


Walking in Gstaad

Single center  independent walking

- Sophisticated ★★★★★ hotel: excellent service levels, gastronomic cuisine, indoor pool, sauna, gym
- A walkers' paradise: over 300kms (186 miles) of marked trails
- Crystal clear Alpine lakes, imposing mountain ranges, meadows awash with colorful wild flowers
- Extensive range of high season (Jul-Aug) facilities – including guided walks and independent mountain biking
- **No supplement for singles on any date**



The elegant ★★★★★ Steigenberger Alpenhotel & Spa Gstaad-Saanen enjoys a privileged location in the beautiful southern hills of the Bernese Oberland, overlooking the pretty Alpine villages of Gstaad and Saanen. Built in traditional chalet style, it cleverly combines cozy home comforts with Swiss elegance and efficiency – when we ordered morning coffee, and the cream arrived in an edible chocolate jug, we knew we were onto a winner!

Eating well is an important part of any holiday, and this hotel will not disappoint! Each day starts with a fantastic buffet breakfast, followed by complimentary tea and cakes in the afternoon. In the evening, you can dine at either of the hotel's two restaurants: the beamed Halte Beiz offers full *à la carte* dining (at a small supplement, pay locally), while the panoramic Sonnenhalte on the 4th floor offers a 4-course gourmet menu which changes daily. Children enjoy unlimited soft drinks throughout the day.

During your stay here, you can be as active, or not, as you choose. As well as maps, we will provide you with a fully researched set of independent walking route notes, allowing you to explore the gentle hills, valleys and mountains at your own pace. We also include the 5-day "Easy Access" card allowing you unlimited travel on the local buses, trains and mountain lifts, and there are guided walks from the hotel.

You will stay in a superior room with panoramic south-facing views, balcony or private terrace. Added luxuries such as CNN television and radio, mini-bar, hairdryer and in-house bathrobes are also provided. Singles are not forgotten either as **there is no supplement for sole occupancy of a double room on any date.**



WALKING IN GSTAAD | DAY BY DAY

Saturday Arrive in Gstaad

Arrive in Gstaad with time for a swim, enjoy a sauna or relax with a book on your balcony before dinner.

Sunday Saanenland Orientation Walk 12km/7.5mi/3.5hr

Today's circular walk affords the most splendid views of Saanen, Gstaad and the Vaudoise Alps. Starting directly from the hotel, your path winds first down through shady copses and flower-strewn meadows, before coming out at the elegant promenade at Gstaad. Lunch in one of the many chalet-style restaurants, then follow the corn-flower blue river to the charming Alpine hamlet of Saanen – fine C15 church with impressive wall paintings in the choir. Back past isolated farmsteads in time for complimentary tea and cakes on the hotel's panoramic sun terrace.

Monday Lake Launensee 13km/8mi/3.5hr

The crystal-clear waters of Lake Launensee lie at the head of the valley, overlooked by the mighty Spitzhorn and snowy crowns of its blue-tinged glaciers. The local Post Bus (no charge) takes you through the Launensee Nature Reserve – look out for marmots, chamois and rare birds of prey – and down to the tranquil shores of the shimmering lake below. Lunch at the lakeside restaurant – lovely views to the mountains ahead – then wind down through a lively kaleidoscope of flower-filled meadows, shrub and lush green Alpine pasture to the beautifully unspoiled resort of Launen. Your final stretch takes you through the peaceful Turbachtal glen and back to the hotel.

Tuesday Wispile Ridge Walk 11km/7mi/3hr or 14km/9mi/4hr

Today begins with a free gondola ride to gain the crest of the Wispile (1907m) then a choice of easy ridge walks, each affording magnificent long views north over the corrugated landscape. Your descent is full of contrasts taking in open meadows, attractive chalets and idyllic verdant valleys.

Wednesday Gsteig to Gstaad 11km/7mi/3hr

A short ride on the local Post Bus (included) takes you to the charming hamlet of Gsteig where today's walk begins. It's a simply glorious mix: crocuses flush the hillsides with color, cattle graze in the valleys and the majestic peaks of the Mittaghorn (2334m) and Spitzhorn (2806m) tower above the timber-built chalets bright with geraniums and petunias. Lots of time later this afternoon to relax by the pool, go shopping in Gstaad or to sample the famous Hobelkase cheese – unique to this part of the country, it is usually served as ultra-thin shavings, often as an aperitif, and accompanied by a glass of fruity chilled white wine.

Thursday Circular Walk to Rougemont 12km/7.5mi/3.5hr

A truly delightful walk passing farmsteads, bubbling mountain brooks, gently rolling hills and dense forests. Although only a few kms from Gstaad, the picturesque village of Rougemont lies in French-speaking Switzerland, so look out for the menu du jour at lunch! Your return is a lovely high level walk against a scenic mountain backdrop via Underbort and back to Gstaad.

Friday The Rellerli Ridge Walk 12km/7.5mi/3.5hr

The panoramic Rellerli Ridge walk is simply a must. Accessed via the free gondola, it offers a day of unforgettable views: the classic trio of the Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau peaks rise from the lush green meadows and stand like sentinels above you as you discover the very best of the Bernese Oberland.

Saturday Return home



"We find Breakaway well researched, well described and well run. Well done!"

Mrs D Turner

Dates and Prices

Departs Saturdays Tour Only

2012 departures	Tour Only
Sep 29, Oct 6	\$2,974
Jun 30, Sep 1, 8, 15, 22	\$3,068
Aug 4, 11, 18, 25	\$3,140
Jul 7, 28	\$3,172
Jul 14, 21	\$3,392
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,774

Singles: No single supplement on any date for a single room.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Suite (larger room and own lounge area) \$168 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, single center, no minimum group size.

Departs: Saturdays from Jun 30 to Oct 6.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights).

Meals: Buffet breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Geneva Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Saanen train station at 16:59 (transfer to hotel, 5 mins, provided). **Return:** Saanen train station by 13:01 (transfer provided).

Rail options: Geneva airport to Saanen (via Montreux) 14:27/16:59. Return: Rail Saanen to Geneva Airport (via Montreux) 13:01/15:33

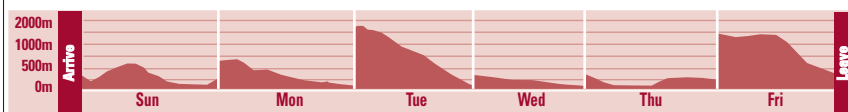
Second Class Swiss Rail: Add \$339 per person, round trip.

First Class Swiss Rail: Add \$497 per person return.

Tour only: Transfers included from Saanen train station at 16:59, and back to Saanen train station departing hotel at 12:45.

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WALKING IN GSTAAD | WALKING DETAILS



The paths are well-maintained and immaculately signposted. There are moderate ascents on most days, and longish descents on days when a cable car is used to gain altitude. Note: Some ski lifts/cable cars do not operate in early/late season when alternative walks will be proposed.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

16 18 17 14
JUN JUL AUG SEP



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

55 55 65 60
JUN JUL AUG SEP