







The Grand Tour of Switzerland is a suggested route that makes use of the existing Swiss road network.

Visitors follow the route at their own risk. Switzerland Tourism and the Grand Tour of Switzerland association accept no liability for construction works, diversions, signage relating to special events or safety provisions along the route.



# 44 highlights of a journey.

If you want to discover the best of Switzerland in a single route, look no further than the Grand Tour of Switzerland, which stretches for more than 1,600 km and whisks you through the country's most beautiful Regions. You'll encounter four linguistic Regions as you take in five Alpine passes, 11 UNESCO World Heritage Properties, two biosphere reserves and 22 lakes. Enjoy an unforget-table journey packed with adventure from start to finish!

# 1 Laténium: archaeological museum and park

Located on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel, the Laténium presents reconstructions of submerged pile-dwellings, and is Switzerland's most important archaeological museum.

Webcode: 37966

# 2 Town of Murten

The medieval town on the German-French linguistic border is known for its picturesque Old Town lanes and relaxed arcade strolls.

Webcode: 28455

#### 3 City of Fribourg

More than 200 original gothic facades from the 15th century lend Fribourg's Old Town its unique charm.

Webcode: 28449





# 4 Gruyères town and show dairy

Near the medieval heart of town, the show dairy reveals the secrets in the making of Le Gruyère AOP cheese.

Webcode: 36226

# 5 Gstaad/Saanenland chalet village

Gstaad may be world-famous, but the holiday village still exudes a peaceful, relaxed atmosphere, with its authentic Alpine farms, traditional chalets and luxury boutiques.

Webcode: 28380

# Jungfraujoch

At the highest railway station in Europe, the big three of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau seem close enough to touch and a breathtaking view of the Aletsch Glacier awaits.

Webcode: 42577

### 7 Lake Brienz cruises

Natural wonders drift into view on a relaxed boat ride across the turquoise-green Lake Brienz, framed by imposing mountains.

**Webcode:** 39783

### 8 Old Town of Bern

Few cities have preserved their history as well as Bern. With 6 km of arcades, the city boasts one of Europe's longest weather-proof shopping promenades.

Webcode: 36509

# Emmental visitor cheese dairy

Tradition meets cutting edge in this show dairy village, where you can learn all about the world-famous Emmentaler AOP cheese.





### 10 Entlebuch Biosphere

With its seemingly never-ending moors and rugged karst landscapes, the UNESCO biosphere reserve brims with outstanding natural beauty.

Webcode: 36514

### 11 Hallwyl moated castle

Perched on an island in the River Aabach and looking back on almost 1,000 years of history, this is one of Switzerland's most beautiful moated castles.

Webcode: 64764

# 12 Chapel Bridge Lucerne

Dating to 1332 and defined by its central Water Tower, the world's oldest covered wooden bridge links the two sides of the city and is Lucerne's most visible landmark.

Webcode: 43991

#### 13 Pilatus

The world's steepest cogwheel railway trundles up the mountain above Lucerne, which commands a phenomenal panorama of 73 Alpine peaks on clear days.

Webcode: 28286

### 14 Tell Chapel Sisikon

According to legend, this is where the Swiss freedom-fighting hero William Tell jumped off the boat to escape the brutish Austrian governor Gessler. The Tell Chapel in Sisikon was built in his honour.

Webcode: 41703

# 15 Einsiedeln monastery

With its breathtaking backdrop of jagged mountain peaks and a deep blue lake, the baroque monastery complex of Einsiedeln is one of Switzerland's most important places of pilgrimage.

Webcode: 28365

# 16 Grossmünster church Zurich

Zurich spreads out before you from the tower of the Grossmünster. The spectacular view reaches across the city rooftops to the snow-capped peaks of the Alps.

Webcode: 38276

# 17 Rhine Falls

Europe's largest waterfall is a thunderous, totally captivating spectacle, with a width of 150 m and a height of 23 m.

