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*Weggis and Lake Lucerne*

PRIMAVERA 2023:

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SWITZERLAND, ALSACE, THE BLACK FOREST, AND AUSTRIA

A 15-day exploration, from Tuesday, May 9, to Tuesday, May 23, 2023

*A leisurely tour focusing on highlights of the four countries surrounding Lake Constance (Bodensee), namely Switzerland's heartland around Lake Lucerne; France's picturesque province of Alsace; the legendary Black Forest in Germany; and Austria's westernmost region around the city of Bregenz...plus the miniature state of Liechtenstein! This tour features very comfortable, traditional family-owned hotels and delicious food, and will be escorted by historian Jacques Pauwels, PhD.*

Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$6,795(CAD)  
“Land only” from/to Zurich Airport May 10-23: \$5,095 -- Single room supplement: \$750

### ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Tuesday, May 9: Evening departure from Toronto to Zurich Air Canada's non-stop flight.

Day 2 - Wednesday, May 10: Late morning arrival in Zurich, where a comfortable coach will be waiting to take us to [Weggis](#), an idyllic little resort nestled on the shores of wonderful [Lake Lucerne](#), situated in the middle of the country and surrounded by impressive Alpine peaks, including famous Mount Rigi; the area is often called the 'Riviera' of central Switzerland. Check into the fine three-star [Hotel Gotthard](#) and free time to settle in. Dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 3 – Thursday, May 11: This morning a lake steamer will take us to nearby [Lucerne](#), one of the prettiest cities in Switzerland and all of Europe. Our walking tour here will include the quaint old town, the famous covered wooden Chapel Bridge, emblem of the city, and the impressive Lion's Monument, dedicated to the Swiss soldiers who died defending King Louis XVI during the French Revolution. Also free time to enjoy lunch, shop for

watches and traditional Swiss army knives, and perhaps visit the superb [transportation museum](#). Late afternoon return to Weggis by lake steamer and dinner again in the hotel.



< *Lucerne's Chapel Bridge*

Day 4 – Friday, May 12: Day at leisure in Weggis. Your options include a walk along the shores of the lake, a relaxing tour of the lake by steamer, and a spectacular cable car ride to the top of legendary [Mount Rigi](#), known as “the queen of the mountains,” a giant that rises spectacularly to an altitude of nearly 1,800 meters! Dinner again in the hotel.



*Lake Lucerne from the top of Mount Rigi*

Day 5 - Saturday, May 13: After breakfast, departure from Weggis by private coach. We cross into France and motor to the picturesque city of [Colmar](#), situated in the heart of [Alsace](#), the French province bordering on Germany as well as Switzerland. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located, comfortable three star/superior tourist-class Hotel Ibis Styles, our home for the next 5 nights. Dinner in a typical restaurant.

Day 6 - Sunday, May 14: Morning sightseeing, on foot and by little tourist train, of Colmar's beautiful medieval city centre, crisscrossed by winding and narrow streets and featuring wood-framed houses, impressive old churches, imposing public buildings, and scenic canals of the “Little Venice” district. The highlight will be our visit to the fascinating [Unterlinden Museum](#), whose pride and joy is the great Isenheim Altarpiece, a world-famous early-16<sup>th</sup> century painting by Nikolaus of Hagenau and Matthias Grünewald. Afternoon free to explore the town on your own. No group dinner this evening.



*Old Colmar >*

Day 7 - Monday, May 15:

Excursion into the surrounding Alsatian wine country, situated on the slopes rising from the banks of the nearby Rhine River, which forms the border with Germany to the heights of the Vosges Mountains, behind which stretches the neighbouring French province of Lorraine. We start in the town of [Kaysersberg](#),



birthplace of a famous Alsatian, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, then continue through the vineyards to the medieval jewel of [Riquewihr](#), still surrounded by city walls and arguably one of the prettiest wine villages in the world! During a winery visit and tasting, we will learn about Pinot Gris, Riesling, Gewuerztraminer and other typical Alsatian grape varieties. Return to Colmar and visit to the small museum dedicated to the life and work of a local sculptor, Auguste Bartholdi, whose world-famous masterpiece is the Statue of Liberty, given by France to the US in 1876, on the occasion of the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence. This evening, our dinner in a typical restaurant will feature Flammekueche, the Alsatian equivalent of pizza!

