

TRAVEL ITINERARY

Paris Lucerne and Milan

City culture, lakeside walks and the classic Gotthard railway



[Lucerne Wasserturm](#) · [Ymblanter](#) · [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

12 days / 11 nights · Flexible dates in the second half of May 2027

Two travellers, both 25, resident in Spain. No bookings have been made. Schedules, prices and availability for May 2027 remain indicative or require rechecking.

Reviewed 1 October 2026 · Prepared by Rail Trip Planner

ROUTE AND PRIORITIES

Your trip at a glance

Paris → Lucerne → Milan · 4 nights + 4 nights + 3 nights. Bellinzona is a transfer point, not another overnight base.

Why this distribution fits the profile

1. Four nights in Paris give three full days for culture and photography without an attraction checklist.
2. Four nights in Lucerne give three full days outdoors, with room to swap plans for weather and rest. The route avoids a new hostel every day.
3. The scenic railway is part of the necessary move to Milan. It provides Alpine landscapes without a detour through Chur and Tirano or another overnight stop.
4. Three nights in Milan give two full days for architecture, neighbourhoods and local food. A Lake Como excursion would add travel and spending, so it is not part of the principal route.
5. Most sightseeing is on foot and outdoors. The Louvre is the cultural anchor; Duomo rooftop access and Bürgenstock are optional purchases.

Budget: €100 per person per day means €1,200 per person / €2,400 for the pair for the 12-day trip. This covers 11 hostel nights, 12 days of food, local transport and activities. Flights, interurban rail, rail reservations and planning fees are additional. The target appears plausible as a controlled spending plan, but is not yet validated against dated accommodation quotes.

How we have planned your trip: two dormitory beds each night, second-class rail, normal walking ability, no stated dietary or accessibility requirements, no night trains. No nationality is inferred from Spanish residence. Arrival and departure times are unknown, so Days 1 and 12 have no essential timed activity. Any optional excursion replaces a day's main activity rather than being added to it.

[Open your trip map →](#)

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PLAN AT A GLANCE

Your twelve day route

Day	Base / destination	Main plan	Overnight
1	Paris	Arrive, settle in, short Seine walk	Paris
2	Paris	Louvre and Tuileries	Paris
3	Paris	Montmartre and neighbourhood photography	Paris
4	Paris	Left Bank and Eiffel Tower exterior	Paris
5	Paris → Lucerne	Train via Basel; light lakeside arrival	Lucerne
6	Lucerne	Old town, Chapel Bridge and Musegg Wall	Lucerne
7	Lucerne	Lakeside nature around Tribschen	Lucerne
8	Lucerne	Flexible landscape day; optional Bürgenstock	Lucerne
9	Lucerne → Milan	Treno Gottardo via the mountain line, change in Bellinzona	Milan
10	Milan	Duomo area and Brera	Milan
11	Milan	Castle courtyards, park and Navigli	Milan
12	Milan	Easy departure morning, if time allows	None

DATES AND RESERVATIONS

Before you book

1. Choose a 12-day window within 16-31 May 2027. A start within 16-20 May keeps the whole trip in that period; no exact start is assumed.
2. Check the Paris-Basel-Lucerne journey and the Day 9 mountain-line journey for the selected dates. Verify works, transfers and arrival before committing to non-refundable accommodation.
3. Obtain two-bed hostel quotes for all 11 nights. Compare totals including tourist taxes, membership charges, linen and breakfast. Select the hostel on sleep conditions and location, not only headline price.
4. Compare tickets with the Youth Global Pass using exactly the same journeys. Check passholder seats before buying a pass if relying on TGV Lyria or EuroCity.
5. Book the Louvre slot once its date is chosen, even if eligible for free admission. Check any optional Duomo purchase separately.
6. Leave outdoor plans flexible. Bürgenstock is conditional on trail status, weather and the final price; it is not needed for the route to work.

Information labels: "Checked" means a current official rule or route was checked on 1 October 2026. "Indicative" means a planning estimate, not a dated quote. "Needs rechecking" means the May 2027 service, price or condition has not been established. No exact 2027 train departure or booking availability is presented below. SBB explains that booking windows and timetable publication vary by service [[S2](#)].