Webcode: 36187

### 18 Town of Stein am Rhein

This charming little town is famous for its well-preserved Old Town, with beautifully frescoed facades and half-timbered houses.

Webcode: 36240



#### 49 Abbey of St.Gallen

Crowned by its baroque cathedral, the St.Gallen Abbey District houses one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

Webcode: 36510



# 20 Painted facades Appenzell

Strolling through Appenzell is like stepping into the pages of a picture book. Brightly painted gabled houses catch the eye, their frescoed facades revealing stories, coats of arms and other motifs.

### 21 Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona

Visible from afar, the Glarus thrust is defined by a razor-sharp yellow line that slices across the mountain face of Piz Sardona between Flims and Elm. It's a geological phenomenon of global importance.

Webcode: 36517

# 22 Heidi's village Maienfeld

Bündner Herrschaft is the home of the much-loved children's book character Heidi. The story of the little orphan girl is brought to life in Heidi's village.

Webcode: 45944



# 23 Mountain village of Guarda

This quintessential Graubünden mountain village was awarded the Wakker Prize by the Swiss Heritage Society and has received the "national importance" distinction.

Webcode: 36225

#### 24 Swiss National Park

Beautiful hiking paths and impressive nature trails lead through pristine wilderness in the Swiss National Park, where nature always takes centre stage.

**Webcode:** 37658

# 25 Benedictine convent of the St. John Müstair

The monastery is one of the few existing architectural examples of the Carolingian dynasty and contains treasures such as the world's largest cycle of early medieval frescoes.

Webcode: 36508

# 26 Muottas Muragl

The Upper Engadine spreads picturesquely at your feet from the summit of Muottas Muragl. The view of five lakes and imposing mountains is simply breathtaking.

Webcode: 41424

# 27 Albula/Bernina railway line

One of the world's most spectacular train rides, the Rhaetian Railway Albula/Bernina line is an epic 122-km journey through magnificent landscapes.

Webcode: 36516

#### 28 Three Castles of Bellinzona

The skyline of Bellinzona, capital of Ticino, is defined by the fortifications of its three mighty medieval castles, which feature among the best preserved in Switzerland.

Webcode: 36511

#### 29 Ascona lake promenade

Mediterranean flair awaits on the lakefront promenade, which is one of the most photographed spots in Switzerland with its brightly painted facades and view of the Brissago Islands.

Webcode: 28462



Rising high above Lugano, Monte Brè is one of Switzerland's sunniest mountains. The view over Lugano's rooftops and the vast blue lake is simply extraordinary.

Webcode: 36265

#### 31 Monte San Giorgio

Monte San Giorgio, which lies on the southern shores of Lake Lugano, is a magnet to fans of fossils. Admire finds from long-forgotten times at the Fossil Museum.

Webcode: 36513

# 32 Tremola, old Gotthard Pass road

On the southern flank of the Gotthard Pass, the cobbled Tremola road is a serpentine and spectacular drive. With its breathtaking bends, the road is the longest historical monument in Switzerland.





### 33 Aletsch Glacier

With a staggering 27 billion tons of ice, the Aletsch Glacier is the mightiest ice flow in the Alps and the centrepiece of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch UNESCO World Heritage Property.

Webcode: 37068

### Matterhorn

Shaped like a pyramid and notoriously hard to climb, the mighty Matterhorn is the world's most photographed mountain. Matterhorn glacier paradise grants the most spectacular view of the Swiss icon.

Webcode: 45830

# Mountain village of Grimentz

Grimentz is famous for its sunblackened timber houses and the fiery red geraniums that billow from their window boxes.

Webcode: 28443

#### 36 Abbey of Saint-Maurice

The basilica of the Abbey of Saint-Maurice hides one of Europe's richest church treasuries and was once the spiritual centre of the Burgundy Empire.

