Go from 0 to 100 in the Alps

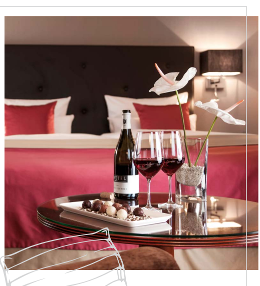
Whether you're a white-knuckled thrill-seeker or a calm and mellow explorer, the Alps have you covered. Zip down the Autobahn in a shiny Porsche, go whitewater rafting in the Tirolean Alps, or relax into a flight of rare gins at a rustic distillery. In the mountains, you set the pace.

Stunning view of Germany's highest peak, the Zugspitze

1 Stuttgart

Not only one but two luxury automotive brands call Stuttgart home: Porsche and Mercedes-Benz. As you might expect, the brands cater to anyone looking to enjoy cruising along the Autobahn. Spread across hills, vineyards, valleys, and parks, Stuttgart is the perfect place to begin an exhilarating tour of the Alps.

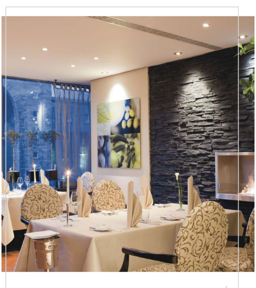
STAY



In the green heart of the city, across from the castle garden park, **Le Meridien** looks after your needs. For 5-star ambience, the **Hotel am Schlossgarten** is a prime city retreat.

starwoodhotels.com
hotelschlossgarten.com

EAT



At **Olivo**, try the incomparable, modern creations of Michelin-starred chef Nico Burkhardt or head to the **glass-walled Cube** for Asian fusion while enjoying stunning views of the city.

olivo-restaurant.com
cube-restaurant.de

DO

Head south of the city to explore **Hohenzollern Castle**, the ancestral seat of the **Prussian Royal House.** Visit the **Porsche Museum**, where you'll find over 80 vehicles on display.

burg-hohenzollern.com
porsche.com

TopTip

Getting Behind the Wheel

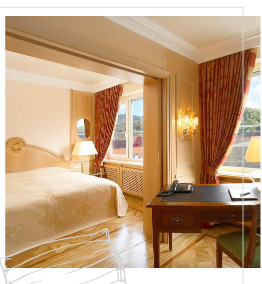
Get behind the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz and experience serious automotive thrills. Challenge yourself with driver training, join road tours, learn off-road or winter handling, or test drive the newest models.

mercedes-benz.com/events

2 Black Forest

The name Black Forest conjures something mysterious, even ominous. While it certainly isn't black, the dense foliage, dramatic landscape, and ancient regional traditions of the Black Forest create an experience not found anywhere else. Here you'll find deep valleys, small towns, and mountain peaks waiting to be discovered.

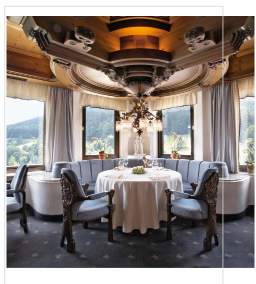
STAY



Hotel Colombi offers a garden oasis in the vibrant city of Freiburg. **Baiersbronn's Engel Obertal** is a 5-star property brimming with Swabian style -- there's nothing more original.

colombi.de
engel-obertal.de

EAT



The 3-star Michelin restaurant **Schwarzwaldstube Traube Tonbach** serves not-to-be missed dishes. **Freiburg's Wolfshöle** pleases diners with small plates of regional and French-fusion creations.

traube-tonbach.de
wolfshoehle-freiburg.de/

DO

Get a taste of the famous **Rothaus Brauerei.** Go behind the scenes of the brewing process and taste beer fresh from the tap.
Or visit a local favorite, **Monkey 47**, the region's iconic gin distillery.

rothaus.de
monkey47.com

TopTip

Zipline the Black Forest

In less than three hours, travel along seven ziplines above the Black Forest with Hirschgrund Zipline. A definite highlight: the zipline that stretches 624 yards and 273 feet above the forest floor. It's a 40-mph thrill ride.