Published sales opening: TGV Lyria currently lists 12 November 2026 for journeys from 1 April to 2 July 2027. This includes May, but does not guarantee a particular departure, fare or seat. Engineering works or timetable changes can affect release dates [[S21](#)].

[Read our guide to tickets not yet on sale →](#)

DAY 5 • ONE INTENDED TRANSFER

Paris to Lucerne

- **Route:** TGV Lyria to Basel SBB; Swiss onward train to Luzern. One intended transfer. Exact Swiss service and operator must be selected in the dated timetable.
- **Indicative duration:** around 4½-5½ hours station to station including a comfortable transfer. The current Lyria route page lists Paris-Basel at about 3h04; Interrail lists Basel-Lucerne at approximately one hour [[S1](#), [S4](#)]. These are current route references, not a May 2027 schedule.
- **Proposed departure pattern:** a morning departure, arriving with time to settle in. Check the dated timetable before buying.
- **Transfer policy:** aim for 40-60 minutes in Basel as a planning buffer. This is our recommendation, not an operator minimum. Prefer a through itinerary where offered; separate tickets can affect protection if a connection is missed [[S2](#)].
- **Reservations:** TGV Lyria's international section requires a seat reservation, including when using Interrail [[S3](#)]. Swiss domestic services usually do not require one; verify the chosen train [[S4](#)]. With an individual Lyria ticket, the reserved seat is normally part of that ticket; compare total checkout prices.
- **Pass:** the Lyria route is an Interrail option, with an extra reservation. The onward Swiss service must be a participating service. Do not assume a city metro ticket is included.
- **Price:** no date-specific fare obtained. Lyria's advertised starting fare is not used as a May 2027 quote. Passholder reservation cost needs a fresh check [[S17](#)].
- **Check / book:** [TGV Lyria route information](#), [SBB timetable and ticket search](#).
- **Arrival:** Backpackers Lucerne currently lists staffed check-in 17:00-21:00, an early window and late key-box arrangements by prior contact. Lucerne Youth Hostel currently lists 16:00-21:00 [[S8](#), [S9](#)]. Verify the selected property's arrangements before travel.
- **Fallback:** choose an earlier or later Paris-Basel departure with a safe onward connection. Do not silently replace Basel SBB with Basel Bad Bf. If no workable journey exists on the date, revise the date before purchasing.

DAY 9 • SCENIC TRANSFER

The classic Gotthard to Milan

- **Scenic section:** use **Treno Gottardo**, operated by Schweizerische Südostbahn (SOB) in cooperation with SBB, towards Ticino. SOB documents the current Lucerne connection over the Gotthard panoramic route [[S5](#)]. Check that your dated train calls at Bellinzona.
- **Route to request:** Luzern → Arth-Goldau → Göschenen → Airolo → Bellinzona, then onward towards Milano Centrale. Use Göschenen / Airolo as via points when checking the itinerary. The route crosses the historic summit tunnel; it does not promise continuous open-air mountain views or glacier scenery.
- **Important distinction:** Treno Gottardo is an ordinary scheduled scenic service. It is not the separately branded Gotthard Panorama Express package. A fastest-route search may send you through the Gotthard Base Tunnel and miss much of the intended scenery.
- **Indicative duration:** allow roughly 5-6½ hours station to station including the Bellinzona buffer. This is a planning allowance to check against your dated timetable. Keep the rest of the day light.
- **Transfer:** aim for 45-60 minutes in Bellinzona before a reserved international train. Allow time for station navigation; this is not a sightseeing stop.
- **Onward options:** a suitable EuroCity to Milano Centrale if available on the chosen date; otherwise check a regional itinerary towards Milan. The number of changes and final Milan station must be verified rather than assumed.
- **Reservations:** ordinary Swiss IR services generally do not need a compulsory reservation. Check the reservation indicator for your selected service. A Switzerland-Italy EuroCity needs a passholder reservation; a regional alternative may avoid it [[S4](#), [S17](#)].
- **Pass coverage:** the Swiss scenic operator/service classification needs final verification against Interrail's operator map and selected IR service. The public operator list is not enough to establish every future service. Do not buy on the assumption that all special scenic products are included.
- **Price:** no May 2027 quote. Compare a through ticket via the mountain route with separate Swiss and Italian tickets. A Swiss Saver Day Pass can be investigated for the Swiss portion only; check its boundary and buy the remaining cross-border journey correctly [[S6](#)].
- **Check / book:** [SOB Treno Gottardo](#), [SBB](#), [Trenitalia](#).
- **Fallback:** if the mountain line is disrupted, first check whether another mountain-line departure preserves the scenic journey. A base-tunnel train is faster but changes the scenic experience. A separate scenic outing would change the itinerary and budget; review it before booking.

