

On Saturday August 25th, 2007, Marcia, Jim (Marcia's husband), Marie (Marcia's sister), Kal (Marie's husband) and Mike (Kal's brother) traveled to Europe for the start of Insight's two week guided tour Country Roads of Switzerland.

Marie, Kal and Mike flew out of Cincinnati at 1PM, arriving in Newark NJ at 2:45PM, four hours prior to the planned 6:45PM Continental Airlines departure for Zurich, Switzerland. Marcia and Jim had a little more "tense" journey to Newark from the Albany NY airport. Although our Continental regional jet was at the gate for the scheduled 2:45PM departure from Albany, the pilot and gate personnel informed us that our flight was "on hold" due to congestion in Newark. We finally boarded our plane at 4PM, but the pilot did not get clearance to take off from Albany until 5:10PM. Then, our plane was instructed to go into a 20 minute holding pattern north of Newark...we finally landed a little after 6PM. Fortunately, the gate for our flight from Albany was very close to the gate for the Zurich flight. We made it to the gate at about 6:20PM, greeted Marie, Kal and Mike, and immediately boarded the Continental Boeing 767 for the 6:45PM departure for Zurich.

The flight from Newark to Zurich takes about 8 hours, and, as the time in Zurich is 6 hours ahead of the East Coast of the USA, we were scheduled to land in Switzerland at about 8:45AM Sunday morning, so, after dinner, we attempted to get some sleep. The sun rose about 6:30AM, Sunday morning August 26<sup>th</sup>, just as we crossed over Ireland. Then over England and France (great views) before sweeping over the lakes and mountains and landing in Zurich on time.

Marcia and Jim figured that we had a good chance of not having our luggage arrive with us in Zurich, due to our tight connection in Newark, caused by our delayed flight from Albany. So imagine our surprise when our bags were among the first to come down the baggage belt...and then our horror when none of Marie's, Kal's or Mike's bags arrived, despite their four hour layover in Newark! Mike, Kal and Marie gave the info to the baggage folks, and we hope that their bags will eventually arrive. We assume the next flight is arriving in Zurich Monday morning...and our tour will have already left Zurich...staying Monday night in Villars, so we hope the baggage eventually catches up with the tour!

Our baggage problems caused us to miss the Insight transportation to our hotel, so we phoned the hotel and caught their regularly scheduled (on the half hour) shuttle at 10:30AM. When we arrived at our hotel (Swissotel) we were told our rooms would not be ready until after noon. We went out walking. As it was Sunday, most all stores were closed, but we found a little restaurant and sat outside and had excellent pizza for lunch. Restaurants are opened "normal



hours" operating well into the evening and on weekends. We learned later that shops and stores in Switzerland are all shut on Sunday, and most take a two hour lunch break during the week, from noon until 2PM, and all then close at 6:30PM. The exception is rail stations, which all have a small convenience store...called a "Kiosk" that is open all of the time. At the rail station right next to the Swissotel, Marie, Kal and Mike were able to buy some grooming items.

Weather is great..sunny and in the mid-70's. It has been a very wet and cloudy summer in Europe, so we have been watching the forecast carefully, and hoping we'll be lucky!

Back to the hotel (Swissotel) and checked into our nice rooms (Mike, who is traveling alone, and not signed up for the single supplement, has not been assigned a roommate yet, so hoping it will stay that way...which it does)!

We then went down to the lobby at 2PM to meet our Tour Director, Susan (from the U.K.), and the rest of the folks on the tour. First on the agenda is a bus and walking tour of Zurich. We had read about what a great Tour Director Susan is, on the Insight Travel Bulletin Board, and now having met her, we don't think she will disappoint! We also met our motor coach driver, Gerhard (from Austria).

Susan informed Marie, Kal and Mike that it's common for folks to arrive without luggage, but the luggage always seems to show up the next day.





Off on our tour of Zurich, this was a nice mix of walking and bus travel. As it was Sunday, great to see the populace enjoying the fine weather. We toured Zurich's "old section" and landmark churches, walking up to the top of the tower of the Fraumunster church to see Zurich from some elevation.



Back to the hotel at 5PM, then a welcome overview meeting with our tour guide, along with beer, wine and juices compliments of Insight. Our group numbers 40 people, evenly divided between USA and Australia. All seem nice.

Now, we call it a day. Marie, Kal and Mike have borrowed and bought some clothes/supplies for tomorrow, so we think they will be presentable!





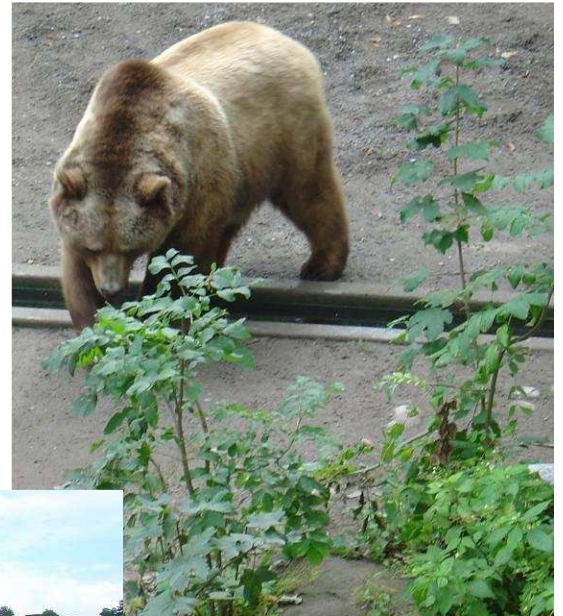
Today is Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, our second full day in Switzerland. Up at 6AM or so, Marcia's and Jim's bags were packed and in the hall for pickup at 7:10AM, down to a nice buffet breakfast, then on the motor coach at 8AM.

We have our full tour complement of 40 people, now. Kal and Marie, Jim and Marcia sit together, of course. Mike's a "single", so he's sitting with another single, Heinz from Australia. He turns out to be a nice addition to our section...born in Germany, he moved to Australia after East Germany fell under communist control after WWII. Heinz is not a youngster, but "sharp as a tack" and still has a nice German accent.

We depart for the Swiss capital of Bern. Our tour director is shocked (as am I, based on the forecast I had pulled off the internet) when it starts raining. but soon it cleared up and we ended up having a great, sunny and warm day.

In Bern, we toured the Bear Pits, the apartment where Albert Einstein came up with  $E=MC^2$ , and just a really nice old section of the city.

On the way, we call the computerized "Baggage Hotline" in Zurich, and get a recording (after entering the secret code) that the Marie's, Kal's and Mike's luggage would finally be delivered by 7:30PM at the latest to our Monday night hotel.





Then a beautiful drive to Murten to visit the old city and walk the surrounding walls.



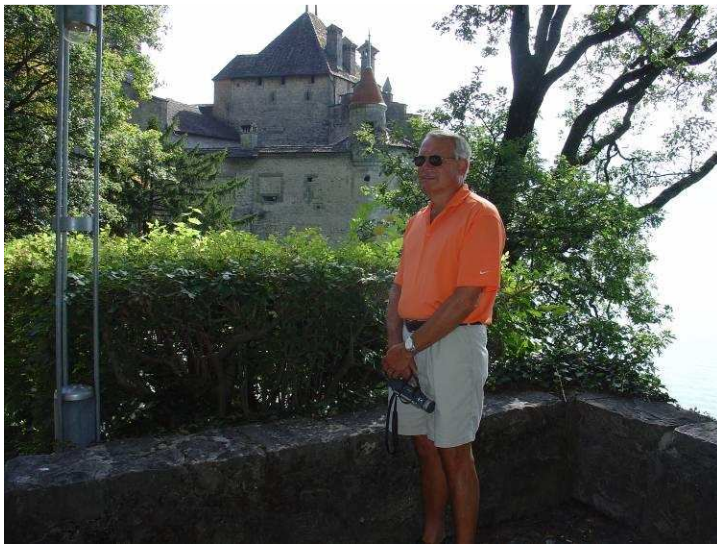
On the way to Murten, as we had planned, we called Ernst (a Swiss native, and an old friend of Marie's, from back in the 1970's when Ernst worked for NCR in Dayton OH) to make plans for him and his friend, Cecile, who have now lived in Switzerland since the late 70's, to meet us for lunch in Murten. We had a nice lunch. Since we Americans only speak English, and Cecile speaks French Ernst, who speaks primarily German translates for all of us between the three languages!

We find Cecile and Ernst to be two very nice people. Ernst will meet our tour tomorrow at about noon, and be with us for the rest of that day and evening.





Then, onto Lake Geneva to visit Chillon Castle.



Switzerland is a small country, only 7 million people and many mountains but not a lot of area. We are happy about this as we will not have any super long bus rides. We cross from the German speaking part of Switzerland into the French speaking part (which really makes no difference to those of us that are still trying to master one language!). The tour of the castle, built out into Lake Geneva, was great.

We are in Montreux, home of many famous stars; also, many rock concerts in the past. Freddie Mercury, former frontman for Queen is immortalized in a statue by the sea. Do you remember the old Deep Purple song, from 1971 "Smoke on the Water"..."*we all came down to Montreux on the Lake Geneva shoreline...Frank Zappa and the Mothers were rocking the place around...some idiot with a flare gun burned the place to the ground...smoke on the water, fire in the sky*"? It's a true

story.

About 4:30PM we left the Lake Geneva area for our mountain hotel in Villars (The Du Golf & Marie Louise Hotel) where we will spend the next three nights {with day trips going out from Villars each day}. Leaving Geneva, we ascended narrow mountain roads, arriving at our hotel in the ski resort town of Villars (at 4150 feet about sea level). Amazing views along the way, in the perfect weather.