**Webcode:** 36256

# 37 Château de Chillon Montreux

Sitting on a rocky outcrop on Lake Geneva, the medieval moated castle is Switzerland's most-visited historical monument.

Webcode: 36231

### Jet d'eau

Geneva's most visible icon is the Jet d'eau, Europe's highest fountain at 140 m, which shoots water at 200 km/h into the sky.

Webcode: 39446

# 41 Creux du Van rock amphitheatre

With its 160-m vertical rock wall, the Creux du Van is a striking natural rock arena that affords a spectacular view into the void.

Webcode: 57250



#### 38 Lavaux terraced vineyards

With 830 hectares of vines, the Lavaux Vineyard Terraces are the largest continuous winegrowing area in Switzerland, with terrace after glorious terrace of breathtaking views.

Webcode: 40165

## 39 Olympic Museum Lausanne

The museum in the Lausanne district of Ouchy is the world's largest information centre revolving around the theme of the Olympic Games.

Webcode: 36125

# La Chaux-de-Fonds / Le Locle Town Planning & Watchmaking

La Chaux-de-Fonds was once the world capital of the watchmaking industry. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Property also impresses with its unique chessboard design cityscape.

Webcode: 36518

### 43 Town of St-Ursanne

The picture-perfect town on the banks of the Doubs is a place of peaceful respite and beautifully preserved medieval architecture.

Webcode: 28505

### 44 Basel, city of culture

When it comes to culture, Basel has the cutting edge. Ever innovative and eclectic, it is home to 40 museums – more than anywhere else in the country.



# DO WHAT OTHERS

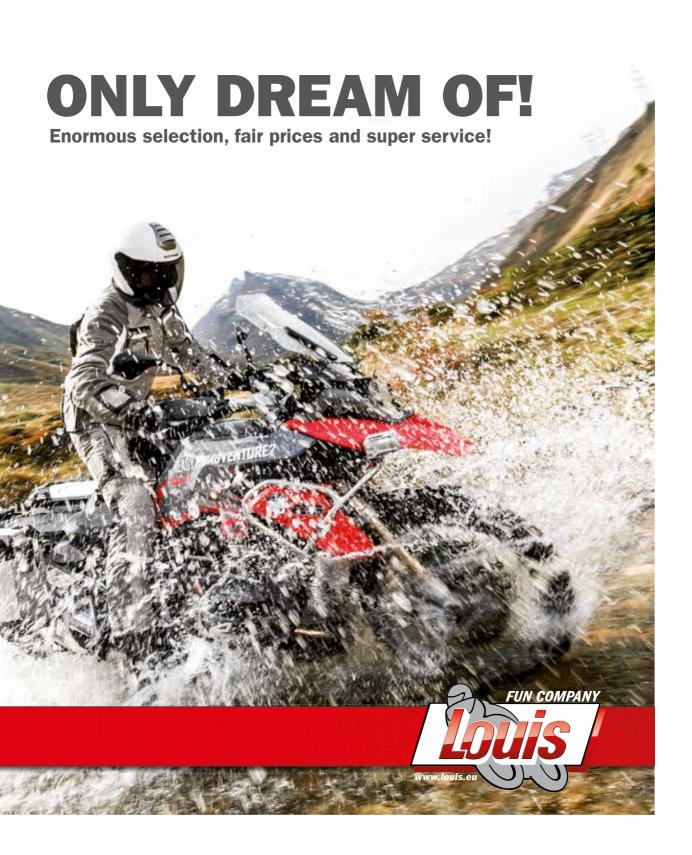
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# Ticino - the sunny side of Switzerland.

"It is wonderfully beautiful, from the Alps to the South everything is there", words written by the Nobel Prize winner Hermann Hesse about the only Italian-speaking Canton in Switzerland. Palms and glaciers, ancient churches and modern architecture, quiet Valleys and international events make this Region unique and fascinating.



