

ZeL CuraTours

Swiss Mountains by Rail

A PRIVATE GROUP JOURNEY • THE FULL ITINERARY
SWITZERLAND • ZURICH TO GENEVA
DELIVERED • 10 DAYS • 7 NIGHTS

ZeL CuraTours
Operated in partnership with Boustead Travel Services Sdn Bhd • KPK/LN 10169
PRIVATE GROUP JOURNEY • FULL ITINERARY

Ten days across Switzerland, by train, and never twice.

In through Zurich, out through Geneva, on three panoramic railways. Two summits above three thousand metres, five places to sleep, and no day spent going back the way you came.

01 **A line, not a loop**

In at Zurich, out at Geneva. No day is spent going back to a city already seen.

02 **The bags never follow the group**

Left at the station in Zurich, left at Grindelwald station on Jungfrau day, and sent to Geneva airport on the last morning.

03 **Two nights in Zermatt**

The Matterhorn is under cloud more mornings than not. Two sunrises make it likely rather than lucky.

04 **The high days kept apart**

The Matterhorn Glacier Paradise and the Jungfraujoch sit three days apart, with train days between them.

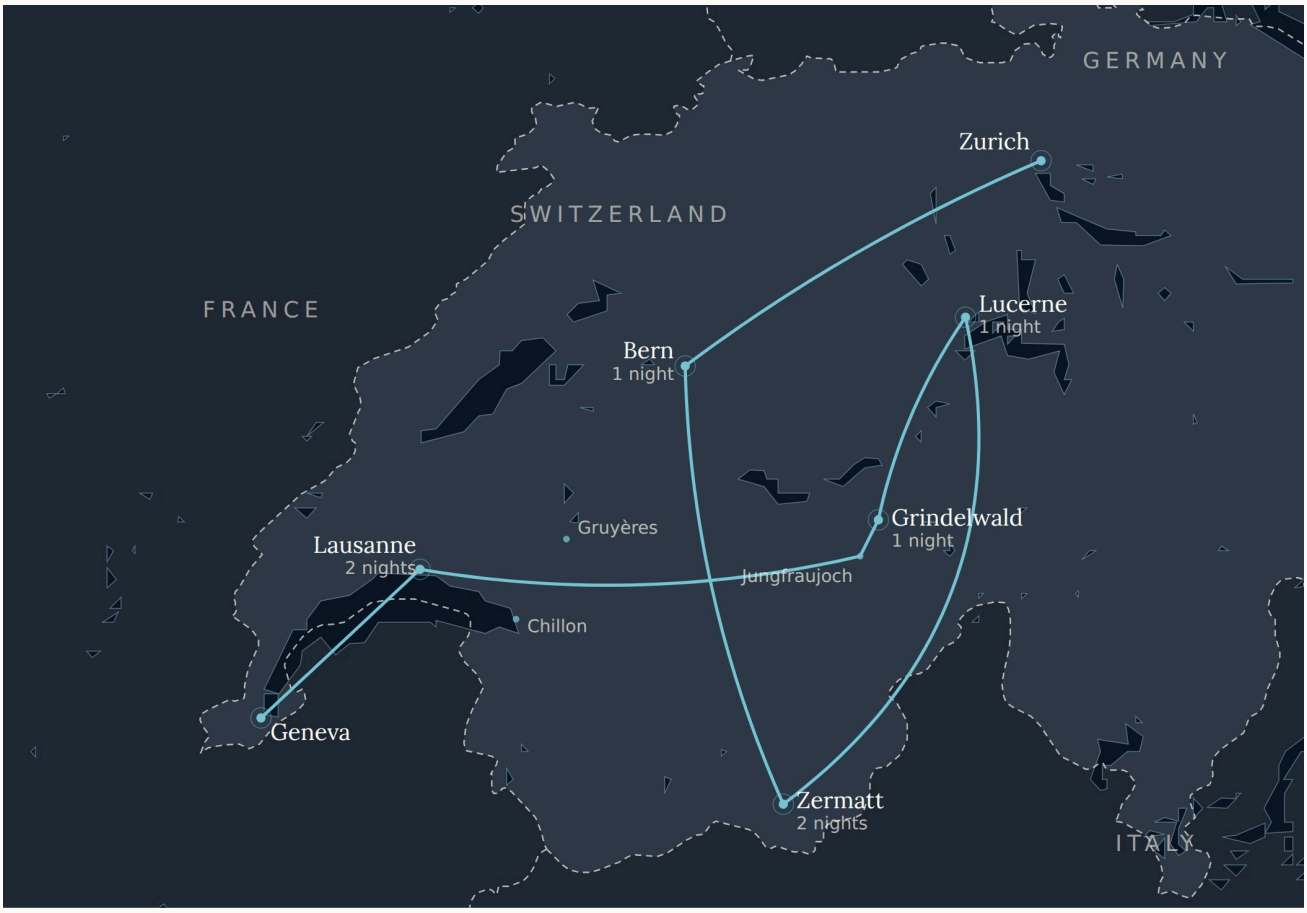
What it gives up is depth. Five bases in eight days is a journey across a country, not a week in one valley. For a first visit, and for a group that wants the mountains and the trains between them, that is the right trade.