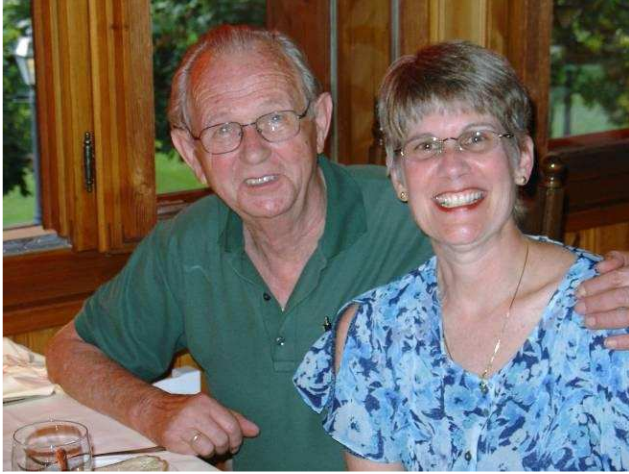
Arriving at the hotel, we get the terrible news that the luggage had not only "not arrived", but would not be delivered until tomorrow! Quickly they go shopping, before the shops close at 6PM (I offer any pair of my 38" waist pants, but am immediately turned down by the slim and trim Mike and Kal...32" waist).

The Du Golf Hotel where we will stay for the next three days is great. We all have large, rustic rooms, with nice balconies looking out onto the Alps. The sound of cowbells echoing in the background. Our included dinner in the hotel is at 7:15PM.





Heinz joins us for dinner at our table of 6, and we learn much about his world travels. Also, that he was in the German army during WW2 (in tanks) and fought on the Russian front for two years before moving to the western front for the final two months of the war!



Dinner was great, and we all took a short walk through town after dinner. We retire to our rooms for the night, and enjoy the view from our beautiful balcony.





Today is Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, our third full day in Switzerland. We have just spent our first night of three staying at the ski resort town of Villars in the Alps, not far from Lake Geneva in Southwest Switzerland. I was up a little early, looking out from our veranda, to watch the full moon set over the mountains, then the sun rising from the opposite direction and bathing the mountains in sun, from their tops, then to their bases.

Down to breakfast and to meet Marie, Kal and Mike and have them show off the new clothes that they (had to) buy yesterday, for today. They sure are hoping that their suitcases arrive today!

We board our tour coach at 8:30AM for what will be a leisurely day touring some of the "Country Roads of Switzerland". For the first two hours, we wind along narrow mountain roads, running between 4000 to 6000 feet in height, past spectacular mountain scenery... mountains, Swiss villages, quaint small towns, glaciers...with chair lifts taking skiers up to ski on the glaciers (in August!)... waterfalls, cows with cowbells...amazing!



The coach stops a few times to let us out for photos, so that we don't have to shoot pictures thru the coach windows. Early on the ride, our Tour Director announces to all that the hotel had just called her (on her cell phone) and told her that Marie's, Kal's and Mike's luggage had just been delivered to the hotel...yeah!

About 10:45AM we stop at the "jet-set" resort of Gstaad and spend 45 minutes walking thru the beautiful town and doing some window shopping. I was concerned about the weather, today, when the forecast I pulled off weather.com on the internet called for a 80% chance of rain. It had been sunny until now, but now a heavy rain hit for about 5 minutes, then it cleared out and was sunny again! Susan, our Tour Director had told us to plan for fast changing weather, and it looks like a forecast with a high probability of rain does not mean an all day washout.





A little before noon, we approach the old walled-city of Gruyeres, famous for cheese. Before we enter the "city", we stop at a cheese factory and take a peek at how they cure the large discs of cheese (each one weighting about 77 pounds and costing about \$500 each).



Then, into the old walled city of Gruyeres. Ernst (Marie's and Marcia's old friend from the 70's when he worked for NCR in Dayton, and now back in his native Switzerland) meets us again, as he had yesterday at noon. The six of us walk the beautiful, ancient city, admiring the walled fortifications, old churches and buildings. Ernst has reserved a hotel room for the night in Villars, where he will join us for dinner. At 1:30PM, Kal, Mike and I re-board our coach to return to Villars, leaving Marie and Marcia behind with Ernst.

The plan is for Kal, Mike and myself to do a little hiking, this afternoon, in the mountains above Villars, while Ernst, Marie and Marcia will spend some more time in Gruyeres, do some additional sightseeing and visiting, then return to Villars in Ernst's automobile.

Our motor coach arrives back at our Villars hotel a little before 3PM. Mike, Kal and I quickly change for hiking and meet in the lobby where we discover that the area is being hit with a major rainstorm with thunder and lightning. We now discuss three potential plans for our hike:

- 1) Ride a ski lift to up the mountain and hike...quickly rejected, as we didn't want to be in a ski lift during a lightning storm!
- 2) Start our hike in Villars...rejected...it was raining, and the views would be better, higher up.
- 3) Take the cog railway up the mountain and hike from there...let's do it...maybe it's not raining up there!

So, we take the 3:35PM cog wheel train up the mountain (from the station right across from our hotel) to the last stop (a 15 minute train ride, using complementary tickets from our hotel). We have a great hike for a couple of hours at about 6000 feet...with great views of the other mountains around us...and close up views of many cows and goats...(not perfect weather for great photos, but we stay dry). Then, down the mountain on the 6:05 cog train to Villars, where we meet Marie, Marcia, and Ernst, as planned, at our hotel.

Ernst treated Marie and Marcia to a delicious lunch of local specialties. Then they did some more sightseeing, and drove to Villars and visited some more.

Now that Marie's, Kal's and Mike's long-lost luggage had arrived, we all did a little cleaning up and met at 7PM for dinner. The six of us walked thru the small resort town of Villars and decided on a nice restaurant where we had a "five star" dinner...really excellent food. Then back to the hotel for a farewell drink. We will say good bye to Ernst tomorrow after breakfast.





Today is Wednesday August 29th, our fourth full day in Switzerland. Waking up after our second (of three) nights in the Alpine ski resort town of Villars, I notice thunder and lightening in the distance. Soon it is raining and it does appear that the forecast for today (pretty rainy!) may hold.

Down to breakfast at 7:30AM, and Marie's and Marcia's friend Ernst joins us and we say our goodbyes. We all enjoyed his friendship and hospitality during the two days he was able to spend some time with us! Our motor coach departs from Villars at 8:45AM, with Ernst waving goodbye.



Today we will be touring the Lake Geneva region and the city of Geneva. If we have to have a really rainy day...this may be a good day to have it! We travel to the north shore of Lake Geneva, which we learn is the largest lake in Europe...45 miles long, 9 miles wide at its widest part, and very deep, as most Alpine lakes are. At Rolle we left the main highway and drove along the north shore, to the city of Geneva, on a narrow road paralleling the shore. We pass many mansions and make a couple of stops for rest breaks and pictures before entering Geneva.

-Geneva is on the border with France, and is part of the French speaking region of Switzerland. We tour via the bus the area of Geneva that contains the many international organizations that have headquarters or major operations based in

Geneva...the United Nations European headquarters, the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the WTO, and several more...all the time Susan, our Tour Director, giving us an excellent commentary. We stop at "Reformation Park", honoring Calvin, Ziliwigy, and the other leaders of the Protestant Reform movement that was based in Geneva in the 1600's.

The rain had stopped, so we were able to have a nice stroll through the park. Also saw the "Jet D'Eau" in the harbor which shoots a stream of water 550 feet into the air (the water is traveling at 120 MPH when it shoots out of the harbor) and the floral clock. Then, a couple of hours of free time in the downtown Geneva district to grab a quick lunch and do some window shopping (many luxury items...watches, etc.).