#### Bellinzona and Upper Ticino.

The city of Bellinzona, with its castles placed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, and the Valleys of northern Ticino are small treasures of beauty that contain a world of unspoiled nature, art and gastronomy.

www.bellinzonese-altoticino.ch bellinzona@bellinzonese-altoticino.ch +41 91 825 21 31



#### Lake Maggiore and Valleys.

A corner of paradise with a mild climate, exotic vegetation and marvellous mountains. Each season enhances the landscape of this Region, giving the impression of being in a picture postcard.

www.ascona-locarno.com info@ascona-locarno.com +41 848 091 091









#### Lake of Lugano Region.

The city on the shores of Lake Ceresio is characterised by mountains, woods and unforgettable natural surroundings together with picturesque villages, architecture and culture.

www.luganoturismo.ch info@luganoturismo.ch +41 58 866 66 00

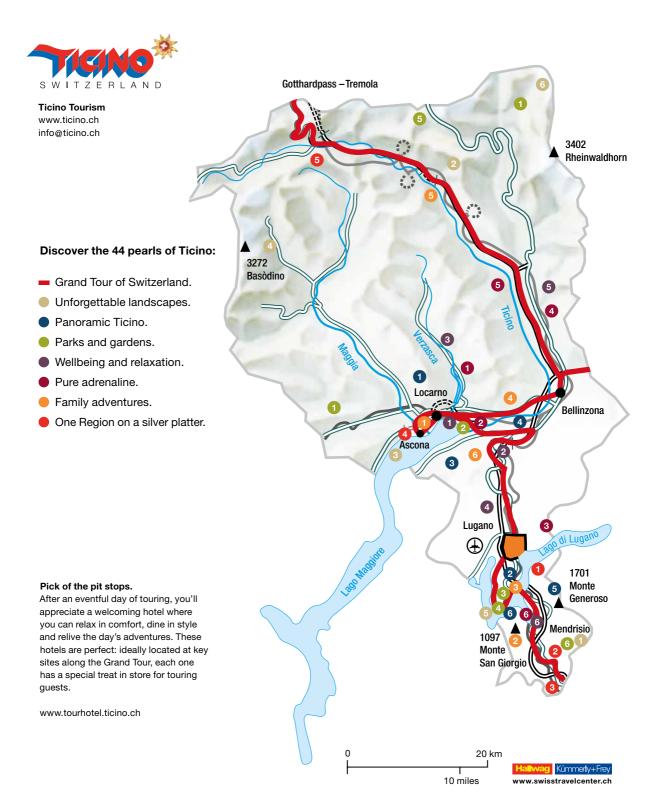




# Mendrisiotto Region and Basso Ceresio.

The Mendrisiotto Region is well known for its "magnifico borgo". Thanks to its sunny vineyards, picturesque lanes, traditional houses, medieval and baroque churches, the Region is one of the jewels of Ticino.

www.mendrisiottoturismo.ch info@mendrisiottoturismo.ch +41 91 641 30 50



# Unforgettable landscapes.

Visit Ticino and you'll find yourself in landscapes dominated by the sparkling blue of the lakes and the deep greens of the mountain meadows. Experience the many scenic views on foot, by car or by public transport, all within a short distance.

# 1 The Muggio Valley

Swiss Landscape of the Year 2014 and home of the Museum of the Muggio Valley, it invites visitors to discover realities of ethnographic interest. This Valley is a veritable "museum of the territory".

Webcode: 136574

# 2 The Ritom-Piora Region

One of the steepest cable railways in the world invites you to discover splendid alpine landscapes rich in hiking and mountain bike trails.

Webcode: 133936

### The Brissago Islands

The Brissago Islands enjoy a mild climate and host Canton Ticino's botanical park. The little Island is covered with a lush vegetation, while the big Island has a collection of mostly subtropical plants.

Webcode: 2636

# 4 The Bavona Valley

This wild Valley comprises 12 clustered settlements. It was already inhabited in 1000. Nowadays, it is still without electricity: a true time travel.

