# Alpine Design *in its* Original Habitat

Smooth pine, heavy wool fabrics, and the world's most famous modern typeface find their roots in the Alps. The following itinerary will reveal the origins of the organic minimalism that influences mountain regions around the world. Explore revered galleries, watch local craftsmen at work, relax in hotels reflecting contemporary Alpine architecture, and learn the graceful visual language of the mountains.

The modern Culture and Convention Center of Lucerne

## 1 Munich

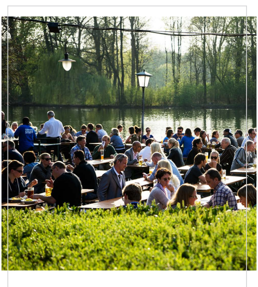
**Munich reigns as the gateway to the German Alps.** Despite robust growth over the centuries, the cosmopolitan city - Germany's third largest and Bavaria's capital - has retained its enchanting charm and traditions. Great museums and splendid palaces flourish here, as do world-famous brands like BMW and FC Bayern, served by a modern international airport. All reflect Munich's fascinating history and lifestyle, known and imitated worldwide.

### STAY

Huge windows overlooking the Marienplatz help **Geisel's Beyond Hotel** stand apart. At the **Muenchen Palast**, modern design and beautiful artwork form a contemporary yet classic style.

hotel-muenchen-palace.de
geisel-privathotels.de

### EAT



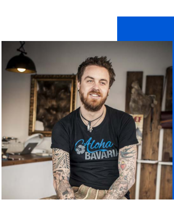
Dine in the **Seehaus** restaurant's delightful English Garden while watching the sunset and lake.
Try the best hot chocolate in town at **Café Götterspeise** in the trendy Glockenbachviertel for beautifully curated confectionary in a charming building.

kuffler.de/seehaus
goetterspeise.info

### DO

Drive your dream BMW at one of Bavaria's most visited sights, **BMW World**, and visit its museum tracing BMW's evolution. Shop for an African-style dirndl or traditional Bavarian clothing at **NOH NEE.**

nohnee.com
muenchen.de/exhibitions-activities



**TopTip**

**Lederhosen Tattoo Artist**

Find unique lederhosen at Michael Thalhammer's shop, Brandner and Kneissl, named after two infamous Bavarian rabble-rousers. The heavily tattooed former singer imbues his designs with extraordinary embroidery as well as burned-in tattoos.

bavaria.by/lederhosen-tattoo-artist

## 2 Tegernsee

**The real Bavaria – a world of festivals, farms, and family life – thrives in this small, ancient city.** Magnificent Alpine landscapes surround the city, which nestles beside Tegernsee lake. Antiquity blends with the new seamlessly. Go skiing, hiking, or biking in the mountains, or soak up the sun at the tranquil lake. Then get pampered at the spa or dance with the locals at the Volksmusikabende.

### STAY

Enjoy the exclusive wellness program at the **TegernseeSPA**. From your uniquely styled house, view stunning Tegernsee lake. **The Relais-Chalet Wilhemy boutique hotel** features local wine tasting in a beautiful setting as well as a fine restaurant.

dastegernsee.de/home
relais-chalet.com

### EAT

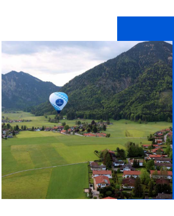
Dine memorably at Bavaria's only 3-star Michelin restaurant, part of the 5-star **Althoff Seehotel Uberfahrt. Gut Kaltenbrunn,** a restaurant on the lake's north shore, offers regional delicacies.

seehotel-ueberfahrt.com
feinkost-kaefer.de/gutkaltenbrunn

### DO

Purchase a traditional Bavarian hat from young hat maker **Martin Wiesner.** See Tegernsee lake from a paddle board and float your way to **Fischerei Bistro** for seafood dining al fresco.

hutmacherei-wiesner.de
fischerei-tegernsee.com/bistro



**TopTip**

**Ballooning Tegernsee**

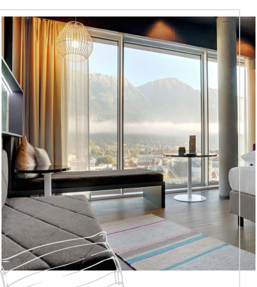
Climb aboard a hot-air balloon for a bird's-eye view of one of Earth's most beautiful places. The one-and-a-half-hour ride through the Alps and over the lakes of Bavaria is truly an unforgettable experience.

ballooning-tegernsee.de

## 3 Innsbruck

**Innsbruck chronicles the magnificence of Alpine architecture.** From the Middle Ages onward, Tiroleans had to build in harmony with the mountains and natural source materials. Today, the city's most significant architecture still works harmoniously amid the mountains, using the Alpine backdrop as dramatic inspiration. Function and design coexist with the challenging mountain environment in projects by international architects like Zaha Hadid.