COMPARE THE WHOLE JOURNEY

Pass or individual tickets

Provisional recommendation: price individual tickets first. The principal itinerary has only two interurban travel days, Day 5 and Day 9. A four-day Global Pass would leave two days unused unless additional eligible rail excursions were chosen. Adding journeys only to justify a pass would work against the requested pace and budget.

At 25, both travellers fit Interrail's current Youth category (12-27 at the start of travel) [S7]. Spanish residence makes Interrail the relevant product to investigate, but identity and residence eligibility must be checked when purchasing. The itinerary does not include travel from Spain to Paris or from Milan back to Spain.

Option	Useful when	Watch for
Individual tickets	Two fixed travel days; compare advance fares	Change restrictions and the complete dated total
Youth Global Pass 4 days	Cost or valued flexibility justifies the purchase	Unused days, reservations, uncovered city transport and lifts
Tickets plus Swiss day product	The Swiss section benefits from a day ticket	Coverage boundary, Italian leg and separate-ticket conditions

Calculate per person: Ticket option = complete Day 5 fare + complete Day 9 fare + any chosen extra rail excursion. Pass option = current eligible Youth Pass price + compulsory reservations + booking fees + any uncovered sections. Compare change/refund terms too. Multiply by two only after the per-person calculation.

A date-specific EUR Youth Pass comparison is not available here. Compare the current pass price with the complete ticket prices before buying; this comparison does not establish a saving [S7]. SBB currently advertises a second-class Saver Day Pass from CHF52 without a Half Fare Travelcard, limited by quota and available up to six months ahead. This is a checked current minimum, not a May 2027 price. The CHF29 headline requires a Half Fare Travelcard and does not apply to the assumed profile [S6].

[Read our pass versus tickets guide →](#)

4 NIGHTS • DAYS 1 TO 4

Paris



Paris, quais de Seine · Pasimito · [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) · cropped · January 2012

Why it fits: major cultural collections, compact neighbourhood walks and varied photography. Stay in the Marais if a suitable dorm quote fits the budget. A well-connected 14th-arondissement alternative trades central walking convenience for a different accommodation setting.

Day 1 Arrive and settle in

Priority: reach your hostel comfortably. Morning: arrival as dictated by your transport; no planned attraction. Afternoon: check in or ask about luggage storage, then explore the streets near your base. Evening: a short Seine walk near Île Saint-Louis (PAR-04) and a simple meal. If arriving late or tired, skip the walk. No timed reservation needed for the outdoor route. Airport transfer cannot be specified until the airport is known.

Day 2 One focused museum visit

Priority: the Louvre (PAR-05). Morning: spend approximately 2½-3 hours on two or three collection areas, rather than trying to cover the museum. Afternoon: picnic or inexpensive lunch, Tuileries Garden (PAR-06), then free time. Evening: relaxed dinner near your base.

Reservation / cost: the Louvre currently offers free admission to qualifying EEA residents under 26, with the required proof; both travellers may qualify on that basis. Recheck the rule and their age at the actual visit. Reserve a slot; free admission does not guarantee availability. Current regular closure is Tuesday: swap this plan with Day 3 or Day 4 when you choose exact dates [[S10](#)]. The outdoor garden is free under current rules. If tired, shorten the museum visit; if it rains, use the museum as the day's main activity without adding another paid attraction.

Paris neighbourhoods and free time

Day 3 Montmartre at walking pace

Priority: Montmartre's streets and views around the Sacré-Cœur exterior (PAR-07).

Morning: walk the quieter side streets rather than starting with souvenir shopping.

Afternoon: lunch, photographs and an unstructured return towards your base.

Evening: one local-style bistro meal if the food allowance permits.

The outdoor walk needs no attraction ticket. There are steps and slopes; use transport or shorten the route if needed. No dome climb or guided tour is assumed. In persistent rain, move this day to the driest Paris day and use a café break plus the covered portion of your museum day instead.

