Swiss Switzerland. El Backpacker News

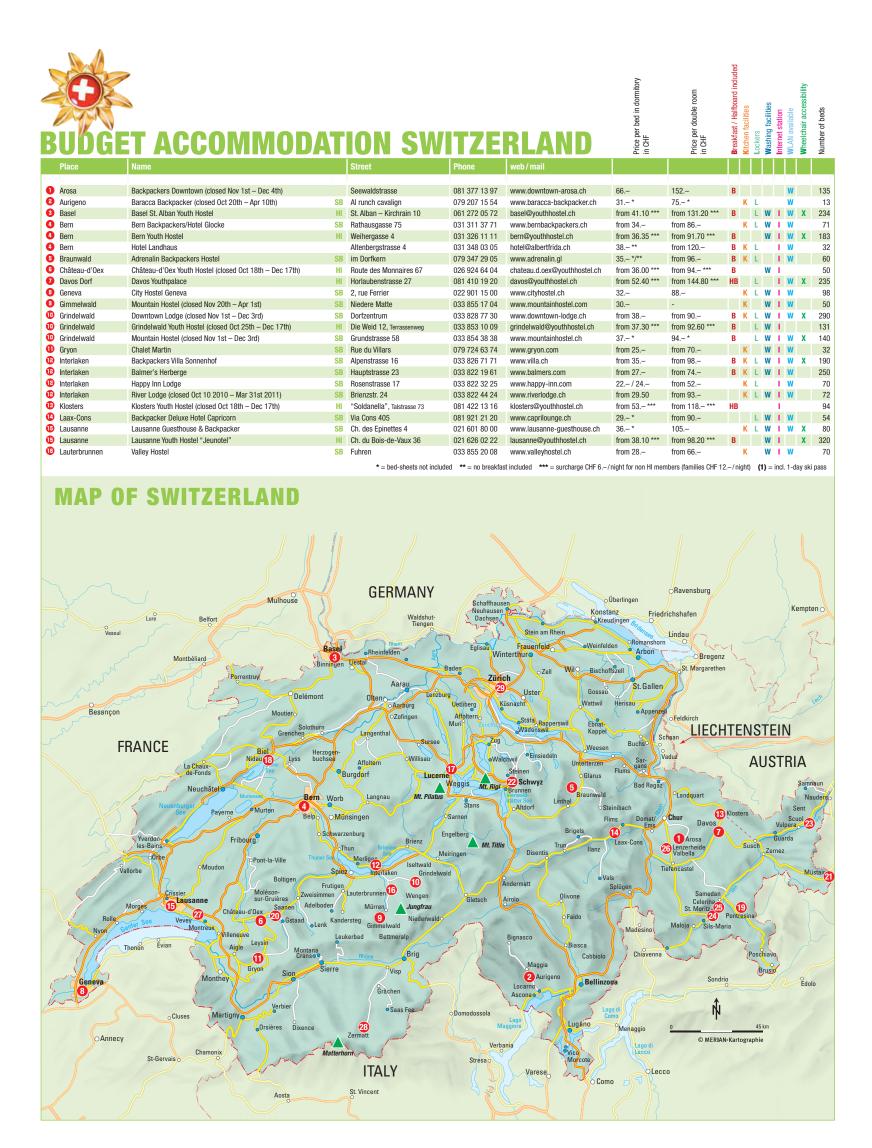
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Winter 2010/2011





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BUDGET ACCOMMODATION SWITZERLAND

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Place	Name		Street	Phone	web/mail								
Lucerne	Backpackers Lucerne	SB	Alpenquai 42	041 360 04 20	www.backpackerslucerne.ch	32	72/78		K L	. W	I W	1	
Lucerne	Lion Lodge Luzern	SB	Zürichstrasse 57	041 410 01 44	www.lionlodge.ch	33.90 / 35.90	75.80 / 93.80		K L	. W	I W	1	
Lucerne	Lucerne Youth Hostel	HI	Sedelstrasse 12	041 420 88 00	luzern@youthhostel.ch	from 35.90 ***	from 91.80 ***	В	L	. W	1		
Nidau b. Biel	Lago Lodge	SB	Uferweg 5	032 331 37 32	www.lagolodge.ch	30	84		K L	. W	I W	l X	
Pontresina	Pontresina Youth Hostel	HI	"Cuntschett", Via da la Staziun 46	081 842 72 23	pontresina@youthhostel.ch	from 38 ***	from 124 ***	В		W	1		
Saanen	Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel (closed Oct 25th - Dec 17th)	HI	Chalet Rüblihorn, Spitzhornweg 25	033 744 13 43	saanen@youthhostel.ch	from 38.30 ***	from 92.60 ***	В		W	1		
Santa Maria in Müstair	Sta. Maria i.M. Youth Hostel (closed Oct 17th - Dec 25th)	HI	Chasa Plaz	081 858 56 61	sta.maria@youthhostel.ch	from 35.80 ***	from 101.60 ***	В	K	W			
Schwyz	Hirschen backpackers.hotel.pub	SB	Hinterdorfstrasse 14	041 811 12 76	www.hirschen-schwyz.ch	from 29 *	from 92		K L	. W	I W	į –	
Scuol	Scuol Youth Hostel (closed Oct 25th - Dec 10th)	HI	Prà da faira	081 862 31 31	scuol@youthhostel.ch	from 51.90 ***	from 151.80 ***	НВ			I W	X	
St. Moritz-Bad	St. Moritz Bad Youth Hostel (closed Oct 18th - Dec 1st)	HI	Via Surpunt 60	081 836 61 11	st.moritz@youthhostel.ch	from 54.50 ***	from 167 ***	HB	L	. W	I W	l .	
St. Moritz-Celerina	Hotel "Alte Brauerei"		Via Maistra 60	081 832 18 74	www.alte-brauerei.ch	47 *	168	В		W	I W		
Valbella	Valbella Youth Hostel (closed Oct 18th – Dec 14th)	HI	Voa Sartons 41	081 384 12 08	valbella@youthhostel.ch	from 64 *** (1)	from 194 *** (1)	В	L		T	Х	
Vevey	Riviera Lodge	SB	Place du Marché 5	021 923 80 40	www.rivieralodge.ch	from 32	from 88		K L	W	I W		
Zermatt	Matterhorn Hostel		Schluhmattstrasse 32	027 968 19 19	info@matterhornhostel.com	from 36	from 92		L		I W	į –	
Zermatt	Zermatt Youth Hostel	HI	Staldenweg 5	027 967 23 20	zermatt@youthhostel.ch	from 51.10 ***	from 136.20 ***	НВ	L	. W	1		
Zurich	City Backpacker/Hotel Biber	SB	Niederdorfstrasse 5	044 251 90 15	www.city-backpacker.ch	from 35 *	from 110		K L	w	I W	į.	
Zurich	Zurich Youth Hostel	HI	Mutschellenstrasse 114	043 399 78 00	zuerich@youthhostel.ch	from 42 ***	from 127 ***	В	- 1	w	I W	X	

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SB = "Swiss Backpackers".
All hostels marked with "SB"
are members of the Swiss Back-

packers association and comply with minimum standards such as self catering kitchen and/or reasonably priced restaurant, 24 hour access and personal attention at reception. These hostels are independently owned and operated. Their standards, provisions and methods of management may vary accordingly. All offer dormitories as well as a choice of smaller rooms. No membership is required. www.swissbackpackpasckers.ch



HI = "Hostelling International"
All hostels marked with "HI" are
members of the Swiss Youth Hostel

Association. The brand stands for the role as a low-cost provider that values high quality and promotes socially responsible and green tourism.

Non-HI members have to pay a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night (families CHF12.—/night). The cheapest way to become a member is to register in your country before you depart. www.youthhostel.ch

 $You can find the whole list with direct links under {\color{red} {\bf www.backpacker.ch}} \ We hope {\color{gray} {\bf you'} II enjoy your visit to Switzerland!}$

CONTENTS





Swiss travel know-how...

...and all you need to know about Switzerland



Switzerland was founded over 700 years ago (1291). Today 26 politically sovereign cantons make up the modern federation of Switzerland.

general information

Currency: Swiss Franc "Franken/franc", CHF 1.-=100 cents "Rappen/centimes". Exchange rate (fixed on September 20th 2010): CHF 1.- corresponds to 0.76 Euros /0.99 US\$. **Cinema:** In the German part of Switzerland cinemas nearly always show films in their original language (e.g. a film marked E/f/d means spoken in English with subtitles in French and German). Cheaper admission on Mondays!

Democracy: The Swiss vote, a few times each year, on local, cantonal and federal issues like public building, raising taxes, and environmental and international participation.

Emergency phone numbers: 117 Police, 144 Ambulance, 118 Fire Brigade.

European Union: Switzerland is not a member of the European Union (EU).

Health Insurance: As there is no state medical health service in Switzerland, and as medical treatment must be paid for, it is

advisable to take out insurance against personal accident and illness.

Internet | E-mail: Most hostels offer internet access and even WLAN, and in most towns and cities you'll find at least one Internet café; see "Practical Information" of each section.

Lockers: Almost every railway station has lockers where you can leave your baggage. Population/Languages: Switzerland has a population of about 7.5 million. The national languages of Switzerland are Swiss-German (north, central and east), French (west), Italian (south) and Rhaeto-Romanic (south-east).

Phoning: Most public phones accept cards only (no coins). Taxcards are sold at post offices, at all "kiosks" (small shops where you find newspapers, cigarettes and sweets), at train and petrol stations, and at most hostels. For national and international directory information see www.directories.ch or call 1811 or 1818.

Post: Postcards and letters (if under 20 gr weight) within Europe CHF 1.20 (priority 1.30), overseas CHF 1.40 (priority 1.80).

Tipping: Tips are included on all hotel/hostel and restaurant bills. It is neither necessary nor expected to give an extra tip. Tip when the service is nice and friendly.

Water: Tap water is fine to drink nearly

everywhere. Some fountains carry the sign "Kein Trinkwasser" or "eau non potable." This means no drinking water!

Weather, Clothes and Climate: The climate is moderate with no excessive heat, cold or humidity. Jan & Feb daytime temperatures range from 0 to 5 degrees (Celsius), March to May and Oct & Nov 5 to 15 degrees, and June to September from 18–30 degrees. Depending on the altitude, the temperature range may vary!

Work: Switzerland is known as a country with a restrictive policy regarding foreign labor. And if you get caught working illegally you can be fined and deported.

accommodation

Swiss Backpackers (www.swissbackpack ers.ch): a group of independent hostels uniting the Swiss Backpacker Hostels have dormitories as well as private rooms, all conveying a friendly and international atmosphere plus self catering kitchen and/or reasonably priced restaurant. Almost all of their addresses are listed on page 2+3 (marked with SB) and under »www.backpacker.ch

Swiss Youth Hostel Association (www. youthhostel.ch) is affiliated with the Hostelling International network HI. The cheapest way to become a member is to register in your country before you depart. As a non-HI member you have to pay a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night (families CHF 12.— per night). Their most important addresses are listed on page 2 + 3 (marked with HI) and under ""www.backpacker.ch Hostels: There are many more hostels all around Switzerland, some of them also listed at ""www.backpacker.ch. Another affordable hotel group is Etap Hotels ""www.etaphotel.com

food

Restaurants: The variety of food served is wide, from traditional to international cuisine. Most Migros and Coop supermarkets have cheap restaurants and, of course, you'll also find McDonald's. In the cities check out the wide range of take-out stands, for example, turkish kebab, falafel or just simple pizza and burgers.

Supermarkets: There are plenty of supermarkets like Coop and Migros where you can stock up on your provisions.

SWISS TRAVEL KNOW-HOW



Traditional Swiss Dishes: Traditional and regional dishes play an important role in the Swiss diet. The ones most widely known are: cheese fondue (a blend of melted cheese served up in a big stoneware pot into which bread or hot potatoes are dipped); Raclette (melted slices of cheese with boiled potatoes and mixed pickles); Rösti (German-Swiss dish: grated, fried potatoes, sometimes with egg, sausage, onions or bacon).

transport

Public Transport: Cities and towns have excellent transportation networks. Buy your ticket from a ticket machine, which you'll find at almost every stop. For discounts, check the list below!

Railway System: You will appreciate Switzerland's extensive railway system. It is relaxing and comfortable and will allow you to fully enjoy the scenery. Normal point-to-point tickets and reservations can be purchased at every railway station. Seat reservations are only required on special scenic trains like the Glacier Express, the Bernina Express, etc. For all train information, call 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19 per min) or see »»www.rail.ch

Means of transport

Zermatt - Gornergrat (GGB-ggb)

Brig-Visp-Zermatt (MGB)

Zermatt Bergbahnen (ZBAG)

Saas Fee-Mittelallalin (LSF)

Train Tickets: Single train tickets are expensive, so if you're frequently using the train in Switzerland, "Swiss Travel System" offers a wide range of tickets to cut costs. The rates for 1 person are: Swiss Youth Pass and Swiss Pass (valid 4, 8, 15, 22 days or 1 month), 4 days for CHF 200.- respectively CHF 266.- and up. Swiss Flexi Pass (3 days up to 6 days within a month), 3 days for CHF 254.- and up.

Swiss Half Fare Card, 1-month half-fare card for CHF 110.— (with this card you pay only 50% of the normal fare). For a second person or more, passes are available at 15% reduction. Kids under 16 travel for free with the Swiss Travel System Family Card. The tickets can be ordered online or by phone at 00800 100 200 23 (foc). In Switzerland, Swiss Passes are available at major railway stations. Swiss Pass holders not only get unlimited access to the train, bus and boat network, but also a generous discount on most mountain transport (see transport discount list below) and free admission to practically all of Switzerland's world class museums and exhibitions! »»www.swisstravelsvstem.ch/en

Post Buses: The Swiss post buses are ideal if you want to travel off the beaten path. With some of the post buses you can cross alpine passes. The Swiss Passes (see above) are all valid on post buses (surcharge on some mountain routes)! >>>www.postbus.ch

Guided tours / excursions: Best of Switzerland Tours is a Swiss company with professional multilingual guides, focusing all their efforts on showing you the best of the marvellous Swiss mountains, landscapes and places of interest (i.e. Mount Titlis or Mount Pilatus, the cities of Zurich or Lucerne). For information/booking ask at your hostel, at the tourist office or see >>>www.bestofswitzerlandtours.ch

Bicycles: Cycling is very popular in Switzerland. You'll find wellmarked cycling routes throughout, particularly in the urban areas. Bicycles can be rented at most railway stations. In the cities of Bern and Zurich you can borrow bikes free of charge! For more information about this great deal see the pages about each particular city.

Skiing/Boarding: In almost every winter resort you can rent equipment, such as skis, boots, snowboards, sledges, skates, etc., at reasonable prices. Staying in a city? No problem doing a day trip to a winter resort nearby!

Winter for non-skiers: Winter in Switzerland is not only for the active sports enthusiast. As a non-skier you'll find well maintained, clearly marked trails for relaxing walks. Ask at the local tourist information office for winter trail maps.



Rough Guide is the best travel source **Rough Guide** is the best travel source for your trip through Switzerland. CUIDES »»www.roughguides.co.uk

homepages:

www.myswitzerland.com/en www.backpacker.ch www. swisstravelsystem.ch/en



save money

Supersaver tickets give you big discounts on selected train journeys. It's worth buying early as there are only a limited number of supersavers for each train. Supersaver tickets are only available during a special offer period. You can only buy supersaver tickets online at the SBB Ticket Shop »www.rail.ch » Travel » Ticket Shop » Supersaver tickets (special conditions), as an online ticket that you print yourself (print@home). This is a great deal, make use of it!

All information is subject to change. (((

Public Transport-List of Discounts

With the following tickets you get a discount or can travel for free (your ticket must be valid on the day of travel).

Swiss Pass/

Swiss

General

Inter Rail



50% 4.)

