



# Getting Around Switzerland

**I**t was one of those pristine mornings we've come to think of as a typical June day in Switzerland—pure, clean air; clear, blue skies;

and sunshine. It seemed a fine time to stroll the length of Lucerne's famous Chapel Bridge, all 204 metres (670 feet) of it. Constructed in 1333, it's considered the

oldest covered wooden bridge in Europe, and likely the most photographed.

But a peek at the time made us realize that we should hustle to the dock,

and passengers—can take you to even the smallest mountain village, and a Swiss Pass gives you access to the whole system. In fact, the rail map that arrives with your Swiss Pass looks like a fine red spider web covering every bit of Switzerland, for here rail travel is king.

## Legends and Tunnels

The beautifully restored paddle steamer we boarded in Lucerne was only the first leg of the William Tell Express. Our boat had been used before 1900 to link the small villages along Lake Lucerne with the rail system; now it was refurbished and back at work gathering passengers from hotels and resorts along the lake. The surrounding mountains reflected in the mirror-like lake while picture-perfect villages dotted the shore.

To complete the idyllic scene, as we approached Rütli village, the Uri male yodelling choir came on deck and began to sing as

Lucerne's famous covered Chapel Bridge runs diagonally across the Reuss River where it meets Lake Lucerne; below: the William Tell Express's paddle steamer.



A seamless transportation system makes it easy to travel this magnificent mountainous country from end to end

By Wendy and Rob Lindsay

for we well knew the Swiss passion for punctuality. Ahead of us was a journey into both railway and Swiss history aboard the William Tell Express.

In Switzerland, the transportation system runs like clockwork. A seamlessly integrated network of trains, boats, and PostBuses—buses that carry both the mail