### STAY



Sleek **aDLERS Design Hotel** combines clean, modern lines with mountain views. At the playful **Nala Boutique Hotel,** you'll find gold metallic bathrooms and inventive landscaping.

adlers-innsbruck.com
nala-hotel.at

### EAT

Swarovski, the crystal maker, runs its theme-park-like headquarters near Innsbruck. **Daniels Crystal World** restaurant serves acclaimed cuisine ensconced, not surprisingly, in a glass structure.

kirstallwelten.swarovski.com

### DO

Feeling adventurous? Tour Innsbruck's Alpine architecture on the **Zaha Hadid-designed Hungerburgbahn** funicular from Old Town to the mountains. Or take in the views from the **Bergisel ski jump tower.**

nordkette.com
bergisel.info

**TopTip**

**Tirolean Speck Anyone?**

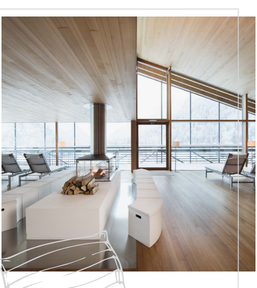
You can't leave Innsbruck without trying Handl Tyrol's juniper-flavored Tirolean cured bacon -- also known as speck -- in dumplings or inside the local Vinschgerl flatbread. Check out the Tiroler Speckeria, which specializes in traditional speck.

speckeria.at
handltyrol.at

## 4 Bregenzerwald

**Vorarlberg, Austria's easternmost province, is one of the world's most architecturally rich regions.** Within this creative breeding ground, the Bregenzerwald region considers itself a leader in wood architecture. Interesting design is everywhere: on homes, farms, and seemingly utilitarian industrial buildings. Walking the Bregenzerwald's 12 villages amounts to a graduate course in architectural pragmatism, sustainable living, and Alpine tradition.

### STAY



Architecture is the main focus at **Hotel Post Bezau**, which sources its wood for construction locally. The light-flooded spa at **Hotel Krone** in Au features clean, modern design stroke

hotelpostbezau.com
krone-au.at

### EAT

Local dishes are artfully presented at **Gasthof Krone** in Hittsau, which embraces slow food cooking. Visit the **Metzler** dairy in Egg for Alpine cheese and an example of contemporary wood construction.

krone-hittsau.at
bregenzerwald.at

### DO

World-famous architects designed the bus stops in the village of **Krumbach.** See the **Werkraum,** an innovative museum and workspace dedicated to all things wood.

bregenzerwald.at
werkraum.at

**TopTip**

**Savory Cheesy Käseknöpfle**

Local restaurants create dishes using some 50 types of regional cheese. They'll tempt you with mouth-watering mini cheese-dough dumplings known as Käseknöpfle. They're soft, savory, and the perfect Austrian comfort food.

bregenzerwald.at

## 5 Lucerne

**Sitting beside a sublime lake and surrounded by awesome, snow-capped mountains, Lucerne reigns as the gateway to central Switzerland.** The quaint yet sophisticated town lures travel groups and individuals with its many attractions, from souvenir shops to high-end watch merchants. The beautiful lakeside setting and nearby Rigi, Pilatus, and Stanserhorn mountains complete the alluring package.

### STAY

**Art Deco Hotel Montana Luzern** offers views over Lucerne and its lake and mountains. **Boutique Hotel Schlüssel** cultivates a hospitable ambience, with 12 romantic rooms and a charming gourmet restaurant.

myswitzerland.com/art-deco-hotel-montana-luzern
myswitzerland.com/hotel/stchotel-16008

### EAT

The riverside location is reason enough to visit **Zunftrestaurant Pfistern,** a traditional Swiss restaurant. **The Seehotel Sternen** offers three restaurants, including the exclusive Venus.

myswitzerland.com/zunftrestaurant-pfistern
myswitzerland.com/seehotel-sternen

### DO

Boat from Lucerne to Flüelen, then hop over to Bellinzona for shopping via the **Gotthard Panorama Express train.** The world's steepest cog railway starts its awesome climb at **Alpnachstad.**

myswitzerland.com/gotthard-panorama-express
myswitzerland.com/world-s-steepest-cogwheel-train

**TopTip**

**Famed chef Nenad Mlinarevic**

Explore Switzerland's traditional cuisine with Nenad Mlinarevic, Gault Millau's 2016 cook of the year. His culinary magic is on display at his award-winning Focus restaurant at Lucerne's lakeside Park Hotel Vitznau.

myswitzerland.com/park-hotel-vitznau

## 6 Geneva

**Embedded between nearby Alpine peaks and the hilly terrain of the Jura, the French-speaking city of Geneva lies in the bay where the Rhone leaves Lake Geneva.** With its humanitarian tradition and cosmopolitan flair, the European seat of the UN and headquarters of the Red Cross is known as the "capital of peace."

### STAY

Built in 1865, the **Hotel Beau-Rivage** has always attracted those seeking luxury, charm, and discretion. **Hôtel Eastwest**, Genf is a luxurious city hotel that combines flair from the East and West.

myswitzerland.com/hotel-beau-rivage-geneve
myswitzerland.com/eastwest-hotel

### EAT

Locals flock to the **Bains des Pâquis** to enjoy the sun, tasty snack stand meals, and a sauna in winter. **Le Cigalon's chef Jean-Marc Bessire** has a passion for lobster, oysters, and gilt-head bream.

myswitzerland.com/bains-des-paquis-geneve
myswitzerland.com/le-cigalon

### DO

Find a bohemian vibe in **Carouge,** whose historic streets and cozy cafes evoke old Italy. **The Jet d'Eau** in Geneva harbor shoots a spray of water more than 450 feet high.

myswitzerland.com/carouge
myswitzerland.com/jet-deau-photo

**TopTip**

**Explore the wines of Geneva**

Rent an e-bike to travel the ancient wine region of Geneva and discover the pleasures of Swiss wine. You'll visit lovely country towns and picturesque vineyards and sample the products of a thousand-year tradition.

myswitzerland.com/route-du-vignoble-and-wine-trail

# Continue exploring The Alps

www.austria.info/alps
www.germany.travel/alps
www.myswitzerland.com/alps

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