50% ^{4.)}

25%

25%

50%

free

50%

50%

50%

50%

50%

50%

50%

free

50%

50%

Means of transport	Eurail	Inter Rail	Swiss Pass/ Swiss Flexi Pass/Swiss Youth Pass	Swiss Half Fare Card / Swiss Card ^{1.)}	General Season Ticket (GA/AG)
Lucerne city transport (VBL)	_	_	free	_	free
Lucerne - Stans - Engelberg					
Lucerne-Brünig-Interlaken Ost	free	free	free	50%	free
Lake Lucerne steamers (SGV)	free	50%	free	50%	free
Mount Pilatus (PB)	30%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Mount Rigi Railways (RB)	50%	50%	free	50%	free
Stanserhorn (SthB)	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Mount Titlis (BET)	50%	-	50%	50%	50%
Centovalli train (Locarno-Domodossola)	free	free	free	50%	free
Lugano city transport (TPL)	-	-	free	-	free
Lugano – Ponte Tresa (Caslano)	-	-	free	50%	free
Lake Lugano steamers (SNL)	-	-	free	50%	50%
Rhätische Bahn (RhB)	free	free	free	50%	free
Glacier Express					
St.Moritz-Chur-Disentis (RhB)	free	free	free	50%	free
Disentis-Brig-Zermatt (MGB)	25%	50% 4.)	free	50%	free
Zurich city transport system (VBZ)	_	-	free	-	free
Lake Zurich steamers (ZSG)	free	50%	free	50%	free
Lake Constance steamers	35-50%	-	free	50%	free
Braunwaldbahn (BRSB)	-	-	free	50%	free

- On transfer days the Swiss Card offers the same advantages as the Swiss Pass, BUT is not valid on urban transportation systems
- 2.) On selected postal bus lines (e.g. Alpine passes), the supplement "Alpine Ticket" is
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6 ZURICH

practical information



How to get there:

Zurich has an international airport from where the city can be reached within only 15 minutes. Direct train services link Zurich Airport with the main station **1** (dep. every 10−15 min from 05.02 am until 00.41 am). The huge main station houses the (i) tourist office **1** (044 215 40 00, free hotel reservations, >>>www.zuerich.com, open Mon-Sat $8.30\,\mathrm{am}-7\,\mathrm{pm}$, Sun $9\,\mathrm{am}-6\,\mathrm{pm}$); foreign currency exchange, Western Union, public phones, bicycle rental, lockers, supermarket (Migros, open daily), restaurants, travel agency, rest rooms, showers, pharmacy, shopping, fast food, dentist and medical station "Permanence", open 7 am - 23 pm (next to the pharmacy). Taxi Zurich (tollfree at 0800 822 222). @ Internet café at ShopVille (inside the train station) or at your hostel (guests only). Public transportation (city): 1-hour ticket CHF 4.10; 24hour ticket CHF 8.20. ZurichCARD: The ZurichCARD costs CHF 20.- (valid for 24 hours) or CHF 40.- (for 72 hours). It gives you unlimited train, streetcar, bus and boat travel in the area of Zurich (incl. airport, city, Uetliberg, and even a short roundtrip of 1½ hours on the lake), and free entrance to over 30 museums and more. Ask for it at the tourist office or at one of the train stations!



save money

Best **souvenir shops** in town are: ②a Teddy's Souvenir Shop at Limmatquai 34, and ③b Meng Cutlery at Rennweg 31 and at Poststrasse 4 (**get a 10% discount with the voucher on page 8!**).

www.zuerich.com www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

• City Backpacker/Hotel Biber, Nieder-dorfstrasse 5 (044 251 90 15) "www.city-backpacker.ch; Zurich Youth Hostel, Mutschellenstr. 114 (043 399 78 00) (tram no 7 until stop "Morgental", follow the signs) "www.youthhostel.ch/zuerich; Etap Hotel Zürich City-West, Technoparkstrasse 2 (044 276 20 00) "www.etaphotel.com. For more accommodation in Zurich ask at the tourist office."



urich is beautiful! You could easily spend weeks here. Situated at the north end of Lake Zurich and just 15 minutes away from the international airport. The lake, a river and the distant peaks of the Alps make the city a perfect combination of natural beauty, cosmopolitan charm and urban buzz. Exploring on foot is the best way of getting to know the attractive old town, divided by the Limmat River, or the famous Bahnhofstrasse and the lake promenade, as well as the Langstrasse area with its very international ambience (also red light district), or the trendy quarter of Zurich West with its new bars, Viadukt shopping/market hall and the impressive architectural space called the Schiffbau. The city silhouette is dominated by the striking towers and spires of three churches — the Grossmünster church 3; St. Peter's church 4, which boasts Europe's largest clock face (8.7 m or 28.5 ft in diameter); and the Fraumünster church 4, greatly admired for its precious stained glass windows by Marc Chagall. Lindenhof 10 is a beautiful, small, park-like open space in the middle of the old town.

highlights

of charge! Robust city bikes are available all year round at the main railway station at "Velogate" (opposite track 18 at Museumstrasse near Landesmuseum) and at "Velostation Süd" (near Sihlpost). Both open daily 8 am – 9.30 pm. Deposit required: passport or ID card plus CHF 20.—.

- **3** The Bahnhofstrasse. Zurich's world-famous shopping street covers a distance of 1.4 km (0.9 miles) from the main station to the lake.
- **3 Grossmünster church.** Zurich's most famous landmark and a symbol of the city. Climb the tower (cost CHF 4.—, students 2.—) and enjoy a terrific view! On a clear

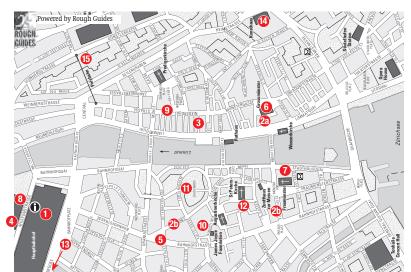
- day you can even see the snowcapped Alps. Cathedral open daily $10\,am-5\,pm$, tower Mon-Sat $10\,am-4.30\,pm$ and Sun $12.30-4.30\,pm$.
- **?** Fraumünster church. Well-known for its stained glass windows in the chancel by Marc Chagall and the large organ (5,793 pipes). Open Mon–Sat $10\,am-4\,pm$, Sun $11.15\,am-6\,pm$, worship Sun $10\,am$.
- ② Schweizerisches Landesmuseum (Swiss National Museum), Museumstrasse 2. The castle-like building, surrounded by the charming Platzspitz park right behind the train station, houses the largest collection of objects relating to Swiss cultural history. Open Tue−Sun 10 am−5 pm

- (Thu till 7 pm), closed on Monday! Adm. CHF 10.–, students CHF 8.–.
- Niederdorf (Zurich's old town). During the daytime the pedestrian zone is a shopper's paradise and at night an exciting centre of entertainment.
- Augustinergasse. One of Zurich's most beautiful streets. This quaint, old street is lined with numerous 14th 18th century houses with ornate bay windows.
- **① Lindenhof.** An oasis of peace in the heart of the city offering a magnificent view of the old town. It's also the place for passionate chess players (open-air).
- **②** St. Peter's church. Zurich's oldest church. Since 1534, it has held the record for the largest church clock face in Europe (8.7 m diameter). Open Mon−Fri 8 am−6 pm, Sat 10 am−4 pm, Sun 11 am−5 pm (worship Sun 10 am).
- 13 Langstrasse. Walk down from Helvetiaplatz until Limmatplatz and enjoy this busy, international, big-town feeling (red light district). Lots of second hand shops and international take-out food (tasty and cheap). West of Limmatplatz the former industrial quarter has changed into a very trendy area now called Zurich West. Here you'll find lots of new bars, restaurants and clubs and the huge complex called Schiffbau (with drama stages, jazz clubs and more) and the Viadukt shopping/market hall, Zurich's new shopping area inside an old railway bridge. To get there take tram 4 or 13 until station Escher-Wyss-Platz or Dammwea.
- ◆ Kunsthaus (Art Museum), Helmplatz 1. Zurich's Kunsthaus is called Switzerland's finest gallery. So if you visit just one art museum in Switzerland, this should be it! Notice: until Jan 30th they present Pablo Picasso's first retrospective! Open Wed—Fri 10 am—8 pm, Sat, Sun and Tue 10 am—6 pm, (Mon closed). Entry: permanent collection CHF 14.—, students CHF 10.— (free with ZurichCard); on Wed admission is free of charge for all visitors!
- **© Polyterrace.** Hop on the Polybähnli (cable car) at Central square and in two minutes you'll be enjoying the best allround view of the city! The area in front of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) is a popular viewing point!

Zurich Zoo and Masoala Rainforest. With around 2,000 animals this is one of Europe's most attractive zoos. The Masoala rainforest hall simulates the climate of Madagscar and has hundreds of species. Tropical feeling guaranteed! Open daily 9 am – 5 pm (Masoala 10 am – 5 pm). Entrance is at Zürichbergstrasse 221 (take tram 6 to Zoo). Admission CHF 22.—, youth under 25 CHE 16—

under 25 CHF 16.—.

See page 8 for Uetliberg hiking, Rhine fall tour, lake cruise and more around Zurich!



entertainment, fun & parties

With almost 500 bars, clubs and discos, Zurich offers entertainment to suit everyone until the small hours of the morning.

- Niederdorfstrasse is the place to be at night: there are lots of restaurants/bars/pubs, guaranteed party atmosphere.
- Oliver Twist (Rindermarkt 6) and Nelson (Beatengasse 11) are the pubs to go to.
- Cabaret Voltaire (Spiegelgasse 1). Zurich's world famous "Dada House".
 Exhibitions, events and a café bar. Closed on Monday.
- Rote Fabrik (Seestrasse 395). Alternative arts, restaurant, open-air bar and entertainment, next to the lake. Live events: concerts, films, disco and other dance, etc. call 044 481 91 21 for the latest information. »www.rotefabrik.ch
- Abart (Manessestr. 170, tram Nr. 13 or bus 33 until Utobrücke). Alternative club!
 Offers events and concerts from alternative rock to pop. Fri & Sat regular events.
 Good prices. "www.abart.ch"
- **Xtra Limmathaus** (Limmatstr. 118, near Limmatplatz). Very popular place to go amongst the young people of Zurich. Monday/Wednesday regular disco. Admission free. See daily press for latest concerts. >>>www.x-tra.ch
- Barfüsser (Spitalgasse 14) is Europe's oldest gay bar!
- Pub Paddy Reily's (Talstrasse 82) is an Irish pub.
- Kanzlei (Kanzleistr. 56, next to Helvetiaplatz). Nice place (disco, bar and cinema).

 »www.kanzlei.ch
- Kaufleuten (Pelikanstrasse 18) is a club at the top end of the market (Madonna and Prince were once quests here). »www.kaufleuten.ch
- Babalu Bar (Schmidgasse 6) is a perfect starting point for a hot night out on the town.
- Jules Verne panorama bar (Uraniastrasse 9) is a bar at the observatory tower with a view over the roofs of Zurich.
- **Restaurant Café Zähringer** (at Zähringerplatz 11, not far from the City Backpacker) is a good place to hang out and meet people, and they serve good vegetarian food.
- Rathaus-Café (at Limmatquai 16, directly on the Limmat river) is certainly the best spot for people-watching.
- **El Lokal** (Gessnerallee 11). Nice bar to hang out at the evenings; also offering some tapas. An array of strange and amazing things inside and a nice area with a view of the river outside.
- **Zukunft** (Dienerstr. 33). The Zukunft (future in English) is well-known for its electroparties. The club can only be accessed through the backyard of a totally unremarkable house and is in the basement of the building. Free entry on Thursdays!
- Casablanca (Langstr. 62). Cool bar and café in the lively Langstrasse quarter.



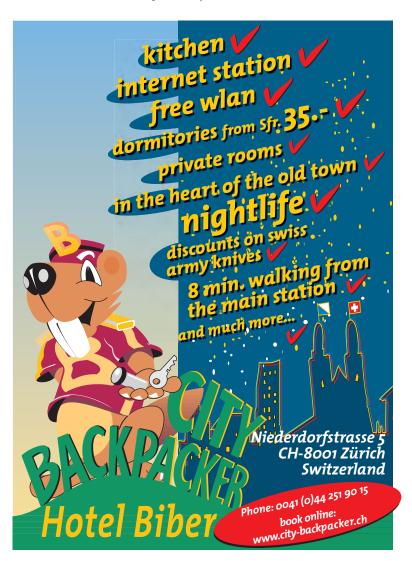


7 hotels in Switzerland and 400 in Europe - www.etaphotel.com

Amy Macdonald at the Hallenstadion*
Musical Evita at Theater 11*
Scorpions at the Hallenstadion*
Katie Melua at the Hallenstadion*
Shakira at the Hallenstadion*
Simply Red at the Hallenstadion*
Conelli's Christmas circus at Bauschänzli (next to Bürkliplatz)
Flames of the Dance (Irish dance) at the Volkshaus*
Christmas illumination along Bahnhofstrasse
Ice-skating. Ice rink in the courtyard of the Swiss National
Museum (skate hire is possible). Free admission!
New Year's Eve Run. Traditional race through the old town
Traditional light floating at 6 pm. 800 little floating candles are
launched from the Rasthausbrücke on the Limmat river
New Year's Eve party from $8\mathrm{pm}-3\mathrm{am}$ along the Limmat river, Nie-
derdorf and Lake Zurich, with huge fireworks display at 00.20 am
Art on Ice Show at the Hallenstadion*
Kylie Minogue at the Hallenstadion*

* For reservations call Ticket Corner 0848 800 800. » www.ticketcorner.com

	Markets:
Nov 25th – Dec 24th	Largest indoor Christmas market in Europe. Inside main railway
	station (daily)
Dec 8th-23rd	Christmas market in the old town Niederdorf (daily)
Thu & Sat	Market of "curious things" (handicraft, clothes, jewellery
	and more) at Rosenhof (next to City Backpacker Hostel).
	Thu $10\mathrm{am}-8\mathrm{pm}$, Sat $10\mathrm{am}-5\mathrm{pm}$, closed during Jan & Feb
Sat	Cheap multicultural flea market at Kanzleistrasse 56.
	8 am – 4 pm, closed Jan and Feb



8 ZURICH

save money-do it yourself

ZURICH ITSELF

Uetliberg mountain

Take the S-train no 10 (leaves from track 2 at the main station) through fields and forest up the Uetliberg mountain. A 10 minute walk brings you to the top (871 m) where you can climb the tower with a beautiful view. From there you can hike back to the city or easily trek along the "Planetenweg" (planetary path) to Felsenegg (1½ hour). From there a cable car brings you down to Adliswil from where you can get back to the city (by S-train no 4). The ZurichCARD is valid for this excursion up the Uetliberg. Without a Zurich-CARD it costs: CHF 16.40 for a 24-hr ticket (this "Albistageskarte" includes all Zurich city public transportation, so make use of it! You can even buy it at the ticket machine, just dial *131). Free for Eurailholders (only for the Felsenegg cable car will you need to pay approx. CHF 4.-).

ZVV-9 o'clock Travelcard

The 9 o'clock Travelcard (9-Uhr Tagespass) entitles you to use public transport within the whole canton of Zurich. From 9 am until shut down (no time restrictions on weekends) you save 30% off the regular day ticket price! So if you are planning to make any excursions in and around the area, look into this option (CHF 24.—; for Swiss-Card-holders CHF 12.—). See also ZurichCARD (on page 6)!

Cruise on Lake Zurich

Take a boat and enjoy a relaxing time on the beautiful Lake Zurich! The lake is almost 40 km long and measures nearly 90 km². The Lake Zurich fleet offers different cruises, also in winter. Even if you do not have much time in Zurich, you'll find the right trip: a $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour short roundtrip dep. daily at 1 and 2.30 pm from Bürkliplatz; this cruise costs CHF 8.20 or is even



free of charge for ZurichCard or Eurail holders (50% off for Interrail holders). The long roundtrip from Zurich to Rapperswil and back starts at 1.30 pm at Bürkliplatz and gets back at 5.15 pm; this cruise costs CHF 24.—; (or get off at Rapperswil and go back by train). Get your ticket on board. ""www.zsa.ch"

Guided tours/excursions: Best of Switzerland Tours is a Swiss company with multilingual professional guides, focusing all their efforts on showing you the best of the marvellous Swiss mountains, landscapes and places of interest (i.e. Mount Titlis or Mount Pilatus, the cities of Zurich or Lucerne. For information/booking ask at your hostel, at the tourist office or see www.bestofswitzerlandtours.ch

AREA OF ZURICH

Winterthur

Located just 20 minutes from Zurich, Winterthur combines the flair of a big city with the homely atmosphere of a small town.

The town has everything a bigger city can offer: cinemas, markets, parks, bars, discos and excellent museums, i.e. the **museum of photography** (Fotomuseum) at Grüzenstrasse 44 + 45. A critic has called it "the most beautiful museum of photography in Europe"! Open Tue—Sun 11 am—6 pm (Wed to 8 pm), closed on Monday; entry CHF 9.—, students CHF 7.—; bus no. 2 (direction Seen) until "Fotozentrum" or 15 minutes on foot from the main station.

Another museum that puts most of its visitors in awe is the **Swiss Science Center** (Technorama) at Technoramastrasse 1, which shows science and technology in an easily understandable way. Open Tue—Sun 10 am—5 pm (closed on Monday); entry CHF 24.—, students 20.—; take bus no. 5 (main station Gate F) until "Technorama".

The pedestrianized **old town** has some charm once you get off the main shopping streets and is worth a look. And if Victorian industrial architecture lights your fire, head southwest into the **Sulzer-Areal** district, where old industrial sites have been carefully revamped and now combine urban living and working, atmospheric theatre spaces, bars and skating arenas.

Unique in town is the CityStroll. Join and meet new friends, socialize in the pub and hear about the sixth biggest city of Switzerland while strolling through the streets. CityStroll takes place from 6 to 9 pm every first Thursday of the month and it's guided by two real Winterthurers. Costs CHF 29.— including 2 drinks and free gift. For more information check »citystroll.ch and/or do not hesitate to ask at the reception of the City Backpacker/Hotel Biber in Zurich.

Block and Tempodrom (Lagerplatz 17, just 300 m from the train station, open Mon–Sat 10 am – midnight; Sun 10 am – 8 pm) is

Europe's largest indoor sports park, with $3,000~\text{m}^2$ of rollerpark, beach volleyball courts, racing carts, a climbing wall and much more (sports equipment can be hired). It's good fun! Five minute-walk from Winterthur's main station (052 204 07 00).

The Bäumli is Winterhur's most popular vantage point. On the terrace above the hillside vineyards of the Goldenberg you can enjoy the fantastic view of the entire city and the Alps. Take bus number 10 (direction of Oberwinterthur railway station) to Bäumliweg bus stop, from here you'll reach the Bäumli via the city's longest steps measuring 425 metres.

How to get to Winterthur: From Zurich main station trains to Winterthur leave every 15 minutes (S-train no 12, 11, 8, or fast trains in the direction of St.Gallen and Frauenfeld).

Accommodation in Winterthur: Etap Hotel Winterthur, Brühlbergstrasse 7a (052 264 84 00) »www.etaphotel.com.

The Rhine falls

The largest waterfall in Europe is 150 meters wide and 23 meters high! There is a special visitor's platform which allows you to get as close as possible. This is a great natural spectacle that you should not miss! The nearby city of **Schaffhausen** is situated along the Rhein river and has a charming town center with many nice shops and restaurants. A highlight here is the fortress "Munot" built in the 16th century, from where you'll have a great view! This is Schaffhausen's trademark circular fortress (admission is free).