ZELTS YANG
JOURNEY DESIGNER
ZEL CURATOURS

THE ROUTE

Zurich to Geneva, by rail.

Five places to sleep, and every leg by train.



DAY	LEG	HOW
02	Zurich → Bern	Train
03	Bern → Zermatt	Train
05	Zermatt → Andermatt → Lucerne	Glacier Express, then train
06	Lucerne → Iseltwald → Lauterbrunnen → Grindelwald	Luzern–Interlaken Express · Lake Brienz cruise
07	Grindelwald → Jungfraujoch → Lausanne	Eiger Express · cogwheel train
08	Lausanne → Gruyères → Chillon → Lausanne	GoldenPass Belle Époque
09	Lausanne → Geneva	Train

DAY 01 – 02

ARRIVAL

KUALA LUMPUR • DOHA • ZURICH • BERN

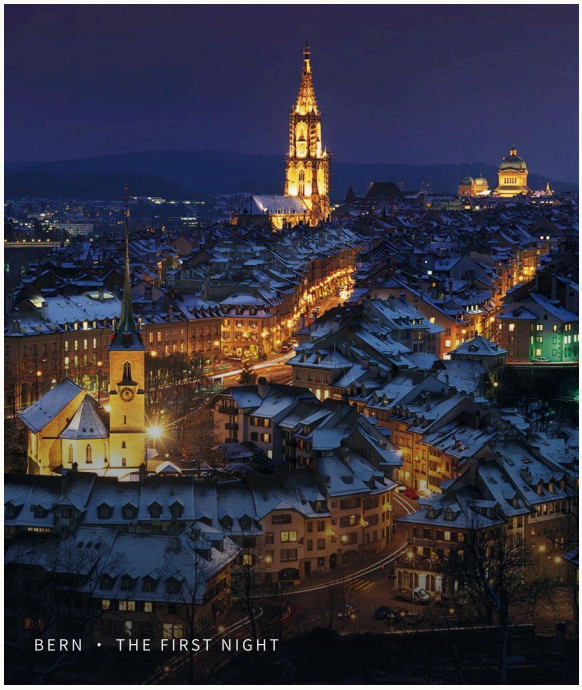
Kuala Lumpur → Doha → Zurich → Bern

THE WAY IN

A long connection used as a day, then Zurich's old town with the bags left behind.

