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Train Travel In Switzerland, Canada, And The Arctic Circle: Northern Lights, Winter Delights



Lea Lane Contributor ⓘ

Travel

I travel the world: smart, luxe -- and often.



Stay warm as you enjoy winter views through The Rocky Mountaineer, Canada (Photo: Lea Lane) LEA LANE

You might automatically think of warm-weather vacations in winter. But if you're like me and love train-travel, and you're willing to layer-up and embrace invigorating temps, consider exploring winter landscapes blanketed by snow, frozen mountain peaks and the Arctic tundra from the warm and luxurious confines of your train cabin.

If you love riding the rails -- and a new chance to experience the Northern Lights -- you'll enjoy these new [Vacations By Rail®](#) tour opportunities. My favorites:

- **Grand Train Tour of Switzerland in Winter** – a 12-day tour featuring scenic rail experiences on *GoldenPass Panoramic*, *Glacier Express* and *Bernina Express*. The tour visits Lucerne, Interlaken, Montreux, Zermatt, St. Moritz and Zurich. I took this route, and the scenery is, of course, spectacular.
- **Magical Moments of Switzerland** - As popular in winter as in the summer, the two lakeside resorts of Interlaken and Lucerne offer winter scenery and exhilarating excursions. Travel to the Schilthorn for views of the snow-capped peaks of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. Enjoy a sledge run along mountain trails and a horse-drawn carriage ride on Mount Rigi.
- **Deluxe Switzerland in Winter** - Experience a nine-day vacation to Zürich, Sils Maria, Zermatt, Interlaken and Bern. Highlights include a full-day journey on the Glacier Express through snowy Swiss landscapes between St. Moritz and Zermatt; an excursion on the Gornergrat Railway for panoramas across 29 mountain peaks; cruise across icy Lake Thun to Interlaken and the Jungfrau Railway to the “Top of Europe,” the Jungfraujoch. (Be sure to go inside the ice cave at the Jungfrau -- it was in that region that I -- a Miami girl --first saw snow, many years ago.)

- **The Aurora** – I'll never forget the shimmering aurora borealis in Alaska's night sky -- the best ones I have ever seen. This four-day tour provides prime locations to watch the Northern Lights and visits to two Alaskan cities – Anchorage and Fairbanks. Also enjoy traveling aboard Alaska Railroad's Aurora Winter Train through the state's interior to Fairbanks, as well as a flightseeing excursion over Alaska's Arctic.



Scenic flight in the Alaska mountains (Photo: Lea Lane) PHOTO: LEA LANE

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- **Arctic Circle Adventure** - Experience a part of Alaska that most never see on this six-day tour above the Arctic Circle. Start in Anchorage, then board the Alaska Railroad's Aurora Winter Train for the journey through the heart of the Last Frontier to Fairbanks, your launch point for Arctic adventure. Journey north through the arctic tundra to Coldfoot Camp then cross the Yukon River and Brooks Mountain Range, known for phenomenal northern lights viewing. Return to Fairbanks via small plane for aerial views of the most remote landscapes in the nation.
 - **Luxury Rockies to Toronto featuring VIA Rail's Prestige Class** - Uncover Canada's luxurious side on this new eight-day vacation featuring deluxe hotel stays in Fairmont properties; private tours of Banff and Niagara Falls, and Prestige Class accommodations onboard VIA Rail's Canadian between Jasper and Toronto. Travel in elegance and comfort in VIA Rail's finest class of service.
 - **Quebec Winter Carnival** – This seven-day tour features Quebec's matchless Winter Carnival and includes a snow sculpture competition, night parades, snow slides, the ice palace and other winter activities. Also visit N.A.'s only ice hotel, and have dinner in a traditional Sugar Shack. Traveling aboard VIA Rail's *Corridor* train, you will also visit Montreal and Ottawa. (There's just one departure, on January 31, 2019.)

- **Canadian Rockies Winter Adventure** – This eight-day tour travels from Vancouver to Calgary through spectacular Rockies countryside aboard VIA Rail’s legendary Rocky Mountaineer Canadian train, with great views from your cabin, dining car and renowned Dome Car. You’ll tour Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff, and while in Jasper, stay at the historic Jasper Park Lodge. This is, in my opinion, the most beautiful train ride in North America.

I've been around the block -- as in seven continents and over 130 countries from Andorra to Zambia. I speak regularly at The New York Times Travel Show, and have blogged about travel at HuffPost, Salon, and the Daily Beast. I've written for The New York Times, The Miami Hera... MORE

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