How to get there: From Zurich's main station take a train to Schaffhausen (direct train or via Winterthur). From there it's a 4 km riverwalk to the suburban town of Neuhausen, where the falls are located (takes about 45 minutes), or you could take the city bus no 1 or 6 from Schaffhausen to Neuhausen Zentrum, from where the well-signposted falls are just a five-minute walk away. As a holder of Eurail/Interrail or ZVV-9 o'clock Travelcard you travel free of charge until Winterthur; from there it costs CHF 22.40 (CHF 11.20 one way); direct train tickets (Zurich-Schaffhausen) cost CHF 37.20 (18.60 one way). » www. rhinefalls.com

Braunwald (1,256 m)

Staying in Zurich and want to spend a day or more in **a car-free winter sport resort** off the beaten track? Choose Braunwald. Read more about this beautiful destination on the next page.



practical information



How to get there:

There are hourly trains from Zurich main station via Ziegelbrücke to Linthal with direct transfer to the funicular up to Braunwald (the funicular railway is one of the steepest in the world). The ascent from Linthal to Braunwald is 607 metres, with the maximum incline 64%. Notice: Braunwald railways is free of charge with the Swiss Pass and the Swiss

As you emerge from the top station, you'll see map-boards of the village and its surroundings. To the right is the tourist office (055 653 65 65). @ Internet station at Adrenalin Backpackers.

www.braunwald.ch www.myswitzerland.com

budget accommodation

Adrenalin Backpackers Hostel (079 347 29 05), situated in the middle of the village centre, just 2 minutes from the mountain station of the funicular. »www.adrenalin.gl



Gondola-lift from Huettenberg to Grotzenbuel, 1561 m.



A day out tobogganing in Braunwald is a good day



raunwald (1,256 m) is a car-free vacation resort located in the southernmost region of the Glarnerland (easy to reach within just approx. 90 min from Zurich). It's located on a slightly sloped sun terrace, high above the Linth Valley at 1,256 meters. Braunwald is surrounded by a fantastic panorama of mountains, with the peak of Tödi a real eye-catcher. The beautiful panorama of the Glarner Alps is within clear view and appears just a step away. Braunwald is far from both traffic and a hectic lifestyle. This is a place to turn vour back on the crowds and head for the wilderness. Braunwald offers every essential ingredient for an eventful outing or an unforgettable holiday off the beaten track. So if you want to spend a day or more in a winter resort, this is a good choice.

highlights

With its perfectly prepared slopes featuring many different inclines, Braunwald is an increasingly popular destination for every type of snowboarder and skier. The snowpark at Grotzenbüel offers the best freestyle-conditions for skiers and boarders. Both hard-core racers and beginners can experience the best with their boards or skis. Rental of equipment is possible. Lifts are available including the unique combi cable car equipped with both 2-seater chairs and 4-seater gondolas, which take you to the highest point in Braunwald and the mountain restaurant Gumen. The group gondola lift takes you into the middle of the mountain region on Grotzenbuel.

Braunwald is a good choice for **non-skiers** as well. Go ice-skating (there's an ice rink at Hotel Bellevue), walk through crunchy snow or race down hills on toboggans

(there are two well-prepared sledging trails waiting for you to be raced upon). Or experience a new adventure - snow-tubing. If you prefer hiking in summer, you can also do so in winter; Braunwald offers guided snowshoe hiking at reasonable prices. Ask at the hostel or at the tourist office for details.

Night-time tobogganing is a highlight! This is usually possible every Friday between December 31st and March 11th (in Febuary also on Wednesdays; for the exact dates ask at the tourist office). Sleds can be rented. A night out tobogganing or skiing is great!

Car-free does not mean party-free. The Adrenalin Backpackers is not only a hostel, a restaurant and a bar, but also a party **place** where you're sure to get in contact with locals.

And if the weather is not good? No worries, the Adrenalin Backpackers offers video games, pool, darts, tabletop football, air-hockey, and Internet. And the friendly people from the tourist office will also help you with ideas and information.



Braunwald is a great destination for every type of skier and snowboarder ...



...as well as non-skier and non-boarder

www.adrenalin ■ backpackers hostel ■ bar ■ dorfbeiz braunwald +41 (0)79 347 29

braunwald is far from both traffic and a hectic lifestyle. this is a place to turn your back on the crowds and enjoy pure nature. interested?

10 LUCERNE

practical information



How to get there:

Lucerne is situated on the most important route running from north to south. Direct fast trains also link Lucerne to the international airports in Zurich (1 h 10 min), Basel (1 h 40 min) and Geneva (3h). The ① tourist office (041 227 17 17) is at Zentralstr. 5 next to the railway station 1 where you also find shopping, fast food, restaurants, hotel booking, lockers, bicycle rental, rest rooms, bookstores, foreign currency exchange, and the medical station "Permanence" (open 24 hrs). 2 Post office and Swisscom center next to the railway station; launderette, Jet Wasch, at Bruchstrasse 28 and "Altstadt-Express-Wäscherei" at Löwengraben 14; @ Internet station at Café Parterre, Mythenstr. 7; in downtown Lucerne everyone can access Wireless LAN, just connect with Luzern.WLAN and surf!



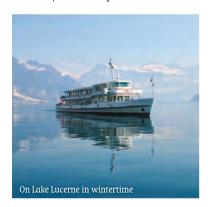
save money

The **LucerneCard** gives you unlimited travel on public transportation in the city, a 50% discount on admission to most of Lucerne's museums and more. Costs CHF 19.— (24 hours), CHF 27.— (48 hours), CHF 33.— (72 hours). The LucerneCard is available at the tourist office and at the railway station.

www.luzern.org www.centralswitzerland.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

3 Backpackers Lucerne, Alpenquai 42, (041 360 04 20) www.backpackerslucerne.ch; Lion Lodge Luzern, Zürichstrasse 57 (041 410 01 44) www.lionlodge.ch; Lucerne Youth Hostel, Sedelstr. 12 (041 420 88 00) (take bus no 18 from the train station and get off at the stop "Jugendherberge", takes 18 minutes) www.youthhostel.ch/luzern; Etap Hotel Luzern, Kellerstrasse 4–8 (041 367 80 00) www.etaphotel.com





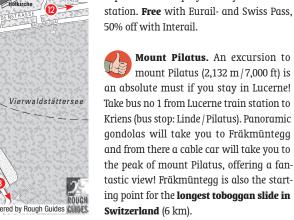
ucerne is unique, you'll love it! Centrally located, just an hour south of Zurich and Basel, it offers an incredible panorama. Lucerne lies at the western end of Lake Lucerne (Vierwaldstättersee) which is the geographical and spiritual heart of Switzerland. The city, as well, features the world-famous medieval Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke), connecting the old part of town to the new. The over 660-year-old woodencovered bridge partially burnt down in 1993 but has been restored to its original condition. You'll be charmed by Lucerne's misty lake, by the snow-capped mountains rising above, and the many possibilities for excursions you have from here.

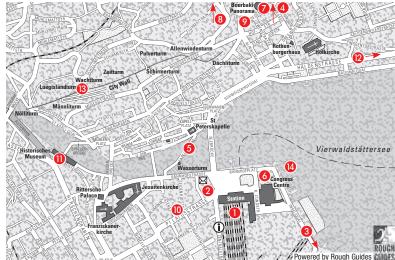
highlights

- **6 Chapel Bridge.** The world-famous 660-year-old bridge, which burnt down in August 1993 and was reconstructed six months later, true to the original. See the paintings of the Swiss and local city history inside the covered bridge.
- KKL (Culture and Convention Center Lucerne). The KKL (at Europaplatz, next to the station) is the work of the Parisian architect Jean Nouvel. It houses one of the finest concert halls in the world and the Museum of Art the fourth largest in Switzerland.
- ② Lion of Lucerne (Löwendenkmal). "The Dying Lion of Lucerne" figures among those monuments known all around the world. Globetrotter Mark Twain described the Lion of Lucerne as "the saddest and most moving piece of rock in the world". Denk-

- malstrasse (Bus no. 1 to Maihof, get off at Löwenplatz).
- **Glacier Gardens** (Gletschergarten). The real history of the Swiss glaciers; a place not to be missed. Next to the Lion of Lucerne. Daily 10 am 5 pm, admission CHF 12.–, students CHF 9.50, with guest card CHF 10.–.
- **① The Bourbaki Panorama,** an 1100-sq metre circular painting, is one of the world's few panorama paintings still in existence. The scene is brought to life with recorded commentary (in English). At Löwenplatz 11. Open Mon 1−5 pm, Tue−Sun 10 am−5 pm, admission CHF 8.−/students CHF 7.−.
- © Collection and Picasso Donation Rosengart. The most recent museum in Lucerne. It owes its importance to two unique groups of works by Paul Klee and Pablo Picasso. At Pilatusstrasse 10; open daily

- $11 \,\mathrm{am} 5 \,\mathrm{pm}$, admission CHF 18.–, students CHF 16.–.
- **1)** Museum of Nature (Natur-Museum) A permanent biological exhibition shows flora and fauna from Central Switzerland, with a variety of live animals in aquariums and terrariums. Kasernenplatz 6 (next to Spreuerbrücke), open Tue−Sun 10 am−5 pm, closed on Mondays, admission CHF 6.−/students CHF 5.−.
- The Swiss Transport Museum (Verkehrshaus) is the biggest and best museum in Lucerne! And Europe's largest and most diversified transport museum also includes a giant-screen IMAX cinema. Lidostrasse 5 is 2 km east of the center. You can take a boat or bus no 6, 8 or 24 from Lucerne station to the "Verkehrshaus-Lido" stop, or else it's a pleasant twenty-minute lakeside stroll. Open daily 10 am 5 pm, admission CHF 27.— (museum only); CHF 18.— (IMAX only); or buy a combi-ticket (museum and IMAX) for CHF 37.—.
- **® Musegg Wall.** A part of the rampart built in 1386; almost entirely intact. Three towers are open to the public: Schirmer, Zyt and Männli. The oldest city clock, built in 1535, is on the Zyt tower. This clock is privileged to chime every hour one minute before all the other city clocks.
- **©** A very good reason for coming to Lucerne at all is to explore the beautiful **Lake Lucerne** (also in winter). All boats depart from the quay directly outside the station. **Free** with Eurail- and Swiss Pass, 50% off with Interail.





Visit Switzerland's first and only glass labyrinth at the Glasi Hergiswil. A walk through this world of glass created by light, sound and the play of illusion is an impressive experience. The entrance fee is CHF 5.—; slippers and gloves for the walk are available at the cash register. How to get there: Hergiswil is only 10 minutes by train from Lucerne. At the Glasi Hergiswil you can also visit a great exhibition on art glass production with museum, shop and show, free of charge. Open Mon—Fri 9 am—6 pm, Sat 9 am—4 pm.

Excursion from Lucerne: Schwyz

Just 40 train-minutes from Lucerne lies Schwyz, a small but characterful town with plenty of history. Worth visiting is the **church of St. Martin**, with its ornate interior (on the terrace above the central Hauptplatz square). The **Rathaus**, sitting on the square itself, has a façade decorated with frescoes painted in 1891. And a little northwest lies **the Ital-Reding House**, an early seventeenth-century manor house set in its own garden and with a magnificent interior. Across the garden — and in

the same complex – is the ancient **Haus Bethlehem**, one of the **oldest wooden houses in the country** (dating back from

At the "Schaukäserei Schwyzerland" (at Milchstrasse 5, just a 2 minute walk from Schwyz train station) you can **produce your own Swiss cheese** or just **watch the cheese production!** (open Tue—Sat 9 am—5 pm, closed from Dec 23rd—Jan 10th; admission is free).

Opposite the Mythencenter shopping complex at Schmiedgasse 57 is Victorinox, the manufacturer of the **original Swiss Army Knife.** You can not visit the factory here, but in its on-site shop they sell the complete range of pocket multitools at **discount prices** (open $Mon-Fri\ 7.30\ am-noon\ \&\ 1.15-6\ pm$, Sat $8\ am-3\ pm$).

How to get to Schwyz: ½-hourly S-train (number 3) from Lucerne, takes 40 minutes. Tourist office at Bahnhofstrasse 4, (041 810 19 91).

Budget accommodation in Schwyz: Hirschen Backpackers Schwyz, same place as Hirschen Pub, Hinterdorfstr. 14 (041 811 12 76). »www.hirschen-schwyz.ch





7 hotels in Switzerland and 400 in Europe - www.etaphotel.com

events	
Nov 5th-14th	Lucerne Blues Festival (at different locations)
Nov 27th – Dec 22nd	Christmas market (inside railway station)
Nov 29th	Keith Emerson & Greg Lake at the KKL
	(tickets at www.ticketcorner.com)
Dec 2nd – 19th	Christmas market at Franziskanerplatz
Dec 8th	Göla & Bellamy Brothers at the KKL
	(tickets at www.ticketcorner.com)
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve party everywhere in the city
Dec 31st	Barstreet New Year's Eve party at Allmend
	(tickets at www.ticketcorner.com)
Jan 14th	Monserrat Caballé at the KKL (tickets at www.ticketcorner.com)
Mar 3rd-9th	Carnival of Lucerne – the most famous in Switzerland!
Mar 25th	Honky Tonk Festival. Live music in over 30 bars and cafés

entertainment, fun & parties

- Mr. Pickwick (Rathausquai 6) is a good place next to the famous Chapel Bridge.
- Parterre (Mythenstrasse 7) is an Internet-café, bar and restaurant.
- Bar 59 (Industriestrasse 5) is a place to "hang around underground" while drinking and partying.
- Jazzkantine zum Graben (Grabenstrasse 8) is a place where you can listen to live jazz and have a drink.
- Concert house "Schüür" (Tribschenstrasse 1) is a concert house but also has a bar and a nice garden. Call 041 368 10 30 for today's program. »www.schuur.ch
- Are you looking for a disco? Try The Loft (Haldenstrasse 14).
- "Salü Café Bar" (Waldstätterstrasse 5), with French ambience, is a good place to stay at.
- Jet Club (Pilatusstr. 29) at Hotel Astoria; dance club open every night! Hotel Astoria
 has a bar too, the "Penthouse", not cheap but with a beautiful view.

backpackers lucerne alpenquai 42 ch-6005 lucerne phone: ++41 (0) 41 360 04 20 > 42 for fax www.backpackerslucerne.ch

your hostel

takes a load off your shoulder

dorm (4 beds/bunk): 32 chf/25.4 € ppn double (2 beds/bunk): 36 chf/28.6 € ppn double (2 normal beds): 39 chf/30.9 € ppn

Victorinox is the world leader of pocket multitools and the largest employer in the Swiss Knife Valley. Who does not know these great pocket knives and multitools, this symbol for quality and multi-functionality? They are give aways of US presidents in the white house and successfully probed with expeditions from the north pole to Mount Everest. Victorinox accompanies people through life. And has for 125 years. Some say: "It's a friend not just a knife"!

VICTORINOX

Win a Victorinox multitool! (See competition on page 23)



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BERNESE OBERLAND - GRINDELWALD

practical information



How to get there:

Half-hourly connections from Interlaken East (Ost); takes only 34 minutes! Grindelwald has several railway stations: Grindelwald Village Station, Grindelwald Grund Station (start of the Jungfraubahn), and Kleine Scheidegg Station (on the way to Jungfraujoch). (i) Tourist office (033 854 12 12) at the sports center (opening hours, ask at your hostel or check »»www.grindelwald.travel @ Internet station at the sports center (Fun Factory 1st floor) and at the hostels (guests only).



save money

Ask for the **free visitor's card** which offers you many reductions!

www.grindelwald.ch www.berneroberland.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

Downtown Lodge, Dorfzentrum (033 828 77 30, closed Nov 1st-Dec 3rd) »www. downtown-lodge.ch; Grindelwald Youth Hostel, die Weid 12 Terrassenweg (033 853 10 09, closed Oct 25th - Dec 17th) >>> www. youthhostel.ch/grindelwald; Mountain Hostel, Grundstrasse 58 (033 854 38 38, closed Nov 1st - Dec 3rd) >>> www.mountainhostel.ch

TIP!

Treat yourself to an exhilarating ride on the First Flyer – thrills and great time quaranteed! Originated in the USA (where it is known as a Zip Rider) Grindelwald-First has **the only one of its** kind in the whole of Europe! Whizz down 800 metres at speeds of up to 84 km/h and a maximum height of 45 metres above ground. The First Flyer is open from Dec 11th 2010 until April 3rd 2011. A flight costs 25.-; there are combi-tickets available: i.e. up to First by cable-car, with the First Flyer down to Schreckfeld and from there back to Grindelwald, costs CHF 75.-.





rindelwald is called "the glacier village in the Bernese Oberland". In the heart of the wonderful world of mountains, the village is surrounded by impressive "four-thousanders" and forms the entrance to an intact landscape that promises not only recovery and relaxation but also adventure and entertainment. Grindelwald's mountains are exceptional! The highest point is the peak of Moench (4107 m above sea level), but the most famous one, of course, is the Eiger, with its impressive north face, a mountain which is monumental in mountaineering history! In winter Grindelwald belongs to the top resorts for winter sport. Its over 40 ski-lifts open up a total of over 200 km of ski slopes. Those not necessarily interested in skiing can walk through crunchy snow at sunny altitudes, race down hills on toboggans or Grindelwald Velogemels.

highlights

Grindelwald can offer some of the finest skiing and snowboarding in the Alps! There's a huge variety of very attractive slopes (for all levels), and you can rent all the equipment (just ask at your hostel). And for snowboarders there is also a superpipe, a halfpipe, and a snowpark, not to be missed!

Toboggganing is a special winter experience, and there are lots of tobogganing runs in the Grindelwald area (sledge rental at Grindelwald Bus or at the sports shops in the village). The longest run in the Alps is the 15 km-long run leading from Bussalp down to Grindelwald with a descent of 1,600 metres! Night-time tobogganing is a highlight! This is possible on Bussalp and also $\operatorname{Sulwald}-\operatorname{Isenfluh}.$ The Eiger Run on Alpiglen is flood-lit from Wednesday to Saturday. Also unique to the area is the «velogemel». You should try out this snow sport machine and see how much fun it

is! Every year velogemel world championships are held in Grindelwald.

But Grindelwald is also a top choice for non-skiers. There are plenty of winter hiking paths (over 100 km), snow shoe trails, and cross-country tracks. Or how about paragliding or snow tubing? Or do you prefer a romantic ride in a horse-drawn

And in case of bad weather, the Sports Centre offers a full range of alternative activities. There you'll find an indoor pool, sauna complex, solarium, fitness room, ice-skating, ice-hockey, a boulder room, Switzerland's first indoor rope park, game room, Internet café, a sports pub, the tourist office and more. The sports center is open daily.