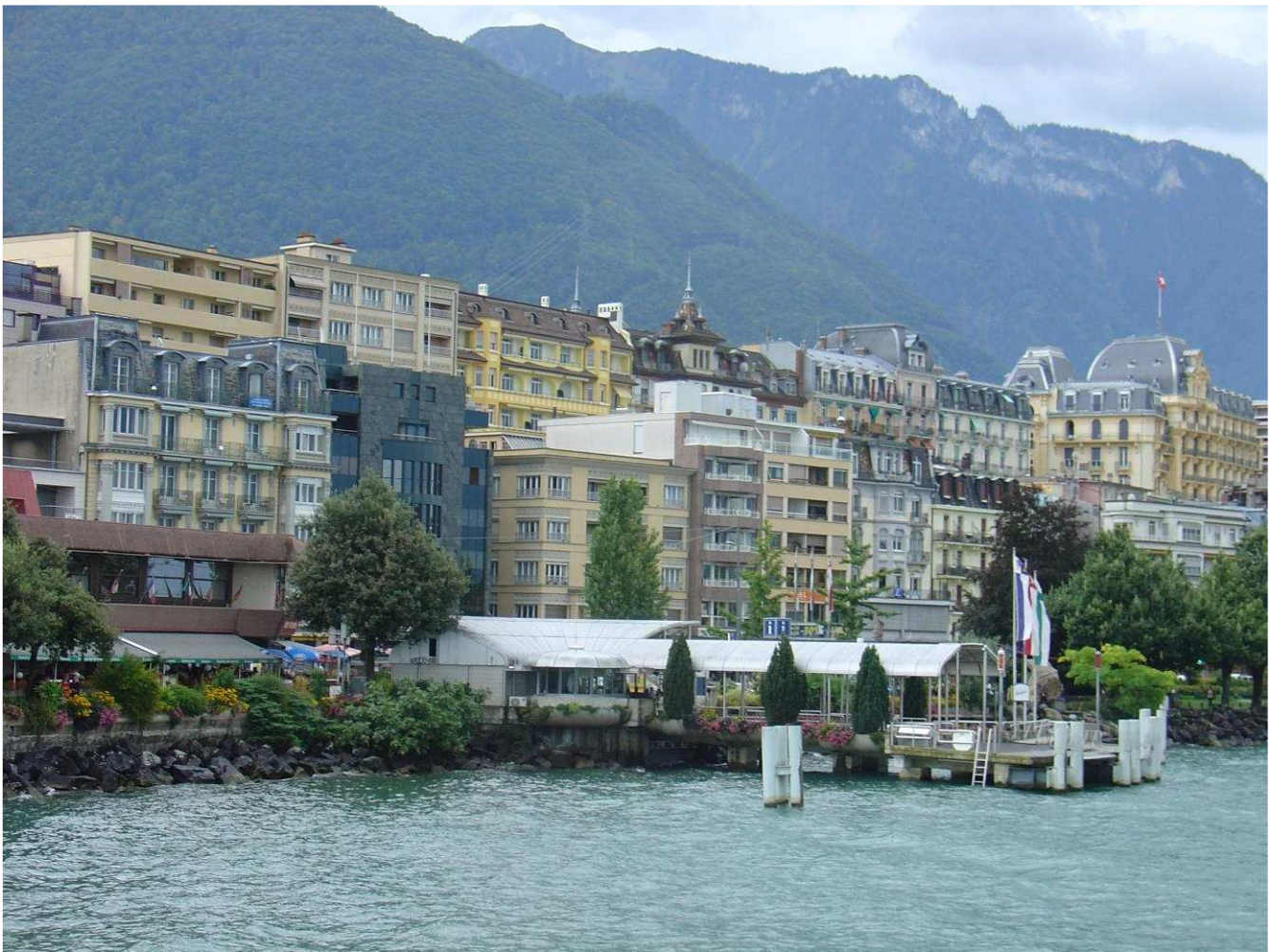
We find Switzerland to be a little on the expensive side, most probably due to the weakness of the US dollar! Switzerland is not part of the European Union so they do not use the Euro. Their currency is the Swiss Franc. The Swiss Franc is about equal to the Australian dollar and worth about \$.75 USD.

-The rain had held off for most of our free time, but then started up again when we boarded our coach at 2PM and headed for Lausanne on the north-central shore of Lake Geneva. There, we boarded a nice small ship for a 1-1/4 hour lake cruise to Montreaux at the eastern end of Lake Geneva. The rain held off for our boat ride, and all (especially Marcia) enjoyed the invigorating breezes on the open part of the ships deck. Then, 1/2 hour of free time walking around Montreaux before reboarding our coach at 5PM to return to our hotel in Villars.





A note from Marcia: - the boat trip was wonderful! I stood in the bow of the ship for almost the whole time. Clouds and a slight drizzle deterred most of my bus mates, but I **loved** it. Off in the distance through a bit of mist were the Alps. With the rain so close, there was a somewhat mystical quality to the atmosphere. And the air was so refreshing. I don't think anyone else shared my enthusiasm, I can't imagine why everyone wasn't out in the air the whole time. It was fantastic. I think I must have been a sailor in a previous life.

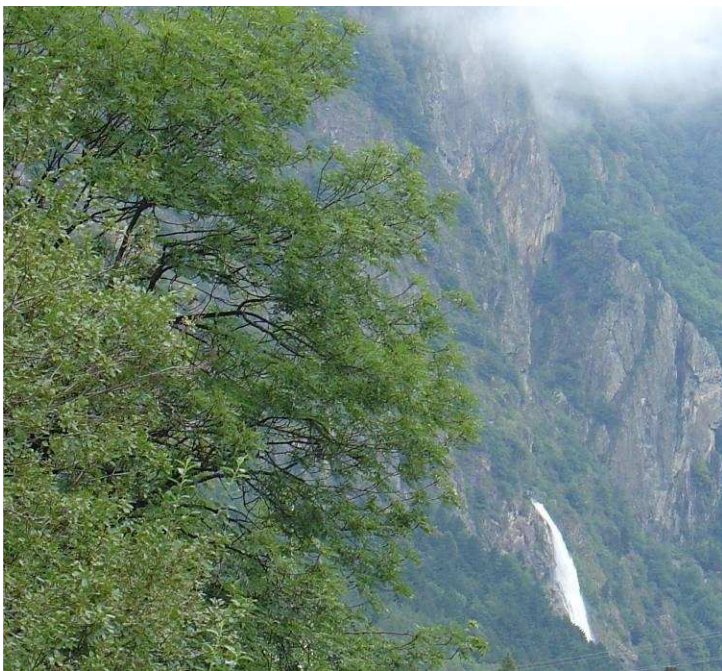


Dinner included a salad bar with delicious pastas and vegetables. There was even a mystery slaw. I thought it was cabbage, but Marie and Kal said the texture wasn't right. And it was also more tangy than our usual slaws. Perhaps it was radish? Whatever it was, most of us enjoyed it. After dinner was over we talked about the optional excursions for the rest of the trip. We have to make our decisions by tomorrow, so will need to ponder a bit.  
Jim (and Marcia)



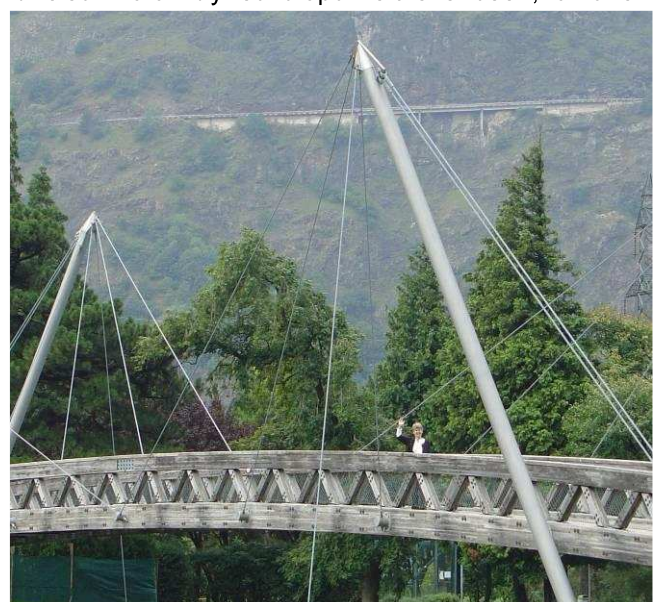
Today is Thursday August 30th, our fifth full day in Switzerland. It was overcast and a little rainy when we got up this morning. I signed onto the internet and checked the weather reports for the rest of our trip for all of the places we will be in. Today will be mostly cloudy with some rain...tomorrow a tough call. Now, tomorrow's weather is really critical for us, as that will be the day when we will have the opportunity to take the trip from Zermatt on cog railways, gondolas and chair lifts up the mountain (ascending from 5200 feet to 14,000 feet) to view the Matterhorn. If the weather is bad, you don't do the trip (as there would be nothing to see)!

Today finished our three day stay at the Hotel Du Golf in the ski resort town of Villars. We all really liked the hotel, with the huge rooms and large balconies overlooking the valley. We packed our bags, ate breakfast and assembled for the 8:30AM departure of our motor coach. Unfortunately one of the ladies on our trip had taken ill and had gone to a doctor. So, we took another stroll through the small village of Villars. She was able to rejoin us and we departed at 10AM...final destination Zermatt at the foot of the Matterhorn Mountain in south-central Switzerland.



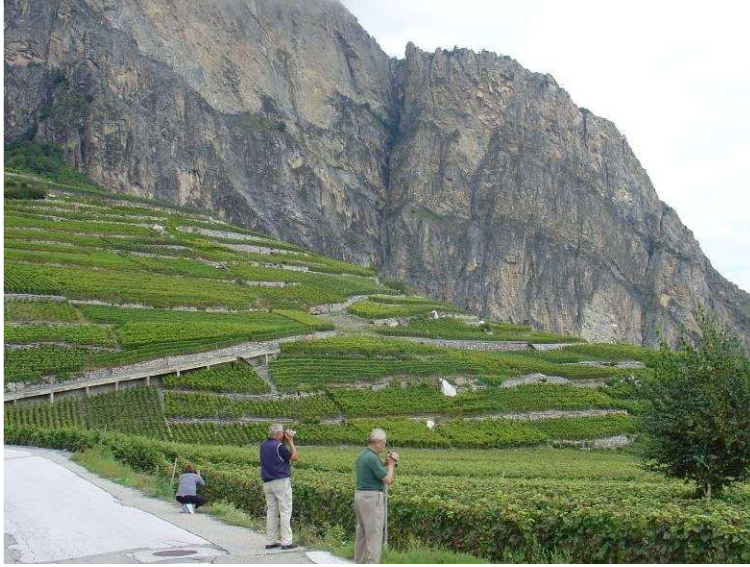
On our way to Martigny, we stop for a photo opportunity at a gorge/waterfall spot. Here, we saw an example of the hidden gun emplacements that the Swiss had built into the rock sides of mountains (covered with painted steel plates, made to look like rock) during the Cold War in the 1950's. They also built hidden command centers and even hidden airplane hangers inside of mountains, all designed to protect them if invaded (I presume from the USSR). During the 50's and 60's, all Swiss homes had to be fitted with a nuclear-proof bomb shelter! Most are used these days to store skis or as wine cellars.

In Martigny, we stop and tour an ancient Roman Amphitheater (quite large...it could seat 8000), then stopped at one of the fanciest motorway rest stops we'd ever seen, for lunch.