Day 4 Left Bank and an outdoor landmark

Priority: a relaxed Left Bank day. Morning: Jardin du Luxembourg (PAR-08), respecting posted opening times. Afternoon: a bakery lunch and slow neighbourhood walk; use the metro to the Eiffel Tower / Champ de Mars exterior (PAR-09) if you want the landmark photographs. Evening: pack for Lucerne and have an early dinner.

No Eiffel Tower ascent is budgeted or reserved. If an ascent becomes a priority, it replaces part of the day and requires separate official ticket and budget checks. Rain alternative: shorten the gardens and exterior visit; no extra paid attraction is essential.

Food approach: bakery breakfasts where not included, a picnic or simple lunch, and a modest sit-down meal. Try a boulangerie sandwich and a traditional bistro dish such as an omelette or steak-frites according to dietary preference. These are food ideas, not claims about a particular restaurant's availability or quality. No restaurant pins are supplied without a selected, researched venue.

4 NIGHTS • DAYS 5 TO 8

Lucerne



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Why it fits: an easy base combining old-town culture, lake landscapes and the scenic rail departure into the Alps. This itinerary chooses accessible lakeside nature over expensive peak excursions. It does not promise high-altitude hiking conditions in May.

Day 5 Arrival day

Morning and afternoon: the journey via Basel (PAR-01, BSL-01, LUZ-01). After arrival: hostel check-in and a short lakeside walk. Evening: shop for breakfast / picnic food if using Backpackers Lucerne, and cook within its permitted kitchen hours. Keep activities optional after the transfer.

Day 6 Old town and viewpoints

Priority: a connected walk through Kapellbrücke (LUZ-04) and the old town. Morning: riverfront and bridge photographs. Afternoon: Musegg Wall (LUZ-05) if its public sections are open and the steps suit you, then free time. Evening: one Swiss meal or a simple self-catered dinner.

Musegg's current seasonal access is listed from 1 April to 1 November; recheck exceptions in 2027 [[S11](#)]. No paid museum admission is built in. On a wet day, use shorter walks between cafés and save the towers for dry conditions. Avoid towers if slippery, closed or tiring.

Lucerne landscapes and a flexible day

Day 7 Lakeside nature with no major transfer

Priority: the lakeside towards Tribschen (LUZ-06). Morning: walk from the station area along public lakeside paths, stopping whenever the light suits your photographs. Afternoon: picnic and rest; continue only as far as comfortable before returning. Evening: cook or eat a simple local meal.

This is an out-and-back leisure walk, not a claim that the whole lake shore is continuously accessible. The tourism office documents a walking route through the Tribschen area [S12]. The plan does not require the paid bathing facility, a museum entry or swimming. In bad weather, keep this a short stroll and use the remaining time to rest or revisit the old town.

Day 8 Flexible landscape day

Principal plan: a slow second lakeside day, using the northern promenade / Nationalquai (LUZ-07), with time for photography, cafés and packing. Choose this if the weather is unsettled, if you want rest or if hostel prices have consumed the discretionary budget.

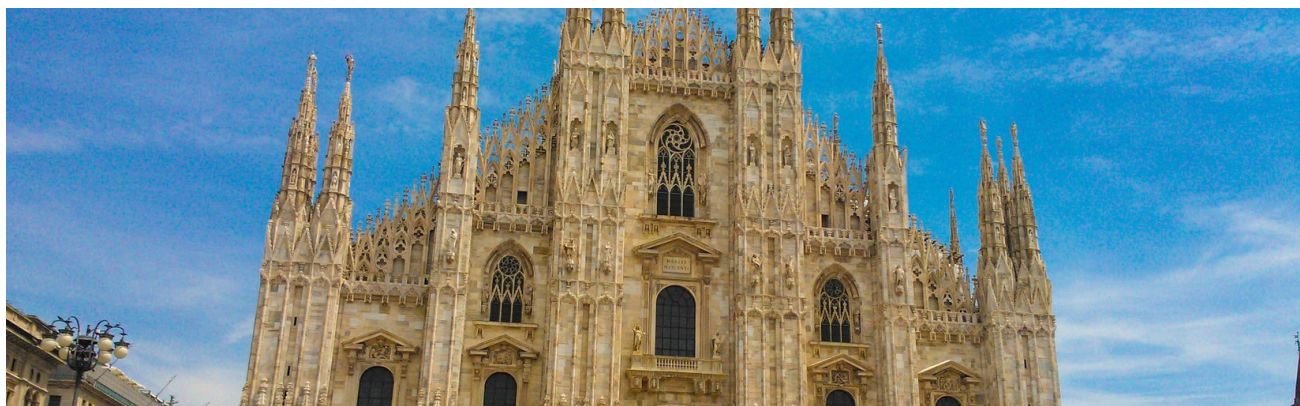
Optional replacement: Bürgenstock Felsenweg (LUZ-08, LUZ-09 and LUZ-10). Only if the trail is open, weather suitable and the total cost fits, travel via Kehrsiten-Bürgenstock and the funicular, walk the open rock-path section and return the same way. Lucerne Tourism describes an approximately 4.38 km circuit with around 275 m of ascent/descent and about 1½-2 hours of walking [S13]. Allow a half day plus transport and photography stops. The path runs above cliffs; its "easy" grade does not mean flat or suitable for everyone. The Hammetschwand lift is not included or necessary for this walk. Do not improvise a circuit around a closed section.