For excursions to the Jungfraujoch and more about the beautiful Bernese Oberland see pages 14–16.

events

Dec 31st New Year's Eve parties every-

Jan 14th-16th International Lauberhorn World Cup Ski Race, Wengen. Jan 17th-22nd World Snow Festival.

International artists design figures and sculptures out of metre-high blocks of snow. Feb 6th Velomegel (snow-bike) worldchampionship.

Mar 1st-3rd Skicross World Cup. Mar 5th Horn sledge race.

entertainment, fun & parties

- Mescalero Mexican Pub and Disco (Hotel Spinne). The "in" place where you can dance until the early morning.
- Espresso-Bar (Hotel Spinne). This is a meeting point and party place for all ages. Tourists and locals meet at the bar.
- Plaza Disco (Hotel Sunstar). It's all about dancing until the early morning.
- American Bar & Restaurant (Hotel Alpenblick). Best burgers outside Texas! Pool-billiard, games, and a lot of sound.
- Gepsi-Bar (Hotel Eiger). A popular meeting point for locals too. Weekly live acts as well as special evenings.
- Plagier-Bar (Hotel Lauberhorn). Plagierbar means bluffers-bar, open Thu, Fri and Sat.
- **Sport Pub** (in the Sports Centre). The sports person's pub, with an 11-metre Blue Bar, food and drinks, big screen sports TV, music and darts, until late.



Grindelwald Youth Hostel offers:

5 or 6 overnight accommodation (dorm) including breakfast, dinner and ski pass for the winter sports region of kleine Scheidegg/Männlichen/First.

Adults from CHF 479.50; youth (16-19)from CHF 436.50.-; children/youth (6-15) from CHF 362.—. Valid Sun – Sat, Jan 9th - 29th 2011 and March 13th -April 3rd. Arrival on Sunday or on re-

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.- per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.-/ night). **Bookings** at Grindelwald Youth Hostel, +41 (0)33 853 10 09, grindelwald@youthhostel.ch

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14

BERNESE OBERLAND – INTERLAKEN

practical information



How to get there:

There are train connections from and to Zurich Airport (takes 2h 20 min) and all major Swiss cities (i.e. 53 min from Bern and 2 hours from Zurich).

Interlaken has two train stations (1) West and ② East [Ost]). West Station is near downtown; both provide foreign exchange, a hotel reservation board and travel information (mainly for the Jungfrau region), lockers, fast food. 3 Post office at Marktgasse 1; i Tourist office o at Höheweg 37 (033 826 53 00). Opposite West station you'll find a Migros supermarket with restaurant (Rugenparkstr. 1, second floor). @ Internet stations at all Backpackers and Hostels (in some, for guests only). Bahnhofstrasse/Höheweg is the main street. Launderettes at Wasch und Glettstübli Steiner, Spielmatte 10, Unterseen and at Self-Service Wash and Dry Schmocker, Beatenbergstrasse 5, Unterseen.



save money

Ask at your hostel for the **free visitor's card** which offers you many reductions!

www.interlaken.ch www.interlakenadventure.com www.berneroberland.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

3 Backpacker's Villa Sonnenhof, Alpenstrasse 16 (033 826 71 71) www.villa.ch;
3 Balmer's Herberge, Hauptstr. 23 (033 822 19 61) www.balmers.com;
4 Happy Inn Lodge, Rosenstr. 17 (033 822 32 25) www.happy-inn.com;
5 River Lodge, Brienzstr. 24 (033 822 44 24, closed Oct 10th—Mar 31st wwww.riverlodge.ch

TIP!

Interlaken is perfectly positioned as the gateway into one of the most beautiful regions of Switzerland. This is the number one resort for adventure and fun! No other part of Switzerland has more adventure in store than Interlaken, hence most of the Swiss adventure companies are based here. The beautiful Bernese Oberland offers tons of outdoor activities — on land, in the air and in or on water (you can book outdoor activities at each hostel!). Read more about it (and about the region's natural wonders in and around Interlaken) on page 16, and see ""



nterlaken is the heart of Switzerland's adventure activity scene, located in the center of the Bernese Oberland. The closeness of the mountains and the view of the three world-famous peaks Eiger, Moench and **Jungfrau (Top of Europe)**, equally add to the beauty of the area. Excursions to the highest railway station in Europe, the Junfraujoch (3,454 m/11,333 feet), and to one of the most exclusive view points in the alpine world, the **Schilt-horn peak**, can easily be made from here. Interlaken offers winter sport activities for skiers and snowboarders as well as non-skiers. You have the possibility to select a range of different areas. It's a winter sport paradise with over 200 km of prepared pistes, more than 100 km of winter walking paths and over 50 km of sledging trails. And Interlaken is the number one resort in Europe for **adventure and fun!** At each of the many backpacker hostels you can book outdoor activities. It is worth staying several nights here and enjoying the fabulous nature and some of the adventure possibilities!

highlights

Interlaken is perfectly positioned as the gateway into one of the most beautiful regions of Switzerland. This is the number one resort for **adventure and fun!** No other part of Switzerland has more adventure in store than Interlaken, hence most of the Swiss adventure companies are based here. Resorts like Grindelwald, Wengen and Mürren can offer some of the **finest skiing and snowboarding** in the Alps! But not only skiers and snowboarders have a great time on the snow. For **non-skiers** there are plenty of winter hiking paths, snow shoe trails and cross-country tracks

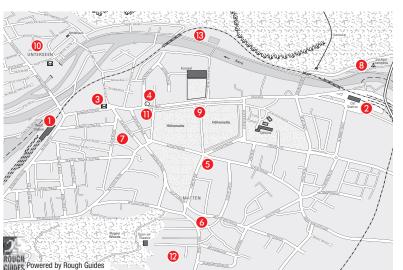
and the adventure companies offer tons of other outdoor activities in the beautiful Bernese Oberland. You can book your adventure right at the hostel's desk or at www.interlakenadventure.com

- Interlaken's main street is the long "Höheweg", with a train station at each end (Interlaken Ost and Interlaken West). And the centrepiece of the Höheweg is the Höhematte, where the vista opens up over the green meadow towards the mountains with the unique view of the Jungfrau.
- **① Unterseen,** adjoining Interlaken north of West station, is an atmospheric village.

It houses some of the area's oldest buildings, and the square in front of the Amtshaus (municipal building) off Untere Gasse is particularly picturesque. You reach Unterseen by strolling along the Aare river.

- ① See how chocolate is made and try your hand at becoming a chocolatier! The **chocolate show** is held daily at 5 and 6 pm at Grand Restaurant Schuh at Höheweg 56. Entrance fee CHF 14.80 (including chocolate youcher).
- 12 Ice-skating at "Eissportzentrum Bödeli", Tellweg 7, Matten (Tue closed).
- **13 Indoor swimming pool** at "Hallenbad Bödeli", Unterseen (open daily).

Do you love to visit flea markets? There's a huge **indoor flea market** (40 rooms on 3 floors) just 9 bus-minutes from Interlaken (half hourly bus from Interlaken Ost until Goldswil Parkhotel). Open $Mon-Fri\ 1.30-6$ pm, $Sat\ 11\ am-4$ pm, $Sun\ 1-5$ pm.





Backpackers Villa Sonnenhof offers: CHF 10.– OFF on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays!

Stay at Backpackers Villa Sonnenhof on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday and get CHF 10.— off the regular price. Offer applies: Oct 24th—Dec 14th 2010, Jan 9th—March 1st & March 13th—April 12th 2011.

Info & online booking at

BERNESE OBERLAND - INTERLAKEN

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events	
Nov 20th	Star Night on the Höhematte meadow (music stars from Switzer land and Austria, transmitted live by Swiss and Austrian TV channels), tickets at the tourist office or www.ticketcorner.com
Dec 3rd & 5th	Christmas market with numerous decorated stands and festive musical entertainment in the centre of Interlaken (and as well i the old town in Unterseen). Fri $4-9$ pm, Sat 10 am -9 pm, Sun 10 am -6 pm
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve party night; something is going on everywhere
Jan 1st	Touch the Mountains. New Year's Day, music, drinks and food along Höheweg (from 2 pm) and a spectacular fireworks display on the Höhematte (at 6 pm). The festive fun continues with an open-air rock concert on the open-air stage Höheweg. Rock 'n' roll into the New Year!
Jan 2nd	"Harder Poschtete". Masked youngsters dressed as earthy, awesome figures parade through the centre accompanied by cowbell ringing clubs and music bands. Parade starts at 2 pm. Musical entertainment in various restaurants in the afternoon and in the evening
Jan 14th–16th	International Lauberhorn World Cup Ski Race, Wengen

feedback-

HELP US UPDATE!

Things change – schedules change, good places go bad, and nice places get "discovered". If you feel we have got it wrong or left something out, please let us know!

YOUR OPINION?...

Did you discover something special in Switzerland? Did you have any interesting experiences? What do you like about Switzerland? What do you like about the Swiss Backpacker News? Write to us! We genuinely value your feedback!

Everyone who writes to us will take part in the competition (see page 23)!

Write an email to

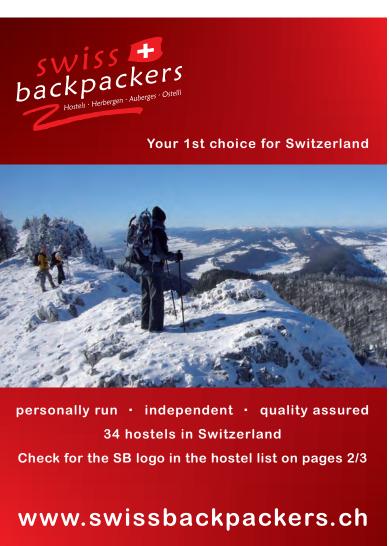
info@backpacker.ch or write to:

Swiss Backpacker News, Am Bach 7, 5502 Hunzenschwil / Switzerland



entertainment, fun & parties

- Brasserie 17, at Happy Inn Lodge (Rosenstr. 17), is the best party place in town for
 young people from all over the world! Live music blues, rock, reggea, funk & soul,
 every Thursday night from 9 pm. Free entrance! The Brasserie is also famous for
 its spareribs, chicken wings, baked potatoes and five different beers on tap.
- Balmer's Metro, at Balmer's Herberge. Check out this different beat! Bar, nightclub, disco.
- The Hüsi Pub, at Postgasse 3 (pedestrian area), is an English-style pub with darts, pinball and many other games.
- **RiversidE Bar**, Marktgasse 59. They serve the famous Rugen beer and the best Caipirinjas in town, and have chess, backgammon and lots more.
- For disco nights check out The Caverne (at the Mattenhof resort, Hauptstrasse 36 in Matten – bus no 5 from Interlaken West), or in Black & White at the Metropole Hotel (Höheweg 37), or Johnny's Club at the Carlton Hotel (Höheweg 92).
- In Buddy's Pub, at Hotel Splendid (Höheweg 33), you'll find a large selection of beer (has an internet station, too).
- Positiv einfach, Centralstr. 11. Small, cozy bar. Very popular among young people.
- Hooters, Höheweg 57. Where the famous Hooters girls (girls in orange hot pants) serve American cuisine, American and European breakfast and lunch specials.
- Jamming Corner (Bahnhofstrasse 1, Unterseen). For those who like Jamaican specialities.
- **Helvetia Bar**, at Bahnhofstrasse 6 in Unterseen, has snooker, pool tables, and darts. Latest re-opening, totally refurbished, light, airy and under new experienced management. Enjoy!



16 BERNESE OBERLAND – SOME HIGHLIGHTS



The beautiful Bernese Oberland is an ideal destination for backpackers, adventurers and sport freaks. Some of the best scenery in the whole of Switzerland can be found in the Jungfrau region. The many spectacular spots will be sure to get even the most stubborn "couch potato" out into the fresh air!

www.berneroberland.ch www.myjungfrau.ch

some highlights

• Jungfraujoch – Top of Europe (3.454 m/11.333 ft)

The trip to Jungfraujoch (UNESCO World Natural Heritage) by railway is an unforgettable experience! Jungfraujoch is the highest railway station in Europe! From Kleine Scheidegg (2,061 m at the foot of the notorious Eiger North Wall) the Jungfrau Railway climbs up to several stations with a five minute stop at each where you can enjoy spectacular sightseeing through large observation windows hewn from solid Alpine rock; and then the arrival on the Jungfraujoch, in the heart of a glorious glacier world on the very roof of Europe! There are lots of attractions on the Jungfraujoch, i.e. the ice palace, the Sphinx vantage terrace, and more. Don't miss this tour, it's wonderful!

How to get to the Jungfraujoch: there are two routes to the top, either from Grindel-wald or from Lauterbrunnen via Wengen (or go up one way and down the other!). Both train routes terminate at Kleine Scheidegg, where you must change for the final pull at Jungfraujoch.

An adult round-trip fare costs CHF 165.80 from Lauterbrunnen, CHF 166.— from Grindelwald, or CHF 186.20 from Interlaken Ost. But there are **cheaper fares**: if you hold one of the "Swiss Passes" you get free travel from Interlaken to Grindelwald or Wengen (via Lauterbrunnen), a 25% discount on the connecting ticket to Kleine Scheidegg and from there up to Jungfraujoch (for more about the "Swiss Passes" see **page 5)!** »www.jungfrau.ch

- ② All about **Interlaken**, the number one resort for adventure and fun, see pages 14–15.
- 3 For **Grindelwald**, the glacier village in the Bernese Oberland, see page 13.

4 Lauterbrunnen (796 m / 2,648 ft)

The valley that runs directly south from Interlaken leads first to Lauterbrunnen. Lauterbrunnen lies in an impressive glaciated valley between gigantic rock walls and summits. The Lauterbrunnen Valley comprises one of the largest nature-protected areas in Switzerland. And it's where amazing mountain railways begin their climb through some of Europe's most stunning scenery (Jungfraujoch – Top of Europe and the Schilthorn). The friendly Lauterbrunnen village is a suitable base for a number of excursions and the valley floor



itself is good for cross-country skiing. >>>www.mylauterbrunnen.com

How to get to Lauterbrunnen: there are direct trains from Interlaken Ost (takes 20 min).

① Lauterbrunnen tourist information right opposite the train station, 033 856 85 68. **Budget Accommodation:** Valley Hostel, Fuhren, 033 855 20 08, www.valleyhostel.ch

5 Gimmelwald (1,367 m/4,169 ft)

Tiny, car-free Gimmelwald nestles on a sunny terrace at an altitude of 1,367 m in the heart of the winter sports of the stunning Schilthorn region. The small farming hamlet of 140 inhabitants is perfectly viable to enjoy the ski runs around Mürren but keeps you away from the crowds. It's cheaper to stay here than in Mürren, and you still get the normal Jungfrau Guest Card. ""www.mygimmelwald.ch

How to get to Gimmelwald: from Interlaken Ost, take the train to Lauterbrunnen and change to the bus for Stechelberg. In Stechelberg take the cable car via Mürren up to Gimmelwald (approx. 1 hour total). ① Gimmelwald does not have official tourist information (but ask at the Mountain Hostel; they do have lots of information! Official tourist information is in Mürren (in the same building as the Alpine Sports Center) 033 856 86 86.

Accommodation: Mountain Hostel Gimmelwald, Niedere Matte, 033 855 17 04 (closed Nov 20th—Apr 1st 2011), www. mountainhostel.com

6 Schilthorn (2,970 m / 9,744 ft)

The Schilthorn summit offers the **best view** of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau and on more than 200 other summits! The view

from the exposed terrace on the top is dramatic! You can enjoy the exceptional views and sip cocktails in the **revolving Piz Gloria summit restaurant**, featured in the James Bond film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". Piz Gloria turns around its axis in 50 minutes, allowing a breathtaking view! **How to get to the Schilthorn:** take a bus from Lauterbrunnen to Stechelberg (16 min). From Stechelberg the cable-car brings you via Gimmelwald and Mürren to the Schilthorn (takes 32 minutes); operates during the whole year except for revision of the cable-car from November 8th until December 11th.

A return ticket from Stechelberg costs CHF 94.80. There are **cheaper fares:** if you hold one of the "Swiss Passes" you get free travel from Stechelberg to Mürren and a 50% discount on the connecting ticket from Mürren to the Schilthorn (for more about the "Swiss Passes" see **page 5)!** wwww.schilthorn.ch

Adventure sports

There is pure adventure in the Bernese Oberland Interlakenadventure com network offers extra cool combinations of adventure activities and overnight stays in one of their hostels, winter and summer. Skiing and snowboarding are the major activities in the winter months. But the region is a major centre for adventure sports with many more activities on offer, such as free-riding, snowshoe trekking, sledding/tobogganing, heliskiing, boarding, even frozen waterfall ice climbing and much more. Experienced guides will lead you safely and guarantee you lots of fun. Check out »»www.interlakenadventure. com or ask at your hostel.



INTERLAKEN HOSTELS & ADVENTURE | WWW.INTERLAKEN-ADVENTURE.COM



www.villa.ch

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www.balmers.ch

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Hauptstrasse 23, CH-3800 Matten-Interlaken ph +41 (0)33 822 19 61, mail@balmers.ch

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www.lazyfalken.ch

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The low budget Hostel Falken ist just 3 minutes away from Interlaken West station. Wifi, one docking station, laundry facilities and all you can eat breakfast is included in the price. Good-priced restaurant.



www.funny-farm.ch

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Hauptstrasse 36, CH-3800 Matten-Interlaken ph +41 (0)33 8 281 281, james@funny-farm.ch

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WWW.INTERLAKEN-ADVENTURE.COM

BOOK ONLINE NOW!



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18 BERN

practical information



How to get there:

Bern has excellent train connections from numerous European cities, incl. high-speed train links from Paris (France), from Hamburg / Frankfurt (Germany) and from Rome / Milan (Italy). And there are departures at least hourly to most destinations within Switzerland (it takes 56 min to Zurich, 51 min to Basel, 1h 41 min to Geneva i.e.).

