

Wantok Adventures LLC

World Rivers: The Alps Italy, France & Switzerland *Class III & IV* June 18-27, 2023

Each year Wantok strives to create exciting new itineraries for you to choose from, using our encyclopedic knowledge of rivers and rafting companies to put together the best trip possible in different parts of the world. This year one of those programs takes you through the heart of the Alps with whitewater adventures in three different countries. We experience the Noce in Italy, the Dranse in France and the Arve, Inn and upper Rhine in Switzerland, rivers that run the full spectrum from easy to challenging. One thing they have in common: Every one of them offers special scenery and a view of Europe that you just can't get on a tour bus.

Since this is a World Rivers trip, our nights are spent in pleasant hotels and the food and beverage is delicious. We visit cities like Milan and Geneva as well as scenic alpine towns near the rivers. Magnificent landscapes will be all around us as we drive in our van, walk, and float down the rivers. We mix in time to explore the cities and a layover day in Interlaken when you'll be able to choose from an impressive menu of optional activities.

This journey is one you don't want to miss.

ITINERARY

Day 1, June 18 Geneva

Arrive at any time this day. We'll pick you up from the airport and drive you to our hotel. In the evening we meet at 6 pm in the hotel lobby for an orientation meeting followed by a welcome dinner.

Hotel des Alpes, Dinner only

Day 2, June 19 Arve River

After a nice breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the nearby put-in for the Arve. The Class III Arve river comes from Mont Blanc and passes through the city of Geneva before it flows into the Rhone River, where our trip ends. It's perfect to see the city from a boat where there is no traffic. After two hours rafting, we have a pack lunch at the river

take-out and then drive about 1 1/2 hours across the border into France, to Thônnon les Bains, a small town on the other side of Lake Geneva. We check in to our hotel and the rest of the afternoon is free to explore the town, stroll along the lake shore or go for some wine tasting. Choose from the many good restaurants for dinner on your own.

Le Comte Rouge hotel, BF&L only

Day 3, June 20 The Dranse and Interlaken

We have breakfast at the hotel and check out, then drive up to the start point of our 3-hour Dranse river rafting journey. The technical Class III-IV alpine Dranse river flows through a beautiful gorge. We'll enjoy continuous action in our small rafts until we arrive back to Lake Geneva. After some snacks, we return to Switzerland and Montreux, the town famous for its jazz festival in summer, a one hour drive away. We have a pizza by the lake before driving another couple of hours to Interlaken, where we check into our hotel then enjoy a special dinner at the Hayduki Restaurant. Over dinner we'll discuss the many optional activities available tomorrow and give you the opportunity to pick one you'd like to join (not included in the trip cost).

Chalet Swiss, all meals

Day 4, June 21 Interlaken

After breakfast at the hotel, walk to the Funky Chocolate club to try our skills at making proper Swiss chocolate. After two hours of tasty fun pick a café for lunch on your own.

The afternoon is left open for you to participate in one of the many adventure activities in the adventure capital of Europe: Paragliding, hang-gliding, canyoning, bungee jumping, mountain bike or e-bike tours, even jet boat rides. There's something for everyone. If you've had enough adrenaline you can simply go for a hike or cable car ride to a lookout point. We meet back at the hotel and go for dinner together at a local Mexican restaurant. Be prepared for dangerously good margaritas and live guitar music. the

Chalet Swiss, BF&D only

Day 5, June 22 To the Rhine

Say goodbye to Interlaken. Today is a travelling day to the south east canton of Graubünden. We drive over the dramatic Brünig Pass towards Lucerne, stopping for lunch at Cindy's Diner, a homage to the classic American diners that's very popular due to its delicious burgers. Our drive to the town of Ilanz takes a total of about 4 hours. Once there we check into our hotel. When everyone's ready we take the short drive to Versam for sundowners over the Rheinschlucht - the Rhine gorge, also called the Grand Canyon of Switzerland - before returning to our hotel for dinner.

Hotel Rätia, all meals

Day 6, June 23 The Upper Rhine

After breakfast we meet at the rafting base where we get our fun yaks (inflatable kayaks) for our full day trip down the famous Class II-III Vorderrhine, The Vorderrhine offers some breath-taking views from our kayaks as we paddle through the 22 km (14 mile) gorge. Along the way we stop for a BBQ lunch on the beach. At the take-out we change into dry clothes and jump on our mini bus for the drive over the Flüela pass, high up into the mountains and down into the beautiful Engadin valley.