Price / reservation: no 2027 boat-and-funicular price or departure has been established. Obtain the total first and check what the ticket includes. Treat all of that leisure-excursion transport as an activity/local excursion expense inside the €100 budget, even though it crosses the lake. Pass discounts must be verified and are not assumed. Take a picnic to avoid making resort dining necessary. Use the lakeside principal plan in wind, rain, closure or fatigue.

Food approach: budget-conscious supermarket breakfasts and lunches, hostel cooking, and a limited number of Swiss restaurant meals. Try rösti or a local cheese dish if appealing; Backpackers Lucerne has kitchens but no catering; its hobs currently cannot be used between 21:30 and 08:00 [S8].

3 NIGHTS • DAYS 9 TO 12

Milan



[Duomo di Milano](#) · NahidSultan · [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) · cropped

Why it fits: a logical southern finish after the Gotthard route, with architecture, neighbourhood culture and food. Stay near a useful metro connection. Do not pay a central premium without comparing the sleep conditions and total travel time.

Day 9 Scenic rail and a light arrival

Morning: scenic rail departure from Luzern via the classic Gotthard line. Afternoon: transfer at Bellinzona and onward travel to Milan (BEL-01, MIL-01). Evening: check in and have dinner near the hostel. No booked attraction, fixed rooftop slot or Navigli excursion follows this long transfer day.

Day 10 Cathedral district and Brera

Priority: Piazza del Duomo / cathedral exterior (MIL-04). Morning: visit the square before moving into the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (MIL-05). Afternoon: walk around Brera (MIL-06), have lunch and leave time for photography or a café. Evening: a modest Milanese meal.

Optional paid visit: Duomo terraces, replacing part of the morning. Self-guided access provides close views of the roof's architecture and the city [[S14](#)]. Start at the entrance specified on your actual ticket, not automatically the cathedral's main door. Allow about 1-1½ hours as a planning estimate. Stair and lift products differ; cathedral / museum inclusion depends on the selected product. No 2027 price or ticket availability is verified. Check the official ticket service and choose a slot only after confirming what is included. The free exterior walk remains a worthwhile alternative. In poor rooftop weather, keep the covered Galleria visit and shorten the outdoor route.

Milan parks canals and departure

Day 11 Castle, green space and canals

Priority: Castello Sforzesco's courtyards (MIL-07). Morning: explore the publicly open courtyards; museum entry is separate. Afternoon: Parco Sempione (MIL-08), rest, then transfer towards Naviglio Grande (MIL-09) if energy allows. Evening: dinner near the canals, or return towards your base for a quieter meal.

The municipal castle site currently describes the courtyards as free to visit; recheck exceptions [[S15](#)]. Avoid treating an aperitivo drink as a guaranteed full dinner: inclusions and prices vary. No canal cruise or paid guided walk is required. In rain, shorten the park and canal portions; a café or hostel rest is enough rather than adding a new museum.

Day 12 Departure

Priority: reach the actual departure point with enough time. Morning: breakfast, check out and a short local walk only if transport allows. Afternoon / evening: onward journey. There is no twelfth hostel night. The airport, flight time or onward station is unspecified, so no transfer route, fare or luggage-storage promise is included.

