

Switzerland: Zurich, Zermatt, Gruyères and Lake Geneva

This 3-day weekend offered a good variety of cities and mountains. While more time in each place would be ideal, it works just fine as a 3-day weekend. Switzerland is not a cheap country to visit, but we managed to find relatively inexpensive hotels without compromising when it came to being in a central location.

Fri, May 28—Meet in Zurich (evening)

Sat, May 29—Zermatt

Sun, May 30— Zermatt

Mon, May 31—Gruyeres for lunch; train back from Geneva to Paris at night

Date	To	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Fri, May 28	Train to Zurich, arriving at 11PM. Night in Zurich. <i>I looked for flights from Paris to Zurich, but in the end, the train was cheaper and less hassle.</i>	Train details Paris to Zurich: 18h24 PARIS EST Train no. 09219 23h00 ZUERICH HB Hotel: Hotel Otter Zurich Oberdorfstrasse 7 Zurich 8001 Confirmation Number: 23777SY000680 <i>I had stayed at Hotel Otter once before and was happy to return. The rooms are quite nice and it's very central. Breakfast is included. It's much cheaper than any other hotel you'll find in the area because toilets and depending on the room, showers, are shared (in the hallway), though our room did have a sink. It can also be a bit noisy but the double-paned glass keeps out most of the noise.</i>
Sat, May 29	Drive to Tasch then 15-20 min train to Zermatt (4 hours, with stop either in Bern and/or Interlaken)	Rental Car details: Renting Location: Morgartenstrasse Morgartenstrasse 5, Zurich, Switzerland, 8004 Pickup Date: Sat, May 29, 2010 at 09:00 AM <i>We ended up driving through Lucerne and Interlaken on the way. In Lucerne, we spent some time strolling around the market and we visited the famous wooden bridge. Interlaken is a relatively disappointing town, but the surrounding scenery is amazing. We were following the GPS and to our surprise, it led us onto a "ferry", an open train car that carries cars for 15-20 minutes through a tunnel in a mountain. It's not the only option for getting to Zermatt, but if you're coming from the Interlaken area, it's best to make sure your GPS is not set to "Avoid Ferries". You must leave your car in Tasch (there's plenty of parking) and take the train to Zermatt (it only takes about 15-20 minutes and the scenery is spectacular.</i> Hotel: Le Petit Hôtel Metzggasse 28, 3920 Zermatt Tel: +41 27 967 59 00 Fax: +41 27 967 59 03 E-Mail: info@hotel-zermatt.com Booking number: REW100226190516 Check in: from 14:00 until 19:59, Check out: until 11:00 Room: 1 Double room with an extra bed (3 Adults) Room rate: CHF 145.00, per night CHF 145.00 Total (1 night) Meals included: Breakfast buffet <i>Le Petit Hôtel is in a fantastic location in the center of Zermatt and it's a friendly place with a buffet breakfast included in the price of the room. The room was quite small but who wants to spend time in the room when you're in Zermatt? Again, it's significantly cheaper than any other hotel I found in Zermatt.</i>

Date	To	Flight/Train/Hotel Details
Sun, May 30	Day in Zermatt	<p>Hotel: Le Petit Hôtel</p> <p>We spent the whole day hiking. We took a trail to the village of Zmutt and then wound our way back through a number of other villages. You can download a wonderful walking & hiking guide from http://www.ski-zermatt.com/mattnet/features/walking_guide/home.html.</p>
Mon, May 31	<p>Train to Tasch, drive to Gruyères (2 hours 23 min)</p> <p>Lunch in Gruyères</p> <p>Drive to Geneva (1 hour 21 min Gruyères to Geneva)</p> <p>Train Geneva to Paris Gare de Lyon (7:17PM-10:49PM, train no. 06584)</p>	<p>Rental Car drop-off details: Return Location: Rue de Berne 60 Rue de Berne, Geneva, Switzerland, 1201 Return Date: Mon, May 31, 2010 at 08:00 PM</p> <p>On the way to Gruyères , we stopped off in Vevey, a pretty town on Lake Geneva.</p> <p>Gruyères is one of my favorite small towns in Europe. It's one of those fairy tale towns. The first time I visited, we stayed at the Hostellerie St. Georges (http://www.st-georges-gruyeres.ch) in the center of town, which I would highly recommend. We did a 4 or so hour hike, following the <i>Sentier du fromage</i> (Cheese route), which is well worth the effort. On this second trip, we only had time for lunch and a short stroll around the back side of the chateau, but it was well worth the 30 minute or so side trip from the eastern end of Lake Geneva.</p> <p>We only had about an hour in Geneva before our train. We considered taking an early morning train back to Paris on Tuesday but chose not to as we had been to Geneva before and hotels are incredibly expensive in Geneva.</p> <p>Night in Paris</p>