The Nonconformist's Alpine Bucket List

Nine lesser-known, off-the-beaten-path, or the greatest hits, that it's worth the effort to see. Alps, that is. From Grand Tour classics to Tyrolean Tiny Houses, Gothic spires, Cortina's chic Dolomite playground, and the Swiss Alps' highest cable car, this is the Alpine Bucket List, for travelers with unrestricted interests.

Illustrations by Jack Hunt and Nick Hunt

1 Heidelberg

Nestled into a stunning landscape, the University town of Heidelberg has been a magnet for generations of German students since Goethe's visit in the 1770s. Its Gothic spires, turrets, or discover the secrets of the Renaissance Castle, or take a sensational Sun Flower Bridge, known as the Old Bridge, one of the best-known bridges in Germany.

STAY

For romantic views of the city and the Castle, stay at the Boutique Hotel Goldener Hirsch, formerly known as the **Europäischer Hof** (a perfect example of Art Nouveau, it's also well and truly up to date).

Hotelhirsch.com

EAT

Simplicissimus (Lauer Gasse 1) is a cozy, family-run restaurant serving German classics. For delicate Austrian cuisine (and a fine wine selection), head to the Austrian-inspired **Zum Weinberg** (Hauptstrasse 217).

Simplicissimus.de
Zum-Weinberg.de

DO

Discover another side of the Castle, with its Tiny Houses, made down – of course – of wood. Visit the **Philosophenweg**, a 2.5-mile path with stunning views of the Castle and the Old Town. Take a boat ride on the Neckar River.

Apple Tips

Visit Karl-Theodor-Brücke's Alte Mensa (Universitätsplatz 1), a former student canteen, now a cultural venue. Its Art Nouveau interior is well worth exploring. The food has been a cultural institution since 1887.

2 Stuttgart

Not one but two luxury automotive museums, Porsche and Mercedes-Benz and Porsche – and Stuttgart's Wine Trail (Weinstraße) are as thoughtfully designed as the cars themselves. Add in the city's lush green spaces and the Swabian Alps, and it's a city with a lot to offer: architecture, lifts, vineyards, valleys, and forests. Plan a weekend or a longer family getaway for a car lover.

STAY

Pick a weekend package at the Boutique Hotel **Weinkonzept** (Gerber Straße 3) or the **Boutiquehotel** (Hauptstätter Straße 79).

Weinkonzept.de
Boutiquehotel.de

EAT

Enjoy a stunning view of the city while enjoying Swabian specialties at the **Turmcafé** (Am Fernsehturm 1).

Turmcafe-stuttgart.de

DO

Visit the **Porsche Museum** (Porscheplatz 1) and the **Mercedes-Benz Museum** (Mercedesstraße 100) or take a guided tour of Stuttgart's Wine Trail (Weinstraße) under Alex's wine connoisseur's guidance.

Apple Tips

Automotive Plus Experiences
Stuttgart's automotive museums and sources and events are the wheel. Visit Stuttgart's website for a complete list of events, including special exhibitions and events.

Stuttgart's Wine Trail
Alex's Wine Tours (Weinstraße) offers a wide range of tours, including a tour of the Wine Trail, with a tasting at the **Weingut** (under Alex's wine connoisseur's guidance).

3 Black Forest

Tour the scenic city of Baden and let the soup of the Stone work its magic. Visit the Black Forest's Lake Titisee and the Black Forest, one of the most beautiful regions in Germany. Hiking, biking, and the Black Forest Gateway Lift will be unforgettable. Add in the Black Forest's famous cuckoo clocks and spas to revitalize the soul. Action offers something for every taste.

STAY

In the middle of Titisee's old town, the **Colombi Hotel** is a luxurious, family-friendly hotel. Three sunny terraces and a wellness area with a view of the lake.

Colombi.de

EAT

Tempt your palate with delectable Black Forest specialties at **Restaurant Zum Schwarzen Bären** (Hauptstraße 4) or **Traube Tonbach**. After hiking, relax and enjoy a delicious meal and a glass of wine at **Gasthaus Adler**.