DAY 01	Kuala Lumpur → Doha	A morning flight, landing in Doha around midday.
AFTERNOON	Doha city tour	The Corniche along the bay, lunch in Souq Waqif, Katara Cultural Village and the National Museum of Qatar.
DUSK	Desert safari	Camel ride, sandboarding and dune bashing, dinner, then the overnight flight to Zurich.
DAY 02	Zurich airport	Bags handed to Swiss rail and kept at Zurich main station, so the city is walked light. The eight-day Swiss rail pass starts here.
MORNING	Zurich old town	The Grossmünster, the town hall standing in the river, Bahnhofstrasse, and the Polybahn up the hill for the roofs.
MIDDAY	Lunch at Zeughauskeller	A sharing plate in the old armoury. Meal not included.
AFTERNOON	Lindt Home of Chocolate	At Kilchberg on the lake, then the train to Bern.
EVENING	Bern	Check in, and dinner at Kornhauskeller, a vaulted cellar under the old town. Meal not included.





BERN • THE FIRST NIGHT

DESIGN INTENT • WHY ZURICH GETS HALF A DAY AND NO NIGHT

Zurich is the arrival airport, not the destination. Sleeping in Bern puts the group inside the next morning's first stop, so the day after the night flight opens with a walk instead of a transfer.

NIGHT 1

Savoy Hotel, Bern

DAY 03

ARCADES

BERN • ZERMATT

Bern → Zermatt

THE OLD TOWN

A UNESCO old town in the morning, a car-free village by five.

MORNING	**Breakfast at the hotel**
	Bern old town A UNESCO World Heritage site: six kilometres of arcades, the Zytglogge clock tower, the Minster, the Federal Palace, the Käfigturm, and the bear park at the far end.
MIDDAY	**Lunch in Bern**
AFTERNOON	**South by train to Zermatt** About two hours. The valley narrows and the last stretch runs into the car-free village. Check in.
17:00	**Black-nose sheep farm** A Valais breed with a black face and a white coat that looks invented and isn't. Met at the Hotel Julen.
EVENING	**Dinner at Restaurant Schäferstube** Valais cooking, and lamb. Meal not included.





THE ZYTGLOGGE

DESIGN INTENT • WHY BERN GETS AN EVENING AND A MORNING, NOT A DAY

Bern is the best-preserved old town in the country and it is on the way south. Giving it more would cost a Zermatt night, and the two Zermatt nights are what the two sunrises are made of.

NIGHT 2

Zermama Hotel, Zermatt

DAY 04

SUMMIT

ZERMATT

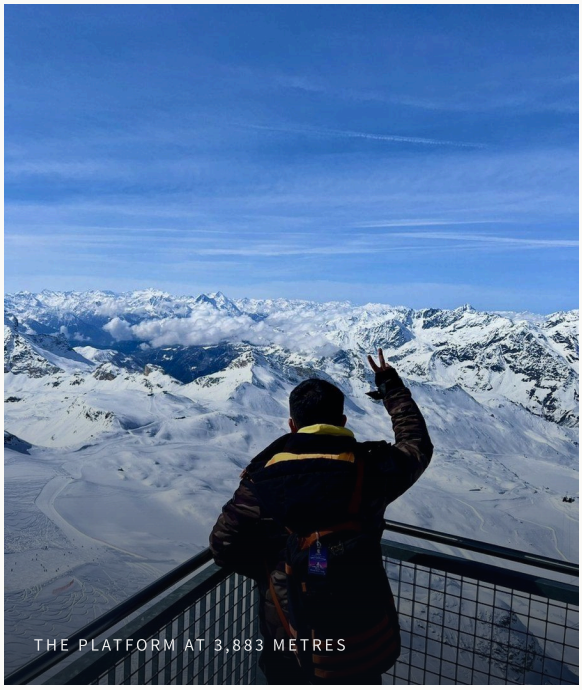
Zermatt · the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise

THE BORDER

One foot in Switzerland, the other in Italy, before lunch.

DAWN	The golden Matterhorn	Out before seven for the minutes when the summit turns gold and the valley is still dark.
MORNING	Breakfast, then up the mountain	Europe's highest cable car, from the village to the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise at 3,883 metres.
	At the top	The Glacier Palace cut into the ice, the 360° viewing platform, the highest cinema in Europe and the snow plateau at Plateau Rosa.
MIDDAY	Testa Grigia • 3,480 m	The Swiss–Italian border on the snow: one foot in each country. Lunch at the highest mountain restaurant in Europe.
AFTERNOON	Old Zermatt	The church square and the Kirchbrücke, where the river runs under the Matterhorn.
EVENING	Dinner in the village	Swiss-Italian.





