

Christmas markets along the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

It is back – the most beautiful time of the year! The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland is particularly delightful in winter: snow-covered hills, frozen lakes and festively lit Christmas markets. Many of these markets are right at the train stations and are therefore simply perfect in combination with the train tour!

Christmas markets in Zurich – Route St. Gallen to Zürich.



No fewer than 7,000 Swarovski crystals adorn the 15-metre high Christmas tree in the great hall of Zurich main station. Surrounded by 150 market stalls, it is a striking highlight. The Christmas experience starts right at arrival: The moment visitors step off the train they are greeted by the sweet fragrance of spiced hot wine punch and cinnamon. The perfect start for travellers of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland – not least thanks to direct connections from the neighbouring countries. Only a few hours separate the Zurich hub from Milano, Paris, Stuttgart or Innsbruck.

Christmas markets Lucerne – Route Zurich to Luzern.



Arriving at Lucerne, guests do not have to wander far: The RailCity Christmas market is located at the lower level of the main station. With some 20 stalls it is not among the largest but certainly among the loveliest Christmas markets in town. Nicely protected from rain and snow, it brings a touch of festive mood to the Lucerne station – not least owing to various musical performances on the “Engelsstimmen-Bühne” (angelic voices stage). Whether from abroad (e.g. Milano) or some other Swiss city, thanks to direct trains, visitors are in the thick of things in no time.

Christmas markets Interlaken – Route Luzern to Montreux.



Along the GoldenPass Line from Lucerne to Montreux, a stop over in Interlaken is well worth it. A truly heavenly Christmas experience awaits those who wish to enjoy the time before Christmas with all their senses. The visit to Christmas markets can be combined not only with Christmas shopping but also with ice-skating on the “Top of Europe Ice Magic Interlaken” ice rink – where fun for young and old is guaranteed!

Christmas markets Montreux – Route Luzern to Montreux.



At Zweisimmen, the GoldenPass MOB Panoramic or the GoldenPass MOB Belle Époque start in the direction of the French-speaking Swiss region. Shortly before arriving at its destination, a fantastic view onto glistening Lake Geneva unfolds. And for those who look closely, the lights of Montreux's most beautiful Christmas market are already visible. Only a few walking minutes from the station, the market impresses visitors with a glamorous 3D light show illuminating the entire façade of the Fairmont Le Montreux palace. Its location near the lake lends a very special, warm and festive atmosphere to the Christmas market. Each year, countless "flying lights" float on the lake. Travellers should not miss out on this beautiful spectacle – whether from the lake promenade or by boat.

Christmas spirit Zermatt – Route Montreux to Zermatt.



Leaving Montreux, the train passes by Martigny as well as the famous Stocker Palace in the Rhonetal Valley and drives through Switzerland's deepest-incised valley, the Nicolaital Valley. After a train ride of roughly two-and-a-half hours, the passengers of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland arrive in fashionable Zermatt. Countless lights turn the station square into a festive colour spectacle and make for a warm welcome – against the backdrop of the world famous Matterhorn, which is visible from every point in the village.

Christmas spirit in St. Moritz – Route Zermatt to St. Moritz on the Glacier Express.



On the Glacier Express, the slowest Express train in the world, the journey continues over the Oberalp Pass towards the Engadine, and more precisely: to St. Moritz. In St. Moritz Bad, the new adventure ice park "Gletschin" with an iced path and market stalls puts visitors into a cheerful winter and Christmas mood – from December 2017 to February 2018. With the culinary offers of the "gastro village" a new après-ski venue is created in the chic winter town. Of course, a Christmas stroll along the decorated shopping mile is a must.

Christmas markets Lugano – Route St. Moritz to Lugano on the Palm Express.



During the winter months, the journey continues on the Palm Express. The PostBus ride is rich in contrasts and leads from St. Moritz down the Bregaglia Valley to the urban and cultural centre of Lugano in Ticino. On the Piazza Riforma, not far from the train station, the local residents celebrate the Christmas period. During this time, the city centre turns into a brightly lit village with stalls, musical performances and booths offering delicious spiced hot wine punch. Travellers shouldn't miss the stop over in the only Italian-speaking city on the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland for the world.

Christmas markets St. Gallen – Route Luzern to St. Gallen.



The Voralpen- Express takes guests from Lucerne to St. Gallen, a city steeped in tradition. Each Advent, St. Gallen turns into the most atmospheric “Schweizer Sternenstadt” (starry city). No fewer than 700 stars sparkle over the squares and lanes and wrap the historic facades of the UNESCO World Heritage city in festive splendour. The atmosphere in the cheerfully decorated alleys of the old town makes the period before Christmas in St. Gallen a truly special experience.

Christmas markets Schaffhausen – Route St. Gallen to Zürich.



The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland continues along the Rhine back to Zurich. A stop over in Schaffhausen counts as a must. Not only because of the *my*TSB stamp location but also because of the traditional Christmas market. The Schaffhausen Christmas market is located in and around the over 800-year-old cloister of the monastery “zu Allerheiligen” (All Hallows) – only a few walking minutes from the train station Schaffhausen. At this small, exclusive market, a handpicked selection of exhibitors offer products that are all connected to Christmas. Whoever is still looking for Christmas decoration or a suitable present: this is the place to go.

Good to know – Certificate and *my*Travel Stamp Booklet.



With the purchase of a Swiss Travel Pass in selected countries, guests receive a free-of-charge Grand Train Tour of Switzerland ***my*Travel Stamp Booklet**. Along the most beautiful train journey of Switzerland, nine individual stamps can be collected. The stamp fun is ideally combined with a visit to Switzerland’s Christmas markets. All nine cities hosting a stamp facility have donned their festive robes and spread the pre-Christmas spirit, inviting visitors to enjoy comfortable togetherness.

In order to keep the delightful and eventful journey in good memory, the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland certificate has been created. Simply by selecting the desired routes and pressing print, it’s there for the taking:
MySwitzerland.com/certificate

Pictures are ready for download [here](#).

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