

2024

GRAND TOUR

of Switzerland

**international
friendship
week**





Please read through this information pack for full details of the International Friendship Week event. This event is focussed on excursion days; if you prefer to hike you may wish to consider our Hiking or Walking Week events. You can find details of all these events on our [2024 calendar](#).

When you are ready to book you can send a booking enquiry [here](#).

If after reading the information pack you have questions about the event, please e-mail info@ourchalet.waggs.org.

This event takes place 21st September – 29th September 2024 and is open to individuals and groups of all genders age 18+. Participants are not required to be members of Guiding/Scouting. Prices are as follows.

Accommodation	Package price
Main Chalet or Spycher House catered	CHF 1,476
Camping catered	CHF 1,140
Camping self-catered	CHF 804
Squirrel House (groups of 8-16 people)	Contact us for pricing

Scholarships: We have scholarships available for women aged over 60 with 20+ years involvement in Guiding/Scouting. For this event these scholarships can be used to cover the accommodation portion of the package cost. You can find details of the scholarship [here](#).

Scholarships may also be available for younger women who are active members of Guiding and Scouting and would not otherwise be able to take part in an event at Our Chalet. Please e-mail info@ourchalet.waggs.org for more information, telling us which Member Organisation you belong to and a brief description of why you would need a scholarship to attend an event.



PROGRAMME



The next few pages give an overview of the programme activities included in this event. If you are unsure if an activity is suitable for your group, please contact programme@ourchalet.waggs.org before making your booking.

NOTE: All programme activities are subject to change depending on availability of suppliers and weather conditions.

Important information about programme:

- Leaders are responsible for first aid for their group at all times.
- It is the responsibility of the individual participant or group leader to check that all activities are covered by their travel insurance.
- Participants are responsible for any costs associated with additional transport, e.g. taxis in lieu of walking.

Additional information for participants with disabilities:

- Our Chalet aims to make its events inclusive to as many people as possible. Most of our programme can be adapted to be suitable for those with physical disabilities or sensory impairments. To ensure we can meet your needs we ask that you let us know at the time of making a booking enquiry what adaptations you may need.
- Our Chalet staff are not able to help with any medical or personal care or provide 1:1 support. Participants who need this type of support must bring their own carer with them. Please contact us to discuss options for carer places on this event.

Opting out of an activity:

- All programme is optional and you are welcome to opt out of any day or evening programme. All we ask is that you let us know so we don't think we've lost someone!
- **We are not able to give refunds for activities you opt out of or miss.** This is because International Friendship Week is sold as a package price and our activities have to be pre-booked at a group rate.



LAKES



LAKE THUN, LAKE BRIENZ + KAYAKING

Cruise on a passenger boat on the blue waters of the 17.5km long Lake Thun from Spiez to Interlaken, taking in the mountains and villages dotted along the shore.

Once in Interlaken you will explore the beautiful turquoise waters of Lake Brienz by kayak, on a leisurely guided kayak tour of the lake.

This day is guided by Our Chalet staff. The kayaking tour is run by fully qualified, English-speaking instructors and is fun for all ages and abilities!

Practical information:

Return transport from Our Chalet included. Journey time approx. one hour each way.

Boat cruise time: 1 hour 20 minutes.

Special considerations: Kayaking takes place in all weathers, except lightning and very high wind.

Adaptations: For participants with physical disabilities transport, including wheelchair accessible transport, can be arranged from Our Chalet to the coach pick up/drop off point. Adaptive kayaking is possible for a range of abilities using specialised equipment.



International Friendship Week
Our Chalet Event Open to All





The Golden round trip takes you to the most spectacular spots on the Pilatus mountain and to the summit by boat, cogwheel railway, aerial cableway and Panorama Gondolas.

Enjoy a day experience several typically Swiss modes of transport while taking in the views of the lakes and mountains of the Luzern region.

Practical information:

Transport from Our Chalet included. Journey time approx. 2hrs each way.

Note: This day requires an early departure from Our Chalet.

The tour is wheelchair accessible, we need to specify the number of wheelchair users in our group when making our booking. Please let us know in advance if you will be using a wheelchair for this tour day.





Spend the day at Our Chalet learning about our Centre, WAGGGS, and our international team.

This is also a great day to relax on site between all the busy excursions! If you choose to work towards your Our Chalet Challenge badge, there is also time to tick off some of the activities needed to earn this.