*< Riquewihr and its vineyards*



Day 8 - Tuesday, May 16: Morning visit to the fabulous [National Automobile Museum](#) in the nearby city of Mulhouse, where no less than 500 vintage cars are on display, some of which were once owned by celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin, French president Poincaré, and Belgium's King Leopold. Then we tour the heights of the Vosges Mountains, following the 'Routes des Crêtes' to the top (well, almost) of the Grand Ballon, with an altitude of 1,424 m the highest mountain of the entire chain. At the Bonhomme Mountain Pass (Col du Bonhomme, alt. 949m), we will be reminded of the Great

War of 1914-1918, when this was the scene of heavy fighting! Return to Colmar via the scenic Valley of Munster, famous for its pungent cheese! Today, group lunch OR dinner.

Day 9 - Wednesday, May 17: Today we visit the capital of Alsace which also happens to be one the two capitals of the European Union, [Strasbourg](#). Our guided tour will cover all the highlights, including the Cathedral, one of the finest in France, with its amazing spire, the quaint "Petite France" district on the banks of the Ill River, the Palais de l'Europe (EU headquarters), and the [Musée d'Alsace](#), focusing on the traditional arts and crafts of the province. Also some free time for shopping and individual exploration, and return to Colmar in late afternoon. No group dinner this evening, but it will be possible to enjoy an optional gourmet dinner in one of the town's numerous highly-rated restaurants.

Day 10 - Thursday, May 18: Departure from Colmar after breakfast. Crossing the Rhine into Germany, we enter the region of Baden, similar in many ways to nearby Alsace and famous for its wine! Via the vineyards on the slopes of the Kaiserstuhl Mountain, an extinct volcano that inspired ancient legends, we soon reach [Freiburg](#). That vibrant old university city, crisscrossed by small streams coming down from the hills of the Black Forest, a mountain range of forest-covered hills that rise just outside the city. After a walk through the historical city centre, huddled around the Gothic Cathedral, and a lunch break, we enter the Black Forest and head for its most famous resort, [Titisee](#), nestled on the shore of a beautiful lake of the same name. In late afternoon we continue through the bucolic hills and valleys of the Black Forest to the town of [Donaueschingen](#), where we visit the most famous attraction, the source of the River Danube ([Donauquelle](#)), before checking into a traditional superior 3-star hotel, the [Grüner Baum](#). Dinner of Black Forest specialties in the hotel's restaurant.

*Titisee and its lake >*



Day 11 - Friday, May 19: Full-day excursion in the southern Black Forest and just across the Rhine and the Swiss border, with as highlights the [Rhine Falls](#) in the town of Schaffhausen, the most powerful waterfall in Europe, and the picture-perfect medieval town of [Stein am Rhein](#). Dinner again in our hotel in Donaueschingen.



*Stein am Rhein*



*< Lindau, on an island in Lake Constance, with Bregenz and Dornbirn in the background*

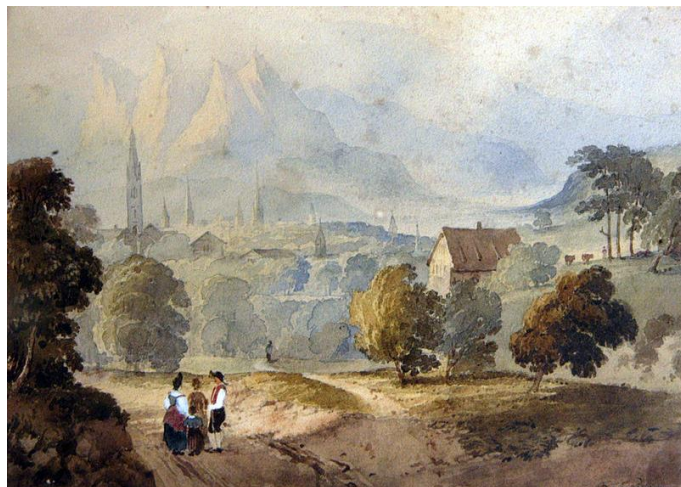
scenic northern lakeshore, we pause for lunch in the quaint town of [Lindau](#), located on a small offshore island connected to the mainland by a causeway. In the afternoon we cross into Austria and head for the town of [Dornbirn](#), and check into the first-class/four-star [Hotel Krone](#). Free time to settle in, and dinner in the hotel.