After Martigny, we enter the Rhone river valley, and will follow it until we turn off the road in a couple of hours and start our ascent towards Zermatt. This is a beautiful region, with terraced vineyards on the mountains that flank both sides of the valley.



We stop at the town of Scion, which has two mountains positioned above it; on one sits the ruins of a castle, with the ruins of an ancient cathedral on the other. In Scion, we visit an "active" cathedral, originally constructed in the 1200's, and spend some time walking thru the downtown area of small shops and street side cafes. This is definitely in the "French" region of Switzerland. Actually, today's weather has been OK, with little rain, and some sunshine.

Next, we pulled off the main road and made a "surprise" visit to the base of a mountain, next to a village. Up on the mountain stands a 16th century church "St. Michel's on the Rock". We walk into a tunnel at the base of the mountain, and enter the church of "St. Michel's in the Rock", a 500 seat church inside of the mountain... built (or dug out) of the mountain in the early 70's.

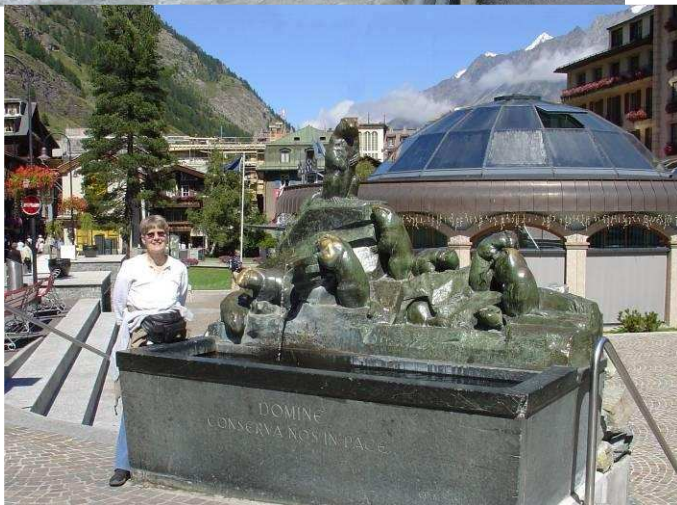


Soon we turn off the main road to start our journey up the mountain to Zermatt (which lies at 5150 feet above sea level...same height as the tallest mountain in NY, Mt. Marcy). Our motor coach winds over a narrow road up a steep canyon; cliffs and waterfalls on both sides. Zermatt is a "traffic free" village, so after 30 minutes, we leave our motor coach and first board mini-vans, for a hair-raising ride further up the mountain...our driver moving at maximum speed around hair-pin turns, challenging approaching traffic to move off the road! We then stop and board large golf carts for a 5 minute drive up to Zermatt and our hotel, the The Best Western Alpen Resort.



What a lovely hotel! We each have huge rooms with large verandas and actually a third room attached with a third bed (except for Mike who has a single room, of course). The rooms in the last hotel and this one are the largest I've ever seen in Europe...which is notorious for small hotel rooms.

The five of us then go for a walk thru the "exclusive" ski resort town of Zermatt. There's really one street, but lined on both sides by trendy shops and cafes...one neat place! Weather a mix of occasional sun and a lot of clouds, but we stay optimistic for tomorrow!



Back to the rooms to get ready to meet the group at 6:30PM for a little awards ceremony for multiple travelers with this tour company (Kal and Marie four times, Marcia and Jim three times); we each got a small gift and drinks for all of the tour group. Then, our "Highlight Dinner" in the restaurant, featuring traditional Swiss foods...cold cheeses and meats to start, then salad, then a "fried" cheese dish with potatoes, then a special desert. Entertainment from an accordion player and much joking and merriment. The quality and quantity of the food and the service were first class.



Then, back to the rooms, but before we go up, we step outside to check the weather and if we can see the elusive Matterhorn (but it's raining!)...we try to get back in, but as hard as Kal pulls the door, it doesn't budge! And no place for a room key! Fortunately, our tour bus diver is standing near by, and recommends that Kal pushes, rather than pull the door...next thing we know, we are safely inside! We must remember that unlike the USA, entrance doors open in, not out!



Today is Friday August 31st, our sixth day in Switzerland... and it's a big one...the day we ascend the Alps to view the famous Matterhorn mountain. As you may recall, weather was a big concern, as there's no need to go up into the mountains if there are lots of clouds, as you can't see anything! We arrived in Zermatt, at the base of the Matterhorn, late yesterday afternoon, but it was very overcast, and we could not see the Matterhorn from the village. Last night before retiring, Marcia and I got onto the internet and checked tomorrow's weather on weather.com. We were delighted to see that the big front was now expected to move south overnight, and weather in Zermatt on Friday would be sunny with a 0% chance of rain!

I was up early, and left the hotel (The Best Western Alpen Resort Hotel) for a walk about 6AM. It was very foggy, but I could see the moon thru the fog, so I knew that there was not much up there. Back to the room to confirm the forecast on the internet, and it's still to be a great day. Marcia and I went down to breakfast and join up with Marie, Kal and Mike. Our Tour Director, Susan Mason, arrived all excited, with her lap top computer and a live feed from web cams up in the Alps showing what a great day it was, up there. Marcia and Jim had signed up for the optional "Klein Matterhorn" excursion, so we and most of our group would go there with Susan. Marie, Kal and Mike were going on their own to the Rothorn overlook (a different mountain than the one we were going to) so that they could have an alternative view of the Matterhorn and then do some hiking. So.....here are two reports on the trips:

#### Klein Matterhorn Trip (Marcia and Jim)

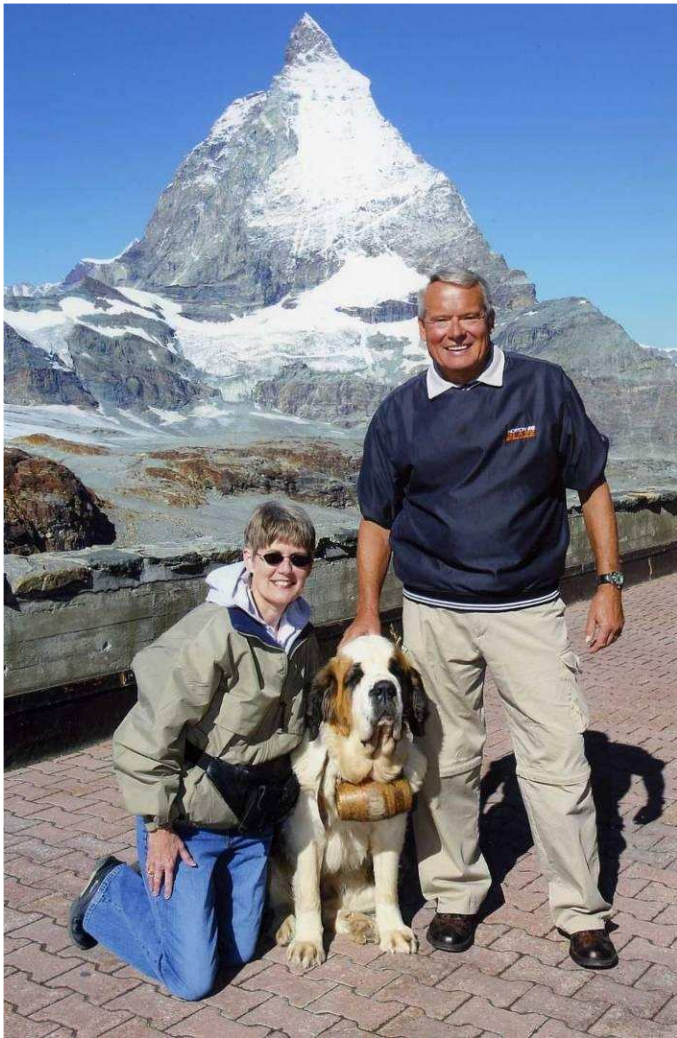
There were about 30 folks from our group that signed up for this optional tour, led by Susan our Tour Director. We left the hotel at 9AM, via the small "golf cart taxis" for a one mile ride to the first lift, which was a gondola, each seating about 6 people in a totally enclosed environment. The temperature was about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. We started at 5150 feet (the height above sea level that Zermatt is at) and ascended to 6000 feet (also covering a lot of horizontal geography). We can see down (beautiful views of Zermatt and the valley), but it's all fog overhead.

Then onto a large cable car, holding 100 people (many with skis and snowboards, as there's skiing up top!). In about 10 minutes, we are transported to 9000 feet. Just before we arrive at the place to get out of the cable car, we break thru the fog and see the Matterhorn and all of the surrounding mountains...bathed in sun with no clouds. The tour group broke out in cheers.



Now, our tour director told us that we were going to stay at this station for one hour to acclimate to the altitude, before ascending to the top. No problem, as this one was one beautiful place. Full service cafeteria and open areas outside for viewing the mountains. There was the Matterhorn and many other mountains to view! It was a little below freezing, but no wind at all, so was actually a little warm in the sun, and we shed one or two of the many layers of clothes that we were in.





Then a treat...our Tour Director had a photographer set to take a group picture and then individual pictures of us, with the Matterhorn as a backdrop, and his Saint Bernard dog sitting in front of us (we would have to pay for the photos if we wanted one...we all did). Great fun with the dog in the brilliant sunshine.

Fog still filled the Zermatt valley, below us.