Food approach: one rice or pasta dish, a bakery lunch and simple breakfasts. Risotto alla milanese is a regional idea if you want a local meal. No named restaurant is selected, so the map has no food recommendations disguised as researched pins.

RECOMMENDED BASES • NOT BOOKED

Accommodation in Paris

All options below are **recommendations, not reservations**. Consider two adult dorm beds; no mixed / same-sex preference is inferred. May 2027 rates, two-bed availability and cancellation terms are not established here. Check your exact dates with the property. Ask for rooms away from bars / communal spaces where relevant. A request cannot guarantee silence.

No affiliate links are used. Accommodation links lead to official property pages.

Addresses: MIJE Fourcy (PAR-02), 6 rue de Fourcy, 75004 Paris. FIAP Paris (PAR-03), 30 rue Cabanis, 75014 Paris.

Paris principal - MIJE Marais / Fourcy. Central Marais location is convenient for the Seine and core walks; reaching Gare de Lyon still requires an appropriate walk or local-transport trip. Current information includes breakfast and 24-hour reception. School and other groups use the properties, so this is not a promise of a quiet dorm. MIJE may allocate a Marais building rather than guarantee Fourcy: check the actual allocated building on your confirmation before travelling. Verify individual-booking membership charges, dorm type, tax and building allocation [[S16](#)]. [View accommodation and availability](#).

Paris alternative - FIAP Paris. A useful non-party-led institutional setting near Glacière, with a less central location than the Marais. The current rules permit individual shared-room customers aged 18-30, allow a maximum six-night individual stay and list 24-hour reception. Both travellers fit the current age rule and the four-night stay. Outside food and alcohol are currently prohibited on the premises, so it is not a self-catering budget option [[S18](#)]. [View accommodation and availability](#).

TWO OPTIONS FOR FOUR NIGHTS

Accommodation in Lucerne

Addresses: Backpackers Lucerne (LUZ-02), Alpenquai 42, 6005 Luzern. Lucerne Youth Hostel (LUZ-03), Sedelstrasse 12, 6004 Luzern.

Lucerne principal - Backpackers Lucerne. Lakeside location and roughly 15 minutes on foot from the station according to the property. Two guest kitchens support the budget. Breakfast is not assumed included; current information says there is no catering. The current check-in and key-box arrangements require attention if delayed; cooking has restricted hours. The property says it sends a local guest transport card, but its zones and validity for your stay must be checked; it does not establish excursion coverage [[S8](#)]. [View accommodation and availability.](#)

Lucerne alternative - Lucerne Youth Hostel. Less central than the lakeside option but a useful alternative with an explicit current 22:00 quiet-time policy. Staffed check-in currently finishes at 21:00, so obtain written late-arrival instructions if needed. The rate's breakfast inclusion, membership / non-member charge, dorm type and local-transport entitlement must be verified for the actual offer [[S9](#)]. [View accommodation and availability.](#)

Booking checks for every property: two beds for the full stay; total after tax; dorm access and age rules; gender configuration if important; breakfast; lockers / padlock; linen / towels; curfew; exact check-in; cancellation; membership; accessible room needs if later specified. Do not assume that a recommended dorm has two beds together.

REST AND PRACTICAL METRO ACCESS

Accommodation in Milan

Addresses: MEININGER Milano Garibaldi (MIL-10), Via Privata Giovanni Calvino 11, 20154 Milano. MEININGER Milano Lambrate (MIL-11), Piazza Monte Titano 10, 20132 Milano.

Milan principal - MEININGER Milano Garibaldi (MIL-10). Its published mixed dorms have up to four beds and en-suite bathrooms; the property lists soundproof windows and a guest kitchen. A small dorm and hotel-style facilities are a reasonable fit for the preference for rest. This is an assessment of the facilities, not a guarantee of quieter nights. It has a bar, games/common areas and welcomes groups. Other guests can still disturb sleep. Ask for a room away from busy shared areas. The address is near Cenisio M5, around 500 metres away according to the operator; do not assume it is beside Porta Garibaldi station because of its name. Central sightseeing requires local transport [[S19](#)]. [View accommodation and availability.](#)

