**Switzerland from above – 6 days**

**Day 1: Lucerne**

Early in the afternoon arrival in **Lucerne**, in central Switzerland. Guided tour.

**Curiosity**: the **Kapellbrücke (Chapel bridge)** was erected between 1300 and 1333. It spans the river Reuss coming from the Lake Lucerne, thus connecting the two city parts. The particular line of the bridge was designed to let the bridge withstand the consistent river flow. The bridge is 170m long and is considered the most ancient wooden bridge in Europe. It was rebuilt after a fire took place in the night between 17 and 18 August 1993 and destroyed more than 2 thirds of it. The name itself derives from the close St. Peter’s Chapel, that hosted 110 wooden panels painted in the 17th century and representing the history and main events of the city: only 25 of them were saved from the fire. In the middle of the bridge there is an octagonal tower, the Wasserturm (Water Tower), one of the landmarks of the town, built for defense purposes.

Dinner and overnight.

**Day 2: Lucerne - Engelberg (Mount Titlis) (Km. 40)**

Breakfast and uphill by cable car to **Mont Pilatus**. Formerly the name of the mountain was Frakmünt, while the current name derives from a legend: the story goes that the body and soul of Ponzius Pilate lay in one of the lakes on the pick. Here is the steepest cog railway in the world (48% gradient), built more than 100 years ago and leading to the top of the Mt. Pilatus (2,132m). Descent on the other side by cog railway. Proceed by bus to **Engelberg**, a monastic village that represents one of the main ski resorts in Switzerland. In the afternoon you have the opportunity of an excursion to the **Mount Titlis**, dominating the landscape with its 3,328 m.

**Curiosity**: the “Titlis Cliff Walk” is the highest suspension bridge in Europe, offering a magnificent view on snowy and icy landscapes. The Gletscherpark is reachable with the high-speed chair lift “Ice Flyer”, gliding over the Titlis glacier until the free attraction.

**Dat 3: Engelberg - Jungfrau–Interlaken (Km. 110)**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning departure for **Lauterbrunnen**, one of the most impressive Alpine valleys, surrounded by huge rocky walls, high picks and 72 waterfalls. Uphill with the famous cog railway that leads to the highest railway station in Europe. Reaching the 3,471 meter height of the Jungfrajoch, close to the 4,158 meters mountain Jungfrau, is the dream of many climbers and tourists as well, who have the chance to reach such an height without effectively climbing! Time at leisure to enjoy the breath-taking view and afterwards return to the valley floor. Transfer to **Interlaken**.

**Day 4: Interlaken - Bern –Simmental (Km. 180)**

Breakfast at the hotel and departure for the Swiss capital. Guided tour of **Bern**, whose historic old town is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free time for lunch and for a stroll, enjoying the splendid mixture of art and modernity of the city. In the afternoon return to Interlaken passing by the Alpine valley of Simmental in the Bernese Oberland.

**Curiosity**: **Simmental** is a cow breed coming from the valley of the Simme river.

**Day 5: Interlaken - Lausanne – Geneva (Km. 230)**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning departure for **Lausanne**, free time to visit the nice old town, mostly pedestrian. The **International Olympic Committee** was established here in 1994, which has recognized the city as the “Olympic Capital”. Continue to **Geneva** and guided tour of the Jet d’Eau, the Protestant St. Pierre Cathedral (1160), the Mur des Réformateurs, the oldtown with its historical centre.

**Curiosity**: the celebrity of Swiss watches was born in Geneva at the end of the 16th century, when it was suddenly prohibited by Calvinism to show jewellery and thus many craftsmen goldsmiths had to specialize in more sober objects such as watches. In Geneva you will find the **Horloge** **Fleurie (Flowered Clock)**, a fine watch realized with flowers and hedges, and the **Patek Philippe Museum** with its “Calibre 89”, the most complicated mechanical watch in the world ever created.

**Day 6: Geneva – Return trip**

Return trip.