Webcode: 5062



# Lake Lugano

Ancient houses, elegant arcades, gorgeous churches with their frescos, picturesque villages comprise a landscape of exceptional beauty that can be enjoyed at its best from the shores of Lake Lugano.

Webcode: 4559

# 6 The Greina

The 6-km long and 1-km wide Greina plateau is a unique and untouched alpine natural environment at 2,200m above sea level and one of the oldest north-south crossings, which has been in use since Roman times.

Webcode: 138452



### Webcode:

For more information, insert the webcode on: www.ticino.ch/webcode

# Panoramic Ticino.

Backpack, walking boots and a desire to explore. Climb to the summits and enjoy views ranging from glaciers to palm trees. A dream landscape that has always inspired artists, thinkers and great travellers.

### 1 Cardada Cimetta

Did you know that above Locarno there is a viewpoint where you can see the lowest and the highest point of Switzerland at the same time? Webcode: 131122

# 2 Mount San Salvatore

A few steps away from the frenetic pace of the city, Mount San Salvatore stands tall on the Lugano skyline. From the top, you can also walk down along a scenic trail that leads to Carona or Paradiso.

Webcode: 133920

# **3** Mount Gambarogno

From Monte Gambarogno (1734 m) you can enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Bay of Locarno. The summit is easily reached on foot from the Alpe di Neggia, which is accessible by public transport.

Webcode: 133923

# 4 Fortini della fame

A nature trail follows a section of the Dufour line of defence in the Municipality of Camorino. Today, the five cylindrical towers can be admired along the route.

Webcode: 2795

# of Locarno. The s easily reached on

# **5** Mount Generoso

The first mountain north of the Lombardy Plain can be reached via a large range of excursions. From Bellavista, you will enjoy a breathtaking panorama.

Webcode: 43742

# 6 Serpiano

Discover the Mount San Giorgio UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property on foot, starting from Serpiano. While hiking, enjoy the breathtaking view down to the former fishing village of Morcote with the Alps lying in the background.





# Parks and gardens.

Beauty and tranquillity describe Ticino's parks in short. A Mediterranean climate produces a lush sub-tropical flora across most of the area. Sweet scents fill the air and nature in bloom will enchant you with its magnificence.

# National Park projects

Extending over 1,000 km², Parc Adula is a candidate to become the biggest national park in Switzerland. The Locarnese National Park extends from the Islands of Brissago to the Walser village of Bosco Gurin.

Webcode: 128064

# ② Gambarogno Botanical Park

The splendid shore of Lake Maggiore in the heart of the "Gambarogno Riviera" hosts a park and a garden nursery extending over 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> with a breathtaking view.

Webcode: 85680

### 3 San Grato Park

When you visit this park, you will feel as though you are entering an enchanted world, made up of the colours and scents of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons.

**Webcode:** 94113

# Webcode:

For more information, insert the webcode on: www.ticino.ch/webcode

# Scherrer Park

This park (located above Lake Lugano) will offer you the unique opportunity of time travelling, as past and present, history and nature co-exist in perfect harmony.

Webcode: 4553

# 6 Naturetum

The Centro Pro Natura Lucomagno is a park with local species and habitats typical of the Lukmanier area. The goal of the park is to promote knowledge of the alpine natural environment.

Webcode: 94112

# Breggia Gorge Park

The first Geo Park in Switzerland invites you to discover a geological stratification of rare beauty and scientific value that covers 200 million years of the earth's history, from the Jurassic era to the present.





# Wellbeing and relaxation.

From north to south, Ticino will pamper you. With its mild climate and the Mediterranean atmosphere, Ticino is the ideal oasis to escape the stress of daily life at any time of year.





# 1 Termali Salini & Spa Lido Locarno

This SPA is unique in its spectacular lakeside location and its architecture, which reflects the Ticino River Valleys in a modern, abstract design featuring alcoves, caves and waterfalls.

