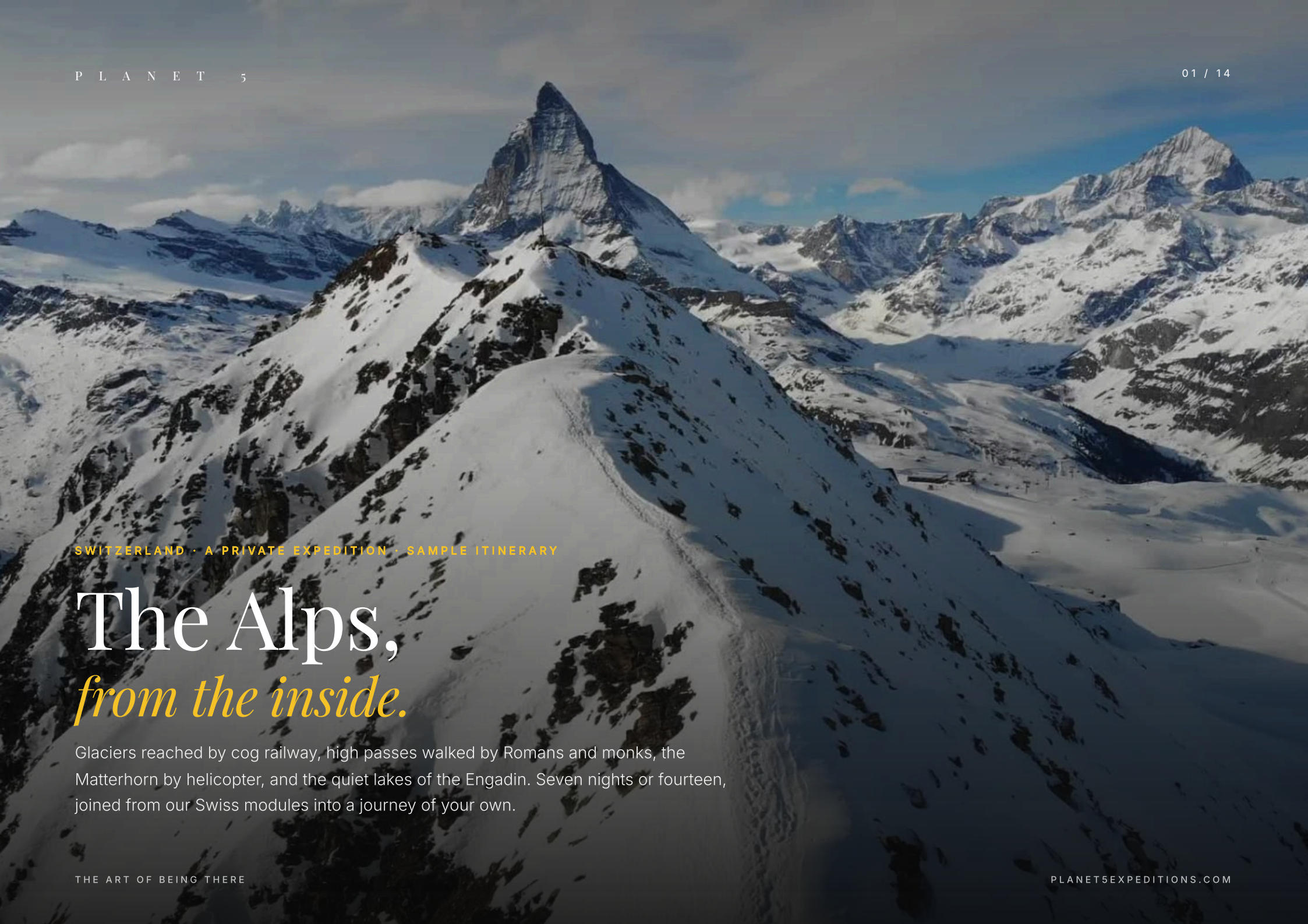


SWITZERLAND · A PRIVATE EXPEDITION · SAMPLE ITINERARY

The Alps, *from the inside.*

Glaciers reached by cog railway, high passes walked by Romans and monks, the Matterhorn by helicopter, and the quiet lakes of the Engadin. Seven nights or fourteen, joined from our Swiss modules into a journey of your own.

