



GEMMI TO THE MATTERHORN: KANDERSTEG, LEUKERBAD, ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND: VILLAGE-BASED LUXURY HIKING TOUR

MEET: Kandersteg
VISIT: Kandersteg, Leukerbad, Zermatt
LENGTH: 6 days
HIKE RATING: Moderate – Strenuous, 5–7 hours/day, 1000'–3500' elevation gain/loss

A first-class luxury tour starting in beautiful Kandersteg. Hike over the historic Gemmi pass to the thermal spas of Leukerbad, then continue to Zermatt to the 5-star Riffelalp Resort. Enjoy great walks by day and world-class hotels by night on this fantastic combination.

DAY ONE

The Gemmi to the Matterhorn Tour starts with your arrival in Zürich or Geneva and a train ride to Kandersteg. The trip takes about 3 hours and will be covered by your first-class railpass. Kandersteg is a quiet and scenic village surrounded by mountains, lakes, waterfalls and miles of hiking trails. We'll stay in the 4-star Hotel Doldenhorn, a lovely chalet-style hotel on the outskirts of the village with a new pool and spa and gourmet meals. (Hotel Doldenhorn)

DAY TWO

One of the must-see hikes in the region starts with a gondola ride up to the Oeschinensee lake, an emerald-green jewel of a lake, surrounded on three sides by mountains. Cowbells jingle and waterfalls plunge over dramatic cliffs into the lake below. Hike up above the lake for birds-eye views through meadows and forest on a scenic loop back to Kandersteg, where we return to our hotel for a second night. (Hotel Doldenhorn)

DAY THREE

Hike over the historic Gemmi pass on a mellow approach trail beneath the pyramidal Balmhorn and Altels peaks. Views of the Valaisian Alps to the south spur us on as we wind our way down the serpentine mule-path to the village of Leukerbad, where we stay in an elegant 4-star hotel and enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the town's thermal baths. Convenient cablecars can be utilized for an easy hike.

DAY FOUR

After breakfast, we'll say good-bye to Leukerbad, and travel a few hours to nearby Zermatt. You'll have a chance to check out the atmospheric village center, and perhaps a visit to the Matterhorn museum, before transferring by historic cogwheel train to Riffelalp. Enjoy wonderful views of the Matterhorn before settling in for dinner at the luxurious 5-star Riffelalp Resort, one of Switzerland's finest hotels. (Riffelalp Resort)

DAY FIVE

Taking quiet trails through fields and forest, we have a range of choices up to the wide ridge of Gornergrat, past marmots and small glacial lakes, to unforgettable viewpoints along the Gorner ridge. The jumbled mass of the Gorner glacier stretches out before us, and behind that, Monte Rosa, Lyskamm, the Breithorn, and the Matterhorn form a spectacular backdrop. (Riffelalp Resort)

DAY SIX

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll say our good-byes and leave for our post-trip destinations.