

REFUGE & HUMAN RIGHTS, PAST & PRESENT

JUNE 20TH - 29TH 2019

When we think of Switzerland, majestic vistas of the Alps come to mind, dotted with picturesque mountain huts, where exhausted hikers can rest or find refuge from bad weather. But Switzerland's particular location, and long-standing political neutrality, have also made it a place for those seeking refuge from war and violence. Over the centuries, political dissidents (from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Vladimir Lenin), writers, artists and scholars have all made their way to Switzerland in search of a safe haven. Switzerland became a new home for many fleeing Nazi persecution in the Second World War. For others, like Albert Einstein, the country was a first way-station, before making a new life in the U.S. or elsewhere.

Our trip will explore how Switzerland, as a politically non-aligned country, emerged as a central location for diplomats to negotiate matters of war and peace - such as the treatment of prisoners, non-proliferation, and Cold War relations. Geneva in particular, is the site where global NGOs, like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), try to address the human cost of war and forced migration. We will also explore Switzerland as a hub of past and present migration flows, highlighting Vassar's significant efforts in the 1930s and '40s to rescue Jewish scholars, and the college's work today to engage higher education in the current, unprecedented world-wide refugee crisis.

In Geneva, we will meet with representatives from the ICRC as well as one of our very own VC alums, Mariya Nikolova '07. Mariya has just been appointed as Adviser on Legal Training at the ICRC after completing one year-deployments in Iraq (working with prison populations) and South-Sudan (working with refugees). We will also meet with Professor Djemila Carron, Professor of Law at the Human Rights Center at the University of Geneva, who will discuss their innovative project of teaching digitally in refugee camps in Africa and the Middle East.

Bern will be another highlight on our trip. Albert Einstein's great grandson will meet us for a private tour of the Einstein Haus. Professor Adam Brown from the New School, an affiliated partner in our Vassar-founded Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Higher Education, will introduce us to officials and doctors from Switzerland's Health Ministry dealing with PTSD in refugee populations. We will also have an opportunity to meet with representatives from local refugee advocacy groups.

Maria Höhn

Professor of History on the Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Chair of History and International Studies

Director of the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Higher Education



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:

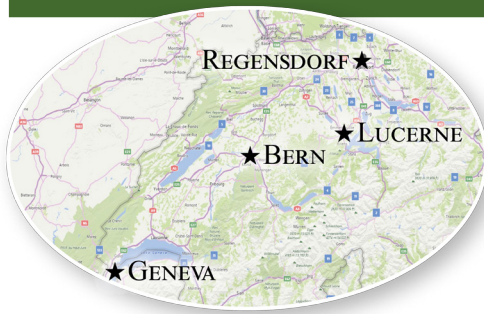
LAND ONLY:	\$4980
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$1580

Airfares are available from many other cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides in Geneva and Chillon Castle
- TICKETS:** First class train tickets and ferry ride included
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
- LECTURES:** Lectures by your Vassar faculty host

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.



Thursday, June 20th - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **Overnight: Plane**

Friday, June 21st - Your morning arrival at Zurich Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel in Lucerne. If your rooms are not available for immediate check-in, there will be time to find lunch and begin exploring the neighborhood. This afternoon we will have a chance to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight. This evening we will gather for a cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel. **(D) Overnight: Lucerne**

Saturday, June 22nd - This morning a walking tour of the old town takes us across the famous covered bridge, the Kapellbrücke, past the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) and through the unspoiled pedestrian areas of Kornmarkt and Weinmarkt to see the remains of the old city walls. There will be free time to shop, explore before we have lunch (included). We gather again for an afternoon excursion up nearby Mt. Pilatus. This is not for the faint of heart as we ascend by cable car and come back down by the steepest cog railway in the world! Should the weather close in, you can always spend the afternoon in Bucherer's, Switzerland's largest clock and watch outlet, but remember, it will always be sunny on top of the mountain above the clouds. The evening is free, but for those who wish, your tour guide will be happy to arrange an evening at the Stadtkeller, a Lucerne institution, where you can enjoy traditional Swiss food and entertainment. **(B, L) Overnight: Lucerne**

Sunday, June 23rd - Leaving Lucerne, we drive south through breathtaking alpine scenery to the town of Andermatt, known as the Crossroads of the Alps. Here we board the Glacier Express, generally considered to be one of the Great Railway Journeys of the World. We'll have lunch on board the train and meet our bus again at Brig. From here, our drive to Geneva takes us across the border of France and through the ski resort of Chamonix, in the shadow of Mt Blanc. It is a winding mountain road, but the incredible views make it worthwhile. We'll arrive in Geneva with time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, L, D) Overnight: Geneva**

Monday, June 24th - This morning, we begin with a panoramic coach tour of the city's major monuments with a local guide: The Palace of Nations (originally the headquarters of the League of Nations), the International Headquarters of the Red Cross, St. Peter's Cathedral, the Grand Casino and so much more. We'll end the tour at the Reformation Monument, celebrating the city's leading role as a center for the Protestant reformers. This afternoon, we will have free time for lunch and to explore individual interests. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Geneva**