hirschgrund-zipline.de

3 Gstaad

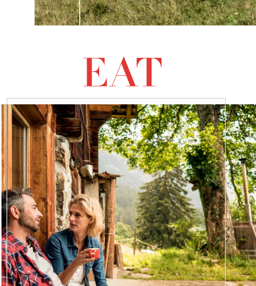
The Gstaad-Saanenland holiday region in the Bernese Oberland attracts a mix of visitors: The chalet village of Gstaad welcomes famous guests, while smaller neighboring villages offer attractive options for families with children. In recent years, the center of Gstaad has become the most popular and shortest "shopping mile" in Switzerland.

STAY

Ermitage Wellness & Spa Hotel is set on a sunny terrace with magnificent views and park-like grounds.
The Alpina Gstaad, with its Six Senses Spa, is an icon of elegance.

myswitzerland.com/ermitage-golf
myswitzerland.com/the-alpina-gstaad

EAT



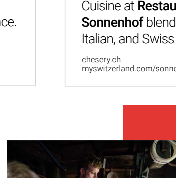
Robert Speth, 2005 Gault Millau chef of the year, stars at **Hostellerie Chesery,** awarded 18 points and a Michelin star. Cuisine at **Restaurant Sonnenhof** blends French, Italian, and Swiss ideas.

chesery.ch
myswitzerland.com/sonnenhof.html

DO

Pack a rucksack and set off on the **Panorama Trail.** From the Männlichen, your path to the Kleine Scheidegg offers amazing views of the famous mountain trio Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau.

myswitzerland.com/the-maennlichen-to-the-kleine-scheidegg



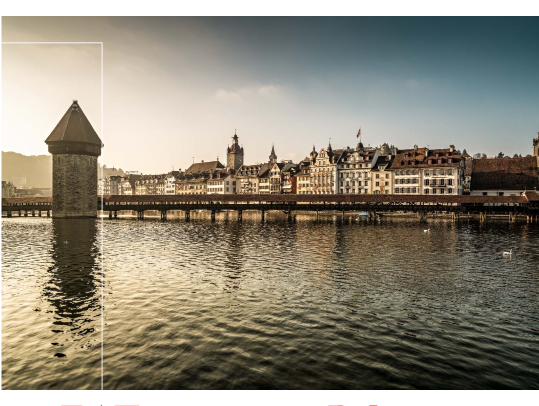
TopTip

Alpine Cheesemaking

Visitors to Jakob and Erika Zumstein's farm experience hands-on Alpine cheesemaking. And for those not in a rush, a healthy whey bath awaits -- and even an overnight stay in the hayloft.

myswitzerland.com/the-maennlichen-to-the-kleine-scheidegg

4 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 groups and individuals with its many attractions, from souvenir shops to expensive watch merchants. The beautiful lakeside setting and nearby Rigi, Pilatus, and Stanserhorn mountains complete the alluring package

STAY

The Boutique Hotel Schlüssel cultivates an atmosphere of hospitality coupled with an inviting restaurant.
Art Deco Hotel Montana Luzern offers views over city, lake, and mountains.

myswitzerland.com/hotel-schluessel
myswitzerland.com/art-deco-hotel-montana-luzern

EAT

The Seehotel Sternen has three restaurants: Country Inn, Neptune, and the exclusive Venus.
Zunftrestaurant Pfistern's dramatic façade, boulevard terrace, and location by the Reuss delight diners.