The main train station 1 is centrally situated and provides the 1 tourist office (031 328 12 12), pharmacy, currency exchange, lockers, rest room/shower, fast food, restaurants, shopping, bike rental, supermarkets, and taxis (031 371 11 11). Another tourist office 3 is next to Bärenpark (bear park) — they present a multimedia show about the history of Bern (in different languages, every 20 minutes — the show costs CHF 3.— or CHF 1.— for students or if you hold a Swiss Pass). @ Internet at Kramgasse 47 (Weblane) and at your hostel (for guests only).

www.berninfo.com www.cityhunter.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

Bern Backpackers/Hotel Glocke, Rathausgasse 75 (031 311 37 71) »www.bernbackpackers.ch;
Hotel Landhaus, Altenbergstr. 6 (031 348 03 05) »www.albertfrida.ch;
Berne Youth Hostel, Weihergasse 4 (031 326 11 11) »www.youthhostel.ch/bern;
Etap Hotel Bern Expo, Am Guisanplatz 4 (031 335 12 12) »www.etaphotel.com





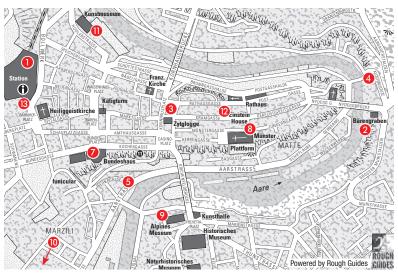
ern is perhaps the most immediately charming city in all of Switzerland. The country's political and diplomatic capital has been listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage**. For all its political status, it is a tiny city and the attraction of the place rests in its ambience. You could spend days just café-hopping and wandering the streets with its arcades and street fountains. Einstein developed his special theory of relativity here and it was from here that the famous Emmental cheese was first sent on its way to conquer the world.

highlights

© Free bikes. Bikes to borrow free of charge! Pick up at Milchgässli (next to Bahnhofplatz). Open daily 7.30 am—9.30 pm, deposit required: passport or ID card plus CHF 20.—.

3 Bear Park (Bärenpark). The bear is Bern's heraldic animal. The Bear Park houses 4 brown bears. Open daily, entry is free of charge. Bus 12 to station Bärengraben.

• House of Parliament (Bundeshaus). Seat of Swiss government and parliament. **Free guided tours** (duration 45 min), Mon—Sat at 9, 10, 11am and at 2, 3 and 4 pm, plus Thursdays 5, 6 and 7 pm (no tours during parliamentary sessions; then access to the public galleries only). Passport or ID card required! Check-in at the latest 25 minutes before the start of the tour (security entrance, east side of Parliament Building)! In view of the large number of visitors it is advisable to sign up the day before (031 322 85 22).



• Münster-Cathedral from 1421. A prime example of Swiss late Gothic architecture. Highest spire in Switzerland: 344 steps above the entrance, 100 meters high, from where you can enjoy an excellent view! Mon-Fri 10 am-noon and 2-4 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11.30 am-4 pm, (latest entry to climb the spire is 30 min before closing time). Free admission to the cathedral, entry to the spire costs CHF 4.—.

3 Swiss Alpine Museum. History of the Swiss Alps. Special exhibits, multimedia show, audio-visual information in 4 languages. Mon 2–5.30 pm, Tue—Sun 10 am—5.30 pm. Admission CHF 10.—, students CHF 7.—. Helvetiaplatz 4, cross the bridge at Casinoplatz.

Discrete Zoological Gardens Dählhölzli. Attractive woodland setting. A unique selection of European and exotic fauna. Open daily 9 am – 5 pm, CHF 10.–, students CHF 8.–. Take bus 19 to Tierpark.

1) Museum of Fine Arts (Kunstmuseum). One of the most distinguished collections in Switzerland: Italian, Swiss and French art, i.e. Picasso, Kandinsky, Matisse. Hodlerstrasse 12. Tue 10 am − 9 pm, Wed − Sun 10 am − 5 pm, closed on Mon. Admission CHF 7.—, students CHF 5.—.

⊕ Einstein House at Kramgasse 49 is the apartment where Einstein lived from 1903 to 1905. It's now a small museum featuring pictures which provide an insight into Einstein's years in Bern. Open daily 10 am −5 pm (closed from Dec 24th 09 until Jan 31st 11); admission CHF 6.—, students CHF 4.50. The Historical Museum at Helvetiaplatz 5 presents a permanent exhibition under the name "Einstein Museum"; open Tue − Sun 10 am −5 pm; Admission CHF 18.—, students CHF 13.—).

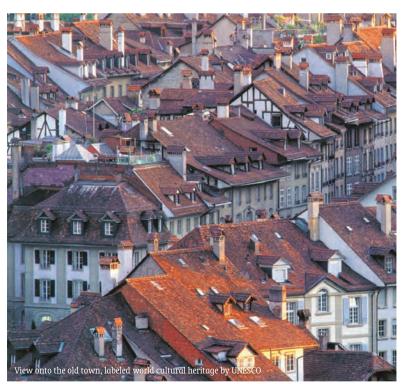
The **Zentrum Paul Klee** is much more than a traditional fine arts museum. Approx. 4,000 paintings, watercolors, drawings, puppets, sketches and other works of Paul Klee's are on display. Take bus no 12 from the railway station until "Paul Klee Zentrum". Tue—Sun 10 am—5 pm, Mon closed. Admission CHF 18.—.

Mt. Gurten. Popular day trip destination! Panorama of the city and the Alps. Reached in 25 min by tram no. 9 to Wabern. Get off at Gurtenbahn.

And when it rains? Bern's six kilometers of **arcades**, with shops, restaurants and cafés, are weather-proof. Window-shopping is fun! Or visit the **Hammam & Spa** at Weihergasse 3 (next to the youth hostel) and enjoy the spirit of oriental bathing. Open daily (Tue, women only!), CHF 42.—Or spend the day at **Westside**, the recently opened Westside leisure and shopping complex offers a wide range of shopping varieties and the **Bernaqua Adventure Pool & Spa with fitness** (a superb oasis of relaxation and well-being).

entertainment, fun & parties

- Landhaus (Altenbergstrasse 4-6, next to Bärengraben) has a beautiful restaurant and serves good food!
- **Restaurant Lötschberg** (Zeughausgasse 16) is a cute, modern place to be at, chat the night away, try some tasty, reasonably priced Swiss food, meet locals, taste local wine and listen to local DJs! »»www.loetschberg-aoc.ch
- Reitschule, a former riding school at Neubrückstrasse 8 (031 306 69 69) near the main station, is the place for alternative culture: bar, small restaurant, disco, concerts, parties and art.
- Bierhübeli, bar/brasserie/concerts at Neubrückstrasse 43 (031 301 92 92). Check daily press for latest concerts. »www.bierhuebeli.ch
- Gaskessel, Sandrainstrasse 25 (031 372 49 00), has concerts, live music and discos. »»www.gaskessel.ch
- Dampfzentrale, Marzilistrasse 47 (031 311 63 37). Electro, jazz, funk and soul, art exhibitions and dance performances. »www.dampfzentrale.ch
- Shakira, Maulbeerstrasse 3, is a dance hall with a variety of Latino rhythms.
- Wasserwerk, Wasserwerkgasse 5 (031 312 12 31), is a famous nightspot in Bern. Concerts, dance, bars, disco, after hours and a lot more fun. »www.wasserwerkclub.ch
- Comeback-Bar (Rathausgasse 42) is a disco for gays, and Samurai (Aarbergergasse 35) is a hip place for gays, lesbians & heteros to party the night away.
- Bar Aux Petits Fours, at Kramgasse 67, is a small gay bar.
- The bar **Les Amis** (Rathausgasse 63) is a famous spot to prepare for your night out. Downstairs is the cosy concert location Wohnzimmer.
- Kairo (Dammweg 43) and Lorraine Brasserie (Quartiergasse 17) are cozy, laid back restaurants and concert locations where young and freaky people of Bern meet.
- O'Bolles (Bollwerk 35) is a nice restaurant and café to hang out at and chat the night
- Markthalle (Bubenbergplatz 9) The old market hall offers food and drinks from all over the alobe.
- Check out the Kornhauscafé and the Kornhauskeller, with its medieval ambience, at Kornhausplatz 18.
- Art'café/Eclipse (Gurtengasse 6). Hits, party music, disco and bar.
- Propeller-Bar (Aarbergergasse 30) is another disco and bar.
- Turnhalle/PROGR (at Speichergasse 4), one of Bern's hip places to be.
- Club Bonsoir (Aarbergergasse 33-35) Recently opened club hosting international DJs, musicians and artists »»www.bonsoir.ch
- Liquid Club (Genfergasse 10) This modern and elegant location stands for urban clubbing on 4 floors. »www.liquid-bern.ch
- ISC Club (Neubrückstrasse 10) International Student Club of the University of Bern. International DJs and party time every weekend »»www.isc-club.ch



events Nov 10th The Bolschoi Don Kosaken in the French church "Zibelemärit", Bern's most famous traditional onion market in the Nov 22nd old town. This great winter market starts in the early morning! Nov 27th Flames of The Dance (Irish dance) at Theater National Nov 28th - Dec 29th Christmas market at Münsterplatz Nov 28th - Dec 29th Christmas market at Waisenhausplatz Dec 22nd The Harlem Gospel Singers at Bern Kursaal Dec 31st New Year's Eve party everywhere in the city! Mar 10th-12th Carnival. Concerts and much more in the old town Mar 18th The long night of the museums. Cultural happenings (art, lectures, special exhibitions, theatre and culinary surprises), museums open until two in the morning ***



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VISIT BERN... UNESCO world heritage sight

- 6 kilometers of arcades with cafes and shops let you explore
- daily Christmas market in December
- interesting bars, clubs, culture centers and cellar theatres • Einstein house, Paul Klee museum, Münster cathedral,
- .and explore Switzerland from here! Easy day trips to Interlaken,



Jungfrau top of Europe, Lucerne, Zürich, Basel, Geneva...



20 GENEVA

practical information



How to get there:

From the international airport Geneva "Cointrin", the city is reached within 6 minutes. There is direct-train service every 10–15 min from the early morning until late night. Geneva has good connections to all major cities in Switzerland (33 min to Lausanne; 1 h 41 min to Bern; 2 h 40 min to Zurich and Basel).

1 At the railway station (Cornavin) you'll find public phones, Internet, shopping, fast food, travel agency, pharmacy, bike rental, rest rooms/showers; Migros supermarket just opposite the main station. 3 Post office at Rue de Mont-Blanc 18. ① Tourist office at Rue de Mont-Blanc 18 (022 909 70 70), currency exchange at Rue Mont Blanc 21. Along place Mont Blanc you'll find many souvenir shops and fast-food restaurants; "Bookworm" English bookshop as well as second-hand books bought and sold at rue Sismondi 5. @ Internet at Open Vidéo, Rue des Alpes 19, Charly's Multimedia Check Point, rue de Fribourg 7 and at hostels (guests only). Bus terminal at Place Dorcière.



save money

All visitors staying at a hotel/hostel/campground in Geneva can benefit from the Geneva Transport Card, with no additional cost, (enabling you to use the entire public transportation network without restriction (bus, train and boat), with validity for the entire duration of your stay including the departure day!

www.geneva-tourism.ch www.ville-ge.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

③ City Hostel Geneva, Rue Ferrier 2 (022 901 15 00) >>> www.cityhostel.ch; ⑤ Youth Hostel Geneva, Rue Rothschild 30 (022 732 62 60) >>>> www.genevahostel.ch; ⑥ Home St-Pierre, Cour St-Pierre 5 (022 310 37 07) >>>> www.homestpierre.ch; Etap Hotel Genève, 26 Av. Louis Casai (022 710 46 36) >>>> www.etaphotel.com; Etap Hotel Genève Petit-Lancy, Ch. des Olliquettes 6 (022 709 02 20) >>> www.etaphotel.com



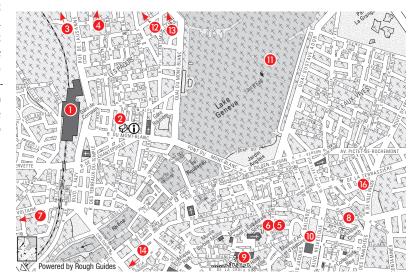
eneva is truly an international city that belongs not so much to Switzerland as to the whole world! Dozens of international organisations are based here, two of which are the United Nations' European headquarters and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It's a progressive crossroads of people and civilizations, enjoying a privileged situation in the heart of Europe. No wonder, then, that this central position has made Geneva a cosmopolitan city where organisations, firms, businesses and banks from all over the world rub shoulders. Geneva stretches along both banks of Lake Geneva in a magnificent harbor.

highlights

- **②** Saint Peter's Cathedral. The central point of Geneva's old town. One-hundred-and-fifty-seven steps lead to the summit of the cathedral's north tower and to a fabulous panorama overlooking the city and the lake. Underneath the cathedral there is one of Europe's largest subterranean archeological sites. Open Mon−Sat 10 am − 5.30 pm, Sun noon − 5.30 pm, entrance to the towers CHF 4.—.
- ② Institute and Museum Voltaire, rue des Délices 25. The life and work of Voltaire in the 18th century. Located in the mansion owned by the philosopher from 1755 − 1765.

- **Free entrance,** open Mon-Sat 2-5 pm, Sun closed.
- **1** Russian Church. A jewel of Byzantine art, with an interior richly decorated with icons. Rue Rodolphe-Toepffer 3. Open for visitors only sporadically, but it's even worth seeing from outside.
- **②** Espace Jean-Jacques Rousseau, with Public and University Library at Grand-Rue 40. One part of this museum recalls the Reformation Movement and its leaders in Geneva. The second part is dedicated to the city's most famous son, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Open daily (except Mon)

- $11\,am-5.30\,pm$. Entrance CHF $5.-/\,students$ CHF 3.-.
- ⚠ Museum of Art & History. Rue Charles-Galland 2. This is one of the most important museums. The collection comprises paintings, sculptures, weapons, room interiors and archeology. Open Tue—Sun (closed on Monday) 10 am—6 pm. Entrance free (paying entrance for temporary exhibitions: CHF 5.—, free admission to permanent collections and temporary exhibitions every first Sunday of the month).
- Water Fountain (Jet d'eau). The famous Geneva fountain is known around the world as a symbol of Geneva (Quai Gustav-Ador). The fountain shoots 500 liters (132 gallons) of water per second, as high as 450 feet in the air. A good place from which to take a picture of Geneva (the fountain is not activated in case of strong winds, when the temperature is lower than 2 degrees, and for 3 weeks of maintenance in November).
- and for 3 weeks of maintenance in November). (1) International Red Cross and Red Crescent museum Geneva. Geneva is the birthplace of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. Close to the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC), on 17 Avenue de la Paix, there is a very impressive museum. Its collection entreats its visitors to weigh their own contribution to mankind's efforts to relieve suffering; to keep alive the flame of hope and take to heart the maxim: "Each of us is responsible to others for everything". In 1999, a new area was opened presenting the movement's contemporary activities. Allow around 2 hours to see this museum. There's a nice restaurant inside, along with a museumshop and multimedia area (Café Dunant). Open daily (except Tuesday) 10 am -5 pm, admission CHF 10.-. »www.micr.org How to get there: From Cornavin railway station take bus no. 8, F, Z or V and get off when you see the Red Cross flag (opposite the visitors' entrance of the United Nations
- 1 The United Nations Geneva. The United Nations Office Geneva (UNOG) is the largest and most active centre for conference diplomacy in the world and the site of many historic negotiations. It is also the second largest United Nations office after the New York headquarters. The UN office in Geneva is based at the Palais des Nations, which was built in 1936 as the headquarters for the League of Nations. The United Nations offer tours on which you can familiarise yourself with the only truly universal organisation ever formed. One-hour guided tours trace the history of the United Nations, covering current activities and future projects. Tours Mon - Fri 10 am - noon and 2-4 pm, admission CHF 10.-/students CHF 8.-.
- **How to get there:** Buses 5, 11, 14 to Place des Nations; or V, Z to Ariana; or 8, 18, F to Appia. (It is not possible to enter the United Nations building by the main entrance in



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place des Nations. **The visitors' entrance** is at Pregny Gate 14, av. de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross headquarters).

10 Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, MAMCO (Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, MAMCO), 10 rue des Vieux Grenadiers. This extraordinary museum was built in an old factory. Opened in 1994, it is a prestigious museum which exposes on its surface of $4,000\,\text{m}^2$ a vast collection of European and American art covering the last four decades. 1000 works of art are owned by the museum, 300 are permanently on display. In addition, three times a year temporary exhibitions are organised. Open Tue-Fri from noon to 6 pm (every first Wed of the month till 9 pm), Sat & Sun 11 am - 6 pm, closed on Monday. Admission CHF 8.–, students 6.–. Free admission every first Sunday of the month! »»www.



How to get there: Buses no 1, 4, 44 stop at école de Médecine, trams 12 and 16 stop at Rond-Point de Plainpalais, or tram 13 stops at Cirque.

Self-guided walking tour. The tourist office (at Rue du Mont-Blanc 18) proposes you to stroll through 2,000 years of Geneva's history independently and at your own pace. The tour includes 25 points of interest and lasts approximately two and a half hours. You may buy the audio guide MP3 style, which costs CHF 15.— and is available in English, French and German language.

TIP!

The City Hostel is also an issuing office for **Swiss train passes** i.e. the Swiss Pass/Swiss Youth Pass. The passes are valid on the legendary scenic routes and also good on the public transportation systems of 37 Swiss cities (for details about the Swiss train passes see **page 5**).

If you speak Italian, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Arabic you can hire a discman, which costs CHF 10.— plus a deposit of CHF 50.—, to be refunded when returning the player. Both the audio guide MP3 style and discman are available at the tourist office on Mon $10\,\mathrm{am}-6\,\mathrm{pm}$; Tue—Sun $9\,\mathrm{am}-6\,\mathrm{pm}$.



Cruises on Lake Geneva. Take a boat and enjoy a relaxing time on Lake Geneva. Geneva's boat companies do a wide range of cruises, some of them also in winter. The cruises start from Quai du Mont-Blanc and/or Jardin Anglais.