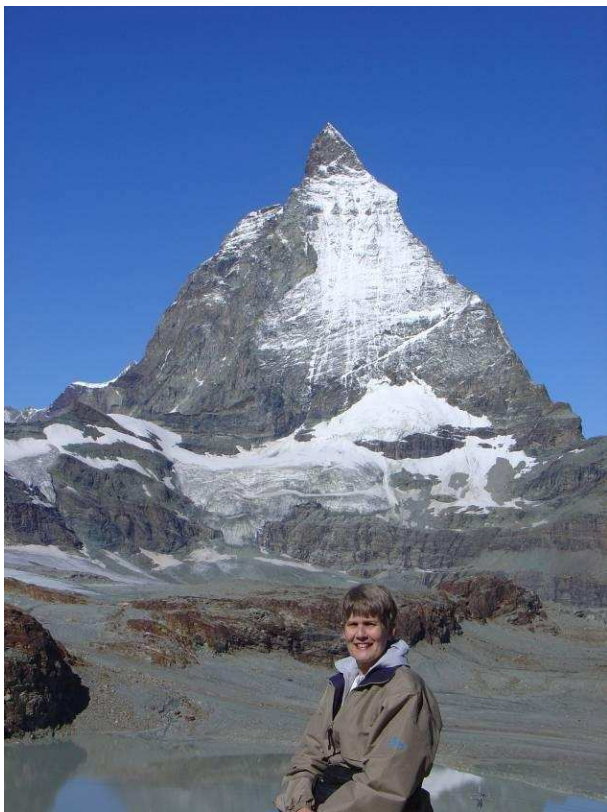


Then, onto another cable car for the final leg up the Alps...another 10 minute trip took us to 12,000 feet...the highest cable car destination in Europe. An amazing trip, up nearly vertical cliffs, looking down on the glaciers and around at the mountains. Leaving

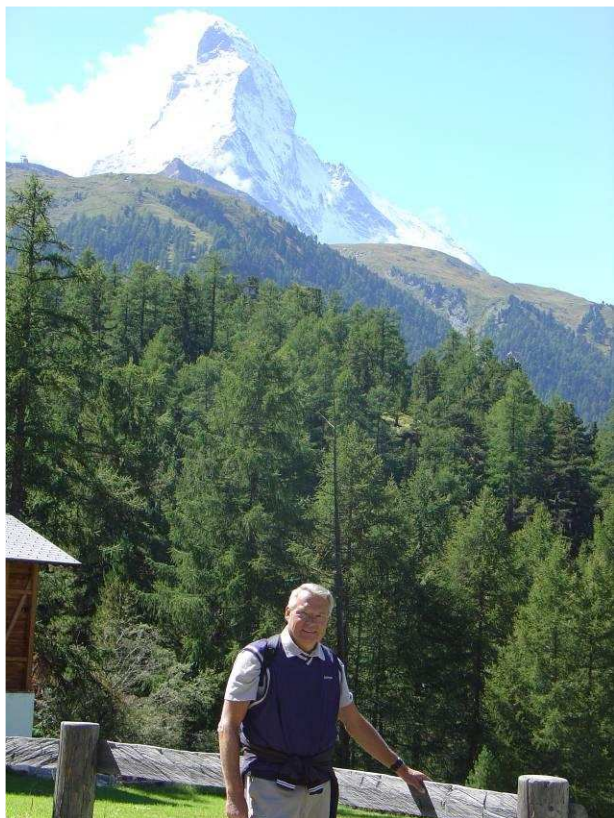
the car, we walked into a tunnel cut thru the top of the mountain and got in an elevator (the skiers kept going thru the tunnel to the other side of the mountain to the skiing area). Exiting the elevator we are at the top of the Klein Matterhorn, with great views of the Matterhorn, and the Swiss, Italian, and French Alps. Also, many climbers ascending easy and hard trails up to mountain peaks, skiers and snowboarders. Here, there is a breeze and it is about 20 degrees...glad we brought our winter gloves and hats.







After 30 minutes, we start our descent, joined by members of the Austrian and Iceland Ski Teams, who had been training at the ski area. By this time, the fog had lifted from the Zermatt valley, and we had great views of the village, 12,000 feet below. After the second cable car station, on the decent, Marcia and I, rather than take the gondola back to Zermatt, walked for about 1 hour down a nice pathway to the town. A wonderful hike thru forests and past small huts, all the time looking back at the towering Matterhorn.



At the top of the mountain, we had screwed the top tightly onto an empty plastic Coke bottle. At Zermatt, as we expected, it was all "caved in" due to the natural higher air pressure at lower altitudes! Upon return to the hotel we changed shoes and walked to the photo store to buy our photos of the group shoot with the St. Bernard. Then Marcia went off for some shopping and I returned to the hotel to catch up on my journal.



Rothorn Trip (Marie, Kal and Mike):

Also leaving the hotel about 9AM, the Marie, Kal and Mike boarded multiple cable cars to ascend to a high viewing point, where they had a great view of the Alps and the Matterhorn.

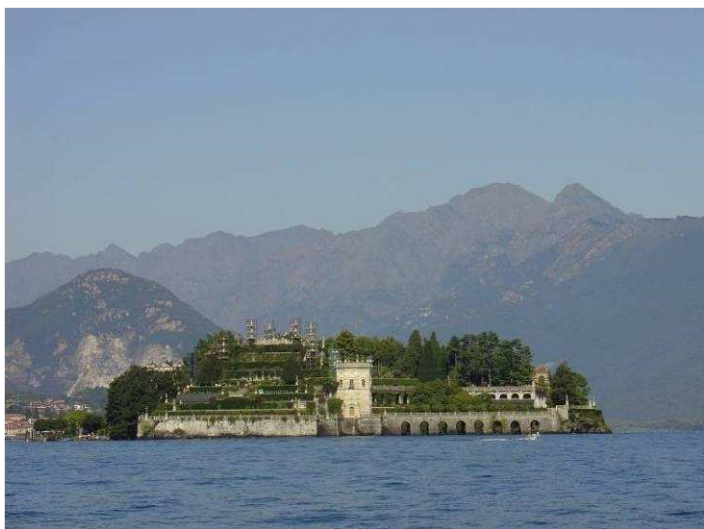


They had a few great hikes/walks in the high peaks, then followed a sign saying "Down Hill", not realizing it was a winter sign for the ski slopes. 900 feet later, and lower, they determined (with help of be-mused utility workers) that they may be on the wrong trail. Wow...they had a big time hike..got back to the hotel about 3:30PM. Later, the five of us meet for a shopping walk through picturesque Zermatt, and we picked a nice restaurant, from the many choices, for dinner.



Today is Saturday September 1st, our seventh day in Switzerland. Today we leave Zermatt after a two day stay at a first class hotel, the Best Western Alpen Resort.. Bags packed and out at 7AM, down to breakfast and depart the hotel at 8AM, reversing the transportation cycle that we used to get to Zermatt...first the golf carts, then onto mini-buses, then we get to our motor coach parked at Tisch. Susan has a great system for seat rotation (so that everyone gets to sit in different parts of the bus). At the start of the trip, she gave each set of seatmates a card, onto which we put our names. Then, at the end of each day, we pass them "up" two rows of seats, where they are placed in the seatback pocket, and that's your seat on the coach for the next day. This worked well, as we all correctly rotated and could always find our correct seat on the next day.

In Zermatt/Tisch, we are at 5150 feet in altitude, so it's quite cool (about 32 degrees at 8AM), but the forecast for today is again great...sunny and the temperature will be 75 degrees when we reach the lake country in northern Italy. We descend the valley from Zermatt to the Rhone valley. Then we travel west for a while before turning south towards Italy. We leave the Rhone valley and ascend to 6000 feet, crossing the Simplon Pass, with great views of snow-capped mountains. Downhill again, crossing into Italy around 10:45AM, arriving at Stresa Italy about 11:30AM. As Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, we did have to clear border security when we entered Italy, but it was quick. Here, at 320 feet in altitude, the temperature is 75 degrees. We are on the shore of Lake Maggiore, the second largest lake in Italy...about 45 miles long and about 5 miles wide.

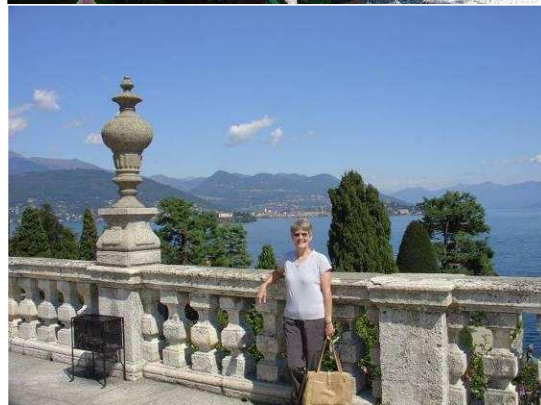


We board a small boat for a trip to an island in Lake Maggiore, It's called Isola Bella and features a palace and botanical gardens. We have an hour guided tour of the palace, which was built by a rich Milan family in the 1600's for use as a summer retreat. About half of the palace area is closed to tours, as it is still used by the family, whom we learn is using the residential quarters this weekend. The palace is stunning with great architecture, art pieces, and excellent views of the lake and shoreline. Then, into the gardens, which are built on five levels and are quite enjoyable to view in the perfect weather.



Back to shore and board the bus at 2PM, departing for Lugano, Switzerland, on the shore of Lake Lugano, where we will stay for two nights. At about 3:30PM we re-enter Switzerland and head for our hotel in Lugano. This part of Switzerland has a very Italian look vs. the German regions we had been in (Zurich, Zermatt) and the French region (Geneva, Villars)...and Italian is the main language.