YOUR EXPEDITION

Switzerland, *drawn around you.*

A private expedition sets its own dates and pace.

This is Switzerland not seen from a window but travelled with: by historic rack railway and panoramic train, by cable car and e-bike, on footpaths laid down by Romans and pilgrims, and once, unforgettably, by helicopter. Every transition is intentional, slow where it should be slow and seamless where it should disappear. Along the way, the guides, scientists, winemakers and pilots who know these mountains the way others know their own neighbourhoods.

This is a first draft. Lengthen it, soften it, begin a week later, bring whoever you love. We will draw your Switzerland around you.

> *The difference between visiting a place and being part of its story.*

MONT BLANC
Two nights · Where alpinism was born

VERBIER
Three nights · The high passes

LÖTSCHENTAL
One or two nights · Vineyards and ice

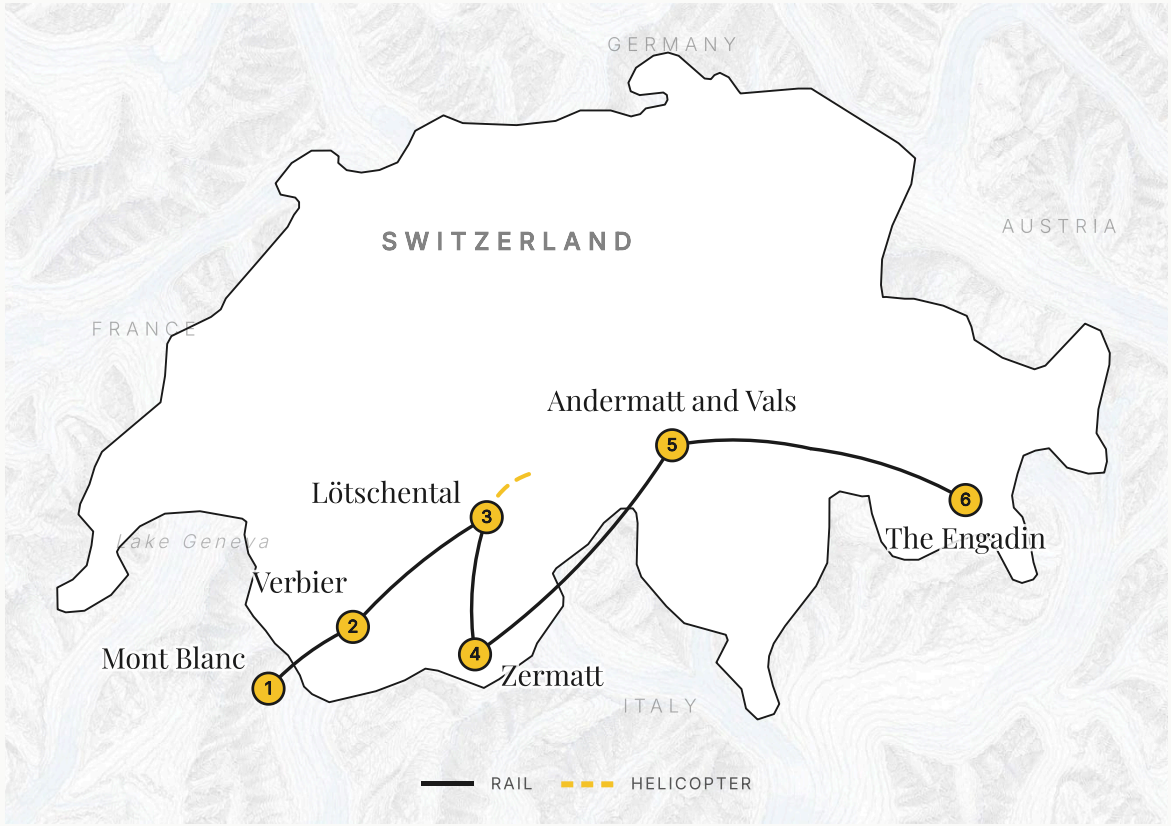
ZERMATT
Three nights · The Matterhorn

ANDERMATT AND VALS
Two nights · The headwaters

THE ENGADIN
Three or four nights · Preservation as a philosophy

THE ROUTE

Switzerland, *on the map.*



1. **Mont Blanc** — TWO NIGHTS · WHERE ALPINISM WAS BORN

   Chamonix, just across the border. The cog railway to the Mer de Glace, crystal hunters and mountain historians, and a night at the Refuge du Montenvers above the ice.

2. **Verbier** — THREE NIGHTS · THE HIGH PASSES

   The Great St Bernard, crossed by Romans, monks and Napoleon. A dam in the clouds, alpine dairies, and a night in a mountain cabane, by e-bike and rail.

3. **Lötschental** — ONE OR TWO NIGHTS · VINEYARDS AND ICE

   Private tastings in some of Europe's oldest vineyards, a valley reshaped by the 2025 landslide, and the Aletsch Glacier from the Jungfraujoch.

4. **Zermatt** — THREE NIGHTS · THE MATTERHORN

   The Matterhorn and Monte Rosa by helicopter, the story of the first ascent, the pilots of alpine rescue, and a night beneath the peak.

5. **Andermatt and Vals** — TWO NIGHTS · THE HEADWATERS

   The Oberalp Pass where the Rhine begins, and the thermal baths at Vals, Peter Zumthor's architecture carved from the mountain.

6. **The Engadin** — THREE OR FOUR NIGHTS · PRESERVATION AS A PHILOSOPHY

