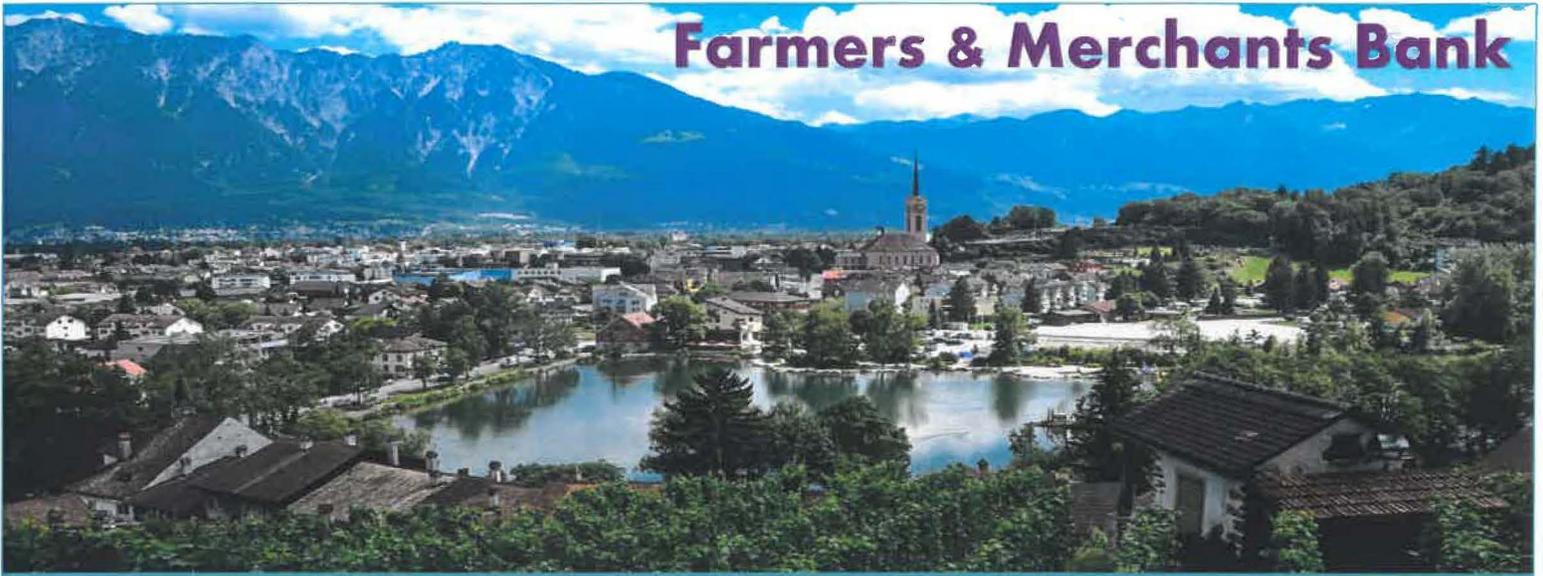


# Farmers & Merchants Bank



## Austria & Switzerland Holiday

August 7 - 18, 2020



### **Friday, August 7 (In-flight meals)**

Today we transfer to the airport to board our overnight flight bound for **Vienna, Austria**.

### **Saturday, August 8 (Dinner)**

This morning we arrive in **Vienna**, the capital of Austria and once home to Beethoven, Mozart, and Freud. Baroque streetscapes and imperial palaces set the stage for a scenic **sightseeing tour** with our English-speaking guide. Mid-afternoon we'll check into the 4-Star **Rainers Hotel** for two nights with time to refresh before dinner at the hotel.



### **Sunday, August 9 (Breakfast, Lunch)**

This morning we depart on a **city tour** which will include some walking through the historic pedestrian areas. A highlight will be a guided tour of **Schönbrunn Palace**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the most important architectural, cultural, and historical monuments in the country. The 1,441-room Baroque palace was commissioned at the end of the seventeenth century as a hunting lodge. Through the next century it grew into a palatial imperial residence and became the glittering focus of court life. After we enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant the remainder of the day is open for you to explore.



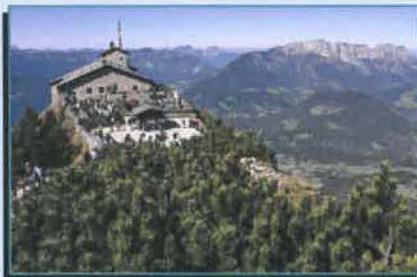
### **Monday, August 10 (Breakfast, Dinner)**

Today we'll depart Vienna and visit **Melk** and **Mondsee**. We'll tour **Melk Abbey**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube River. Since 1089, Benedictine monks have been continually living and working in the Abbey. You'll be awed by the magnificent frescoes, sculptures and altar painting in the **Parish Church**. **Mondsee** is a delightful lakeside town best known for the Basilica St. Michael, where the wedding of Maria and Captain Von Trapp took place in the world-famous musical, *The Sound of Music*. We arrive in **Salzburg** and embark on a **guided walking tour**. The story-book old town burrowed below steep hills looks much as it did when Mozart lived here 250 years ago. The city is surrounded by graceful domes and spires, the formidable clifftop fortress and mountains. Later today we check into the **Wyndham Grand Salzburg** and settle into our rooms for a two-night stay. Dinner at **St. Peter Stiftskeller**, reputedly Europe's oldest restaurant, will feature creative dishes served in an elegant setting.



