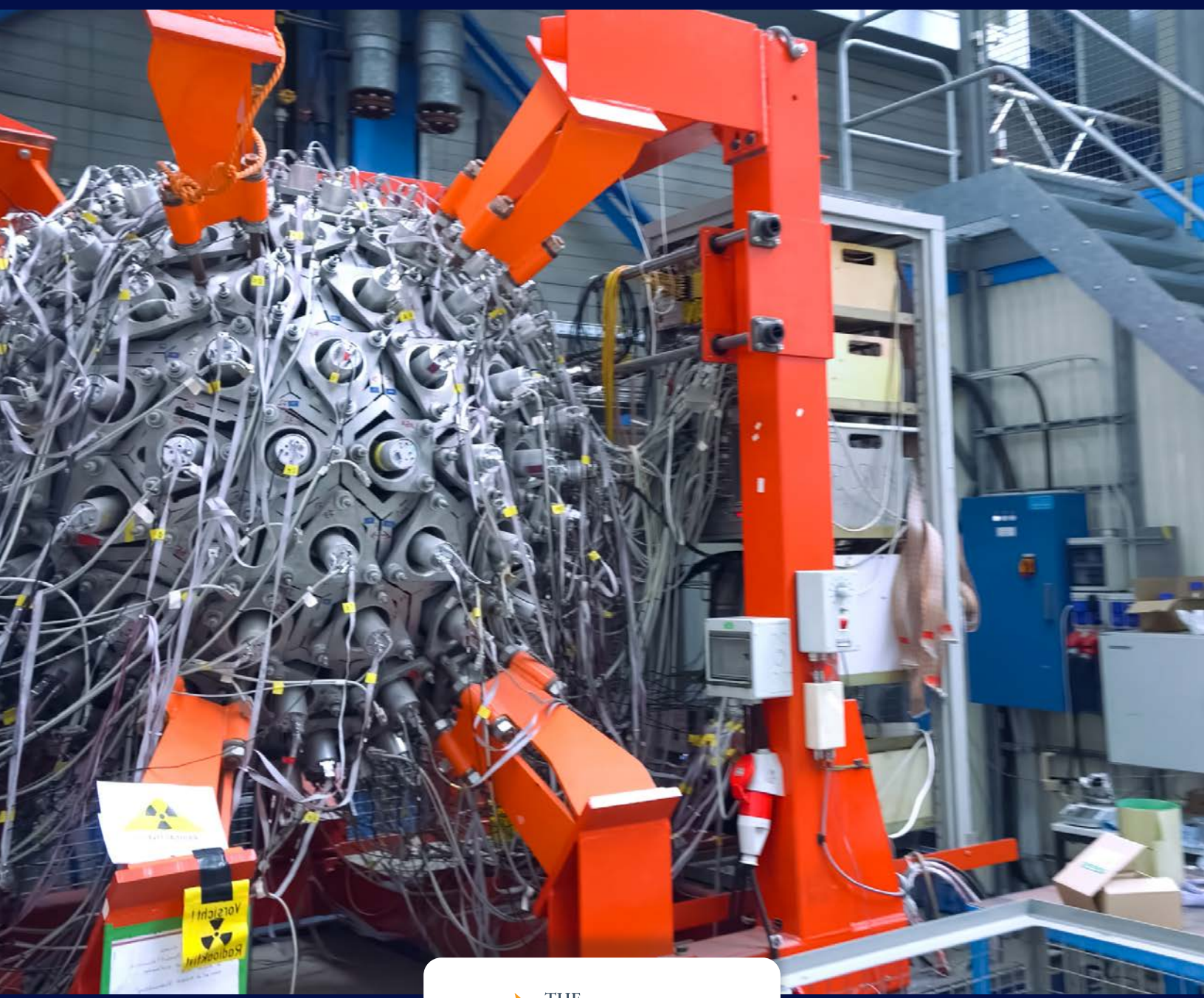


Swiss Legacy: Science, Precision, Beauty

with Dr. Chad Orzel

October 18–23, 2026 | March 21–26, 2027 | October 17–22, 2027



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Swiss Legacy: Science, Precision, Beauty

with Dr. Chad Orzel

Discover the dynamic intersection of science, innovation, and diplomacy on an immersive journey to Geneva, Switzerland. Switzerland's legacy of precision and curiosity has long influenced the greatest minds in science. In fact, Albert Einstein's exploration of time and space was inspired by his work as a patent clerk in Switzerland—ultimately leading to the Theory of Relativity.