Milan alternative - MEININGER Milano Lambrate (MIL-11). The operator lists shared dorms of up to four beds, soundproof windows, en-suite bathrooms, a guest kitchen and 24-hour reception. These facilities suit a practical base with manageable dorm occupancy. Lambrate station and M2 are about 200 metres away. The tradeoff is a location outside the main sightseeing core and extra local travel. It also has a bar/game areas and receives school and other groups, so it should not be treated as a silent hostel. Request a room away from busy common areas and check the room offered [[S20](#)]. [View accommodation and availability.](#)

For both Milan properties, the listed mixed dorms currently require guests aged 18 or over. Shared-room configuration must suit both travellers; a female dorm is only appropriate if both qualify. Breakfast, city tax and paid luggage storage can add to the total. The two-bed price for May 2027 is not established. Small dorms do not remove the possibility of snoring, late arrivals or internal noise.

PER PERSON AND FOR TWO TRAVELLERS

Your local spending budget

The following are **planning allocations, not a quotation or verified provider prices**. They show how the €1,200 allowance might be used. Actual dated accommodation prices may exceed these limits.

Included expense	Per-person planning allocation	Basis
Paris dorm beds	€160-220	4 nights × €40-55 target per bed/night
Lucerne dorm beds	€180-240	4 nights × €45-60 target per bed/night
Milan dorm beds	€135-195	3 nights × €45-65 target per bed/night
Food	€300-360	12 days × €25-30 average; Swiss cooking / picnics
City / local transport	€45-70	Whole-trip allowance; no free guest-card saving assumed
Activities / leisure excursions	€40-90	Whole-trip envelope, optional purchases only if actual prices fit
Hostel taxes / compulsory extras	€25-50	Provisional envelope; replace with exact quote components
Contingency	€80-100	Exchange-rate movement and ordinary overruns
Included trip total	€965-1,325	About €80-110 per trip day
For two travellers	€1,930-2,650	Same assumptions, no room-sharing discount invented

The upper case exceeds the €1,200 target by about €125 per person. An example allocation is €190 Paris + €210 Lucerne + €165 Milan + €330 food + €58 local transport + €65 activities + €38 extras + €90 contingency = **about €1,150 per person / €2,300 for two**. This is a constructed spending plan. It does not demonstrate that the recommended hostels can be booked for those amounts.

ADJUSTMENTS AND EXCLUDED COSTS

Keeping the budget realistic

If actual prices are higher: compare date windows and all-in dorm prices, use guest kitchens where allowed, and remove optional Bürgenstock or rooftop purchases before reducing essential transport or rest. A €20/night Lucerne overrun adds €80 per person. If acceptable rooms still put the trip above €1,200, increase the allowance or review the route before booking.

Excluded rail account: Paris-Basel-Lucerne ticket, Lucerne-Milan mountain-route ticket or pass, compulsory reservations and rail booking fees. All remain unpriced for May 2027; they are not hidden inside the €965-1,325 figure. Flights and the planning fee are excluded. Airport transfers count towards local transport, but no airport or fare is assumed; the local-transport allowance may need increasing once endpoints are known. Insurance, shopping and personal discretionary purchases are additional.

Swiss costs are charged in CHF. These EUR allocations are spending limits, not converted provider quotes. Use the exchange rate and payment fees applicable when pricing the trip.

Rail budget remains separate: obtain the full Day 5 and Day 9 checkout prices, or the pass plus reservations, before assessing the total holiday cost. The local allowance above is not a quotation for the trip.

NAMES ADDRESSES AND ORIENTATION

Using your trip map

[Open your trip map →](#)



Scan to open the same map as the link above. A viewing link is used; no editing access is needed.

Place references in this itinerary use PAR for Paris, LUZ for Lucerne and MIL for Milan; BSL and BEL identify transfer stations. Keep the official station and hostel names with your downloaded travel documents. District references such as Brera identify an area rather than an attraction entrance. Recommended accommodation is not booked accommodation.

Maps support orientation. Check opening hours, ticket entrances, transport validity and accessibility separately. The station and accommodation names in this document remain useful without a map or data connection.

Map categories: stations and transport; recommended accommodation; sights and walking areas. The optional Bürgenstock points support Day 8. No restaurant recommendations have been selected, even if a map layer mentions food.