### **Tuesday, August 11 (Breakfast, Lunch)**

Although most visitors come to **Berchtesgaden** just to view the infamous "Eagle's Nest," this small German town in the Alps also offers panoramic views, WW II history and beautiful murals. We'll take a luxurious brass elevator up the mountain to visit the **Eagle's Nest**. Perched at 6,017 feet, it provides epic views of the surrounding Alps. This outpost was a gift to Adolf Hitler on his 50th birthday in 1939. Lavish decor like a red marble fireplace gifted from Mussolini made this remote site perfect for receiving official guests of state. However, Hitler's fear of heights prevented him from visiting often. After our guided tour, we'll enjoy lunch together and then return to Salzburg for a free evening.



### **Wednesday, August 12 (Breakfast, Dinner)**

After breakfast we leave Salzburg and travel to **Innsbruck**, the capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, known for winter sports and Imperial and modern architecture. Our **guided walking tour** of this charming Alpine town will take us in the footsteps of the Habsburgs, one of the most influential and distinguished royal families of Europe. We'll admire the Golden Roof, the Imperial Palace, the medieval old town and the famous Court Church

with its life-size bronze figures. Our sightseeing continues as we travel on to **St. Moritz** where we'll lodge at **Hotel Laudinella** for one night. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

### **Thursday, August 13 (Breakfast, Lunch)**

This morning we board the **Glacier Express train**. Winding its way 180 miles through the majestic Alps from Austria into Switzerland, the Glacier Express is one of the most iconic train journeys in the world! We'll take our first-class, reserved seats for this breathtaking ride from St. Moritz to **Zermatt**. During the trip, we'll pass through 91 tunnels, over 291 bridges and enjoy

lunch served at our seats. The large panoramic windows provide unobstructed views of the magnificent landscape of the Alps. For the next two nights we will lodge at the 4-Star **Pollux Hotel** in **Zermatt**. The evening is open for you enjoy dinner at your leisure.



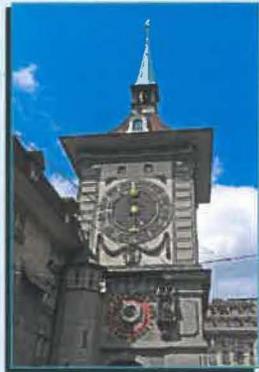
#### **Friday, August 14 (Breakfast, Lunch)**

Today we ascend high into the Swiss Alps! We'll ride the unique 3S cableway to **Matterhorn Glacier Paradise**, Europe's highest cable car station at 12,740 ft., to behold the panoramic views and breathe the fresh mountain air. The viewing deck offers 360-degree vistas across 38 Alpine peaks and 14 glaciers in the French, Italian and Swiss Alps. This vantage point also offers the finest view of the Matterhorn's south face. Lunch is included in our excursion. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.



#### **Saturday, August 15 (Breakfast, Dinner)**

We bid farewell to Zermatt as we travel via **mountain train** to **Taesch**. There we board our coach and depart for **Montreux** where we will take a **guided tour** of **Chillon Castle**, one of the most famous castles in Switzerland. This impressive edifice is located on a rocky island near the shore of Lake Geneva and features fortified walls and towers. It houses the prison in which Bonivard was held in chains for four years and which provided Lord Byron with the inspiration for his famous poem "The Prisoners of Chillon." From there we'll continue to travel northward to Switzerland's capital city of **Berne**. We will check into the **Holiday Inn Westside** for one night. Dinner is included this evening.



#### **Sunday, August 16 (Breakfast, Dinner)**

Enjoy a **guided walking tour** of **Berne**, a unique, medieval city with many intricately carved fountains, sandstone facades, narrow streets, notable towers, a prominent Gothic cathedral, and a whimsical astronomical clock that dates back to 1530! Not many cities have managed to retain their historic features quite as successfully as Bern, which has been designated a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site. This afternoon we will drive through some of Switzerland's most beautiful countryside with its surrounding mountains, dense forests and alpine meadows. Our next stop is the town of **Interlaken**, a traditional resort town in the mountainous Bernese Oberland region of central Switzerland. Built in a narrow valley, between the emerald-colored waters of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, it has old timber houses and parkland on either side of the Aare River. Our ultimate destination today is the old-world town of **Lucerne** located on Lake Lucerne at the foot of Mount Pilatus. We will check into the **IBIS Styles Hotel** located in the city's historic center. This evening we're in for a special treat as we enjoy a traditional **Swiss meal** complete with cheese fondue followed by a lively and entertaining **Folklore Show** at **Restaurant Stadtkeller**.



#### **Monday, August 17 (Breakfast, Dinner)**

Our day begins with a **guided walking tour** of **Lucerne**, including the Old Town with its quaint streets and squares, busy market places and decorated houses, the Jesuit Church and the poignant Lion Monument. We'll stroll across Chapel Bridge, the town's iconic covered bridge built in 1333. Our tour will end with a **private cruise** on beautiful **Lake Lucerne**. The afternoon is free to explore Lucerne on your own, taking advantage of the many shops and boutiques to complete your souvenir shopping. Or,