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

DO

The world's steepest cog railway achieves a 48-percent gradient as it climbs Pilatus.The aerial Dragon Ride is an option.
Kunstmuseum Luzern features changing exhibitions of modern art.

myswitzerland.com/the-world-s-steepest-cogwheel-train
myswitzerland.com/museum-of-art

TopTip

Culinary Star Nenad Mlinarevic

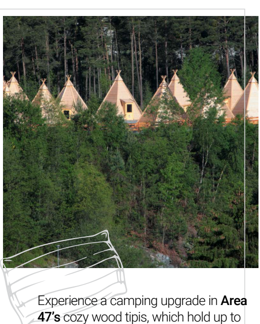
Explore Switzerland's culinary richness with Nenad Minarevic, head chef at the gourmet restaurant focus. Awarded "Cook of the Year" by Gault Millau in 2016, Mlinarevic values quality Swiss and regional products.

myswitzerland.com/park-hotel-vitznau

5 Ötztal

Tirol's Ötztal region is an adventurer's paradise. Ötztal is packed with vertigo-inducing hiking trails and mountain bike routes. Nineteen climbing gardens let you clamber over Alpine rock, and the raging glacial rivers are perfect for whitewater rafting. The Ötztal takes outdoor fun seriously. Area 47 is a theme park dedicated to the adrenaline rush: Choose from cliff diving, wakeboarding, ziplining, and much more.

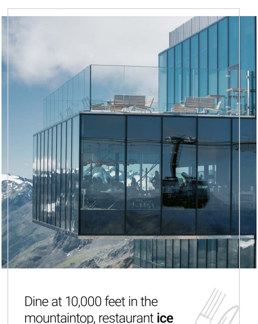
STAY



Experience a camping upgrade in **Area 47's** cozy wood tipis, which hold up to eight people. Bring your sleeping bag. **Hotel Bergland Sölden** has real beds, as well as an outdoor activities program.

area47.at
bergland-soelden.at

EAT



Dine at 10,000 feet in the mountaintop, restaurant **ice Q,**recently a James Bond film location. It's only accessible by cable car, but the views and excellent food make it worth the trip.

iceq.at

DO

If you're not ready to scale **Tirol's highest peak,** you can take the cable car to the Wildspitze glacier. Down below, **Area 47** offers an adventure setting with almost every imaginable outdoor activity.

pitztal.com
area47.at

TopTip

An Idyll in Tirol's Alps

Hike to Gampe Thaya, a traditional mountain lodge above Sölden, for memorable vistas and hearty, delicious Tirolean fare. Gampe Thaya is known for its local apples, potatoes, and beef.

gampethaya.riml.com

6 Innsbruck

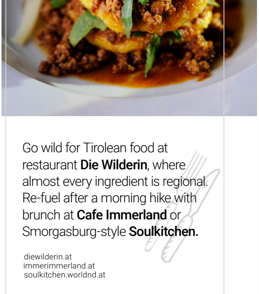
If you didn't know Innsbruck's reputation for adventure sports, you're in for a happy surprise. Above the Old Town, a lesser-known world of thrilling experiences awaits. Excellent rock climbing, hiking trails for all levels, and panoramic mountain biking routes thread the imposing Karwendel range. No wonder Innsbruck hosts so many international sports events -- it offers the perfect combination of exciting city and outdoor life.

STAY

See the mountains from your bed -- or bathroom. At the **aDLERS Design Hotel** every room has stunning views. **Hotel Weisses Rössl** is a cozy, family-run hotel in the heart of Innsbruck.

adlers-innsbruck.com
roessl.at

EAT



Go wild for Tirolean food at restaurant **Die Wilderin**, where almost every ingredient is regional. Re-fuel after a morning hike with brunch at **Cafe Immerland** or Smorgasburg-style **Soulkitchen.**

diewilderin.at
immerimmerland.at
soulkitchen.worldnd.at

DO

Experience the vertiginous **Bergisel Olympic ski jump**, designed by architect Zaha Hadid.
Combine your visit with a thrilling hike through the **Sillschlucht creek.**

bergisel.info

TopTip

Tirolean Speck

Tirolean smoked bacon is a must-eat while in Innsbruck -- preferably atop a thick slice of dark bread. Kill two birds with one stone by opting for a Vinschgerl, a speck-filled rye flatbread. It's a specialty of the Tiroler Speckeria.

speckeria.at
handltyrol.at

Continue exploring The Alps

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

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