Mont Salève. The Salève (which peaks at 1,380 meters), located in nearby France, offers a unique view of Geneva, the lake, the Alps and Mont Blanc, and in winter it's a kingdom for cross-country skiers. Bear in mind that Salève is across the French border, so if you need a visa (either to get into France or to get back to Switzerland), you should give it a miss! Bus no 8 brings you to Veyrier, from where it's a short walk to the Salève cable-car (operates on weekends only!). There's a panoramic restaurant on top. You can do the trip to the summit and back in a couple of easy hours.

Winter sports. As a winter sports enthusiast you should note that Geneva is situated near the best skiing areas of the Alps. In 1 or 2 hours, famous Swiss mountain resorts like Gstaad, Crans-Montana, Zermatt (the village of the Matterhorn), or the French towns of Chamonix and Val d'Isère, can easily be reached from here.

At Promenade de l'Europe 11 you'll find a synthetic **ice-skating rink** (outdoor). Open daily from Nov – Mar, entrance is free of charge, skate hire is possible (costs CHF 5.–).

For more about the **Lake Geneva Region** (i.e. Lausanne, Vevey and Montreux) see pages 24–28.

events	
Nov 10th	Katie Melua at the Arena*
Nov 25th – Dec 24th	Christmas Market. Stands selling Christmas decorations, crafts
	and gift ideas (city centre)
Nov 26th – Jan 2nd	Trees & Lights Festival. Some hundred trees in the city centre are
	decorated by artists
Nov 29th	Shakira at the Arena*
Dec 4th	The "Escalade" run. Popular foot-race for all ages, professional or
	amateurs, including a humourous category (old town)
Dec 4th–Jan 9th	Christmas Circus at Place Colonel Audéoud
Dec 10th	Lord of the Dance at the Arena*
Dec 10th-12th	The "Escalade" celebrations. Historical parade in 17th century
	costumes
Dec 19th	Coupe de Noel. Annual Christmas swimming competition in the
	lake's icy waters (at Jardin Anglais)
Dec 19th	Elton John & Ray Cooper at the Arena*
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve, something is going on everywhere
Jan 14th–29th	Massive sale of army stock and camping materials at Palexpo
Feb 18th	Michel Sardou at the Arena*
Mar 3rd-13th	81st International Motor Show at Palexpo

* For reservations call Ticket Corner 0848 800 800. »www.ticketcorner.com

entertainment, fun & parties

For listings of cinemas / theaters / concerts, get a free copy of "Genèva by night" and /or "Geneva at hand".

In Geneva almost every corner has its café. **Place du Bourgh-de-Four** (in the old town), for instance, is lined with busy terrace cafés offering coffees, aperitif and snacks to fuel hours of reading and people-watching.

- Quartier des Pâquis (between the main station and the lake) is, for many, "the" place for a good night out: restaurants/pubs/bars and a lot of fun.
- Bains des Pâquis, about 5 minutes from the fountain. A good place to listen to live music and to stroll through food stalls.
- Mr. Pickwick (at rue de Lausanne 80) is, of course, a real English pub. Cheers...!
- Mulligans Irish Pub (at rue de Grenus 14) is a place to enjoy a Guinness in Irish ambience.
- Les Brasseurs at Place de Cornavin 20 (just across the train station) offers a cosy and friendly atmosphere, home-made beers and culinary specialities.
- E'Usine, at place des Volontaires 4, is an alternative multicultural center that offers a rich programme of concerts, theatre, dance, film projects, as well as several bars and more.
- Post Café, at rue de Berne 7, is a friendly and congenial place.
- Auberge de Savièse (rue des Pâquis 20), Edelweiss (Pâquis) and Hôtel de Ville (Grand Rue 39 in the old town) are good for fondue!
- Palais Mascotte (Rue de Berne 43) has a restaurant, a bar and a disco (all in the same building).
- Discothèque-Cabaret Garçonnière, at Rue de la Rôtisserie, is a gay club with daily shows (open until 5 am).
- \bullet **Tcherga Bar** at Rue de la Navigation 40 (open Wed Sun), has live music.
- Au Chat Noir, at Rue Vautier 13, is a legendary bar and concert hall located in Carouge. They regularly invite jazz bands, solo artists, rock and world music groups.

For more suggestions ask at your hostel

"



22 GENEVA

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2 LAKE GENEVA REGION – LAUSANNE

practical information



How to get there:

Lausanne has good connections to all major cities in Switzerland and almost hourly direct trains to France (Paris, 3h 50 min), Italy (Milan, 3h 50 min) and Germany (approx. 5 hours).

1 At the train station you'll find the **1 tourist office** (021 613 73 73); lockers, bicycle rental, currency exchange, rest rooms, fast food, small shops and a post office. Lausanne is beautiful but very hilly, so be prepared for some steep walks when discovering Lausanne on foot! The center is a few steps up from the main station at place St.François. ② Ouchy, the port of Lausanne, is a beautiful place. There is another i) tourist office at Avenue de Rhodanie 2. @ Internet at Quanta virtual fun space, pl. de la Gare 4; Espace St-François, pl. St. François 12; Coin-web.com inside the train station, and at the hostels (for guests). Wireless Internet access is available at Flon, Palud, Riponne, St-François, Montbenon, Navigation, Port.



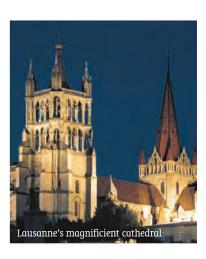
save money

The Lausanne Transport Card gives you free and unrestricted access to all public transport services in the city (bus, train, metro). You'll get this card at your hostel. It is valid for the duration of the reservation, including the arrival and departure days!

www.lausanne-tourisme.ch www.lake-geneva-region.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

3 Lausanne-guesthouse & backpacker, Epinettes 4 (021 601 80 00) »www.lausanneguesthouse.ch; 4 Lausanne Youth Hostel "Jeunotel", Chemin de Bois-de-Vaux 36 (021 626 02 22) >>> www.youthhostel.ch/lausanne





ausanne resides on the hillside between Lake Geneva below and the woods above, surrounded by meadowland and vineyards, facing the Alps. Lausanne was officially named the Olympic Capital in June 1994, a unique and prestigious title awarded by the International Olympic Committee, headquartered in Lausanne since 1915. Popular with students, Lausanne features numerous private schools and one of the country's largest university campuses, comprising the Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) and the University of Lausanne. Lausanne has more to offer young people than most Swiss cities: nightlife, bars, bistros, discos... many museums and collections stage more than 50 exhibitions a year, from dinosaurs to contemporary art.

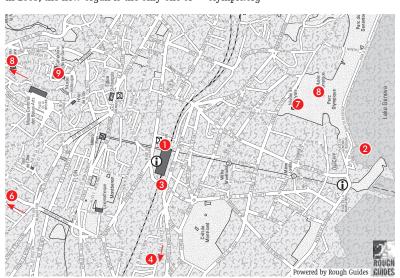
highlights

Via the 160 covered steps of the Escaliers du Marché (or by other routes) you reach the old town. The peaceful, historic atmosphere of the old town is an invitation to linger. L'hôtel de ville and place du Palud are nice places to take pictures of.

And you should not miss seeing Lausanne's magnificent cathedral 1 from the 12th century, with its four towers and 105 stained-glass windows. Inaugurated in 2003, the new organ is the only one of

its kind in the world by virtue of its design and its dimensions (nearly 7,000 pipes); concerts are held there regularly.

6 Olympic Museum on quai d'Ouchy 1, which hosts a great exhibition about the Olympic movement up to today. This symbol of the union of sports and culture is a universe filled with history and emotion. Open Tue-Sun 9am-6pm. Admission CHF 15.-, students CHF 10.-. »www. olympic.org



- 1 Collection de l'Art Brut at av. des Bergières 11, a special exhibition, which vou shouldn't miss. Open Tue-Sun 11 am-6 pm. Admission CHF 10.-, students CHF 5.-. Free entry every first Sat of the month!
- Musée de l'Elysée at Avenue de l'Elysée 18, an impressive photo collection. Open Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm (Mon closed). Admission CHF 8.-, students CHF 4.-. Free entry every first Sat of the month!
- 1 Fondation de l'Hermitage at Route du Signal 2 is housed in a beautiful 19thcentury residence and is devoted to holding temporary exhibitions on the fine arts. It's surrounded by a magnificent park! Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, Thu until 9pm, (Mon closed). Admission CHF 18.-, students

The one-time fishing village of **Ouchy** ② is now a prime territory for waterfront strolling and café-lounging. From this picturesque harbour the stately boats of the CGN will take you to Geneva, Vevey, Montreux, Evian (in France) and to the Chillon Castle (or vice versa). So you can easily take a boat instead of a train and enjoy a relaxing time on this beautiful lake!

Check out Lausanne's Skatepark HS 36 at av. de Sévelin 36. 1,700 m2 of indoor wooden facilities: half pipe, mini ramps, bowl (400 m²), street course, climbing wall. Open from Tuesday to Sunday. Equipment rental possible. For more information check out »»www.fievre.ch. From the train station take the metro to "Flon", from "Flon" take the metro (M1) and get off at the first stop (Vigie).

There's much more to be explored in the beautiful Lake Geneva region (read more about it on the following pages).

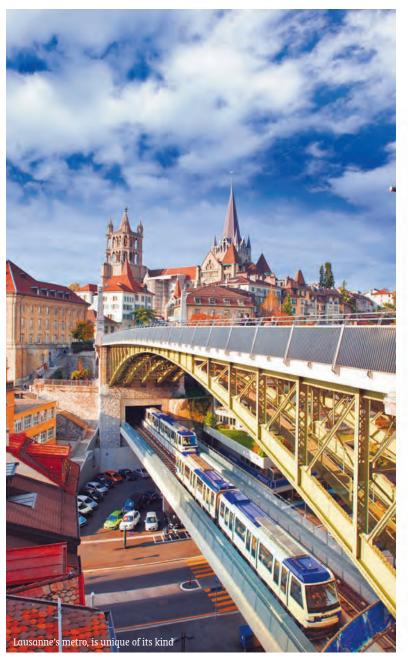
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LAKE GENEVA REGION – LAUSANNE 25



entertainment, fun & parties

- MAD (Rue de Genève 23) is a huge disco. Various styles from rock to rave.
- Atelier Volant (Côtes de Montbenon 12), enjoy the Latino vibes there.
- Movida (Place Chauderon 5), Latino style as well.
- **D! Club** (Rue du Grand-Pont 4), for electronic music and jam sessions.
- Loft Club (place Bel Air 1), techno sound for young people.
- Buzz (Rue Enning 1), all-style music, warm and electric atmosphere.
- Amnésia (E.-Jaques-Dalcroze at Port de Vidy), biq disco au bord du lac, various styles.
- A La Bossette (place du Nord 4), nice, almost underground smoky café.
- Hôtel de Ville (place de la Palud 10), lovely, small bijou, organic food.
- Château (place du Tunnel 1), homemade beer, late nights...
- Bleu Lézard (Rue Enning 10), different styles of music, open until late. Sundays brunch.
- Captain Cook (Rue Enning 2) is an English Pub.
- Le Bourg (Rue de Bourg 51) concerts, one-man-show, projections... This café-theatre invites you to come and have a drink and discover the evening's entertainment.
- Charlie's Place (Rue St. Pierre 3) bar brasserie "chic & cosy", exquisite, seasonal and traditional dishes, remarkable wines and cocktails.
- Les Brasseurs (rue Centrale 4), a beautiful micro-brewery in a décor of wood paneling and copper, dedicated to beer. Brewery specialities.
- Café Luna (Place de l'Europe 7), relax in its different atmosphere amid a setting combining designer chic and cosy ambience.



events

Nov 11th-13th	Metropop Festival at Salle Métropol (Place Bel-Air 1).
	Concerts, live acts and DJs will make you dance all night long
Nov 20th-28th	Salon Antique at Beaulieu
Nov 26th – Dec 24th	Christmas market at St. François Square
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve party night, something is going on everywhere

Staying in Lausanne and want to spend a day or more in a winter resort nearby – choose the Villars-Gryon region!

orama overlooking the Rhone Valley, facing the Dents du Midi and the Muverans mountain chain, Villars-Gryon (at an altitude of 1,300 to 3,000 metres) offers you an inspiring view of the Alps. Whether you are a skier or a snow**boarder**, here you will find everything you need to meet your most demanding requirements. Over 200 kilometres of marked ski trails await you and as a lover of **cross-country** you'll find over 40 kilometres of cross-country ski trails backpacker signs). »www.gryon.com

Situated in the heart of a majestic panhere. And as a **non-skier** you can enjoy snowshoe trekking on invigorating trails, joyous sledge rides or even share in the excitement of dog sled races.

How to get there: Hourly train from Lausanne to Bex (takes 36 minutes). And from Bex to Gryon it takes 27 minutes.

Budget accommodation in Gryon:

Chalet Martin, Rue du Villars (079 724 63 74). Chalet Martin is just a 5 minute walk from the Gryon station (follow the road uphill from the station and look for the



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26 LAKE GENEVA REGION – VEVEY & MONTREUX

practical information



How to get there.

Vevey and Montreux both have a main train station: from/to Lausanne (13 min), from/to Geneva (1 h), from/to Interlaken (change in Zweisimmen) with the famous mountain train "MOB Golden Pass" - free for Eurail/Interrail-holders: a great journey which will take you across a beautiful landscape!

You can easily move between Vevey and Montreux either by bus (15 min) or by train (5 min). Both train stations have lockers, rest rooms, bike rentals, a bank and small shops. The post offices are both near the train stations. The tourist information offices have all the major information you'll need: in Vevey, Grand-Place 29 (0848 86 84 84), and in Montreux, Place de l'Eurovision (0848 86 84 84). @ Internet café in Montreux Digital Planet at Avenue du Casino 49; in Vevey Internet station open to everybody at Riviera Lodge, Place du marché 5.



save money

If you stay at least one night in a hotel/ hostel in Vevey/Montreux you'll get the "Riviera Card", which entitles you to travel **free of charge** on the Vevey / Montreux bus network plus a 50% reduction on the castle of Chillon, the local mountain trains and funiculars, and museums. A great offer!

www.montreux-vevey.com www.lake-geneva-region.ch www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

Vevey: Riviera Lodge, Place du Marché 5, (021 923 80 40) (300 m from the train station on the lake side in a charming renovated 19th century town house) »»www.rivieralodge.ch Montreux: For accommodation in Montreux ask at the tourist office.

Taste a unique chocolate fondue at the Riviera Lodge, Vevey. An original recipe with melted chocolate and fresh fruit to dip in (fondue with fresh fruits CHF 13.- per person, minimum 2 people). "I can resist everything except temptation", Oscar Wilde said once...



evey and Montreux are the main resorts of the so-called Swiss Riviera. The name describes the stretch of Lake Geneva roughly between Lausanne and Villeneuve and is one of the sunniest places in the country! Many writers, musicians and artists such as Charles Chaplin, Freddy Mercury (their statues are located on the lake shore), Igor Stravinsky, Ernest Hemingway, Lord Byron and many others chose this place for the beauty of the landscape. The two charming resorts of Vevey and Montreux work closely together. Vevey has a cosy historical downtown, esplanades, a shopping mall and many nice cafés, which offer the traveller a warm feeling. Montreux, 5 km from Vevey, is more touristically oriented, but the promenade on the lakeside, with the nearby Castle of Chillon, is a must!

highlights

Vevey

The old streets east of Grand Place and the lakeside promenade are worth exploring. Vevey also has a 15th century church (St. Martin's, up the hill behind the station) and several museums:

Swiss Camera Museum, Ruelle des Anciens-Fossés 6. This museum shows you the history of photography, from the camera obscura to numerical images. The history of photography, its inventors and its techniques, is recounted by an amazing collection of cameras, dating from the very invention of photography to the present day, and enhanced with audio-visual and interactive presentations. Open daily except Monday 11 am - 5.30 pm. Admission CHF 8.-, students CHF 6.-.

The Alimentarium at Quai Perdonnet is a museum of food. Internationally renowned, it takes a scientific and ethnological look at the food of the past and the present. Open daily except Monday 10 am - 6 pm. Admission CHF 12.-, students CHF 8.-.

The Swiss Museum of Games (Musée Suisse du Jeu), Rue du Château 11, La Tour-de Peilz. The colourful port village of La Tour-de Peilz is situated between the lake and the old town, just about 1 km east of Vevey and dominated by its white château. In this romantic setting, the Swiss Museum of Games invites you to actively discover games from around the world and throughout the ages. Have fun! Open daily except Monday, from $11 \, am - 5.30 \, pm$. Admission CHF 9.-, students CHF 6.-.

Vevev Historical Museum. Rue du Château 2. This museum (founded in 1897) is housed in a beautiful 16th century building dating

from the Bernese occupation. Its collections of objects, paintings and documents bring the region's past back to life. Open Tue – Sat $11 \, \text{am} - 5 \, \text{pm}$. Admission is free of charge. Sir Charles Chaplin, The immortal screen comedian, spent the last 25 years of his life at the Manoir de Ban above Vevey. Chaplin, his wife and children, moved to Vevey in 1953. The whole family quickly settled in to their adopted town and became part of the local life. Sir Charles and his wife Lady Oona are buried in the Corsier s/Vevey cemetery. His memorial statue can be seen on the Vevey lakeshore.

Montreux-Vevey has always been a favorite place for artists - not only Charlie Chaplin, but also Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, Le Corbusier, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Henri Nestlé, Barbara Hendricks, Victor Hugo, Dostoïevski etc... Follow their trail through the vineyards or along the lakeside and discover a part of their lives (at Riviera Lodge you get free flyers with maps and stories about these artists!).



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events

From mid-November until February there's an ice skating rink on the lakeside (just in front of the Riviera Lodge in Vevey. Enjoy winter along the lakeshore!