THE PLATFORM AT 3,883 METRES

DESIGN INTENT • THE ONE DAY WITH A WRITTEN ALTERNATIVE

This is the day the weather owns. If the high stations close, the day becomes the Gornergrat railway instead, which stays open when they do not.

NIGHT 3

Zermama Hotel, Zermatt

DAY 05

WINDOW

ZERMATT • ANDERMATT • LUCERNE

Glacier Express → Lucerne

THE WINDOW

The best stretch of the Glacier Express, and still an afternoon for Lucerne.

DAWN	A second Matterhorn sunrise	Two mornings, because one is a coin toss.
MORNING	Breakfast and check out	
	Glacier Express to Andermatt	Around three hours through the high Alps in panoramic carriages, with light refreshments on board.
MIDDAY	Change of train to Lucerne	Lunch at the Rathaus Brauerei, a brewery on the river (meal not included). Check in.
AFTERNOON	Lucerne	The Lion Monument cut into the rock, the Chapel Bridge, the town hall, St Peter's Chapel and the watch shops on Schwanenplatz.
EVENING	Dinner in town	Chinese.





THE CHAPEL BRIDGE, LUCERNE

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE GLACIER EXPRESS STOPS AT ANDERMATT

The stretch from Zermatt to Andermatt is the part worth a panoramic window. Changing there gets the group to Lucerne by early afternoon, with the old town still ahead of them.

NIGHT 4

Mandarin Oriental Palace, Lucerne

DAY 06

LAKES

LUCERNE • INTERLAKEN • LAUTERBRUNNEN • GRINDELWALD

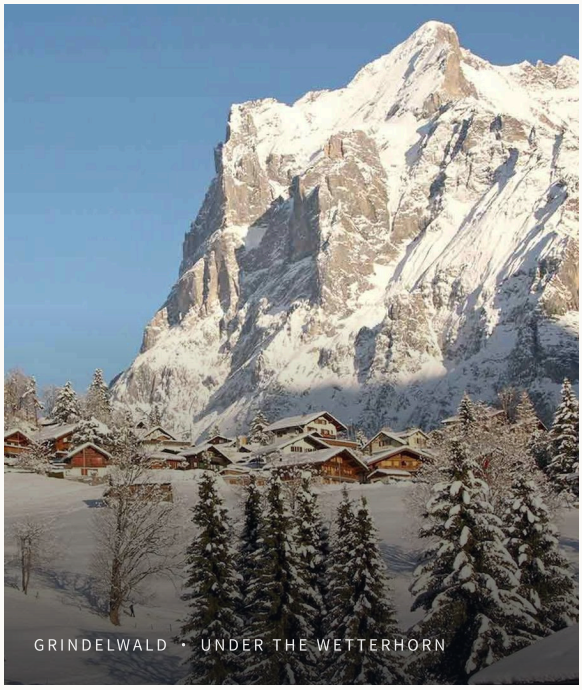
Lucerne → Lake Brienz → Grindelwald

LAKES AND WATERFALLS

A panoramic train, a lake crossing and a waterfall, all before dinner.

MORNING	Luzern–Interlaken Express	Two hours over the Brünig Pass, past three lakes: the second of the three panoramic lines.
MIDDAY	Lunch in Interlaken	Korean barbecue, a break from Swiss food.
AFTERNOON	Lake Brienz cruise to Iseltwald	Across water the colour of glass, to a stone pier and a lakeside village.
	Lauterbrunnen	A valley with seventy-two waterfalls. The Staubbach drops nearly three hundred metres beside the village.
EVENING	Grindelwald	Check in under the Eiger, and dinner in the village.





GRINDELWALD • UNDER THE WETTERHORN

DESIGN INTENT • WHY LAUTERBRUNNEN COMES THE DAY BEFORE THE SUMMIT

Lauterbrunnen and Iseltwald sit on the way in, so they are taken on the travel day. That leaves the next day for the Jungfraujoch alone, with no second valley squeezed in after it.