Day 12 - Saturday, May 20: Departure after breakfast. We leave the Black Forest and soon reach [Lake Constance](#), known locally as the Bodensee, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Europe, a vast and beautiful body of water, fed by the Rhine River and separating Germany from both Austria and Switzerland. Following the



Day 13 – Sunday, May 21: Morning sightseeing in nearby [Bregenz](#), the very attractive capital of Austria’s westernmost state (*Land*), [Vorarlberg](#), and situated on the shores of Lake Constance This city is the home of a famous annual music festival, the Bregenz Festspiele, featuring performances on a stage jutting out into the lake! In the afternoon, leisurely exploration of the nearby Bregenz Forest ([Bregenzerwald](#)), a scenic landscape promoted to the tentative UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, characterized by romantic river valleys, gently rolling hills as well as impressive peaks, and many quaint ancient villages such as Schwarzenberg, featuring traditional farms and wooden houses. Return to Dornbirn in late afternoon and rest of the day at leisure to explore the town or relax in the hotel’s spa facilities. No group dinner this evening.

*Chur on a watercolour drawing by Francis Nicholson  
(1753-1844) >*



Day 14- Wednesday, May 22: Excursion through the Rhine Valley to [Chur](#), allegedly the oldest town of Switzerland and the pretty little capital of the canton of [Graubünden](#), a.k.a. the Grisons; this is a multilingual region, where German dominates but the spoken languages include Italian and of course the regional language, [Romansh](#). After lunch, for which we highly recommend a delicious local specialty, *Bündnerfleisch* or “[Grisons meat](#).” In the afternoon we enter the principality of [Liechtenstein](#), a miniature country tucked between Switzerland and Austria, and explore Vaduz, its capital, a village rather than a city! Return to our hotel in late afternoon. Auf-Wiedersehen dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 15 - Thursday, May 23: After breakfast, transfer to Zurich Airport (125km) in time for the departure around 1PM of our non-stop return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, arriving around 4PM.

**Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$6,495 (CAD)**  
**“Land only” from/to Zurich Airport May 10-23: \$5,095 -- Single room supplement: \$750**

*Included in the tour price are:*

- Return flight Toronto-Zurich with Air Canada, including one checked suitcase;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in one 4-star/first-class hotel and three 3-star/superior tourist-class hotels; the supplement for a single room is \$750 but only a limited number of singles are available;
- Breakfast daily (mostly if not all buffet-style) and all but four dinners;
- Overland transportation by private coach;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

*Not included are:*

- All items of a personal nature;
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- Travel Insurance -- available upon request.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

### **RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:**

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form. **REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:** Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply: 90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost 60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost **RESPONSIBILITY:** The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

### **RELEASE & AGREEMENT:**

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following: 1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. 2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity. 3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour. 4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both. 5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for

me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director. 6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group. 7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting. 8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered. 9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

#### **A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:**

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection. It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff. If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please book \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on the “ Highlights of Switzerland, Alsace, the Black Forest, and Austria“ May 9 to 23, 2023. Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750 per person, plus insurance premium if taken.)

I wish to book on group flights \_\_\_\_\_ OR land only \_\_\_\_\_. (If booking land only please send the office a copy of your flight details).

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

**WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.**

PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for “Mary Elizabeth”) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) \_\_\_\_\_ double (1 bed) \_\_\_\_\_?

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc., here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

INSURANCE: Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit. I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

All-inclusive Package \_\_\_\_\_ Non-medical Package \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ OR Decline Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT:** Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel E-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com Visa Mastercard American

Express Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ “I/we agree to the terms

and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included

payment”. Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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