SWITZERLAND – AROUND LAKE ZURICH, GUIDED CYCLING 2008

Discover the prettiest scenery of Switzerland by bicycle, the most pampered means of transport in this country. Pedaling by the banks of the Rhine, through vineyards, contemplating the Alps, picking fruit on your way, swimming in the lakes or watching the passing landscape. The old city of Rapperswil will be our base camp and is considered one of the jewels on the shore of Lake Zurich. It enjoys the best climate in Switzerland and is the ideal place to approach the different terrain; on the Alps, or by the lakes or the Rhine. With our local guide everything is easy. We will help you make the most out of this bicycle paradise, where cyclists have their own way. A unique experience to get acquainted with Switzerland, enjoying gorgeous, family friendly bicycling trails along lakes and rivers always offering the possibility of a refreshing bath or a memorable picnic.

Around Lake Zurich:	**4 star hotels**	**$2665** per person (twin share).	**$415** Single supplement
	: 3 star hotels	**$2130** per person (twin share).	**$305** Single supplement
Departs:	**21, 28 Jul, 4 Aug 2008**		Starts & Ends Zurich Airport

***Includes**: 6 nights Twin Share accommodation, all buffet breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 picnic, farewell group dinner at a typical farm, personalized service by an experienced local guide, transfers from/to the airport (Zurich-Kloten),vehicle support, bike rental, Rapperswil city tour & surroundings, refreshments, fare to Mount Pilatus, full day excursion, detailed information and welcome gifts.*

ITINERARY

Day 1. Rapperswil. Transfer from the airport to Rapperswil for those coming by plane, welcome, introductions and selection of bikes. Time to visit the castle and go for a walk in the town.

Day 2. Rapperswil. We cycle a round Upper Lake Zurich, and tour around the Obersee. Our tour will take us by the lake shores on a smooth and levelled path 35 km – (22 miles) long that will enable us to get acquainted with each other and with the cycling ways in Switzerland. We can make several stops, to look at the beauty of the lake, swim, have lunch in a park and afterwards, visit the attractive villages we will be going through. The evening will be free to visit the town of Rapperswil.

Day 3. Einsiedln. On the Jacob's way. This route will be 40 km - 25 miles- long. We will be covering the distance to Einsiedeln, the Swiss St. Jacob's way of catholic pilgrimage, with its imposing Basilica. We will lunch in the village and return through Richterswil, always near the lake.

Day 4. Schaffhausen. Rhine waterfalls route. By minibus, we will be leaving on our way to Winterthur, starting our 40 Km (25 miles) ride through the vineyards and the Rhine fields. When arriving at Rheinau, we will be lunching close to the monastery on the banks of the Rhine, leaving afterwards towards the Rhine falls. This is a spectacular and breathtaking spot in Europe. We will be visiting Schaffhausen, a delightful and unique village that seems to have come out of a story book, to continue leisurely on the river banks until we come to Diessenhofen and Stein am Rhein. Return to Rapperswill in the minibus.

Day 5. Weesen. **Lake Walensee route.** We will take the minibus to this lake. Cycling through Weesen and bordering the lake through lovely paths hanging over the cliffs of the lake we will arrive in Mühlehorn, where we will be boarding a boat towards Quinten, a lovely village with a Mediterranean microclimate. This is a perfect place to stop and relax, have a snack or swim. From there, we will be crossing by boat to the other shore. Then ascend towards Kerenzerberg, either by bike or in the minibus, depending of your strength, profiting from the lovely view of the Walensee valley.We can make an easy descent towards Mollis. The return will be in the minibus to Rapperswil. The most daring can do it on their bikes following the path by the Linth Canal.

Day 6. Lucerne. Lucerne - Pilatus . Excursion in the minibus to Lucerne and Mount Pilatus. We will make an early start towards Lucerne to take the steepest cable-car in Europe to Mount Pilatus. From there, one can contemplate one of the most fascinating landscapes of the Alps. We will be stopping in Lucerne, a magnificently preserved mediaeval town, we will visit its wooden bridge and its squares to continue bordering the four lakes until we arrive in Brunnen and Schwyz, the cradle of the Swiss Confederation that gave its name to Switzerland. On our way back we stop at Zug, another beautiful mediaeval town fantastically preserved.

Day 7. Rapperswil. Depending on the time left, we can take a ride by the lake of Zurich. Transfer to the airport and farewell.

Fitness: Difficulty level:B (Intermediate, advanced). 5 routes of 35-55 km. (25-40 miles per day) Adaptable to the groups´ needs. Routes perfect for groups of road bikers.

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