   The Swiss National Park with a naturalist, Romansh villages, the smugglers' gorge of Val d'Uina, and the lakes of Sils.



MODULE ONE · TWO NIGHTS

Mont Blanc and Chamonix.

Modern alpinism was born here, and with it alpine tourism and mountain science. The Montenvers cog railway climbs to the Mer de Glace, where the retreat of the ice is not a statistic but a staircase: more steps every year just to reach it.

Crystal hunters, mountain guides and historians of alpinism bring the massif to life. One night is spent at the Refuge du Montenvers, above the glacier, with nothing between you and the sky. The other at Hameau Albert 1er or a private chalet in the valley.



MODULE TWO · THREE NIGHTS

Verbier and the Great St Bernard.

The high passes of the Valais, where Romans, monks, soldiers and farmers all left their mark on the same narrow corridors. The hospice at the Great St Bernard, Napoleon's crossing, and the dogs that made it famous.

By e-bike and rail: a dam suspended in the clouds, cheese made at altitude in the summer pastures, the bunkers of the Swiss army, and a valley geologist who reads the mountains for a living. A night in a traditional cabane, and the rest at Champex-Lac or a chalet in Verbier.



MODULE THREE · ONE OR TWO NIGHTS

The Rhône Valley and the Lötschental.

Some of Europe's oldest vineyards cling to the terraces of the Rhône, and the winemakers open their cellars for private tastings. Beyond, the Lötschental, a valley reshaped by the mountains in 2025, explained by the people who watch them.

Then up by helicopter to the Jungfraujoch, with the Aletsch Glacier, the longest in the Alps, laid out below. A night at the Fafleralp or in a mountain hut above the valley.



MODULE FOUR · THREE NIGHTS

Zermatt and the Matterhorn.

The Matterhorn needs no introduction, and yet the story beyond the icon is the richer one: Whymper's first ascent and its tragedy, the railways and funiculars that burrow through the mountain, and the helicopters that serve as lifelines rather than luxuries.

A flight around the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa. A morning with the pilots of one of the great alpine rescue services. Hikes and e-bike rides with a mountain guide, and one night high above the village at the Fluhalp, beneath the peak, the others at Mont Cervin Palace or The Omnia.