NIGHT 5

Belvedere Grindelwald

DAY 07

GLACIER

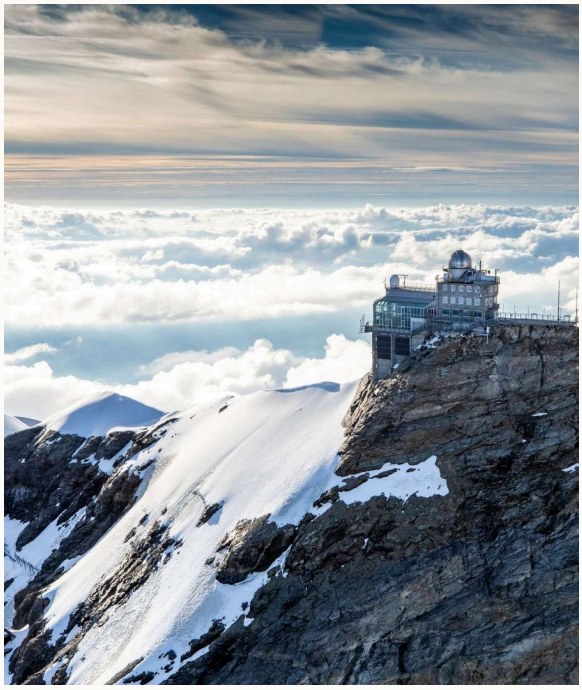
JUNGFRAUJOCH • LAUSANNE

Jungfraujoch → Lausanne

TOP OF EUROPE

The top of Europe in the morning, Lake Geneva by the evening.

MORNING	**Breakfast and check out**	Bags left at Grindelwald station for the day.
	Eiger Express and cogwheel train	The gondola along the Eiger north face, then the train through the mountain to the Jungfraujoch, 3,454 metres.
	Top of Europe	The Ice Palace, the Sphinx Observatory above the Aletsch Glacier, and the snow of the Jungfrau plateau.
MIDDAY	**Lunch at the Jungfraujoch**	
AFTERNOON	**Back down by the Eiger Express**	Bags collected at Grindelwald, then three hours west by train to Lausanne.
EVENING	**Lausanne**	Check in, and dinner in the hotel.





THE ALETSCH GLACIER

DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE BAGS WAIT AT THE STATION

Leaving the luggage at Grindelwald station means the group comes off the mountain and goes straight on to Lausanne, with no trip back to a hotel. The summit and the move share one day without either being rushed.

NIGHT 6

Royal Savoy, Lausanne

DAY 08

LAKE

GRUYÈRES • CHILLON • LAUSANNE

Gruyères → Chillon → Lausanne

THE LAKE

A cheese dairy, a walled town and a castle in the water, and the same bed tonight.

MORNING	Train to Gruyères	About an hour and a half into the hills.
	La Maison du Gruyère	The dairy where the wheels are made, turned and aged in front of you.
MIDDAY	The walled town of Gruyères	Up the hill to the castle town, and lunch inside the walls.
AFTERNOON	GoldenPass Belle Époque to Chillon	The third panoramic line, in restored period carriages, down to the lake.
	Chillon Castle	Built on a rock in the water, and stranger inside than it looks from the shore.
EVENING	Lausanne old town	A walk through the old town, and dinner there.





CHILLON CASTLE, ON LAKE GENEVA

DESIGN INTENT • WHY LAUSANNE HAS TWO NIGHTS

After two days above three thousand metres the body wants a lake. Two nights in Lausanne make Gruyères and Chillon a day out rather than another move, and put the departure airport an hour away.