Zum-Schwarzen-Baeren.de
Traube-Tonbach.de
Gasthaus-Adler.de

DO

Zoom through the Black Forest's dramatic landscape on a hang-glider, or take a tandem hang-glider flight. **Dorothaeenhöhle Wolfach**, Germany's longest and most spectacular glass elevator.

Dorothaeenhoehle.de

Apple Tips

Gastronomy 101
Visit the Black Forest Gastronomy Museum in the Rathaus (Hauptstraße 52) in Triberg. Learn about the Black Forest's culinary and restaurant history, history that is still operating today.

4 Fribourg

Drinking a cup of coffee in a leisurely fashion, admiring the Gothic spires, and visiting beautiful fountains, listening to the Cathedral's organ music, or climb the 76 steps up to the Cathedral for a bird's-eye view of the city, Fribourg's charm is irresistible.

STAY

City-owned Fribourg Tourism's **Hôtel de la Cigogne** (Place de la Cathédrale 2) is a charming, family-friendly hotel, centrally located and with a fine restaurant. Its rooms are technology-rich Baroque interiors.

Hotelcigogne.ch

EAT

City-owned Fribourg Tourism's **Restaurant Cité Tours** (Grand Rue 45) serves quiche with delightful meats and cheese of the region, and delicious **Fribourg Chilli**, a concentrated version of the city's famous heavenly results.

Cite-tours.ch

DO

Take 200 Gothic fountains from Fribourg's **Fribourg Fountain Self Guide**. Visit the Museum Cafe **Der Delus**, Fribourg's Cultural Center, Fribourg's Cultural Center, Fribourg's Cultural Center.

Apple Tips

Museum Tickets Fribourg
At the Museum Tickets Fribourg, visitors enter a lottery for free admission to Fribourg's museums, including the Cathedral, the Cathedral's Bell Tower, the Cathedral's Organ Concerts, Fribourg's Cultural Center, and Fribourg's Cultural Center.

5 Montreux

The picturesque town of Montreux is nestled in a sheltered Lake Geneva bay, with a mild climate and a lush landscape. Its famous Jazz Festival, its Belle Epoque architecture, its Gothic castle, its gardens, the annual Birchtown Jazz Festival, and its sensational cuisine make it a destination throughout the city. Mark Twain (Huckleberry Finn) called it "charming."

STAY

Montreux Times, a top hotel with a fine restaurant, is a short walk from the Montreux Jazz Festival. The 5-star **Fairmont Le Montreux** is a luxurious, family-friendly hotel with a spectacular setting.

Montreux-times.ch
Fairmontlemontreux.com

EAT

Le National (Rue Vieille-du-Marché 2) serves fine dining with the freshest ingredients, delivered daily from regional suppliers. **Le Pavillon** (Rue du Théâtre 2) serves Swiss and French with a view of Lake Geneva.

Lenational.ch
Lepavillon-montreux.ch

DO

The medieval Château de Chillon (Rue de la Cure 2) is a must-visit, and a short walk from the Montreux Jazz Festival. Visit the **Swiss Wine Route** (embarking at Montreux), a 40-mile wine route through Vineyard Terraces.

Chillon.ch
Swisswineroute.ch

Apple Tips

A Must-See Island of Stella Duncan
Stella Duncan's Island, a 2-acre island off Montreux, is a treasure of a place – a garden of eden – made by a woman who was a pioneer in her field. Her garden is a must-see, and her personality is a must-see. Stella Duncan's Island is a must-see.

6 Gstaad

The Gstaad Gastronomical Society (Gastro Gstaad) attracts a lot of celebs. Who knows who you may see at the Gastronomical Society, but it's a great way to explore the region's culinary offerings. Gstaad is a charming village, with a lot of charm, and it's a great place to see and be seen. Gstaad is popular and shorter "shopping" and "sensational."

STAY

The elegant **Alpina Gstaad** (Bratschenrain 2) is a short distance from the Gstaad Palace, and it's a fine place to stay. Gastro Gstaad is a magnificent 5-star luxury hotel.

Alpina-gstaad.ch

EAT

Gastro Gstaad's Gastronomical Society is a series of events, including a Gastronomical Society, a series of events, including a Gastronomical Society, a series of events, including a Gastronomical Society,