Nov 9th	St. Martins' Fair in Vevey (at Grande-Place).
Nov 25th – Dec 24th	The Christmas market (along the lake and the Grand-Rue
NOV 25111-Dec 24111	, 5
	in Montreux) is widely acclaimed as one of the most attractive
	Christmas markets in Switzerland! Attractions include more
	than 100 richly decorated stands resembling small chalets and
	overflowing with gifts. Drinking a hot wine and tasting local
	food is a must!
	This year Russia is the guest of Montreux Christmas. So the
	discovery of typical Russian crafts, cuisine and culture awaits
	you in the chalets. Various types of entertainment are planned.
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve. A huge spectacle with fireworks, music and
	dancing in Vevey.
Jan 22nd – 30th	International Hot-Air Balloon Festival in Château-d'Oex (for
	details about Château-d'Oex see next page). The picture of nearly
	100 colourful hot-air balloons against the snow-capped Alpine
	peaks is unforgettable.
	For more events ask at the tourist office!

Montreux

Chillon Castle at Montreux - one of Switzerland's most beautiful sites! This extraordinary fort was built on a rock set in a lovely scenic location on the shore of the lake. Chillon is an exceptional combination of castle and fortress. There are magnificent collections of antique furniture, pewter and weapons. The towers and ramparts offer a wonderful view of the lake and mountains. Cruise on Lake Geneva on a steamboat and discover the Chillon Castle you've perhaps seen on pictures many times but never in reality. The castle, called "Château de Chillon", was made legendary by the poem "The Prisoner of Chillon", written by Lord Byron in 1816. Open daily Nov-Feb $10 \, am - 4 \, pm$, in March-Oct $9.30\,am-5\,pm$. Admission CHF 12.-, students CHF 10.-; (50% discount

with the "Riviera Card", see practical information above). »»www.chillon.ch

Freddie Mercury and the group Queen loved their frequent stays in the peace

and scenic splendour of the Vaud Riviera, where they composed and recorded some of the biggest hits in their repertoire. A stroll along the shores of Lake Geneva will bring you to Freddie Mercury's statue.

Go for a walk from the centre of Montreux as far as the Chillon Castle along shores (approx. 45 minutes), an easy standard, completely flat, enabling you to fully savour the spectacular view that opens up before you. Behind the Chillon Castle you can see the famous massif of the Dents du Midi. Take bus no 1 to come back.

activities

Vevey and Montreux are the capitals of the Lavaux winegrowing region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lavaux vineyard terraces stretch for about 30 km along the south-facing northern shores of Lake Geneva from the Chillon castle to the eastern outskirts of Lausanne. The steep, narrow stone-walled terraces cover the lower slopes of the mountain-side between the villages and the lake's edge; above are forests and pasture and across the lake, the high peaks of the Alps. Easy to reach with the wine train or funicular. Wine tasting in the "caveau" (wine cellar) of Riviera Lodge has begun to spread its reputation. Or visit one of the many wine cellars and taste one or two of their specialties.

A very good reason for coming to Vevey or Montreux is to explore the beautiful Lake Geneva by boat - also in winter! You can board a ship to visit the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, or the exceptional Chillon Castle, or go shopping in Evian (France); bear in mind that Evian is across the French border, so if you need a visa (either to get into France or to get back to Switzerland), you should give it a miss!

In the Vevey/Montreux region you can make the most of winter by going on snowshoe hikes, downhill skiing, snowboarding or cross-country skiing. And why not by rushing down a sledge-run?

You can book various ski packages and other winter specials. Just ask at the local tourist office and at Riveria Lodge or check out their website »»www.riviera lodge.ch, they offer great winter specials at reasonable prices!

entertainment, fun & parties

- Rocking Chair (Av. de gilamont 60) has concerts and a dance floor.
- For a Latino & salsa night, go to the cocktail bar called **Indigo** (rue de la Madeleine 29).
- Le Bout du Monde (Rue D'Italie 24) is where the locals meet. Good choice of beer, live music.
- Le Cep d'Or (Place du Marché) has a terrace for people-watching...

Montreux

- Paradise Pub (Grand Rue 58) has billiards, games and more.
- Live music and DJs at NED (rue du Marché 19).
- Mayfair Café is a music and lounge bar (Grand Rue 52).
- White Horse is a nice pub (Grand Rue 28).
- Opus café (rue du Marché 23), a café and restaurant.
- Le Casino Barrière of Montreux (rue du Théâtre 9) rolls out the red carpet to welcome you (free introduction to games, live music every Fri & Sat).

-feedback-

 $\textbf{HELP US UPDATE!} \ \text{Things change} - \text{schedules change, good places go bad, and}$ nice places get "discovered". If you feel we have got it wrong or left something out, please let us know!

YOUR OPINION?... Did you discover something special in Switzerland? Did you have any interesting experiences? What do you like about Switzerland? What do you like about the Swiss Backpacker News? Write to us! We genuinely value your feedback!

Everyone who writes to us will take part in the competition (see page 23)!

Write an email to info@backpacker.ch or write to: Swiss Backpacker News, Am Bach 7, 5502 Hunzenschwil / Switzerland



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🙉 LAKE GENEVA REGION – VEVEY & MONTREUX



From Montreux the famous mountain train "MOB Golden Pass" (free of charge for Eurail, InterRail, or Swiss-Pass holders!), one of



Château-d'Oex Youth Hostel offers:

6 overnight accommodation (dorm) incl. breakfast, dinner and 5-day ski pass "Topcard" for 250 km of ski pistes. Adults CHF 569.-; youth (under 19) 476.–; youth (under 16) 421.–; children 144.—. This offer is valid from Dec 17th

Notice: Prices above are incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.– per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.—/night).

Bookings at Château-d'Oex Youth Hostel (026 924 64 04),

chateau.d.oex@youthhostel.ch

2009-Mar 28th 2011.

the showcase journeys of Swiss railways, climbs northwest through the hills into Canton Bern. On this spectacular route between Montreux and Zweisimmern (in the Bernese Oberland) you can stop, for example, in Château-d'Oex and Saanen-Gstaad.

Château-d'Oex is an attractive winter resort with a nice selection of ski runs. The La Braye ski region of Château d'Oex has seven ski lifts and 40 km of pistes. And for the speedier thrills, there's also a direct connection (by cableway) to the ski area of Gstaad-Saanenland.

But the place is best known for all its hot air. When the Swiss Bertrand Piccard and the Briton Brian Jones made their recordbreaking 45,000 km round-the-world balloon flight in 1999, the takeoff point and centre of the whole operation was Château-d'Oex. Every January (in 2011 from Jan 22nd-30th), the town hosts this arguably most-beautiful sports event in the Swiss calendar, the annual Hot-Air Ballooning Week, when nearly 100 colourful giants catch the thermals to float peaceably over the hills and valleys round about. >>>www.myswitzerland.com

How to get to Château-d'Oex: Hourly train from Montreux (takes 1 hour).

Tourist offices: La Place (026 9224 25 25).

Budget accommodation: Château-d'Oex Youth Hostel, Route des Monnaires 67, (026 924 64 04, closed Oct 18th-Dec 17th) »»www.youthhostel.ch/chateau.d.oex

Saanen-Gstaad

The Gstaad-Saanenland holiday region in the Bernese Oberland is popular with a charming mix of visitors. While the carfree chalet village of Gstaad attracts countless stars and starlets, the smaller neighbouring villages (i.e. Saanen) offer attractive options a little further away from the hustle, but still close to the action. In winter, over 250 km of pistes at altitudes of up to 3,000 metres above sea level await skiers and snowboard riders. Several snowparks and numerous toboggan runs as well as 80 km of trails for cross-country skiing are at your disposal. And for walkers there are about 120 km of winter walking trails. Among the rather more unusal activities on offer, there is Bavarian curling in the centre of Gstaad and glacier- and heli-

How to get to Saanen: Hourly trains from Montreux (takes 1 hour 15 minutes). Trains between Château-d'Oex and Saanen take only 16 minutes.

Tourist offices: Promenade 41 in Gstaad (033 748 81 81).

Budget accommodation: Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel in Saanen, Chalet Rüblihorn, Spitzhornweg 25, (033 744 13 43, closed Oct 15th - Dec 17th) >>> www.youthhostel.ch/



Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel offers:

5 overnight accommodations (dorm) incl. breakfast, dinner and 4-day ski pass. Adults from CHF 464.—; youth (16 – 19) 394.–; youth (10–15) CHF 355.50; special rate for children on request. This offer is valid from Nov 1st – Dec 17th 2010 and Mar 6th - Apr 30th 2011.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.—/night). **Bookings** at Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel (033 744 13 43), saanen@youthhostel.ch

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he **Valais** (Wallis in German) is Switzerland's third-largest canton. It is a region of 4,000-metre peaks – first of all the world famous majestic **Matterhorn** – the twelve largest **glaciers** (fully twenty percent of the canton is covered by glaciers!) and a multitude of alpine passes. The canton's uncountable vineyard owners produce some of the finest wine in the country! And in every village you'll find a traditional Valaisian-style restaurant, serving up the traditional Swiss speciality raclette (melted slices of cheese with boiled potatoes and mixed pickles).

some highlights

Zermatt (1,620 m/5,320 feet), situated just in front of the majestic Matterhorn (4,478m / 14,463ft), is one of the world's most famous mountain resorts. The idyllic village in the heart of the Alps has become one of Switzerland's most renowned mountain resorts. There are no petrol-driven cars allowed in Zermatt! Horse-drawn carriages, as well as electric cars, are the only means of trans-



For **skiers and snowboarders**, Zermatt has everything to offer from the simplest to the most challenging slopes, each sector accessed by its own transport route. There are also various sled runs and as a nonskier you'll find more than 30 km of scenic trails for relaxing walks. Ask for a map at the tourist office!

Zermatt has many spectacular mountain railways. The cog-wheel railway to Gornergrat (3,130 m/10,134 ft!) is a particular highlight. It's the highest cog railway in Europe and one of the most popular in the country. Along the way you're rewarded with magical views (sit on the right-hand side) and from the top you will enjoy an exciting view of Monte Rosa! The **Klein Matterhorn,** at 3,820 m / 12,338 ft, is the highest station you can go. The highest cable station in Europe provides access to the highest skiing on the Continent!

In Zermatt itself you should not miss visiting the oldest part of the village, with houses and barns which are 200-250years old, the original main street about 1 metre wide, etc. And visit the Matterhorn Museum (at Bahnhofplatz 57). The museum tells the exciting story of the Matterhorn – from its origins in Africa and the terribly dramatic first ascent to the present day. CHF 10.-, students 5.-. Notice: November until mid-December the museum is closed.

How to get to Zermatt: take the mountain train Visp-Zermatt (hourly connections); it takes 65 minutes and is a scenic trip! There are hourly train connections to Visp from Bern (55 min), from Lausanne (1 h 32 min), from Zurich (2h) and from Geneva (2h

The Tourist office is next to the train station (027 966 81 00), »www.zermatt.ch

Budget accommodation: Zermatt Youth Hostel, Staldenweg 5 (027 967 23 20) >>> www. youthhostel.ch/zermatt; Matterhorn Hostel, Schluhmattstrasse 32 (027 968 19 19) »»www.matterhornhostel.com

For other highlights in the Valais (i.e. Saas-Fee, Verbier, Crans-Montana, Sion) check out »»www.myswitzerland.com and ask at the local tourist offices for budget accommodation. "



Zermatt Youth Hostel offers:

3 overnight accommodations (dorm) incl. halfboard CHF 143.30; 5 nights CHF 235.50. Ski pass for 3 days from CHF 196.-, for 5 days from CHF 309.-. Upgrade (dorm to double) possible (3 nights 75.-, 5 nights 125.-). Valid: Nov 1st – Dec 17th 2010, Jan 9th – 28th 2011 and Mar 13th-8th Apr, Sunday - Friday.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.—/night). Bookings at Zermatt Youth Hostel, 027 967 23 20, zermatt@youthhostel.ch

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30 GRISON



rison (Graubünden in German) is one of Switzerland's biggest cantons and hosts many famous resorts, including the Flims-Laax-Falera, St. Moritz, Davos, Klosters, Scuol and many more. Grison attracts skiers and snowboarders to some of the most comprehensive ski resorts of the Alps. All villages and holiday destinations described below are reached by train or postbus from Chur (capital of Grison and only 1 hour by train from Zurich).

some highlights

Chur is the capital of Grison and only 1 hour and 15 train minutes from Zurich (there are 2 direct trains per hour). All villages and holiday destinations described below are reached by train or post bus from Chur.

Flims, Laax, Falera (Surselva)

The linked sports resorts of Flims-Laax-Falera are within easy reach of Chur (just 18 km west on a hillside above the Rhine river). Over the last few winters, this huge winter-sports area, the largest in Grison, with access from all three villages, has become a **mecca for snowboarders**. A total of 29 lift facilities and over 200 kilometers of slopes, located at altitudes between

1,100 and 3,018 meters above sea level, are at your disposal. Snowboarders and free-skiers go crazy over the halfpipes, the railpark and the kicker lines in Laax! No other winter resort in Europe has started so early to provide the progressive riders with the playgrounds they need. Three monster pipes and two serious rail and kicker parks are well maintained all season long. Besides the park and pipe you'll discover plenty of avalanche-safe free-ride areas. Broad and very well groomed runs are connected to modern fast lifts and cable cars! By the way, all cable car stations have a New Technology Center (NTC) where you can rent any equipment! For more information see »»www.laax.com

How to get to Flims / Laax: Hourly public buses to Flims / Laax from Chur (approx. 40 min).

Tourist offices: in Laax at Via Principale 91 (081 920 81 81), in Flims at Via Nova 62 (081 920 92 00).

Budget accommodation:

Laax: Backpacker Deluxe Hotel Capricorn, Via Cons 405 (081 921 21 20) »www.capri lounge.ch (get off at Laax-Marcau which is only 100 meters from the hostel; watch out, Laax has 5 differently named bus stops. Ask the driver...)

Arosa

Arosa is a relaxing resort at 1,800 m southeast of Chur. Arosa occupies the broad sunny bowl of Schanfigg. The area is frequently sunny and, due to the northerly location, there is always plenty of snow. Arosa has over 60 km of skiing for mixed abilities. The highest skiing point is the Weisshorn at 2,652m. In addition to crosscountry skiing, Arosa also features several ice skating rinks (natural and artificial) and tobogganing. Or how about tandem

paragliding? The choice is yours. "www. arosa.ch

How to get to Arosa: There are hourly trains from Chur (takes 1 hour).

Tourist office: at Poststrasse (081 378 70 20). **Budget accommodation:** Backpackers Downtown, Seewaldstrasse (081 377 13 97, closed Nov 1st – Dec 4th) »www.downtownarosa.ch

Lenzerheide/Valbella

The two linked resorts of Lenzerheide and Valbella (just 30 minutes from Chur) are the ideal places for some chill-out time or the challenge of sport. The two sides of the valley present a snow paradise with 155 kilometres of prepared pistes at snow-guaranteed altitudes of 1,230 to 2,865 metres above sea level. 40 modern ski lifts are available to transport you quickly to varied descents and to sunny panorama terraces and cosy alpine chalets. The departure point is directly before your doorstep. "">www.lenzerheide.com

How to get to Valbella: Hourly buses from Chur (takes 33 minutes). Bus between





Valbella and Lenzerheide takes only 4 min-

Tourist offices: at Voa principala 16 in Valbella (081 384 17 55).

Budget accommodation: Valbella Youth Hostel, Voa Sartons 41, (081 384 12 08, closed Oct 18th - Dec 14th) >>> www.youthhostel. ch/valbella



Valbella Youth Hostel offers:

During the whole winter Valbella Youth Hostel offers: Overnight accommodation (dorm) incl. breakfast, dinner, ski pass and ski bus (shuttle service). 2 nights (incl. 2-day ski pass) from CHF 175.40; 5 nights (incl. 5-day ski pass) from CHF 418.50.

Special 2:

Winter start special that includes overnight accommodation (dorm), breakfast, dinner and ski pass. 2 nights CHF 125.40; 3 nights CHF 185.10; 4 nights CHF 238.80; 5 nights CHF 293.50. This offer is valid from Dec 4th-16th 2009 only.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.- per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.-/night).

Bookings at Valbella Youth Hostel (081 384 12 08), valbella@youthhostel.ch

Davos

Davos, located in the heart of the Alps at an altitude of 1.560 m. is famous for its toothpaste-fresh air and the World Economic Forum (held in the last week of January each year). Davos is a 4km-long strip beside a train line and a river. It comprises two contiguous areas, each with a train



station: Davos Platz and Davos Dorf. Surrounded on all sides by idyllic countryside and breathtaking mountain scenery is Davos, Europe's highest town. The area offers over 300 km of ski runs. The Weissfluh ski area goes as high as 2,844 m, and from there you can ski all the way to Küblis, over 2,000 m lower and 12 km away. Across the valley, Brämabüel and Jakobshorn offer equally good skiing for all abilities. »www.davos.ch

How to get to Davos: from Chur it takes approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ h. There are hourly trains and you have to change in Landquart. Or if you're coming from Klosters it takes 26 minutes (hourly trains).

Tourist office: at Talstrasse 41 in Dayos-Platz and at Bahnhofstrasse 8 in Davos-Dorf (081 415 21 21) >>> www.davos.ch

Budget accommodation: Davos Youthpalace, Horlaubenstrasse 27, Davos-Dorf (081 410 19 20) (with the local bus from Davos Dorf as far as the Schiabach stop). >>>www.youthhostel.ch/davos

WINTER SPECIAL

Davos Youthpalace offers:

Midweek-Special: (Mon-Fri) including breakfast, dinner and 5 day ski pass for the Davos-Klosters ski region.

Dorm with shower and toilet: Adults from CHF 473.-; youth (14-17) from 411.50.-; children (12-13) from 348.50; children (6-12) from 272.50.



Double room with shower, toilet, tv and **balcony:** Adults from 645.-; youth (14-17)from 583.50.

Valid: Nov 29th – Dec 17th 2010, Mar 28th – Apr 22nd 2011.

This offer is also available during high season (Jan 2nd-21st and Feb 28th-Mar27th), but then it costs a little more (approx. CHF 30.-).