NIGHT 7

Royal Savoy, Lausanne

DAY 09 – 10

HOME

GENEVA • KUALA LUMPUR

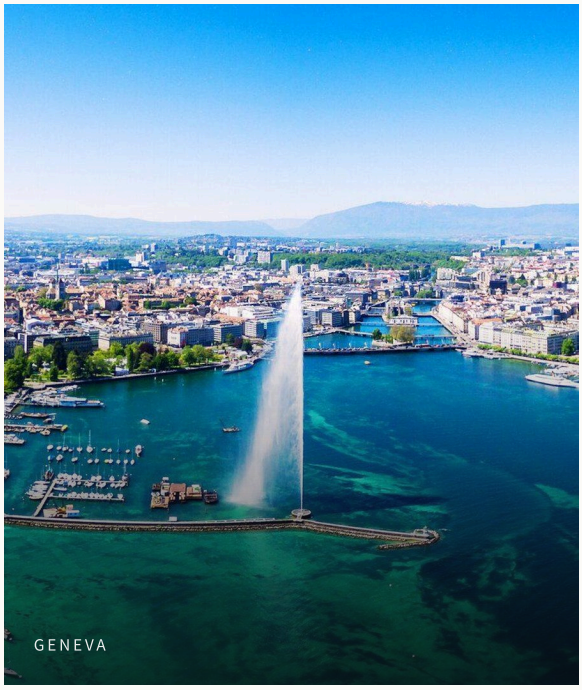
Geneva → Kuala Lumpur

OUT THE FAR SIDE

Ten days, one direction, and nobody had to go back to Zurich.

MORNING	Breakfast, then the train to Geneva airport	Bags dropped at the airport first.
	Geneva old town	Into the city light: the old town on its hill, St Pierre Cathedral and the Flower Clock in the Jardin Anglais.
MIDDAY	Lunch in Geneva	Chinese, before the airport.
AFTERNOON	Geneva → Doha → Kuala Lumpur	Check in with the bags already there, and the lounge before the flight.
DAY 10	Kuala Lumpur	Arrive home in the afternoon.





DESIGN INTENT • WHY THE BAGS GO TO THE AIRPORT BEFORE THE CITY

Dropping the luggage at the airport first turns the last morning into a walk rather than a transfer. And finishing in Geneva means nobody has to go back to Zurich to catch a plane.

STAY

Home

Seven nights, five hotels.

Each one sits inside the place being visited, so every morning starts there.



SAVOY HOTEL


A ROOM AT THE SAVOY

NIGHT 1 • BERN

Savoy Hotel

In the old town

Tomorrow morning's arcades are outside the door.


ZERMAMA HOTEL


THE BALCONY, FACING THE MATTERHORN

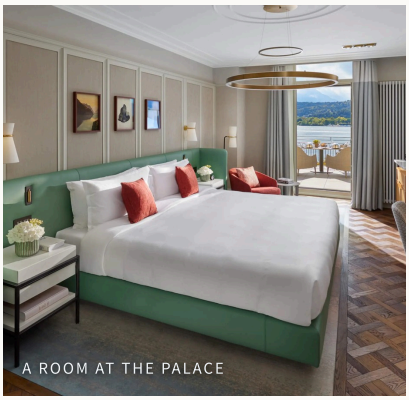
NIGHTS 2–3 • ZERMATT

Zermama Hotel

In the car-free village

Two nights, for two chances at the Matterhorn sunrise.


ON THE LAKE


A ROOM AT THE PALACE

NIGHT 4 • LUCERNE

Mandarin Oriental Palace

On the lakefront

The lake at the end of the street after the Glacier Express.

Under the Eiger, and above the lake.


BELVEDERE GRINDELWALD


A ROOM AT THE BELVEDERE

NIGHT 5 • GRINDELWALD

Belvedere Grindelwald

Facing the Eiger

The night before the Jungfraujoch, near the Eiger Express.