HASLIBERG MARBLE RUN + MEIRINGEN

We start the day in Meiringen where you will have a little time to explore the village before taking a short cable car ride to Bidmi.

From Bidmi we walk downhill to Reuti following the marble run trail. Along the way we can have a little fun and competition at 12 exciting and varied marble runs.

We finish the day with a cable car journey back down to Meiringen before getting the coach back to Our Chalet.

Practical information:

Transport from Our Chalet to Meiringen: 1.5hrs.

Walk from Bidmi to Reuti approx. one and half hour (3km) downhill. Note: this includes steep sections, however, we do take plenty of breaks as there is a marble run station located approximately every 200m to 300m.

The hiking trail is not wheelchair accessible nor suitable for those using walkers/zimmer frames. However, the cable car is wheelchair accessible and we can recommend other trails that may be suitable. Two of the marble runs are next to the gondola station and can be easily accessed by all without hiking.



FOOD



GRUYERE CHEESE + CHOCOLATE

What better way to get a feel for Swiss culture than through its two most famous foods – chocolate and cheese! After time to explore the picturesque village of Gruyere, with its impressive castle above beautiful cobble stone streets, we head to AOP Gruyere to see the cheese dairy and enjoy a fondue lunch in the attached restaurant.

After lunch we make the short trip to nearby Broc where Maison Cailleur has produced Swiss chocolate since 1898. Visit the interactive museum to learn more about how chocolate is made before getting to the best part – the tasting room!

Practical information:

Transport from Our Chalet included. Journey time approx. 1hr45 each way. Entry to Gruyere castle is not included.

Note: a dairy-free, alcohol-free, and vegan option are available in place of the fondue lunch, please notify us of your dietary requirements well in advance.

The cheese and chocolate museums are both wheelchair accessible. The village of Gruyere has steep hills and is mostly cobble stone streets. Wheelchair access is possible, but manual wheelchair users may need assistance in some areas. Wheelchair accessible toilets are available at both museums but not in Gruyere. Gruyere castle is at the top of a steep hill and is not wheelchair accessible inside.



International Friendship Week
Our Chalet Event Open to All





ENGSTLIGENALP + ADELBODEN VILLAGE

Spend the day exploring Our Chalet's local area with half a day at the Engstligenalp and half a day in Adelboden village.

Ride the cable car up to the alp where you can see the cows who climbed 600m up a narrow hiking path to get here! Buy cheese or fudge from the farmers on the alp or enjoy a drink on the mountain hut terrace. For the more energetic there is a short but steep circular walk to view the upper Engstligenfalls.

The other half of the day gives you time to explore the small village of Adelboden, purchase some souvenirs, enjoy a treat from a locally owned café (or gelateria!), or get competitive and complete our scavenger hunt!

Practical information:

We take the public bus to the cable car station, between the cable car station and the village, and back to the nearest stop to Our Chalet. The walk from Our Chalet to the bus stop is approx. 1km with a very steep hill. Walking time is around 20 mins down and 30 mins up.

The cable car is wheelchair accessible, tracks on the alp are wide and mostly flat with a packed gravel surface. The buses are wheelchair accessible and there are wheelchair accessible toilets at the cable car station and in the village. The optional hike to the upper falls is on uneven, steep mountain hiking trail.



Free Day

Free Day is your opportunity to organise your own activity for yourself/your group and it is completely up to you what you choose to do! Perhaps your group want to spend more time exploring the Adelboden area or visiting one of the wellness spas, or maybe there is a destination further afield you don't want to miss. [MySwitzerland](#) has lots of ideas to help you organise your own activity on this day.




Pinning Ceremony, Tour, & Evening Programmes

We will welcome you to Our Chalet with an opening ceremony for your event. Everyone taking part in the opening ceremony will receive a special Our Chalet pin only available to those who have visited the Centre. You will also have a guided tour to help you learn your way around and find out about our history.

Throughout the week, we also run six evening programmes. Each of these lasts approximately 1.5 hours and gives participants more opportunities to learn new skills and develop friendships.