In Scuol we check into our nice family run hotel. Dinner is on your own.

Hotel Gabriel, BF&L only

Day 7, June 24 Inn River

After breakfast we walk through the town to raft two hours on the Class III-IV Scuola section of the Inn River, the best whitewater in all of Switzerland and one of the top five rafting sections of rivers in Europe. We return to the rafting base for another BBQ lunch and spend the afternoon rafting the Class IV Garsun gorge, a stunning and demanding three-hour whitewater experience.

After this exciting day you are free to enjoy an evening meal in one of the many restaurants in town

Hotel Gabriel, BF&L only

Day 8, June 25 To Italy

After breakfast we take the gondola up to Malotta Naluns, the nearest summit, then hike for about two hours back down to town, where we'll relax and enjoy a couple hours in a spa to ease those tired muscles. Lunch is on your own. Then it's back into the van for a 2-3 hour drive to Trento, Italy, where we check into our hotel and sit down to another tasty meal.

Villa Bertagnoli, BF&D only

Day 9, June 26 Noce River & Milan

After a nice Italian buffet breakfast, it's a short drive to the rafting base of Trentino Wild where we embark on a rafting journey down the famous Noce river, classified as one of the other top five rivers for rafting in all of Europe. After 3-4 hours of continuous Class III-IV rafting, we get out of our wetsuits and into dry clothes for lunch at the rafting base. When we're ready, we set out for a two

hour drive to Milan. We check into our hotel before heading to a farewell dinner for a last chance to laugh together and share tales of our adventures.

Hotel Spice, all meals

Day 10, June 27 Depart

Breakfast is our last meal together. Transfers are provided to the airport for anyone leaving this day, though if you haven't visited Milan, we highly recommend that you stay on to soak in its attractions.

BF only

DATES & PRICES

June 18-27, 2023

9-11 participants \$4500 per person double occupancy

6-8 participants \$5200 per person double occupancy

4-5 participants \$5600 per person double occupancy

Min 4, Max 11 participants (limited by size of the van being used for transport)

Single Supplement \$850 requested, \$750 forced

NOTE: Switzerland is shockingly expensive. We've done absolutely everything we can to keep the price as low as it is. The exchange rate of the Swiss franc to the US dollar is also a bit volatile. A major change in this rate could force a change in the prices quoted above.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Wantok leader and professional raft and safety guides
 - Transportation as described in itinerary
 - Meals as per itinerary
 - All rafting gear
 - Full wetsuit with booties and splash jacket

WHAT'S NOT

- International and local flights
 - trip and flight insurance
- optional tipping off-river and to leader, guides and river staff
 - excess baggage charges
 - airport taxes
- personal items like drinks, laundry, souvenirs, etc.

ABOUT US

Wantok, a word from the *Tok Pisin* language of Papua New Guinea, literally means "someone who speaks my language", which by implication means someone from the same village or nearby, and by extension a friend or a mate. Wantok Adventures LLC is a group of veteran international river runners who chose our name to celebrate the spirit of camaraderie that brought us together. We are not a business in the traditional sense. We cooperate to create and market exciting river trips.

Our goal is to bring you great whitewater at great values, maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and safety on the water while minimizing the tendency towards luxury of the large adventure companies. We think trip participants are fully capable of being a bit more self-reliant, that 3-4 star hotels with lots of local flavor are preferable to the big chains, that a great meal in a lively local restaurant is more enjoyable than the same meal in a fancy tourist place, and that a sense of adventure should be part of every trip.

Our price structure is simple, omitting the many hundreds of dollars others add on to every booking to pay for their printing, their mailings, their offices, and their staff. We devise the best and most cost-effective itineraries and negotiate the lowest fair price with the best local operators to offer you a terrific trip at a good price. A local outfitter, our guides, and you—that's all we need!