ROYAL SAVOY


A ROOM AT THE ROYAL SAVOY

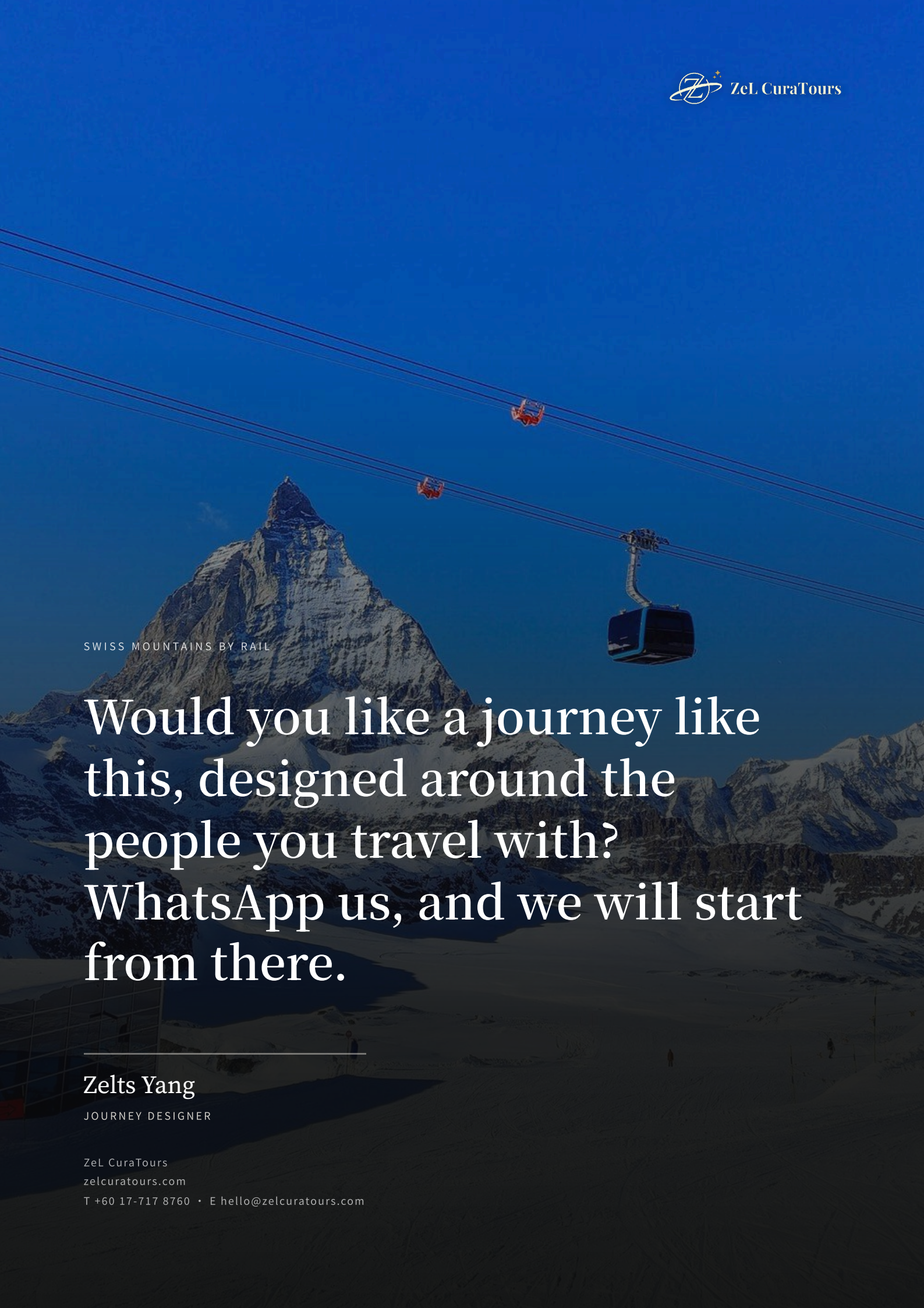
NIGHTS 6–7 • LAUSANNE

Royal Savoy

Above Lake Geneva

Two nights, so Gruyères and Chillon are a day out with no hotel change.

ZeL CuraTours



SWISS MOUNTAINS BY RAIL

Would you like a journey like this, designed around the people you travel with? WhatsApp us, and we will start from there.

Zelts Yang

JOURNEY DESIGNER

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