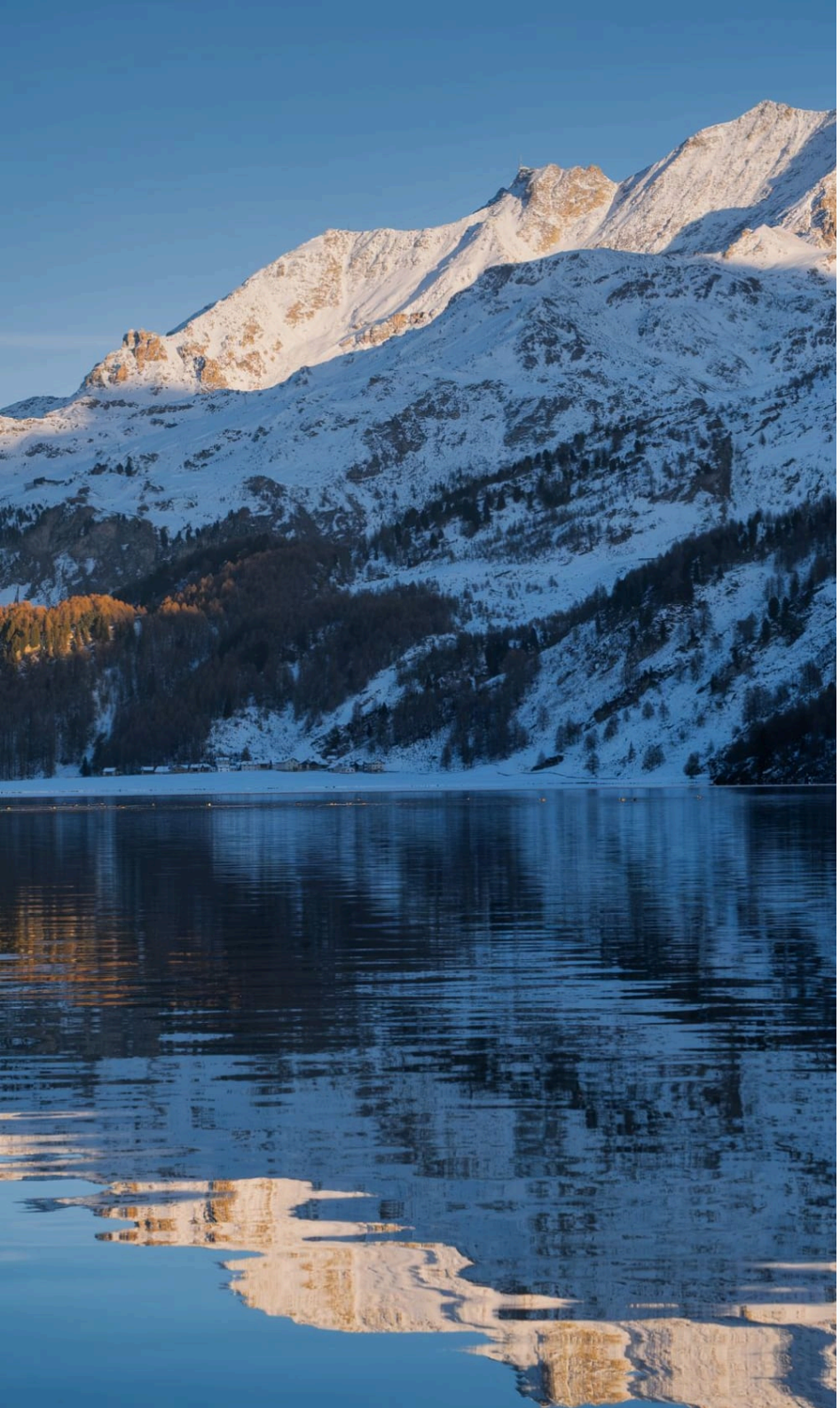


MODULE FIVE · TWO NIGHTS

Andermatt and Vals.

The Oberalp Pass, where the Rhine begins, and Andermatt, the old crossroads of the Swiss Alps. Then the long descent toward the Valsertal and its thermal baths, Peter Zumthor's stone architecture so quiet it feels like part of the mountain.

Romansh country, where Switzerland's fourth language survives in small villages and the seasons set the pace. Nights at The Chedi in Andermatt and at 7132 in Vals.