WORLD RIVERS PROGRAM

For years travelers have been visiting the great ruins, monuments and cultural attractions of the world. Their more adventurous cousins have been going to the same countries to challenge the rapids of whitewater rivers. Why not combine the two, we thought? So now we have. In 2023 we are offering four trips that combine the tourist highlights of a country with rafting on its best rivers, spending most nights in hotels along the way: Bhutan, Nepal, The Alps (France, Italy & Switzerland), and Mexico (Veracruz).

This enticing collection of journeys will offer something for everyone who loves the thrills and beauty of a great river. Wantok's encyclopedic knowledge of rivers and river outfitters in a hundred countries, compiled during a lifetime of travel and river exploration, has been applied to devise the very best itineraries with the top operators around the globe.

Perhaps you'll be lured by the exhilarating whitewater, 2000-year-old ruins, hot springs and rainforest of Veracruz. You won't want to miss the Alps, with all the comfort and glory of Europe paired with four great rivers and fine wining and dining in three countries. New this year are trips to Bhutan and Nepal, the pinnacles of the Himalayan rafting experience. In Nepal we challenge the best whitewater of the western area and

end the trip in famous Chitwan National Park for elephant-back and other safaris. In Bhutan, the hidden kingdom, we'll be overwhelmed by the splendor of the monasteries, temples and palaces, enjoy stunning walks through the hills, and raft some of its lesser-known rivers. We're sure that one of these treats will compel you to experience this new way of seeing the rivers of the world

Or you can take advantage of our Roll Your Own option and get together a group of four or more people to create a departure on any of our existing World Rivers itineraries in Peru, Ecuador, Morocco, Japan, Southeast Asia, Nepal, East Africa, Bhutan, Mexico, Chile or Guatemala. If you have a country in mind for a World Rivers-style trip, let us know and we may be able to put the perfect itinerary together for you.

All of the trips take you out of the US for less than two weeks, and most nights are spent in picturesque hotels and inns as we seek to avoid the blandness of the international hotel chains in favor of small, family-run properties with local flavor and a personal feel.

Sound appealing? All the details you'll need to pick the right trip for yourself are available in on our website, www.wantokadventures.com. Take advantage of the opportunity to tour some of the most interesting countries in the world and get your whitewater fix too. But watch out: Once you try your first Wantok World Rivers trip, you may become addicted.

INSURANCE

Neither the guides who are part of Wantok and its associates nor Wantok Adventures LLC, carries liability, evacuation or other insurance for the participants. We VERY STRONGLY recommend that you check what your current insurance will cover on a trip, and then purchase additional insurance for anything else you feel you need. We particularly advise buying trip cancellation, medical and evacuation insurance in case of last-minute changes in plans or a need for emergency medical treatment or evacuation while on the trip.

You can find good insurance policies through [WorldNomads](#), [Ripcord](#), [Squaremouth](#), [Travelguard](#), and [Travelsafe](#). Another excellent option is [MedJet](#). At a modest cost they will supply evacuation insurance from anywhere in the world to any hospital, promptly and without questions.

You will be required to sign a liability waiver acknowledging the insurance situation to participate in the trip

HOW TO SIGN UP

A deposit of \$800 per person will hold your seat on this trip. If you're ready to join the trip, please mail your check for \$800 per person to Wantok at 1678 16th St, Ste B, Oakland CA 94607. If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can do so via Paypal,

www.paypal.com, using wantokadventures@gmail.com to identify us. To use Venmo or Zelle, please inquire.

You'll receive an email on receipt of your deposit with the detailed information on the trip, including a registration form, liability waiver, packing list, and travel details.

PAYMENT, CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

Final payment is due 90 days before trip departure. Final payments using Paypal will be charged an additional 4% of the amount being paid to cover Paypal fees. Venmo, Zelle or bank transfers incur no fee from Wantok.

Checks should be mailed to Wantok, 1678 B 16th St, Oakland CA 94607.

If you cancel your trip up to 90 days before departure, the deposit minus \$250 penalty will be refunded. The penalty rises to \$500 for cancellations received 89-60 days before trip departure. Cancellations between 59 and 30 days before trip departure incur a fee of 50% of trip land cost. No refund will be made for cancellations within 29 days of departure date. We strongly recommend purchase of trip cancellation insurance (see above).

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at wantokadventures@gmail.com or contact the person who sent you this itinerary.

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