

Swital-lock 2017

*On Sherlock Holmes' footsteps between Meiringen and Florence
Itinerary by Enrico Solito's paper...with an added twist*

Sunday, the 3rd of September 2017

The lecture program draws to an end before lunch. After that, we could eat at the hotel or pack a pic-nic to carry with us. We then leave Hasliberg and transfer to Meiringen. From here, we follow the Master's footsteps towards Innertkirchen (if the weather allows it, on foot, it's a 1 hour walk, otherwise we will take advantage of the railway connecting Meiringen to Innertkirchen). On the way, we will stop to enjoy the spectacular *Aareschlucht*, or the Aare Gorge.



The impressive Aareschlucht...and yes, we will walk there.

From there we will go on to Innertkirchen, where a bus will be waiting to take us to Göschenen.

Here, a couple of sights will allow us to illustrate you the building of the first Gotthard's railway tunnel (through which Holmes travelled and that we will use, too) and tell you something about the highway tunnel and the newly built Alptransit tunnel, the longest and deepest railway tunnel in the world.

We'll stay overnight in a hotel in the region. I need to know how many of us will take the trip to give you more details about the lodgings and the prices.

Monday, the 4th of September 2017

We start with the train towards Airolo, passing through the old Gotthardtunnel (it allows us to enjoy the views. The new path wouldn't be the same). There, we will visit the *Caseificio del Gottardo* where you will see how cheese is produced. No Emmenthaler or Gruyere, or the more famous ones, but the traditional ones from the region like the Airolo, the Lucendro, and some other. We will be able to taste most of them of course. We will have lunch there, so if you are lactose-intolerant, speak now! Joking, of course, the restaurant has some choice for everybody. I'm working to have a set menu with a couple of options for each course.



Mmm...Gottardo cheese!!!

After lunch, if the weather allows it, we'll move on to Rodi and then will take the cable car to get to the Tremorgio Lake. Alpine lake (picture below), enough said.



We then start our descent and move by train to Bellinzona, where we will have dinner and stay the night.
If the weather is not nice...I'm working on a plan B.

Tuesday, the 5th of September 2017

In Bellinzona, we will visit the three Castles, UNESCO Heritage and symbol of Ticino's capital city. Then, we will have a look around the city and we can have lunch in a *Grotto*, the traditional *ristorante ticinese*.



One out of the three Bellinzona's castles - UNESCO Heritage

After lunch we move on to Lugano. The weather, as usual, will dictate our agenda. A boat tour on the lake or a visit to one of the nearby mountains. If raining, a stroll along the lakeside will be possible anyway, and then we can shop around, place a bet at the casino or visit the city's flamboyant new culture and arts centre. We will stay overnight in Lugano.



Lugano's city park and the lake. Fingers crossed for nice weather ^^

Wednesday, the 6th of September 2017

Have your passports ready, ladies and gentlemen because we will cross the border and head to Italy. A stopover in the Como Lake region is compulsory. A small tour in Como (picture below), then we'll take the boat to Menaggio, where we will visit Villa Carlotta (second picture): a breathtaking view on the lake and a splendid botanical garden.



We will have dinner in Milan, where we will stay overnight.

Thursday, the 7th of September 2017

Milan is waiting for us. I have set a mystery tour of the city for you but if you want it more traditional, you just tell.

A small something for lunch, because we will follow the aperitivo tradition (you have a sample in the picture below) and have a nice before dinner experience. If you will have more room in your stomach, we will have dinner. Otherwise, we will move to Florence, to be ready for the Italian part of the meeting.



NOTES

The more we are, the cheaper, because we can take advantage of group tickets. If we're below 10, I'll do my best anyway to get it reasonable.

As you see, there is a lot of moving around, but I'll try to have our luggage moved before us towards the hotel where we will stay at the end of the day, so that we don't have to carry it along the whole day. In Switzerland is pretty easy (as far as I can remember, the railways gives the service), I'll try to see what can be done in Italy.

This program is provisional: what we will actually do will depend a lot on the water and also on your wishes: I'll try to do all I can to make everyone happy. I'm no professional tour operator, but I know the area and I'll make so that you can get the best of it.

For ANYTHING, please contact me: brigitte.latella@gmail.com. You can find me also on Facebook and Twitter. Just in case ^

COSTS

Also this part is provisional. I calculated averages when needed, while transportation's costs are already exact. Included in the price (average) are: train and bus tickets, lunches, dinner, museum tickets, lodgings. NOT included are drinks, bus rentals (if and when needed), luggage transport and the lodging in Florence on Thursday evening (I'm waiting news from our Italian friends). As I know more about the number of people and the weather conditions, I'll choose the restaurants and try to have a set menu (with options) so we can save a bit, especially in Switzerland ^ I calculated hotels of medium-high category. If you'd rather stay in a hostel or more modest lodgings, let me know.

Maximum price per person: 700 CHF

PLEASE LET ME KNOW as soon as you can if you're interested. **Bookings close on the 11th of June.**