MODULE SIX · THREE OR FOUR NIGHTS

The Engadin.

The journey ends where Switzerland gets it most right. In the Swiss National Park, nature runs on its own schedule, without intervention, and a naturalist shows you what the Alps looked like before us.

Romansh villages, the smugglers' gorge of Val d'Uina, Segantini's mountain hut above Pontresina, and contemporary art in the valley. Nights at the Waldhaus Sils or Lej da Staz, on the quietest lakes in the Alps.

THE EXPEDITION

Switzerland, *day by day.*

A private expedition sets its own dates and pace. The days below follow Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn, seven nights.

DAY 1
Geneva to Chamonix
Arrival in Geneva and a private transfer to Chamonix. An evening with a historian of alpinism.

DAY 2
The Mer de Glace
The Montenvers cog railway to the glacier. Crystal hunters. A night at the Refuge du Montenvers, above the ice.

DAY 3
Into Switzerland
By mountain railway over the border to the Valais. Champex-Lac and Verbier.

DAY 4
The Great St Bernard
The pass and the hospice: Romans, monks, Napoleon and the dogs. A dam in the clouds and an alpine dairy, by e-bike.

DAY 5
To Zermatt
By rail along the Rhône, with a private tasting among the oldest vineyards in the Valais. Zermatt by evening.

DAY 6
The Matterhorn
A helicopter flight around the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa. A morning with the pilots of alpine rescue.

DAY 7
Beneath the peak
On foot or by e-bike with a mountain guide, to a night at the Fluhalp beneath the Matterhorn.

DAY 8
Depart
By rail to Zurich or Geneva for international departures.

INCLUDED

All accommodation, from palace hotels to a night in a mountain refuge

Ground travel by private car, rail, cable car and e-bike

The helicopter flight described in your itinerary

Private guiding, and the experts and hosts along the route

Professional photography of your party

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare

Meals and wine beyond those in your proposal

Travel and medical insurance

Gratuities

Walking and e-biking at an easy to moderate pace, with every ascent carried by railway, cable car or helicopter. The night in a mountain refuge is optional, and every day can be softened. Global Rescue membership is included. Run privately, the pace and the physical ask can be set around your party.

THE TEAM

Your team *in the field.*

For thirty years our team has produced expeditions and films for National Geographic, Disney, HBO, Rolex and Red Bull, from Everest to the Southern Ocean. The same planning, the same people and the same standard of care now travel with you.

"Dirk is always my first call for the world's most complex and remote expeditions."

JIMMY CHIN, ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER

ON EXPEDITION FOR

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC · Disney · HBO · ROLEX · DAVID YURMAN · Red Bull · dji

THE NORTH FACE · LAND ROVER · NBC · Discovery · AIRBUS · Ford · TOYOTA

HOW IT WORKS

Request *your expedition.*

Your own dates

A PRIVATE EXPEDITION

Around your party, your dates and the shape of the journey.

Five with Dirk

PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS IN 2027

Only five private expeditions in 2027, each led by Dirk.

01 **A conversation**
Tell us who is travelling and what you dream of seeing. A member of our team replies personally within 24 hours.

02 **Your itinerary, drawn by hand**
A proposal shaped from a signature itinerary or a blank map: the days, the flights, the lodges and the people you will meet.

03 **Your dates held**
A deposit holds your dates and applies in full to the expedition.

04 **Welcomed in**
Your field team introduced by name, every detail of preparation handled with you, and then the first morning.

THE TIMELINE

From conversation *to expedition.*



TODAY

A conversation

Tell us who is travelling and what you dream of seeing. We reply personally within 24 hours.

NEXT

Your itinerary, drawn by hand

A proposal shaped around your party: the days, the flights, the lodges and the people you will meet.