Tuesday, June 25th - Today we will be greeted by Mariya Nikolova '07 at the International Committee of the Red Cross to talk about the challenges of today's migration crisis. In the afternoon, we will be meeting with Professor Djemila Carron, co-founder and a Lecturer at the Law Clinic on the rights of vulnerable people at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva. She is also a Senior Lecturer in the InZone Center at the Global Studies Institute of the University of Geneva. We will have dinner this evening at a nearby restaurant, joined by that day's hosts. **(B, D) Overnight: Geneva**

Wednesday, June 26th - This morning we drive the beautiful Corniche de Lavaux, along the north side of Lac Lemman (also known as Lake Geneva) and past terraced vineyards tumbling down the hillsides, to the town of Vevey. Here, we board a boat for a short cruise to the Castle of Chillon, for a private guided tour. Chillon is known as the setting for Byron's poem, *The Prisoner of Chillon*, based on the true story of Francois Bonivard, a protestant partisan at the time of the Geneva Republic. We'll stop in Montreux for lunch (included) before the short (1 hour) drive to Bern, the Swiss capital. On arrival, the rest of the day will be free to explore the city, and to sample a local restaurant. **(B, L) Overnight: Bern**

Thursday, June 27th - In the morning we will tour the Einstein House Museum, with a special introduction by Paul Einstein, great grandson of Albert. In the afternoon, we will meet with Professor Adam Brown and Swiss health officials who have been working on developing a PTSD assessment among forcibly displaced individuals. A reception at the US Embassy, organized by Professor Brown and his Swiss partners, is being arranged. This evening, we will be joined for dinner by some special guests. **(B, D) Overnight: Bern**



Friday, June 28th - Our first stop this morning will be the small, but historically significant, town of Murten on the lake of the same name. It was at the Battle of Murten in 1476 that the Swiss Confederate Army defeated the Duke of Burgundy, Charles the Bold, thus securing Swiss independence for generations to come. We'll stop to admire the fine view from the inner court of the castle before we continue to Neuchâtel, on the shores of the lake of the same name, at the foot of the Jura Mountains. We'll stop here for lunch and to visit the 12th-century castle, before we drive to our hotel in Regensdorf, close by Zurich Airport. There will be time to freshen up before we gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Regensdorf**

Saturday, June 29th - Morning transfers to Zurich Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) Overnight: Home**



Your Host: Maria Höhn

Maria Höhn is Professor of History on the Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Chair. She teaches German history and German-American relations and is the author of three books that have been translated into German, Korean and Chinese. She built the Mellon-sponsored military – civilian exchange program between Vassar College and the United States Military Academy at West Point, and directed that initiative between 2011 and 2014. Höhn is the founder of VC Refugee Solidarity at Vassar College and the founder of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance (with area colleges, universities, and religious organizations) as well as the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education (with Bard, Bennington and Sarah Lawrence Colleges). With Vassar as the lead institution, the group of four colleges has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant will make it possible for the Consortium to develop a shared curriculum that educates students about forced migration and displacement, explores solutions, and empowers students to take thoughtful action.

REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please type or print.
- 2) Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
- 3) Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
- 4) Complete both sides of this form.
- 5) Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your “Known As” or preferred name, if applicable.

Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed up the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

Address. If you have a different address, please provide us with the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

Special Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Health Information. A certain amount of walking is involved in this trip. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. (Please note that extra charges for transportation to and from the destination airport may be incurred). If you need help arranging connecting flights from your local airport to an international departure city, we will be happy to arrange those for you. There is a nominal charge of \$40 per ticket for this service.

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.

- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
- ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.



PASSENGER DETAILS FOR SCENIC SWITZERLAND (0620/VSW)

PASSPORT NAME:

1. TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

KNOWN AS: 1. _____ 2. _____

PASSPORT 1#: _____ EXP.DATE: _____ DOB: _____

PASSPORT 2#: _____ EXP.DATE: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SECONDARY TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

HEALTH INFORMATION: _____

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES: _____

VASSAR CLASS YEAR: _____

TRIP DETAILS

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY TRIP TO: _____



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.

95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431

TERMS & CONDITIONS

GENERAL

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions to aid you can be found on overleaf.
3. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
4. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
5. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd. and Vassar College, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
6. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
7. Conduct During the Tour: You are responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, at our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the Swiss Franc by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 20 participants. Should we end up with fewer than 20 people, Discover Europe will work with Vassar College to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
90-61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
60-30 days prior to departure: \$2000 per person
30- trip departure: no refund (unless traveler has insurance)
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Vassar Travel will be happy to provide information describing the services of a recommended insurance company, which will fully detail the coverages, provisions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance offered.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferable.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions on *Scenic Switzerland* are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers and items of a personal nature.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Primary Telephone: (_____) _____

FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: Yes No

Flight details (if self-arranged), to be provided **at least 90 days** prior to departure: _____

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

(Please check one)

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin-bedded room

PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. Yes No

SIGNATURES

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____