château St. Germain), both included in the so-called 'Swiss Inventory of Cultural Assets of National and Regional Importance'. What's more, the Saint-Germain Castle also houses the H.R.Giger Museum, in tribute to the famous Swiss artist who designed the most famous "Alien" ever seen on the big screen. (Note: Check prices and opening times. Not included). The old city walls and several of the houses located on the Rue du Bourg add to the fascinating historical legacy of this charismatic town, a heritage intrinsically related to the Middle Ages.

Then drive over to Col du Pillon, located about fifty-eight kilometres southeast on the Route 11 that snakes through the Parc Naturel Régional Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut, and then back to the canton of Vaud. Col du Pillon is home to the idyllic fairytale village of Les Diablerets, where you can enjoy spectacular panoramic views of up to twenty-four peaks over 4,000 metres, such as the Matterhorn or Mont Blanc. Les Diablerets is also where you'll find Glacier 3000, an adventure park at an altitude of more than 3,000 metres with ski slopes, a snow park, snowshoe trails and mountain bike runs. But, best of all, it's the site of the "Alpine Coaster", the highest bobsleigh run in the whole world. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). To get back to Montreux, take Route 11 eastbound for thirty-seven kilometres.

Overnight stay in Montreux.

● DAY 5 · MONTREUX - GENEVA

And then keep going towards Geneva, which lies about a hundred kilometres east of Montreux, again skirting Lake Geneva at all times. The most convenient way is to take the A9 motorway to Lausanne and straight on to Geneva. You can take the opportunity to stop off anywhere still left on your list of must-sees, or drive the full ninety minutes non-stop and spend the rest of the day in Geneva. In Geneva we recommend that you take a trip on Lake Geneva with some motorboats that function as water taxis called "mouettes (gulls)", giving you excellent views of the city and one of its emblems, the Jet d'Eau, literally "water jet". The Jet d'Eau is one of the largest sources in Europe as it pumps water up to 140 meters high at an impressive speed of 200km/h. Located at the point where the lake flows into the Rhone River you can also access it through the stone pier enabled from the shore of the lake. Although be careful if the wind suddenly changes as you can get soaked! The best time to enjoy this spectacular fountain is at night illuminated by a total of 12 spotlights that create a beautiful play of lights and colours to delight both the young and old. Take the opportunity to taste another of the gourmet delights of the Central European country, the famous "Raclette", a recipe similar to the "fondue" but accompanied by potatoes, cucumbers and vinegar onions, as well as mustard sauce. Overnight stay in Geneva.

● DAY 6 · GENEVA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Geneva.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Geneva.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lausanne.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lausanne.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Montreux.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Montreux.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Switzerland direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Geneva



Nyon



Lausanne



Bourg-en-Lavaux



Puidoux



Chexbres



Vevey



Montreux



Gruyères



Les Diablerets



Important remarks

- Driving in Switzerland: 1. It's compulsory to drive with headlights on at all times, even on the brightest summer's day. Seatbelts are mandatory for all passengers. 2. Speed limits. 2.1 Built-up areas up to 50 km/h. 2.2 Roads up to 80 km/h. 2.3 Dual carriageways and motorways up to 120 km/h. 2.4. There are many radars in Switzerland, especially in speed-controlled sections, and radar detectors are forbidden. Fines for speeding are very high, so make sure you stay within the limits at all times. If you are fined, the police can demand on-the-spot payment. 3. In Switzerland, blue road signs indicate secondary roads, while green ones indicate motorways. 3.1. Make sure that your rental car has a Swiss motorway vignette on the windscreen. This means you can use all Swiss motorways for free over a one-year period (in Switzerland there are no toll roads as such). 4. Studded tyres are allowed from October to April, but they're not allowed on most roads throughout the rest of the year. The speed limit with these tyres is 80 km/h. 5. A red warning triangle and a reflective yellow vest must always be carried in your car in the event of a breakdown or accident. 6. Alcohol. The legal limit is 0.25 g/l. There are severe penalties for drivers that exceed the allowed limit. 7. Parking. All the major cities in Switzerland have metered parking. 7.1. If you want to park on the street, take careful note of the road markings. Yellow line: parking prohibited. Blue line: free parking, but limited to one hour (except at night). You can get a blue parking disc free of charge at tourist offices in any city and it will be valid for the whole of Switzerland. White line: metered parking for a limited time (varies depending on the location). You have to pay at the special parking

meters.

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.