



## **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO – SAINT MORITZ – MAGGIORE LAKE**

### **Day 1: CORTINA D'AMPEZZO**

Arriving in the afternoon in Cortina d'Ampezzo, accommodation in the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Welcome dinner in a well-known restaurant in Cortina. Overnight in the hotel.

### **Day 2: CORTINA D'AMPEZZO – CANAZEI – BOLZANO – ORTISEI – CORVARA – CORTINA D'AMPEZZO**

Grand Tour of Dolomites. This is one of the nicest itineraries in the entire Alps. Starting from Cortina the road first crosses Passo Falzarego then Passo Pordoi with a view of the Tofane Mountains and the Marmolada. Arrival in Canazei continuing to Carezza Lake overlooked by Catinaccio and Latemar Mountains. Pleasant stop in Bolzano on the Adige and Isarco Rivers and time at leisure to enjoy this important town. In the afternoon the second part of the tour follows the Gardena Valley until Ortisei, then passing through the charming villages of Santa Cristina and Selva admiring the Odle and the Sassolungo Peaks. Arrival at Passo Sella for a spectacular view of the Marmolada glaciers of. From Passo Sella to Passo Gardena arriving in the magnificent Val Badia. By La Villa e San Cassiano back to Cortina through Passo Falzarego. Meals at leisure.

### **Day 3: CORTINA D'AMPEZZO – SANKT MORITZ (ENGADIN, SWITZERLAND)**

Travel day from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Sankt Moritz in Engadin, Grisons Canton, Switzerland. The itinerary is passing through the cities and villages of Dobbiaco, Valdaora, Brunico, following the Pusteria Valley, the charming Bressanone, Chiusa, Bolzano, Merano in the Adige Valley, Glorenza where is the border with Switzerland. The tour enters the Grisons Canton in Müstair Valley. Meeting with an English speaking guide to visit the Saint John Abbey with its exceptionally well-preserved heritage of Carolingian art (Charlemagne visited this abbey) a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Driving through the Swiss National Park the itinerary leads over the Ofen Pass arriving in Zernez in the lower Engadin. Following the Inn River the beautiful road arrives in the village of Zuoz, considered one of the nicest villages in all Engadin with its nice houses decorated with "graffiti". In this charming village there is time for a pleasant walk discovering the place. The travel day ends in Sankt Moritz, one of the world's most famous holiday resorts. It's an extremely elegant, chic and exclusive place with international ambiance at the beginnings of the Lake Area offering an extraordinary panorama especially in this season. Lunch at leisure on route. Accommodation. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner in the hotel and overnight.

Note. The term Engadin it means the Garden of the Inn (River)

### **Day 4: SANKT MORITZ**

Quiet and relaxing day in Engadin savouring the enchanting atmosphere of this valley oriented from west to east therefore having approximately twelve hours of light a day. First step, by coach, is Muottas Muragl, a spectacular panoramic viewpoint, one of the nicest in all Switzerland, reached by a funicular railway, that allows all scenic lovers to view the Bernina peaks with glaciers, the lakes in the upper Engadin, valleys all around. Back to the coach to enjoy a pleasant trip along the upper Engadin and its lakes (Champfer, Silvaplana, Sils) until Maloja Pass, an awesome natural balcony overlooking the Bregaglia Valley and Italy in the distance. This is the point that marks the watershed between the Rhine, the Danube and the Po basins. By a short promenade it's possible to walk as far as Belvedere Tower and the curious "Giants pots" built by the glacial water. Lunch in a restaurant. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner in the hotel and overnight.

### **Day 5: SANKT MORITZ**

Meeting with the English speaking driver and transfer to the railway station to take the Bernina Express, a UNESCO World Heritage, which in 2014 celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Stop at Lagalb station in the Bernina Valley to take the cable car and reach the Diavolezza alpine hut at 9.840 feet to be delighted by one of the most beautiful panoramic views in the Swiss Alps viewing the gorgeous Bernina glaciers and peaks enjoying an aperitif. Return by cable car to the Lagalb station and transfer to the charming village of Pontresina. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon pleasant walk in the village to appreciate the Engadin ancient houses decorated by typical "graffiti". Transfer to the hotel and time at leisure. Dinner in the hotel and overnight.

### **Day 6: SANKT MORITZ – MAGGIORE LAKE (ITALY)**

Travel day from Sankt Moritz to Maggiore Lake. The itinerary is passing through Julier Pass until Thusis, arriving in the Posterior Rhine River Valley, then following the tunnel of San Bernardino arriving in the Tessin Canton, the Italian Canton. Mesocco and its castle, Bellinzona and its three castles, Locarno and the Visconteo Castle tells us how important this area was for trade to connect the south with the north of Europe. Lunch at leisure on route. Arrival at Maggiore Lake then transfer to Orta Lake to discover this charming lake. Meeting with an English speaking guide and visit of romantic San Giulio Island, with Romanesque Basilica and old seminary, by a private boat. At the end of the tour arrival at the hotel, accommodation. Welcome dinner in a Michelin starred restaurant nearby.

**Day 7: MAGGIORE LAKE – BORROMEEAN ISLANDS**

Full day to discover and appreciate the enchanting landscape and breath the special atmosphere of the Borromean Islands accompanied by a local English speaking guide and by private boat. The Isola Bella and the Isola Madre with their noble abodes rich in works of art, the picturesque Isola dei Pescatori with its narrow alleys and the typical restaurants. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon short cruise to visit the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso, dated from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and seeing the frescos. Return to the hotel, time at leisure. Dinner in hotel and overnight.

**Day 8: MAGGIORE LAKE – MILAN MALPENSA AIRPORT**

Meeting with the English speaking driver and transfer to the International Milan Malpensa Airport for the flight.

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