ACCOMMODATION



Important information about accommodation:

- Our Chalet is open to guests of all genders. We are not able to guarantee single-gender hallways or buildings.
- For groups, rooms will be allocated by Our Chalet and it is up to group leaders to allocate their participants to each room.
- A small number of single and twin rooms are available on request for an extra fee. Please request at the time of booking.
- Rooms are not shared between groups, unless multiple groups request to share. Individuals booking on to this event will be roomed in a shared dorm, unless requesting a single/twin and paying the additional fee.
- Bed linen and towels are provided and for hygiene reasons we do not allow the use of sleeping bags in our accommodation.
- For fire safety reasons it is not possible to add extra beds or mattresses to any of our rooms.
- For full details of wheelchair accessibility please e-mail info@ourchalet.wagggs.org

Camping:

- It is not permitted to park any vehicles on our campsite. Only tent camping is allowed. Car parking is available a three minute walk from the campsite by our main buildings.
- Tent hire is available for an extra fee. Tents must be reserved in advance. Inflatable mattresses are included in the tent hire. Sleeping bags and pillows must cannot be provided.
- Campers must be prepared to sleep in their tents for the entirety of their stay in all weather conditions. Temperatures in the Swiss Alps can get down to 5C at night, even in summer. We may not have indoor accommodation available, even if you wish to pay to move inside!





Our indoor accommodation is offered across two buildings:

Main Chalet opened in 1932 and offers dorm rooms, triple rooms, twin rooms, and a single room. The largest dorm room can sleep up to 14 guests. None of the rooms in Main Chalet have bunk beds.

Spycher House opened in 1999 and offers one dorm room (sleeps up to eight guests), quad rooms, twin rooms, and two single rooms. Some rooms in Spycher House have bunk beds.

For groups, rooms will be assigned by our office staff based on your needs. To maximise availability, groups may be split across both buildings. Our staff always ensure at least one leader is in the same building as participants from their group.

Participants from different groups do not usually share rooms (unless by request), however, different groups will share the same common facilities such as bathrooms and hallways. Our Chalet is open to guests of all genders.

For details of wheelchair accessibility in our indoor accommodation please e-mail info@ourchalet.waggs.org. As a broad overview, accommodation suitable for manual wheelchair users is available in Spycher House. Users of powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters who can transfer to a manual chair without the use of a hoist can also access this accommodation.

Groups of 8 or more may be able to book Squirrel House for a self-catered package during this event, please contact us for pricing.





NOTE: We offer both catered and self-catered camping packages. The self-catered package includes eight nights of accommodation, luggage transfers, and all event programme activities. The catered package includes the same plus all meals from dinner on arrival day to packed lunch on departure day.

Our campsite can accommodate up to 30 people. **Tents including inflatable mattresses are available at an additional cost.** For hygiene reasons participants must bring their own sleeping bags.

For those on the self-catered camping package Camp House contains a small kitchen for the use of campers. Equipment for outdoor cooking is also available. No meals are included in the self-catered package, except for dinner and breakfast at the mountain hut on the overnight hike.

Toilets and showers are available in Camp House. The upstairs of Camp House can be used for shelter in wet/stormy weather. It is approximately a five minute walk from the campsite to Main Chalet and Spycher House.

Note: It is not possible to be partly catered. Participants can either book a fully catered camping package where all meals are included, or a self-catered package where no meals are included.





All meals from dinner on arrival day to packed lunch on departure day are included in the event package cost for indoor accommodation and camping catered packages.

The kitchen at Our Chalet is operated by the Kitchen Manager and a team of volunteer staff. We do our best to accommodate dietary requirements, however, if you have a severe allergy or complex dietary requirement, we recommend you discuss your needs prior to booking.

Breakfast

A cold breakfast of cereals, yoghurt, bread, cheese, and fruit is available every morning in a self-service buffet style. Hot and cold drinks are also included.

Packed lunch

Participants make a packed lunch (sandwiches, fruit, snacks, etc.) each morning to take with them on programme. All participants are required to bring a lunch box or bag to carry their lunch as well as containers for snacks.

Dinner

Dinner is served at one sitting and offers one option for everyone. Typical dinners include Swiss dishes such as rösti and camp favourites like chilli or pasta. Dinners always include salad or vegetables and include two courses with a main meal and dessert.

Special diet meals, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free are available only to participants who have notified us in advance of their need for a special meal. Your pre-arrival paperwork will ask you to specify dietary requirements for each participant in your group.



We look forward to welcoming you to your home in the Swiss Alps!