After a quick shopping stop at a "Chocolate Factory" we enter Lugano, a lakeside city of 25,000 people (but it looks larger to me...must be all the tourist facilities). We have a nice drive thru the city, with our Tour Director pointing out sites and good restaurants. We drive along the lakeshore, watching the tourists and locals enjoy the lake on a sunny, warm day (probably about 80 degrees).



-Our hotel, the Grand Hotel Eden, is a first class facility, located next to the shore of the beautiful Lake Lugano. Our

large rooms each have a small balcony looking out on the lake and the mountains rising from the shore of the lake. Into the rooms, a quick un-pack, and we meet the Tinkas at 5:30PM for a stroll around the town (on the shore of the lake) and, eventually, dinner. We have a very nice stroll for 1-1/4 hours along the shore, the dinner at an outside table at a casual local restaurant. Back to the hotel to rest up.



Today is Sunday September 2nd, our eighth day in Switzerland. We woke up this morning in Lugano Switzerland, in the very southern part of Switzerland. This part of Switzerland juts into the "Lake Region" of northern Italy, between Lake Maggiore and Lake Como. It has a very "Mediterranean" feel and all the natives speak Italian as their main language. Marcia and Jim met Marie, Kal, and Mike, and most of the rest of our group, at 7AM for our included buffet breakfast, held in the hotels' restaurant that perches above Lake Lugano. A nice breakfast, even after I refreshed everyone's coffee with the tea pot!

Switzerland has similar rules, as Germany, for when shops can be open. They close at 6:30PM each weekday and are totally closed on Saturday and Sunday. As we were spending a Sunday in Lugano, and all of the shops are closed, Insight Travel has conveniently scheduled an optional excursion into Italy, this morning, to go to an "Italian Market". We have all signed up for this excursion, and we board our motor coach at 8AM, bound for Carmino on the west side of Lake Maggiore in Italy. A nice trip on a Sunday morning, especially the drive along the winding road on Lake Maggiore, past many mansions and exclusive lakeside summer homes (many with Ferraris parked in front).

-The amount of boat traffic on both the Italian and Swiss lakes in this area is relatively light, in my opinion. Our Tour Director tells us that you have to have a special permit to operate a pleasure craft, and the permits are hard to get. Also, water skiing is allowed only in certain portions of each lake. As we've not seen a single "jet ski", we suspect they are banned. Overall, this keeps the lakes very pretty and peaceful...not like the lakes in upstate New York on a summer weekend!



Looks like another perfect weather day...high near 80 degrees and sunny. We arrive at Carmino, Italy at about 9AM. Carmino is an old, small village right on the lake. We depart our bus and spend two hours walking by the stalls at the weekly "Italian Market". It's really surprisingly "upscale" with maybe 200 stalls selling quality leather goods, clothing of all types, shoes, and a large area for fresh produce, meats, fruits, cheese, and prepared food. A very nice experience on a mild, sunny day by the lake. Also, a

chance to walk thru the old town section and check out some of the shops.

We depart Carmino at 11:44 AM, and stop at an attraction near Lugano that has 120 "miniaturized" replications of historic buildings, mountains, and attractions in Switzerland...all arranged in a walk on an outdoor area. Kind of fun seeing places you've been or will be going to. Then back on the motor coach and we return to our hotel at 2 PM.



Marcia, Marie, Kal, Mike and myself decide to take a walk. After getting some suggestions and directions from Susan, our Tour Director, we meet at 3:30 PM in the lobby and proceed to the lake where we take a half hour boat ride up the lake to a fishing village, Gambria. From Gambria, we hike back along a trail near the shoreline, to Lugano...about 6 miles...takes us 1-3/4 hours. Actually, since we left Gambria we've been looking for a restaurant for dinner...rejecting all we see. Finally, 100 yards from our hotel we find one "up to our standards" and have a fine dinner of Italian cooking at their outside seating area.





Today is Monday September 3rd, our ninth day in Switzerland. We wake up after our second night in Lugano, which is located in very southern Switzerland. Bags out at 7:45AM...breakfast, then we depart on our motor coach for St. Moritz at 8:30AM. Weather is clear and mild as we depart, but the forecast is calling for a rogue front to drop thru Switzerland late today/overnight.

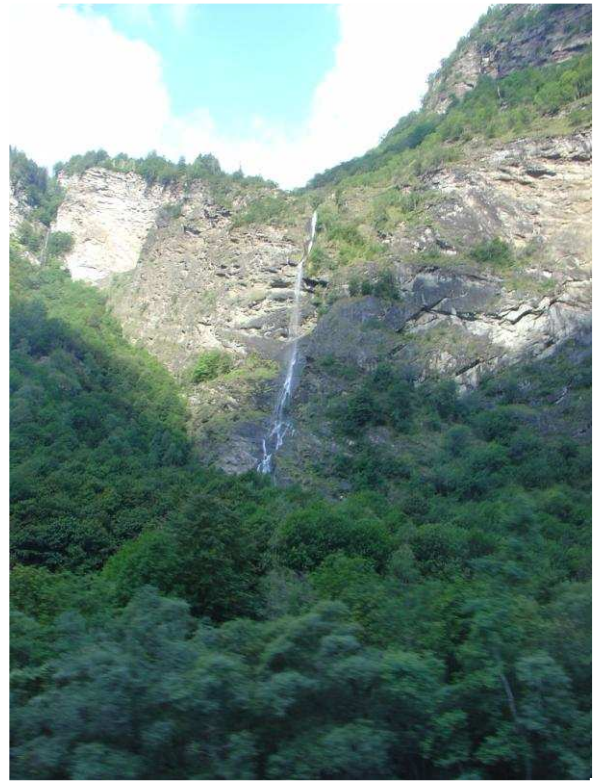
Traveling north, we cross the Alps thru the Bernina Pass, at about 5200 feet above sea level. Then we go thru a 5 mile long tunnel, which is cut through a mountain system. When we come out of the tunnel, we are beside a very small stream that is the headwater of the mighty Rhine river. Over the course of the next two hours, we go thru numerous tunnels (bored thru mountains), avalanche tunnels (which are built over the road where the road is built into the side of a

mountain...kind of like a tunnel, opened on one side, to protect the train and tracks from snow or rock slides), gorges, and switchbacks...amazing scenery. Our Tour Director, Susan and our driver Gerhardt have done this tour many times before, and know all the places to pull over to let us off the bus for sightseeing and photos. At one stop we spot Chamois sheep high on the steep mountainside above us.



I think we all are enjoying Susan's commentary on the motor coach PA system, which at any time could be describing the history, geography, people, or languages of the areas we are passing, or recounting interesting stories, like the plot line of the "Heidi" novel...which she did today, as we were traveling thru the area where the novel was set.

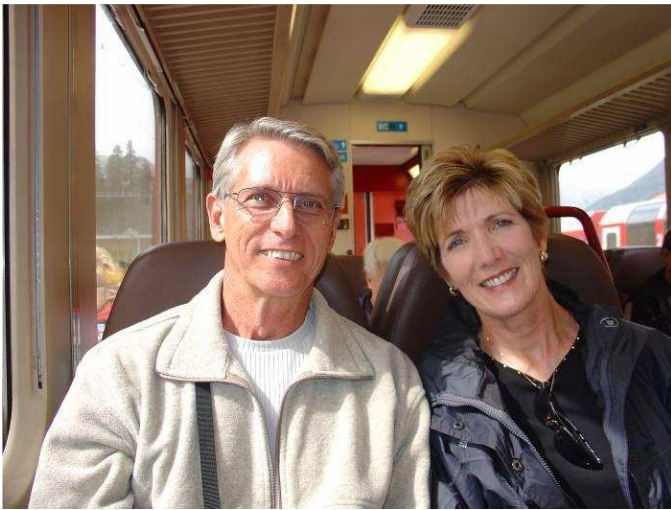
Now we turn east, and later south and re-cross the Alps thru the Julier Pass (first used by the Romans) at 7492 feet. Now, the mountainous geography is unlike anything we have yet seen in Switzerland; fewer trees and more rocky mountainsides as we approach St. Moritz. We learn that St. Moritz is one of the most exclusive ski resorts in Europe, and we could probably not afford to stay there during the winter! The British popularized winter sports at St. Moritz in the late 1800's. St. Moritz hosted the winter Olympics in 1948 and 1964. We're also told that St. Moritz is the sunniest spot in Switzerland, having mostly sun 320 days per year, on average.



We arrive in St. Moritz about 1PM and check into our nice hotel, The Monopol, which is right near the center of the small village. Sure enough, bright sunshine in St. Moritz, which is 6000 feet above sea level. Marcia, Marie, Kal, Mike and I quickly find an outdoor cafe near our hotel and enjoy lunch. Then, back aboard our motor coach for a short ride to the train station for our afternoon highlight, a train ride on the "Bernina Express". This railroad was built in 1910 to connect this part of Switzerland with Italy to the south. It is, today, the highest conventional (non-cog wheel) railroad in the world, utilizing numerous switchbacks and grades up to 70 degrees (which we learn is the maximum grade a conventional train can attain and maintain adhesions with the tracks).

We board the train at Pontresina (6000) feet. Our Tour Director has reserved a whole train car for our group. We also find that we can lower the windows half-way to get better photos without glare from the glass. It is a beautiful ride, past massive glaciers on the mountain tops, waterfalls, sheer cliffs, and scenic lakes and towns, far below. We cross the Bernina Pass over the Alps at 7450 feet, then descend to the town of Poschiavo, at 3500 feet, where we exit the train after a thrilling 1-1/2 hour ride.