Two map markers need care: the Strandbad Tribschen marker identifies a paid bathing facility. Day 7 instead follows public lakeside paths towards Tribschen; no lido admission is required. The Naviglio Grande marker is outside central Milan. For Day 11, search for **Alzaia Naviglio Grande, Milano**, and use the urban Navigli canal area rather than that marker.

Finding places: PAR refers to Paris, LUZ to Lucerne and MIL to Milan; BSL and BEL are transfer stations. Search by the official name if a map label is translated. Area pins are representative points, not guaranteed ticket entrances.

My Maps supports orientation; it is not a verified offline navigation product. Keep addresses and travel documents downloaded separately. A straight line between cities, if shown, is a route schematic rather than the exact railway alignment.

A SHORT DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Before you leave

- Check document validity and the official entry requirements that apply to your nationality and status. Spanish residence alone does not determine them; check the entry rules that apply to you.
- Recheck both travel days, works, transfer times and the intended mountain-line routing.
- Download tickets, seat reservations, hostel confirmations and the PDF. A pass alone is not a reservation.
- Confirm check-in arrangements and the actual Paris hostel building.
- Take appropriate layers, rain protection and shoes for the chosen walks. No technical Alpine hike is assumed.
- Check phone roaming with your provider; do not assume Switzerland is included in your tariff. Carry charging equipment.
- Recheck museum dates, optional trail / lift status and local conditions close to departure.

Keep these journeys easy to find

Day 5: Paris Gare de Lyon (PAR-01) → Basel SBB (BSL-01) → Luzern (LUZ-01).

Day 9: Luzern → Göschenen / Airolo → Bellinzona (BEL-01) → Milano Centrale (MIL-01), subject to the selected dated connection.

Recheck official train information at SBB →

PLANNING ADVICE AND PUBLISHED CONDITIONS

Service scope and contact

This document contains planning recommendations and does not constitute a booking for transport, accommodation or activities. Provider schedules, prices, availability and conditions may change. Before purchasing and before travelling, check current information with the relevant provider. Customers make their own bookings directly. This notice does not limit consumer rights or Rail Trip Planner's obligations for a contracted service.

Contact and one revision

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Guides and community

The two linked Rail Trip Planner guides expand on booking timing and pass comparisons. The essential route instructions remain in this document.

[Join the Rail Trip Planner Discord community](#) →

Use the community to share questions and experiences with other travellers. It is not an emergency assistance channel.

CONSULTED 1 OCTOBER 2026

Sources and verification

These current route descriptions and rules do not establish exact May 2027 schedules, fares or bed availability. Recheck provider information for your chosen dates. The linked Rail Trip Planner guides and terms were checked on the review date.

- S1** TGV Lyria, Paris-Basel route [Official source](#)
- S2** SBB international booking periods / ticket help [Official source](#)
- S3** Interrail, TGV Lyria and reservations [Official source](#)
- S4** Interrail, Swiss rail information [Official source](#)
- S5** SOB, Treno Gottardo [Official source](#)
- S6** SBB, Saver Day Pass [Official source](#)
- S7** Interrail Global Pass conditions / Youth eligibility [Official source 1](#) · [Official source 2](#)
- S8** Backpackers Lucerne, facilities / location / arrival [Official source](#)
- S9** Lucerne Youth Hostel, address / arrival / quiet hours [Official source](#)
- S10** Louvre, opening / tickets / entitlement [Official source](#)
- S11** Lucerne Tourism, Musegg Wall [Official source](#)
- S12** Lucerne Tourism, walking route through Tribschen [Official source](#)
- S13** Lucerne Tourism, Bürgenstock rock path [Official source](#)
- S14** Duomo official terraces information [Official source](#)
- S15** Municipality of Milan, Castello Sforzesco [Official source](#)
- S16** MIJE Fourcy / building allocation [Official source 1](#) · [Official source 2](#)
- S17** Interrail international reservation fees [Official source](#)
- S18** FIAP, individual dorm rules / contact [Official source](#)
- S19** MEININGER Milano Garibaldi, rooms/facilities and address [Official source 1](#) · [Official source 2](#)
- S20** MEININGER Milano Lambrate, rooms/facilities and address [Official source 1](#) · [Official source 2](#)
- S21** TGV Lyria, published sales calendar [Official source](#)