YOUR DATES

The expedition

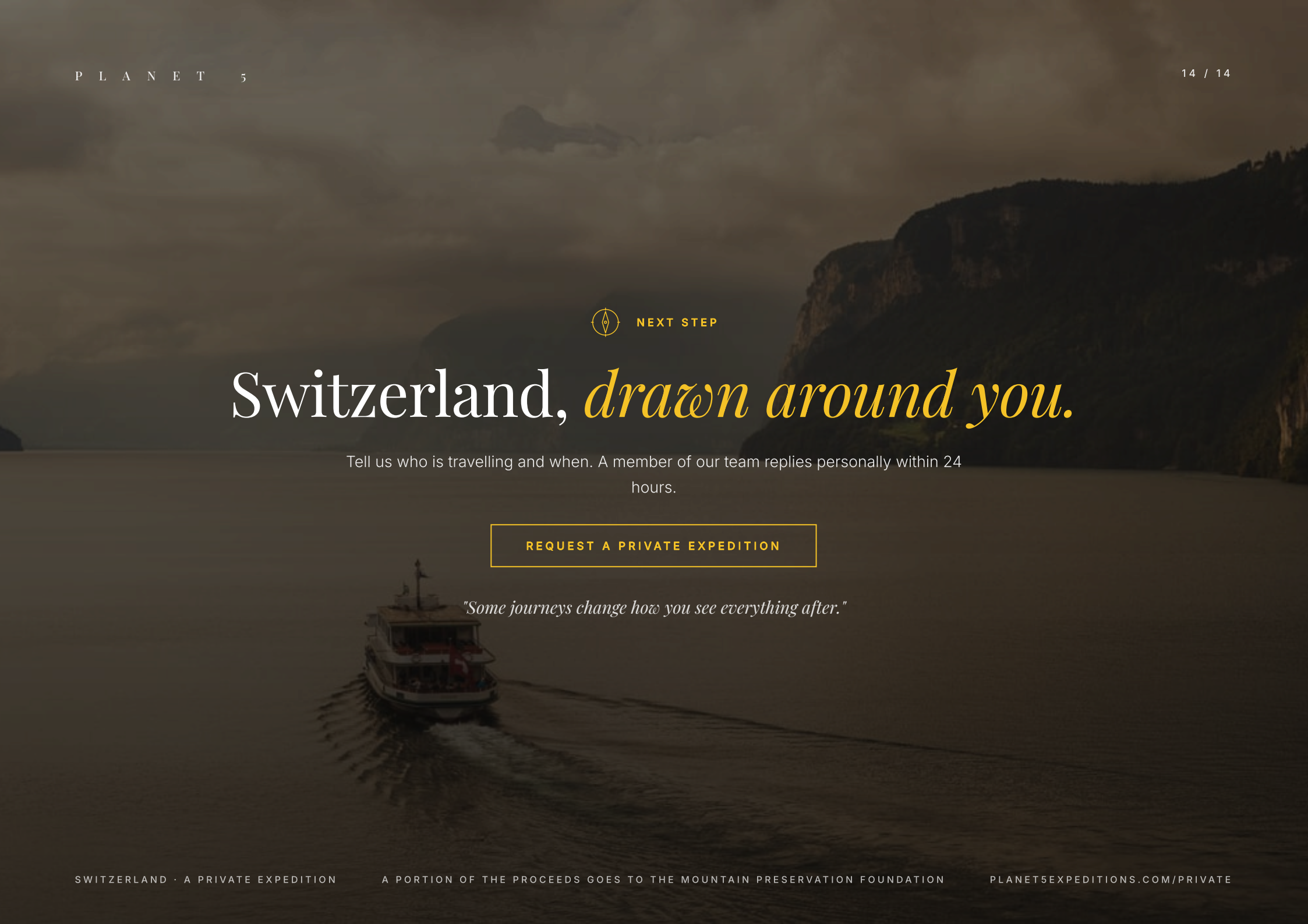
Switzerland, at your pace.

ALWAYS

Preservation

A portion of the proceeds goes to the Mountain Preservation Foundation.

Drawn by hand, around you.



NEXT STEP

Switzerland, *drawn around you.*

Tell us who is travelling and when. A member of our team replies personally within 24 hours.

REQUEST A PRIVATE EXPEDITION

"Some journeys change how you see everything after."