Our motor coach meets us at the train stop, and we "take the scenic" route back, brushing the Italian border, crossing the Bernina Pass at 7450 feet. By now it has started to rain, and our driver has received confirmation, over the radio, of a rumor that has been going around all afternoon...that the "rogue" weather front that will soon move thru Switzerland will bring snow to elevations above 3500 feet. We, of course, are staying in St. Moritz at 6000 feet. We are kind of excited about the possibility of seeing the countryside in

snow, and the driver and Tour Director are already plotting strategies if any of the mountain passes we need to go through tomorrow are closed due to snow.



On the way back, as it's kind of drizzling, now, our Tour Director makes it optional if anyone wants to join her for a tour of St. Moritz Lake and her "secret" route back to the hotel. Ten of the group (including our group of five) take her up and we view the lake and then go through a tunnel to a massive escalator, indoors, going up four stories to the street. We all take the escalator, except Mike, who somehow beats us to the top climbing the conventional stairs. Us escalator folks all agree we feel great when we get to the top...we're not sure about Mike!

Then, an included dinner in the hotel restaurant that was just great. Invited Heinz (the spry 85 year old Australian...by way of Germany) to join the five of us at our table, and we had a great time.



Today is Tuesday September 4th, our tenth day in Switzerland. We wake up after our first (and only) night in the exclusive ski resort town of St. Moritz. The hotel was first class with very nice rooms and excellent service at the front desk and in the restaurant. We've been surprised that there have been no irons or ironing boards in the rooms at any of our hotels (when you see them in just about every hotel in the USA). We finally figure out why, when Marcia spots a sign in our room saying "ironing prohibited"...so it appears to be another peculiar Swiss regulation. It must be a fire precaution...no ironing in the hotel rooms, but smoking is allowed! We have learned that St. Moritz has 5000 residents and 5000 hotel rooms. Bags out at 7:30AM, down to breakfast, a short walk around town, and board the motor coach at 9:30AM for a short ride to the St. Moritz train station. The temperature is 36 degrees, with a light rain/mist. No snow overnight in St. Moritz, but we look up in the mountains, and it's apparent that it's snowed up there.



At the station, we board the "Glacier Express" for a 4-1/2 hour train ride from St. Moritz in southeast Switzerland to Andermatt in central Switzerland. Gerhardt, our driver, will drive the empty motor coach to Andermatt and pick us up there. The Glacier Express is mainly a sightseeing train that goes thru some of the most scenic areas of Switzerland, going over 291 bridges and viaducts and through 91 tunnels. We will start in St. Moritz at about 5200 feet, descend to 1800 feet at Chur, then ascend to 6500 feet when we clear the Oberalppass before our trip ends at Andermatt (at 4800 feet). For the first half of the trip, we have a conventional train engine, then we switch to a "cog wheel" engine for the steep climb up to the pass. We are in a first class "Panorama Coach", with large side windows and ceiling windows. Also, headphones for an audio program describing the history and geography of the various areas we go through. The trip is spectacular, with snow capped mountains, waterfalls, lakes, gorges, rivers, and quaint Swiss towns, although the weather is a little rainy and overcast...a good day to be in a train.



We arrive at Andermatt at 3PM (about half an hour behind schedule, as we've had to wait a few times for trains coming from the opposite directions to pass). Our driver does not want to take us over the Susten Pass to Interlaken, due to the snow in the pass and the need to put on tire chains, so we take a longer, flatter, but quicker route. It's on-and-off rain most of the afternoon and evening.

After a stop at a woodcarving factory/shop, we arrive at the Grand Hotel St. Georges in Interlaken at about 6:15PM. Interlaken, a resort town, is situated between two lakes about one hour south of Lucerne and just north of

the Eiger Mountains. The hotel is another first class one. Our rooms are spacious and beautiful. As in all of the hotels that we stay in on the trip, there's a mini-bar (which we use to keep bottled drinks cold that we buy in town) and a TV that normally receives three of our four stations in English...Sky News, CNN and a couple of BBC feeds. Also EuroSports, where I watch some of the action from the US Open (tennis) each day...with German commentary. Our included dinner is in a stunning dining room and the food is excellent.

Off to bed hoping for good weather tomorrow. Marie, Kal, and Mike are hiking in the Alps and the Marcia and Jim are joining the rest of the group for the cog wheel railroad journey to the Jungfrau, the "Top of Europe".



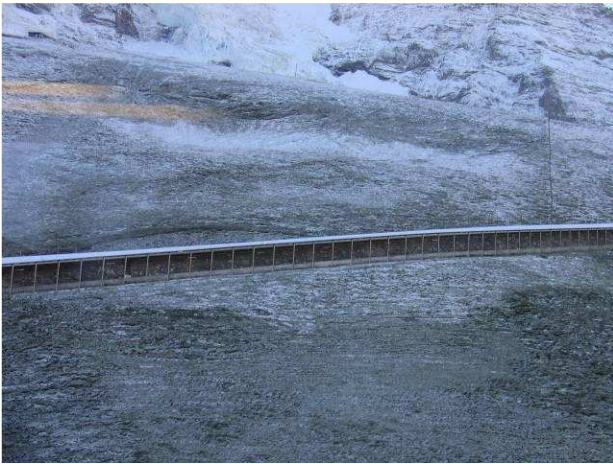


Today is Wednesday September 5th, our 11th day in Switzerland. We wake up after our first of two nights at a great hotel, The Royal St. Georges, in Interlaken. We throw open the drapes, and see that it's to be great weather day for our outdoor excursions. Down to breakfast then onto the motor coach at 7:50AM for our short trip to the foothills of the Wetterhorn Peaks, just outside of Interlaken.

At Grund, Marie, Kal, and Mike exit the motor coach to start their day of hiking. Susan, our Tour Director, has helped them outline a good route. The rest of us exit the coach and board our first cog train to take us to "The Top of Europe". This exciting trip will take us to the top of the Jungfrauoch, to Europe's highest train station at 11,333 feet. The concept for this rail line came in 1870. It was built between 1892 and 1912, boring a tunnel thru the famous Eiger mountain for the train to travel to the Jungfrauoch.



Our first train trip is mostly outside, on the sides of the mountains, and takes about one hour. Our tour guide is so excited due to the spectacular weather...not only is it very clear, with no clouds, but the snow from the previous day has blanketed the mountain tops and glaciers with new, fresh white snow. We board our next train for the hour long trip "thru the



mountain". This tunnel was bored between 1900 and 1912 by 300 workers who worked thru the winters. There were two stops on the way up, where we could exit the train and take pictures from observations points that had been cut from the tunnel to the face of the Eiger mountain!.

Then, to the top of the mountain, where we spent two hours viewing scenery that words cannot describe...from enclosed observation decks and from outside. In one area, on the outside where it was not too windy, some of our Australian travelers...somewhat strangers to snow...had fun trying to hit me with snowballs. On the outside walk on the glacier on the other side, we could only stand out for a couple of minutes, as it was 10 degrees with a 45 mph wind. You would not believe the incredible views, of snow capped mountains...in France, Italy and Switzerland!..then, looking down the valley, 10,000 feet, a clear view of Interlaken. Also, a walk thru

the famous ice cave...cut thru the glacier (the largest in Europe)...this is the glacier



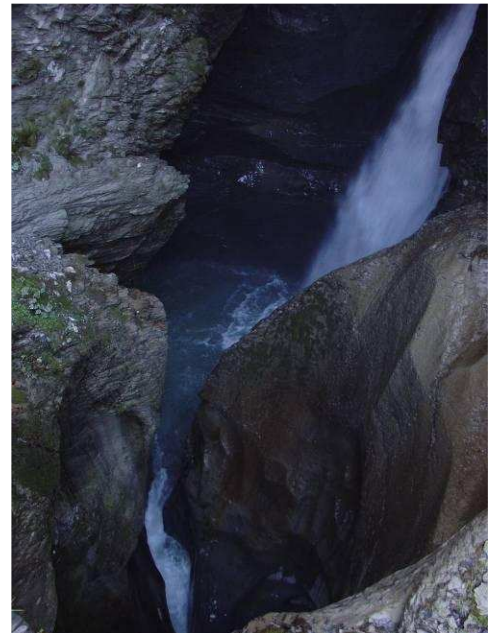
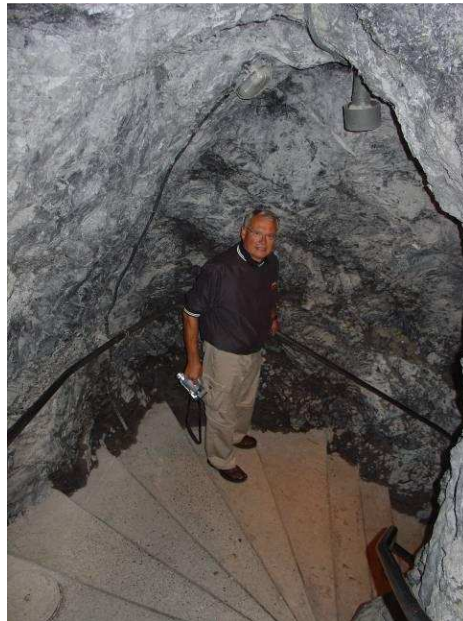
where two weeks ago, the environmentalist took the picture of 600 naked people on, to protest global warming. Many beautiful ice sculptures that never melt in the ice cave! Then, a wonderful trip down the mountain, the last stage via a different rail route. We thought we had seen beautiful sites earlier in our trip, but this is indescribable.







Next we drive thru the Grindelwald Valley (the valley of waterfalls). We stop at Trummelback Falls and take a funicular up the mountain; then, into the mountain to view the source of this magnificent waterfall, and down winding stairs, all the way down the cliff, following the water as it roars thru the mountain until it reaches ground...a wonderful trip.



