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Rick Steves

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Rick Steves : Rick Steves' Switzerland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rick Steves' Switzerland:

38 of 38 people found the following review helpful. Typical Rick Steves' format, but coverage is a bit thin. By Jon L Albee I'm a fan of Rick Steves' "Back Door" travel philosophy, but I was surprised at how selective this guide is. When you buy a Rick Steves' guide, you know you're going to get well refined content that has been organized and prioritized to allow for an authentic travel experience. Some places will be included and some won't. Rick does not intend to make his books encyclopedic or entirely comprehensive in their coverage, but his choice of locations (or, rather, his exclusion of locations) in this book can leave a traveler scratching his head. Almost the entire western part of the country, and particularly locations on Lake Geneva, are ignored. Basel and Geneva are completely absent. The French-speaking part of the country is very poorly represented. His selection of Alpine villages is also a bit odd, choosing to include Murten and Zermatt which, though lovely, are so small that they can only accommodate a very small number of tourists at any given time. Authentic? Certainly. Practical? Feasible? Questionable. And Rick falling for the touristy glitz of mountain resorts like St. Moritz seems very, well, un-Steves-like! His chapter on scenic rail journeys is good, and certainly represents a high quality attraction that should not be missed. You certainly get Rick's signature selectivity in this guide, but if his tastes aren't compatible with yours you may find this guide lacking in coverage.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The second biggest city in Switzerland does not exist. By exe "Skip the big, dull city of Geneva; instead, sleep in fun, breezy Lausanne." This is the only mentioning of Geneva in this entire "Guide". Even if you thoroughly hate the city, as a guidebook you have to mention the second biggest city in the country at least twice! Based on this alone, the guide is untrustworthy: Rick Steve's Switzerland does not include a single mention of Patek Phillippe Museum for example. Were there any watches ever made in Switzerland? Not according to this book.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good overview, get your highlighter out. By S. Edlund I spent most of my 3 days in Switzerland in Zurich. The walking tour of Zurich provided was very interesting, but not well routed. I bought the Kindle version and walking from place to place with it I found myself lost several times, having to spend cellphone data roaming \$ to get myself back onto the 'tour'. The tour itself was very interesting, wishing the route was more clearly laid out. The street names in the book are not exactly what the street signs say. The book says to go straight several times through pedestrian walkways that have no signs that split into a couple directions. I really appreciate the Rick Steves philosophy of vacationing on the cheap. But the key points of visiting Switzerland on the cheap are not well highlighted. The book mentions that reasonable priced food can be found at the cafeterias (Migros and Manoras) and the groceries, but this should be emphasized at the beginning of the book. Meat and Seafood are expensive. Fruits and veges are cheap at the groceries, anything purchased at a restaurant is 2x the cost of the US. or neighboring EU countries. I arrived in Zurich at the train station and if I had taken a cab to my hotel it could have cost me \$80. I decided to try my hand with the local Zurich trams (with no map in my guide book) and help of google maps and it cost me \$2.60 for the 30 minute tram ticket. The book recommended going into Gimmewald for the Southern mountain experience. After mentioning this as my destination from my local hotel they 'corrected' my pronunciation of Gimmewald to Grindewald. After receiving the correction in my English speaking and going to Zurich HB (main train station) foreigner travel center and requesting a trip to Grindewald paying my \$160 CHF I am glad I did, as I only had a day to spend. Grindewald was very touristy but if you are backpacking being on the cheap and have time to spend I'm sure Gimmewald is wonderful. With my short trip spending \$160 CHF for the train ride to Grindewald is probably OK, but my hotel had a guided tour for probably \$80. If you are not getting a train card book tours, it will be much cheaper and more interesting than going your own route.

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when visiting Switzerland. This book guides you through bustling Zürich and charming Luzern, colorful with flower-bedecked bridges. Crisscross the mountains on cable cars, trains, and hiking paths. Find an alpine retreat in the cliff-hanging village of Gimmelwald. Marvel at the Matterhorn, relax in Lugano, and take an unforgettable swim in Bern. Cruise Lake Geneva and savor the cozy small-town atmosphere of Appenzell. After a day of sightseeing and hiking the Alps, treat yourself to a glass of local wine, cheese fondue, and delicious Swiss chocolate. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels, BBs, and restaurants in cities, villages, and resort towns. You'll learn how to plan scenic rail journeys, and which sights are worth your time and money. More than reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

About the Author Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Europe Through the Back Door—in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle—Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans.