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They are both worthwhile, but the areas are different. I would recommend Vevey over Lausanne. I like Lucerne, but I love coming home to the Canton of Vaud. I never tire of walking the Unesco Lavaux vineyards which bring you through some very charming villages with breathtaking views. No matter where you travel in Swiss, consider taking in some local festivals. Here's a link for the local tourism site: The fast way from Luzern to Milan uses the Gotthard Base Tunnel, which is 35 miles long completely under the Alps, ie, not too scenic. There are a couple of direct trains each day to Milan. At other times with a single connection at either Arth-Goldau or Lugano. For a slower, more scenic route, you can take the Treno Gottardo, which goes mostly over the mountains with a shorter tunnel. You have to change trains at Bellinzona for Milan. This route takes about an hour longer than the fast route (4 1/2 hours). Finally, there is the Gotthard Panorama Express, which uses the scenic route, but starts with a boat ride from Luzern to Fluelen, where you change to the train. This train is all 1st class, so with a 2nd class Swiss Travel Pass, you have to pay a supplement for the upgrade plus a seat reservation fee. That train ends in Lugano, so you then change to a train to Milan there. With the boat ride, this is an all-day affair. Yes, with a Swiss Travel Pass you get credit for the Swiss portion and only pay for the section from Chiasso to Milan. Trains go frequently from Zurich airport to Zurich main station where you can get a train to Luzern. The trains from the airport arrive at the underground platforms at Zurich main station. You go up one level on the escalator to a corridor where you go to the escalator marked for the platform for your Luzern connection. Take that escalator up and you will be standing next to your connecting train. Get on board. You buy a ticket at the airport station to Luzern and all the connections are included. Hi everyone, We will be in Switzerland for a week in August, Torn between staying in Bern or Lucerne. Our goal is to stay somewhere central at one hotel and take day train trips to see the country. I've read a lot and the opinions on here are 50/50 for each city. We fly out of Zurich around noon when we depart Switzerland, is there a benefit staying in Bern vs. Lucerne? Will take the train, depending on how much time we will need to get to the airport, check luggage, etc. Thanks in advance for your feedback. The Rigi round trip, costing 131 CHF can be done for 70 CHF if you each buy Saver Day Passes now. The price of these is go up over time, so they need to be bought now to get that price. If you are arriving on a Monday, and leaving on Wednesday, that only gives you one full day on Tuesday, with a half day on Monday and Wednesday. Engelberg is only 45 minutes away for a quick visit to the high Alps. Hotels in Luzern include a guest card that gives free city transportation and some small discounts on other activities. Swiss train tickets are very expensive--even with the half-fare card. If you decide you'd benefit from the Swiss Travel Pass, everything except the high-mountain transportation will be covered, so length of your day-trips may not be so much of a financial issue. But if the STP doesn't make sense for your itinerary, consider the cost of repetitive side-trips from a base up in the mountains. If your husband is OK with shifting hotels the night before your flight home, he should be equally OK with doing that shift a day or two earlier. Many people seem to stay in Luzern the night before a flight from Zurich, so you could do something like 6 nights up in the mountains and 3 nights in Luzern, from which you could do a couple of side-trips to non-mountain destinations--maybe Bern? If you're flying out of Geneva, a spot on or near the lake could be good. Something like 99% of Swiss towns are picturesque, so there would be no problem coming up with good day-trips. Of course, if you want to spend as many days doing mountains walks/hikes as possible, it makes sense to spend all except the last night up in a place like Murren or Wengen. emsmomm, when we did the Viking Rhine cruise, we made our own arrangements for train to Luzern and hotel there for much, much, much less than the cost of the Viking excursion. Yes we booked a hotel ahead of time. Train tickets were bought at the train station in Basel, the day of. You dont have to do any of that through Viking. It was easy to do on our own. Because Viking booked our air, prior to the trip, we paid for the "deviation" and they made our return reservations for three days later from Zurich. The day before the boat docked in Basel, the staff asked for anyone who needed additional travel assistance to let them know. There were many of us who needed taxis to the train station in Basel. The taxis were waiting for all of us dockside, with our names and destinations. Bought train tickets from the kiosk at the station. It was about 1.5 hours to Luzern. We went right to the hotel we booked, toured around the area for three days, and then took the train to the Zurich airport to get home. If you need help on finding hotel recommendations (we stayed at Hotel Des Alpes, across the road from the rail station in Luzern), or what to do when you are there, get a good guidebook that will help explain how things work. You dont need Viking to manage this, or to be on an organized and expensive tour. Unless you choose to do that, and pay for it. \ Sorry it was not a good experience, Wes, but this was no scam. And you could have caught covid elsewhere. Every cable car we rode in the Dolomites last September was packed to the gills. Most of those cablecars have a listed passenger capacity of 80-100 and they do fill them up. Yes, it can be an uncomfortable experience, but it is not unsafe. We wore masks when we rode them. We plan to ride the Weggis cablecar up to Rigi Kaltbad when we are there with our grandchildren next September. We have been on it before, on a rainy morning in June when we and our hotel host were the only passengers. He was heading down to Weggis to make his bank deposit. I expect it will be more crowded this time, but not packed. Brent, if you are concerned about Wes' comments, one solution is to take the boat to Weggis (the first stop) instead of Vitznau. Then you will be taking the cablecar UP, and riding the cogwheel,train down. Everyone seems to go the other way (anticlockwise, with Vitznau first), as you can see from the recommendations here. Looking for some advice on how to spend the last full day and night in Switzerland. We'll be staying in Wengen at the tail end of an Italy-Switzerland trip, and our flight leaves Zurich around 1 PM. That's a longer and earlier trip than we are willing to do the day of our flight, so we're considering which closer-to-Zurich location we'd like to stay our last night in. The main options I'm considering are: Travel from Wengen to Lucerne in the morning, spend afternoon/evening in Lucerne, stay overnight in Lucerne, travel to Zurich airport the following morning Travel from Wengen to Lucerne in the morning, store bags at Lucerne station, spend afternoon/evening in Lucerne, travel to Zurich after dinner and stay near the airport overnight. Travel directly from Wengen to Zurich in the morning, spend day in Zurich, spend night in Zurich Leave bags at our Wengen hotel after checkout, spend morning/lunch in Jungfrau region, travel directly to Zurich in afternoon, dinner/spend night in Zurich I'm open to other ideas as well. If we could magically teleport between places, we would choose to spend time in Lucerne or Jungfrau over Zurich, but not sure if the hassle of either an hour long train connection pre-international flight, or fighting with lockers and a later night train, are worth maybe 8-10 hours in Lucerne. Also, while I would love to add a night to Lucerne to make this an easier decision, we're unwilling to give up a day elsewhere and cannot extend - its either one or nothing. While plan A is to do these transfers by train, a one day, one-way economy car rental Interlaken to Zurich Airport isn't THAT much more expensive than train tickets for 2 + luggage storage and would cut 1-1.5 hours of travel time off between the Interlaken/Lucerne and Lucerne/Zurich legs. Would you consider doing this to squeeze a little more time into the second option, or is that going to be more trouble than its worth? Lucerne is lovely. I spent 2 nights there after arriving in Zurich by plane. I spent that partial day exploring the old town, river/lake front, etc. I had planned to spend my full day at Mt. Pilatus, but the weather was cloudy and raining off and on. Instead, I jumped on a train (thank you Swiss Travel Pass) and went to Bern and Murten for the day. I then spent the rest of the evening exploring Lucerne a little more. I know there are a LOT more things that I could have done in Lucerne, but I found my 2 nights there to be adequate. I moved on to the mountains after this stay. In my opinion, I would not sacrifice nights in the mountains in order to add more nights to Lucerne. To me, Zermatt, Wengen (or Murren, if you choose) Pontresina, etc. were much more enjoyable places to spend my time.