Marie, Kal, and Mike return from their mountain hiking adventure about 6:20PM, and we depart for dinner shortly after. They fill us in on a great day of hiking, exploration, meeting people, and taking a million photos. All of us have had a perfect day, and top it off with a great meal at a restaurant that Susan recommended that serves all tastes (Marie and Marcia share a cheese fondue, I have Chinese, Mike has Thai, and Kal has a wiener schnitzel)! Then, Marcia and I lead them back to the hotel via a path that Susan had recommended earlier...down to the river (avoiding the shopping places)...then up to the hotel.

This is an amazing vacation.





Today is Thursday September 6th, our 12th day in Switzerland. This will be a "leisurely" day. Bags out at 8AM, breakfast, check out of our nice hotel in Interlaken after our two nights, and onto our motor coach at 9AM. After a pleasant drive (in perfect weather...no clouds, sunny...high in mid-60's today) around the lakes near Interlaken, we stop for a three hour tour of the "Swiss Open Air Museum" in Ballenberg. The museum consists of about 100 rural houses and farm buildings, from all regions of Switzerland, that have re-erected on a sprawling wooded site. Most of the buildings date from the 1600s thru 1800s, and are furnished with appropriate period furniture, clothing, tools, and utensils. We are free to walk thru the rooms in most of the houses. Also, many farm animals and beautiful gardens. We all enjoyed walking past and thru the houses on a great weather day.



At 12:30PM we re-board our motor coach and take "the scenic" route towards Lucerne, thru steep valleys past beautiful lakes, before turning south towards Engleberg, where we will spend our last two nights in Switzerland. Engleberg is situated in the mountains, about 30 miles south of Lucerne. It sits at 1300 feet above sea level. It is a small, quaint, beautiful tourist/skiing town, surrounded by mountains, the most notable of which is Mt. Titlis... 10,500 feet above sea level. Our Tour Director tells us that Titlis is a key skiing location for natives of Lucerne and Zurich, as the glacier at the top of Titlis offers good skiing year around, while the one on Pilatus (closer to Lucerne and Zurich) has shrunk to the point where they don't ski in the summer there.





We arrive in Engleberg at 2PM and check in to our hotel, the Ramada Treff. We all have big rooms (not as fancy, maybe, as our other hotels), nice balconies and a great central location in the small downtown area. The views from the town are spectacular, as it is ringed with mountains, and all of them have that bright white snow on their tops from that surprise snow that fell at high altitudes a couple of days ago. An optional tour is scheduled for 3:30AM, a horse drawn carriage ride to a tour of an old Benedictine monastery. Marcia, Marie, Kal, Mike and myself have not signed up for this, so, instead, we "take a hike". Kal had inquired with Susan, our Tour Director, about a good hike in the area, and she showed him a great one. The five of us took off on a scenic hike thru the foothills of the mountains on a perfect afternoon... many great picture opportunities. At 5PM, back in Engleberg, we split with Kal and Mike taking off on another hiking trail, while the rest of us head into the shopping district.

We then met a little after six, found a nice Italian restaurant, and had a great meal together! The next day, we checked with several members of our tour group that had taken the optional to the monastery, and they all said it was a great excursion, with the hand made furniture and wood moldings a highlight.







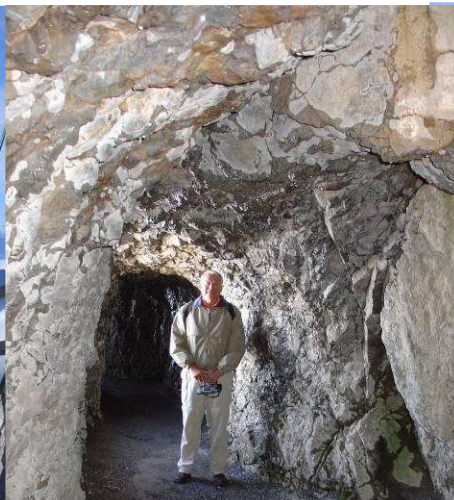
Today is Friday September 7th, our 13th and last full day in Switzerland...tomorrow we fly home! Up early due to a computer malfunction at the hotel....the Treff in Engleberg.... the 6:30AM wake-up call came at 5:30AM...breakfast, then we board the motor coach at 8AM for the half hour drive to Luzern.

First, off to Mt. Pilatus, the 7,000+ foot peak that towers over Luzern. At about 9:30AM, we board the cog railway, first built in the late 1800's, and ascend to the top of the mountain. This takes about half an hour. Weather is good, 50 degrees at the base of

the mountain, about 10 degrees at the peak, but very little wind and bright sun, so it feels much warmer. Great views (spectacular) to the south of the Eiger and Jungfrauoch mountains (which we went up a few days ago) and Mt. Titlis, near where we are staying at in Engleberg.



We can't see down to Luzern or Lake Luzern, due to some fog, and the few clouds that are around. We climb all over the top...thru the caves around the side of the summit and up the walkway to the very top...again, very pleasant, no wind! Then, onto a 40 person gondola for a 15 minute trip half-way down the mountain, the we board 4 seater chair lifts for the final 15 minute ride to the base of the mountain, breaking thru the fog for a nice view of Luzern and Lake Luzern.





Next stop is the Lion Monument, carved into a giant rock in Luzern to commemorate the Swiss mercenaries that died in 1792 protecting the French royal family, then under arrest at the Touleries, from the revolutionaries. As not all of the group were in the group picture with the St. Bernard dog on the Klein Matterhorn optional excursion, our tour director poses us for a group picture in front of the rock carving, using each of our cameras so that we have a personal group picture on each of our digital cameras!



Our motor coach now takes us to downtown Luzern, where we get an orientation, the a good 3-1/2 hours for sightseeing and shopping in the wonderful downtown, old town area. The famous covered bridges, river walk, Jesuit Church, the old city walls, and then the many shops.



Then, at 3:30PM we board a small ship, just reserved for our group, and have a nice boat ride on Lake Luzern, with commentary from our Captain. Again, the weather is great, and we are reminded by the Captain about how wet the weather had been thru most of July and August. We know we've been lucky.....we've really only had two days when we had any significant rain and overcast, and they were days when we were not heavily involved in outdoor activities, so the weather worked out well for us! We dock at a different place from our departure, on Lake Luzern, at Stansstad, where the motor coach picks us up for the half-hour drive back to our hotel in Engleberg.

One thing we wanted to comment on (as we are dog owners), is how happy we have been to see all the great canine pets in Switzerland. Everyone seems to be walking well trained and well behaved dogs, everywhere. Dogs are welcomed, on leashes, into the attractions we were at, as well as in restaurants. Last night, during our meal at the Italian restaurant, a fellow came in with his young dog, and the dog sat by his feet while the gentleman ate his dinner and read three newspapers (the dog staying in place each time the owner got up to get a different newspaper)...dogs this well trained are unknown to us!

Back at our hotel at Engleberg at 5PM to get ready for our last group dinner at 6:45pm. We have a very enjoyable last dinner together with our group, and head up to our rooms to pack for tomorrow's departure.





Today is Saturday September 8th...our departure day from Switzerland. Up at 5:30AM, bags out 6AM for pickup, and board our motor coach for the 6:45AM departure from our hotel in Engleberg (The Ramada Treff) for the Zurich Airport. The hotel had juice and coffee for us to enjoy before we departed and had prepared "bag" breakfasts for us to eat on the bus ride.

This is the "early" departure for the airport, but most all in our group are taking this one, with only four opting for the second departure from Engleberg at 10:30AM. Our Tour Director, Susan Mason, is on our motor coach, and will remain in Zurich, as she will be leading another "Country Roads of Switzerland" trip, starting tomorrow. We say our goodbyes, again, to those in our travel group...the Australians either starting off on about a 30 hour journey home, or, in several cases, joining another Insight tour of another part of Europe....the Americans having a relatively short eight hour flight back to the USA.

-We all agree this has been a most excellent trip:

Tour Director (Sue Mason) - Excellent

Driver (Gerhardt) - Excellent

Motor Coach - Excellent (visibility and comfort)

Hotels - Excellent (location, room size, amenities)

Food - Good

Weather - Good (really only two mostly rainy days, and those were both days when we did not have a lot of outdoor activities); not bad for what has been a poor summer weatherwise.

Tour Itinerary - Excellent (lives up to it's name "Country Roads".....not a lot of rushing about, or long travel days, with plenty of free time)

Optionals - Excellent

Switzerland - Most Excellent!

We arrive at the Zurich airport after about a two hour drive, retrieve our luggage from the motor coach and quickly check in...Zurich's airport is well laid out and easy to navigate. Security seems tight...maybe due to the terrorist plot uncovered in southern Germany a couple of days ago, the new Bin Laden communication, and/or the upcoming anniversary of September 11th.

We are late boarding our plane, as it was late arriving from the USA. We board 1/2 hour late, then we are informed that, due to the size of our plane, we can only take off from the main runway, which will be tied up for the next hour receiving overseas flights. We finally take off a little after noon, about an hour-and-a-half late. Then, we are surprised to learn that we will still land in Newark on time. Apparently, we have about a 30 mph tail wind helping push us westward...unusual, as you normally fight about a 100 mile headwind traveling west. This is probably why the flight was late arriving in Zurich from Newark this morning.

We arrive in Newark on time, clear customs, recheck our bags, and all make our home destinations on time. Marie, Kal, and Mike report that only half of their baggage made it to Cincinnati!

We highly recommend Insight's Country Roads of Switzerland to both the young and old