Explore global cooperation at the Palais des Nations and examine the science behind elite athletic performance at Lausanne's Olympic Museum. Explore Swiss ingenuity in engineering and horology (the study and measurement of time) with visits to the Swiss Plasma Center, Lausanne's Olympic Museum, and Patek Philippe Museum. Dive into the world of particle physics at CERN (subject to confirmation), home of the Large Hadron Collider and groundbreaking discoveries like the Higgs boson. Throughout, indulge in Swiss culture and cuisine, including wine tasting in the iconic terraced vineyards of Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Chad Orzel is the R. Gordon Gould Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and department chair, at Union College. He earned his PhD in Chemical Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park. Professor Orzel is a passionate public science communicator as both a speaker and writer, and is the author of several books explaining physics to nonscientists. His first book, *How to Teach Quantum Physics to Your Dog*, has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Subsequent books include *How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog*; *Eureka: Discovering Your Inner Scientist*; *Breakfast with Einstein: The Exotic Physics of Everyday Objects*; and *A Brief History of Timekeeping: The Science of Marking Time, from Stonehenge to Atomic Clocks*. Professor Orzel also maintains a blog about science (among other topics) at ChadOrzel.com, contributes to Forbes online, and writes on Substack. In 2021, he was named a fellow of the American Physical Society. Professor Orzel teaches the Great Course *Einstein's Legacy: Modern Physics All Around You*.

Highlights

- Learn why Swiss innovation, precision craftsmanship, and leadership in the use of advanced materials have led Switzerland to be a global leader in watchmaking with a guided visit to the Patek Philippe Museum.
- Explore the Olympic Museum through a scientific lens, uncovering how physics, materials science, and precision timing shape elite athletic performance.
- Visit the CERN facilities and learn about the Large Hadron Collider and other projects. (subject to confirmation)
- Tour the Observatoire de Genève, where the first exoplanet was discovered in 1995. (subject to confirmation)
- Explore the historic vineyards of Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage vineyard region shaped by centuries of winemaking tradition and soil science.



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Itinerary



Day 1: Geneva Genesis

Arrive in Geneva today and transfer independently to your centrally located hotel. Take a guided walking tour of the historical center, including the Flower Clock and Jet d'Eau. Then, join your Great Courses Journeys expert and fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.

Included Meal: Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol

Day 2: International Collaboration—CERN and the UN

Visit the Geneva headquarters of CERN (subject to confirmation), the world's leading particle physics lab. For over 75 years, CERN has fostered international collaboration among scientists from 25 nations (including the United States), contributing to major discoveries and multiple Nobel Prizes. Explore interactive exhibits on the universe and quantum physics at CERN's Science Gateway and learn about the largest machine ever constructed, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)—a 27-kilometer underground accelerator that recreates conditions just after the Big Bang to study fundamental particles and forces. Continue to explore the principles of scientific collaboration, diplomacy, and international cooperation with a visit to the Palais des Nations, the European headquarters of the United Nations.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol

Day 3: Physics and Performance

Take a scenic journey along the shores of Lac Lemman for a day trip to Lausanne. Visit the Swiss Plasma Center, where you'll learn about efforts to develop fusion as a clean energy source. Next, visit the Olympic Museum, where a specially curated tour reveals the scientific foundations of elite sport. Learn how materials



“I’m excited to show travelers how the careful tracking of time influences everything from fundamental physics to fashion, and the amazing accomplishments of people and nations working together.”

