

# A Family Adventure

## ...Bike Switzerland self-contained

**When:**

Begin on any day from April through October.

**Price:**

\$1970 USD per person

**Where:**

Starts in Geneva

**Difficulty:**

Hard to Easy  
(Depending on how one makes use of the trians)

**Length:**

7 days of riding, 10 days in Switzerland.  
Approx 400 miles

**Cons:** Carry your own luggage.

**Pros:** Total freedom

**Price includes:**

- ◆ Quality Swiss-made BMC bicycle with panniers.
- ◆ 10 nights of lodging (dbl occupancy)
- ◆ All breakfasts and evening meals
- ◆ Return to Geneva
- ◆ Pre and post departure briefing, maps, gps, telephones, 24-hour assistance.

### Getting Closer Through Independence

Kathryn and Tim Holbrook are excellent parents: always walking the line between staying close and fostering autonomy in their children. Earlier this year, their youngest child Ross graduated from college. He would soon be flying a bit further from the nest and his independence was something to celebrate. A trip to Europe for a bit of sightseeing was discussed, but strong bonds are seldom forged in museums. They were, after all, celebrating independence, so why not an adventure? A few phone calls were made and in a short time Kathryn, Tim, Ross and sister Alyssa were set to spend seven days cycling across Switzerland by themselves, carrying everything they needed in a few panniers and a banana belt.

Kathryn Holbrook talks with me about her family's trip across Switzerland with Bike Switzerland.



#### *Why Switzerland?*

Ross had been there before and thought it worth revisiting. We had also bought John Soverinsky's book "Bike Europe" and Switzerland was highly recommended.

#### *Why did you choose to go with Bike Switzerland?*

We needed flexibility with our dates and we wanted to be independent. In retrospect, it was an excellent choice: the bikes were good, the hotels were great and the route was from a fairy tale.

#### *Was it difficult carrying your own gear?*

No, the hills weren't even a problem. We just went a slower than we would have without the panniers.

*Continued on the next page...*

*What was your greatest frustration ?*

Well, there is so much to see and there are only so many hours in a day. You cannot do it all: eat in a restaurant, see a chateau, window shop and ride 80 kilometers.

*So how did you manage that ?*

We had shorter lunches with food from markets. We also took the train sometimes to cut a bit of mileage out of our day.

*Was taking the train difficult ?*

No. We got on perhaps five times. The ticket agents were very accommodating, we never had to wait long and the bikes all were easily loaded.

*How were the hotels ?*

Great. You can tell that there has been a lot of planning put into finding good places. Each place was very different from the next, but all memorable with fine food.

*Did you ever get lost ?*

No, not really. We might have taken a few wrong turns, but nothing serious. The maps were great and the routes are very well signposted.

*Did you have any mechanical problems ?*

Not really. We had to make a couple of minor adjustments, but we felt safe because we had the telephones and knew that John could direct us to a bike shop or call help in if anything major went wrong.

*What did you find most surprising ?*

I was surprised by how absolutely beautiful Switzerland is. It is so lush and green...everything grows there...gardens, vineyards, orchards, forests. I was also surprised how mild the weather was. Late September was ideal for cycling.

*Would you recommend the trip to others ?*

Absolutely ! As I said to you over fondue on our last night, I have never had a better vacation. The entire trip was a delight. We felt a sense of discovery and adventure at every turn. There were so many things to hear, smell, taste, etc.. We also thoroughly enjoyed having our own schedule and being able to take time to go where we wanted. Of course, experiencing all of this with our family gave us memories for a lifetime.



Bike Switzerland offers self-contained trips like the one described above throughout the year from April to October.

We also have five group tours planned this summer.

July 5th-15th

July 19-July 29th

August 2-12

August 16-26

August 30-September 9th