Webcode: 131171

# 2 Waterpark Splash e Spa Tamaro

Not only adrenaline: in the Splash e Spa you can find two large thermal pools, one indoor and one outdoor, with a breathtaking view of the Alps and Mount Tamaro.

Webcode: 98475

# 3 Verzasca Valley – cool green water

The magical jade green waters of the Verzasca River flow peacefully over smooth polished rocks and under the fascinating bridge of Lavertezzo.

Webcode: 96073

# 4 DOT.Spa Cademario

This SPA combines sensuous healing with panoramic views. Among other things, it offers a saline bath, an experience pool, an outdoor pool, an ice fountain and several saunas.

Webcode: 134200

# 5 Santa Petronilla waterfalls

The waterfalls of Santa Petronilla (the highest in Ticino) and the wells of the Froda River are comfortably reachable within walking distance from Biasca.

Webcode: 130542

# 6 Lido Riva San Vitale

This Lido is located in one of the most beautiful settings on Lake Lugano. It offers a beautiful playground, a diving board, a bar and a soft lawn ideal for relaxing.

# Pure adrenaline.

Looking forward to an adrenaline kick? You're in the right place! In Ticino you will find sharply rising mountains and crystal clear Rivers, as well as professional services. If you are a fan of bouldering and canyoning, the Valleys are a paradise. Ready to push your limits?





# "Goldeneye" Bungee Jumping

A 220-m jump with the elastic from the Verzasca Dam? If James Bond can do it, anybody can do it, right? Webcode: 77102

# 2 Skydiving in Locarno

In Ticino you can lean on professional services and enjoy a fascinating landscape while learning the technique of parachuting.

Webcode: 1961



# Mountainbiking in the Lugano Region

Ticino offers Mediterranean routes and alpine "single trails". The Lugano Region is characterised by the most dense network of mountain bike trails in Switzerland.

**Webcode:** 97172

# Bouldering

Bouldering can be enjoyed in various locations in Ticino. There are plenty of enormous boulders in Chironico and on the Gotthard Pass.

**Webcode:** 97180

# 6 Canyoning

Sizzling, sparkling adventure in the spectacular mountain Rivers and waterfalls of Ticino. As breathtaking, wild and emotional as life!

Webcode: 73492

# 6 Windsurfing La Batüda

Ticino is the ideal destination for water sports. Lake Lugano, especially at the foot of Mount San Giorgio, has some lovely spots for your first attempt at windsurfing.

Webcode: 1975

### Webcode:

For more information, insert the webcode on: www.ticino.ch/webcode

# Family adventures.

Ticino is a heaven for families – not only because of its great outdoor activities, but also because getting around is a breeze. Dive into water parks, be amazed by falconry shows or go back in time at the Fossil Museum. But don't forget to dream about the knights at Bellinzona's castles.

# 1 Falconry Locarno

Experience a close encounter with majestic birds of prey at the falconry show in Locarno, where you will be able to observe and photograph eagles, hawks, owls and vultures.

Webcode: 85787

# Fossil Museum

This museum has been renovated by the Ticinese stararchitect Mario Botta. It exhibits a selection of fossils from the unique UNESCO World Heritage Site of Monte San Giorgio.

Webcode: 2778

### Swissminiatur

Visit the Lake Lugano Region and see Switzerland in one hour! Where else can you find the Federal Palace and Jungfraujoch a short distance from each other?

Webcode: 2768

# Tibetan bridge

The suspension bridge that crosses the rugged Sementina Valley is 270 m long and 130 m high. It is an adrenaline-filled experience for all family members.

Webcode: 137557

# 6 Audan Alpine lakes

A small paradise for children and adults where two varieties of fish are bred. This facility supplies its clients with all the necessary equipment for fishing.

Webcode: 1460

# Monte Tamaro

A rope park, an alpine coaster, a zip line and a bungee jump are just some of the attractions that will make your day up at Mount Tamaro.