–Dr. Chad Orzel



science enhances athletic gear, how precision timing technologies shape competition outcomes, and how physics explains the mechanics behind throwing a football or shooting a basketball. Return to Geneva for dinner as a group this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol

Day 4: Keeping Time

Begin your day with a morning lecture from your Great Courses Journeys expert, setting the stage for Swiss scientific heritage and innovation. Visit the Patek Philippe Museum, where horology meets precision engineering with over 2,500 timepieces dating back to 1839 and a library of over 8,000 works dedicated to the art and science of timekeeping. Continue to the Musee d’histoire des Sciences, home to centuries-old instruments that trace the evolution of astronomy, microscopy, and meteorology, revealing the progression of scientific research.

Then, visit the Observatoire de Genève (subject to confirmation), where the first exoplanet was discovered in 1995 using Doppler spectroscopy. Learn how the Leonhard Euler Telescope detects unseen planets by measuring shifts in starlight. Conclude the day with a guided walk through Carouge, Geneva’s bohemian quarter, which served as a refuge for religious minorities that were persecuted elsewhere in the 18th century. Return to Geneva for an evening at leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol

Day 5: Vines, Views, and Viticulture

Immerse yourself in Swiss culture with a full-day excursion to the stunning Lavaux region, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its terraced vineyards overlooking Lake Geneva. Begin with a scenic drive





through the vine-covered slopes, followed by a guided tour that explores the region's winemaking traditions dating back to the 11th century. Learn how geography, climate, and soil science contribute to the unique character of Lavaux wines. Enjoy a light lunch and wine tasting at a local winery. Return to Geneva in the late afternoon and join your Great Courses Journeys expert and fellow travelers for a festive farewell dinner.



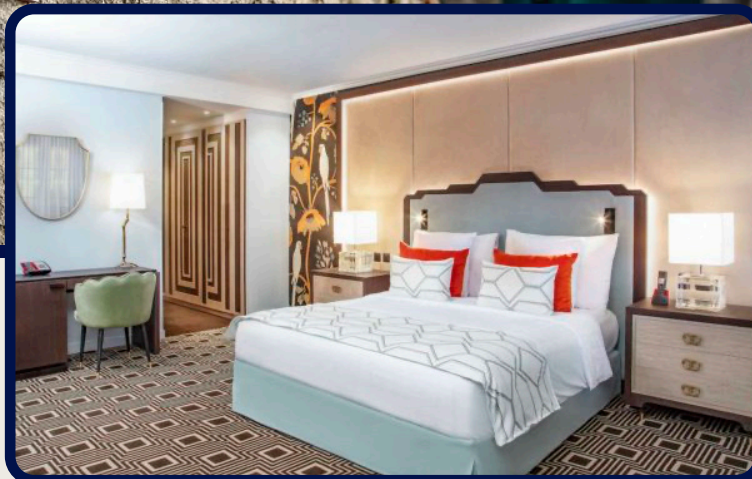
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Hotel Bristol

Day 6: Departure

Depart hotel for individual flights home.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Accommodations



Hotel Bristol

Geneva, Switzerland

Opened in 1851, Hotel Bristol Geneva blends timeless elegance with modern comfort on Mont-Blanc Square in the heart of Geneva. Housed in a beautifully restored building near Lac Léman, this boutique hotel features spacious rooms designed in an art deco style. Guests enjoy access to a full-service spa with a hammam, sauna, jacuzzi, and fitness center, as well as a lively piano bar and the award-winning Côté Square restaurant, known for its inventive French cuisine. **(5 nights)**



Pricing:

| Departure | Double Occupancy | Single Occupancy | Deposit | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| October 18–23, 2026 | \$7,995 | \$9,740 | \$500 | BOOK NOW |
| March 21–26, 2027 | \$7,995 | \$9,740 | \$650 | BOOK NOW |
| October 17–22, 2027 | \$7,995 | \$9,740 | \$650 | BOOK NOW |

What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses expert, travel director, and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights, and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials, with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

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