# One Region on a silver platter.

If you like to travel in style, let Ticino fulfill your tastes! Enjoy some Michelin-starred restaurants and traditional rustic "grottos". And, of course, indulge with a glass of the great local Merlot wine. Enjoy the genuine taste of Ticino.

# By boat to the Gandria wine cellars

A mountain path skirting Lake Lugano and in close contact with nature opens the way with several typical grottos, ending up at the Gandria wine cellars and the interesting Customs museum.

Webcode: 138326

# 2 Zincarlìn Ticino cheese

Acknowledged by Slow Food, Zincarlìn is a variation of the typical Ticino cream cheese based on acid curd. A unique flavour of the territory.

Webcode: 95034

# 3 Itinerary through the vineyards

Take a tour in the land of Merlot wine. Village by village, among mountains, hills and the lake you'll discover Mendrisiotto, the most southerly Region of Switzerland.

Webcode: 138321

# 4 Chestnut Festival and Autumn Festival Ascona

The Autumn Festival takes place in Ascona at the beginning of October. More than 2,000 kg of chestnuts are roasted over the fire and visitors can taste various chestnut-based delicacies.

Webcode: 114310

# 5 Leventina Cheese Festival

At the foot of the Gotthard Pass, every September a rural tradition is faithfully continued – a unique opportunity to taste the best Alpine cheeses.

Webcode: 97314

### The Ticino grottos

The grottos are typical inns where a genuine cuisine can be savoured. Take a seat at the granite tables and let yourself be taken on a journey of scents and flavours.

Webcode: 83119

#### **Grand Tour Snack-Box**

Fill up your personal Grand Tour Snack-Box with selected regional specialities at around 30 refill stations and you'll be surprised at just how much culinary diversity Switzerland offers!

MySwitzerland.com/snackbox



### Webcode:

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# Ticino on two wheels.

If a bike is your trusty steed and your holidays the perfect chance to ride towards new horizons, take a road trip in Ticino - you won't be disappointed! Thanks to its mild climate, the Italian part of Switzerland is ready to be explored on a bike in any season. Discover picturesque landscapes that will leave you stunned and cross rugged mountains, wild valleys and hills covered with vineyards.

# **Round Trip of Ticino**

A breath-taking motor biking round trip of Ticino. Check out Switzerland's more Mediterranean vibe and follow an itinerary full of national treasures, such as the Castles of Bellinzona and Monte San Giorgio, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Ascona lakeside on Lake Maggiore, and the panorama from the sunny peaks of Monte Brè. www.touraround.ticino.ch

# **Muggio Valley Tour**

This itinerary will plunge you deep into Switzerland's most beautiful landscapes. From the magnificent old town of Mendrisio, set off on a journey through a welcoming region steeped in history, discovering the traditions and flavours of southern Ticino. www.tourmuggio.ticino.ch

#### **Round Trip of Malcantone**

With dense chestnut groves and lush expanses of countryside, this pleasant 30-mile itinerary will lead you down some gently curved roads to the colourful lakeside town of Caslano. All you have to do is go with the flow through Switzerland's most breathtaking natural landscapes. www.tourmalcantone.ticino.ch



### **Valleys of Locarno Tour**

More than 200 km of winding roads through magical landscapes of rare beauty. In Verzasca Valley, the emerald waters of the river are an invitation to have a refreshing swim or to take a dive off the Ponte dei Salti bridge. Maggia Valley beckons you to enter the typical grottos for a taste of the traditional specialities.

www.tourvalli.ticino.ch

# **Alpine Passes Tour**

Looking to get high on life? This itinerary guarantees you a good trip. Leave the Castles of Bellinzona in your tracks, and set off down the old road of the historic San Bernardino Pass for a short ride to Graubünden. From Surselva, drive through the Medel Valley and Lukmanier Pass before returning via the Blenio Valley. www.tourpass.ticino.ch