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.- per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.-/night).

Bookings at Davos Youthpalace (081 410 19 20), davos@youthhostel.ch

Klosters

Britain's Royals love this ski resort because of its charm. There are 315 km of ski runs in the Davos / Klosters region and the same ski passes are available in Klosters as in Davos. The village also boasts swimming pools and a sports centre with an artificial ice rink. Fifty kilometers of cross-country skiing trails run east from the village. >>>www.klosters.ch

How to get to Klosters: from Chur it takes approx. 1 hour. There are hourly trains and you have to change in Landquart. Or if you're coming from Davos, it takes 26 minutes (hourly trains).

Tourist office: at Alte Bahnhofstrasse 6 (081 410 20 20) >>> www.davosklosters.ch

Budget accommodation: Klosters Youth Hostel, "Soldanella" Talstrasse 73, (081 422 13 16, closed Oct 18th-Dec 17th), (a 10-minute walk from Klosters station). >>>www.youthhostel.ch/klosters

WINTER SPECIAL

Klosters Youth Hostel offers:

Midweek-Special: 5 overnight accommodation (Mon-Fri) including breakfast, dinner and 5 day ski pass for the Klosters-Davos ski region.

Dorm: Adults CHF 480.80; youth (13-17) 411.10; children (6-12) 334.75; children (2-5) 121.25.

Single or double room (price per person): Adults CHF 523.30; youth (13-17) 389.80; children (6-12) 377.25; children (2-5)

Valid: Jan 9th – 21st and Mar 13th – 25th. **Notice**: Prices above are incl. visitors tax and for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.- per night for non HImembers (families CHF 12.-/night).

Bookings at Klosters Youth Hostel (081 422 13 16), klosters@youthhostel.ch

Engadine Valley

St. Moritz, Celerina, Pontresina, Scuol

The Engadine Valley is traditionally Romansh-speaking, although almost everyone also speaks German. The valley is divided into two sections, the Upper Engadine (Oberengadin) and the Lower Engadine (Unterengadin). St. Moritz is the main resort in the Upper Engadine. St. Moritz has been one of the world's best known holiday spots for a century or more. This is where the jet set come to play and pose, where social high-flyers, European royalty and international jet set celebrate winter with an endless round of banquets and spectacles on the frozen lake. But do not think that everything here is St.Moritzstyle glamour; also as a not-so-rich you can visit. Celerina is further away from the hustle, but still close to the action. Regarded as Engadine's sunniest resort, it's located at the heart of the Upper Engadine holiday region, which means that visitors never have far to go whatever their destination. In winter there are three main ski and snowboard sectors, the sunny Corviglia-Piz Nair, the Corvatsch-Furtschellas and the Diavolezza-Lagalp. All are within easy





reach from St. Moritz and Celerina. »»www.

How to get to St. Moritz and Celerina: from Chur with the Rhaetien Railway up to St. Moritz (appr. 2 hrs). There are stops in Celerina and St.Moritz.

Tourist offices: in St. Moritz at Via Maistra 12 (081 837 33 33), in Celerina call 081 830 00 11.

Budget accommodation:

In St. Moritz: St. Moritz Bad Youth Hostel, Via Surpunt 60 (081 836 61 11, closed Oct 18th-Dec 1st) »www.youthhostel.ch/st.moritz In Celerina: Hotel "Alte Brauerei", Via Maistra 60 (081 832 18 74) » www.alte-brauerei.ch

WINTER SPECIAL

St. Moritz Bad Youth Hostel offers:

Top hit for snowboarders or skiers: overnight accommodation including half-board, visitors tax, ski pass for the whole region (57 lift facilities) and ski bus.

Dorm (4-beds)/double room

2 nights and a 2-day ski pass CHF 203.-/229.-3 nights and a 3-day ski pass CHF 302.-/340.-5 nights and a 4-day ski pass CHF 452.-/518.-7 nights and a 6-day ski pass CHF 612.-/700.-Valid: Dec 4th-23rd 2010, Jan 8th-Feb 1st 2011 and Mar 19th - April 21st.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.- per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.-/night).

Bookings at St. Moritz Bad Youth Hostel (081 836 61 11), st.moritz@youthhostel.ch

Just 10 train-minutes southeasterly from St. Moritz at the mouth of the Val Bernina lies Pontresina. Cross-country ski fans and walkers can undertake a host of unforgettable excursions around Pontresina. And south of this typical mountain village stretches the multi-faceted ski area of Diavolezza/Lagalb, with the longest glacier run in Switzerland. This is a paradise for skiers and snowboarders. »www.pontresina.ch

How to get to Pontresina: the hourly trains from Chur take 2 hours and you have to change in Samedan. From St. Moritz it's just 10 minutes by train (or 18 minutes by bus). Tourist office: at Kongresszentrum Rondo (081 838 83 00) >>> www.pontresina.ch

Budget accommodation: Pontresina Youth Hostel, "Cuntschett", Via da la Staziun 46 (081 842 72 23). The hostel is next to the railway and bus station. »www.youthhostel. ch/pontresina

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WINTER SPECIAL

Pontresina Youth Hostel offers:

Top hit for snowboarders or skiers: overnight accommodation including half-board, visitors tax, ski pass for the whole region (57 lift facilities) and ski bus.

Dorm (4-beds)/double room

2 nights and a 2-day ski pass CHF 204.—/234.— 3 nights and a 3-day ski pass CHF 303.—/348.— 4 nights and a 4-day ski pass CHF 378.—/438.— 5 nights and a 5-day ski pass CHF 449.—/524.— 6 nights and a 6-day ski pass CHF 528.—/618.— 7 nights and a 6-day ski pass CHF 603.—/708.— Valid: Until Dec 23rd 2010 and Jan 8th 2011—Feb 11th and Mar 19th—31st.

Notice: Prices above are incl. visitors tax and for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.—/night).

Bookings at Pontresina Youth Hostel (081 842 72 23), pontresina@youthhostel.ch

Spread-out **Scuol** (1,250 m) is the main resort in the Lower Engadine. It's a health spa, and there are around 25 mineral springs in the vicinity. Lower Scuol is well worth a wander; it has some incredibly quaint Engadine dwellings and cobbled squares. The alpine skiing area of Motta Naluns (2,146 m, with lifts up to 2,800 m) is within easy reach of the village. The new 8-seater gondola here (in service since Dec

12th 2010) can carry up to 2800 people per hour and the youth hostel is just 2 minutes from this gondola. The ski area offers 80 km of magical slopes, a snow park with super pipe, spacious diverse free ride areas, 4 km of sledding track from Priu to Ftan, sunny winter walking paths and much more. "">www.scuol.ch

How to get to Scuol: Hourly trains from Chur to Scuol-Tarasp (takes 2 hrs).

Tourist office: at Stradun (beside the post office; 081 861 22 22).

Budget accommodation: Scuol Youth Hostel, Prà da faira, (081 862 31 31, closed Oct 25th – Dec 10th). »www.youthhostel.ch/scuol

WINTER SPECIAL

Scuol Youth Hostel offers:

Overnight accommodation including bedsheets, breakfast, dinner and ski pass.

4 nights incl. 3 day ski pass: dorm (4 beds) from CHF 324.–, double 389.40

5 nights incl. 4 day ski pass: dorm (4 beds) from 393.25, double 469.75

6 nights incl. 5 day ski pass: dorm (4 beds) from 457.40, double 543.80

Valid from Dec 10th – 19th 2010, from Jan 9th – 21st 2011 and March 13th – Apr 3rd. **Notice**: Prices above are incl. visitors tax and for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.– per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.–/night).

Bookings at Scuol Youth Hostel (081 862 31 31), scuol@youthhostel.ch

Sta. Maria Val Müstair

Between the upper and the lower Engadine lies Zernez from where the main road goes over the Ofen Pass (2,149 m) into the idyllic **Val Müstair** and leads then into **Italy.** This route is covered by postal bus (six to nine

departures a day). Santa Maria is the main village of the Val Müstair and has a nice Gothic church. You'll find cross-country ski slopes across the whole valley, winter footpaths and natural ice rinks offer fun and relaxation, and the Minschuns ski area on the Ofen Pass offers skiers everything they could wish for. ""www.val-muestair.ch

How to get to Santa Maria: the hourly trains from Chur to Zernez take 1 h 45 minutes and you have to change in Saglians. From Zernez to Santa Maria the bus takes 1 hour.

Tourist office: at the main road (081 858 57 27).

Budget accommodation: Santa Maria in Müstair Youth Hostel, Chasa Plaz, (081 858 56 61, closed Oct 17th—Dec 25th), www. youthhostel.ch/sta.maria

WINTER SPECIAL

Santa Maria Youth Hostel offers:

Snow-shoe weekends incl. 2 overnight accommodation, breakfast, dinner (on Saturday), 1 guided snowshoe tour, transport etc.

Dorm CHF 176.—; double room 199.60 (p/P). **Valid** Jan 14th – 16th ; Feb 11th – 13th and Feb 25th – 27th . Equipment rental possible.

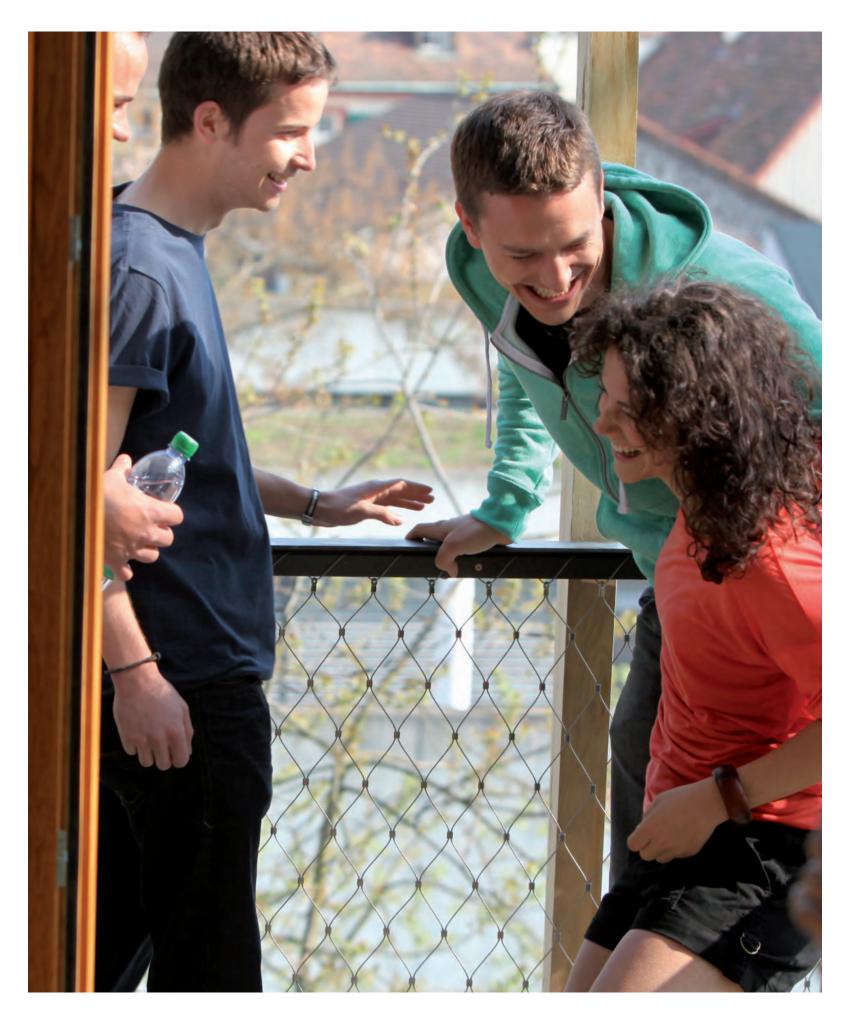
Snow-shoe week incl. 6 overnight accommodation, breakfast, dinner, 5 guided snowshoe tours, transport etc.

Dorm CHF 634.80; double room 704.80 (p/P). $\textbf{Valid} \ \ \mbox{Jan 23rd-29th} \ ; \ \mbox{Feb 27th-Mar 5th} \ .$ Equipment rental possible.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There's a surcharge of CHF 6.— per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.—/night).

Bookings at Sta. Maria i.M. Youth Hostel (081 858 56 61), sta.maria@youthhostel.ch

events	
Dec 2nd – 12th	Comedy Festival Arosa
Dec 26th-31st	84th annual Spengler Cup Davos. Ice hockey at its best
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve parties everywhere
Jan 2nd–8th	Annual O'Neill Evolution Davos. World Snowboard Tour Event
Jan 8th – 15th	Burton European Open, Laax. Europe's biggest and most
	important snowboarding event. The open competition, with up to
	400 participants, promises eight days of the finest freestyle. And
	in the evening international live acts will be taking to the stage in
	the Riders Palace.
Jan 27th – 30th	"Polo on snow", Polo World Cup on the frozen lake of St. Moritz
Jan 28th–Feb 5th	Freeride Engadinshow St. Moritz (Corvatsch).
Feb 18th	Art on Ice, St. Moritz
Feb 11th & 12th	Ice Gala Davos. World-class figure skating
Mar 1st-5th	European Freeski Open, Laax. The best freeskiing athletes in the
	whole world show what they're made of in the slopestyle and half-
	pipe freestyle categories
Mar 19th	Beni's International Volks-Super-G Laax. Whether professional
	or amateur – everyone's allowed to take part. Plus the Super-G
	party promises to really kick off
	For further events ask at your hostel or at the local tourist offices





Schaffhauserstrasse 14, CH-8042 Zurich +41(0)44 360 14 14 | contact@youthhostel.ch www.youthhostel.ch

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practical information



How to get there:

Basel has an international airport (the Eu-

roAirport Basel-Mulhouse Freiburg, from where the city is reached within 19 min by bus no. 50 which runs four times an hour) and three train stations. 1 The Swiss railway station SBB, ② the German station DB "Badischer Bahnhof" and the 3 French station SNCF. Frequent, modern trains link the three stations with places in Switzerland and all parts of Europe. The Swiss main station, SBB, provides a large post office, shopping, Migros supermarket, restaurants, lockers, bicycle rental, rest rooms and foreign currency exchange. • Tourist offices inside the Stadtcasino (at Barfüsserplatz) and inside SBB train station 1 (061 268 68 68, valid for both tourist offices). The main post office is in the center (Freie Strasse). @ Internet station at your youth hostel.

The Basel Card costs CHF 20.— for 24 h (without means of transport); or CHF 25.— (incl. means of transport), for 48 h CHF 27.—, and for 72 h CHF 35.—. It gives you free admission to some museums and to the zoo, free guided tours of the town, free ferry rides, reductions for concerts and discos, reductions in various shops, a 30% reduction on car rental and reductions on boat trips and taxi fares.



save money

All visitors who stay at a Basel hotel/hostel receive a **free Mobility Ticket** valid for the whole stay (max. 30 days). This gives you unlimited tram and bus travel without ever having to buy a ticket! Just great! Ask at reception.

www.basel.com www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

• Basel St. Alban Youth Hostel, St. Alban

– Kirchrain 10, (061 272 05 72), »www.
youthhostel.ch/basel. For more accommodation in Basel ask at the tourist office.





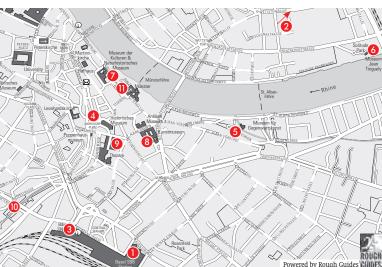
asel is located at the elbow of the Rhine on the borders of France and Germany. Its open-minded inhabitants give Basel its special character. The town has the oldest university in Switzerland (1460) and houses many museums and theaters. It has increasingly established itself as the architectural capital of the country. The multicultural Kleinbasel (on the right bank of the Rhine river) is the home of the alternative cultural scene. The town center is located on the left side of the river. The oldest and cheapest connections between the two banks of the Rhine river are **the ferries**. They are not only a tourist attraction but a means of public transport. Try it! From Basel you can also make excursions into the neighbouring regions of Germany and France.

highlights

• The Museum Jean Tinguely, at Paul Sacher Anlage 1 (take bus no. 31/36 to Tinguely Museum), is dedicated to the life and work of this major sculptor of iron. The building itself was designed and executed by another famous Swiss, the architect Mario Botta. This museum is unlike others: here, things rattle, squeak, crash and thump. Open Tue−Sun 11 am−7 pm, closed on Monday. Admission CHF 15.−, students CHF 10.−.

At **Fondation Beyeler** at Baselstr. 101 in Riehen (take tram no 6 to Riehen Dorf) you'll find an exceptional collection of work by modern masters! The impressive building resembles a ship lying anchored alongside the road. Open daily $10\,\mathrm{am}-6\,\mathrm{pm}$ (Wednesday till 8 pm). Admission CHF 25.—, students CHF 12.—, **cheaper admission** (CHF 17.—/ students CHF 8.—) on Mon $10\,\mathrm{am}-6\,\mathrm{pm}$ and on Wed from $5-8\,\mathrm{pm}$.

• The **Natural History Museum** at Augustinergasse 2 covers virtually all aspects of the natural sciences. Walk through the dinosaur hall or look at the numerous fossils or bizarre, colorful minerals. You may observe living animals in terrariums. Tram 6/8/11/14/16 to Schifflände or tram 2/15 to Kunstmuseum. Open Tue—Sun 10 am—5 pm (closed on Monday). Admission CHF 7.—, students CHF 5.—, **free admission** every first Sunday of the month.



O Museum of Art (Kunstmuseum) at St. Alban-Graben 16 is one of the leading art houses in Switzerland. Highlights are paintings of Van Gogh, Gaugin, Cézanne and Picasso. And the museum owns the world's largest collection of works by the Holbein family. Open Tue—Sun 10 am—6 pm, admission CHF 15.—, students 5.—.

① For many people the **Swiss Architecture Museum** (Switzerland's only museum of architecture), at Steinenberg 7, is a major reason for coming to Basel. The principal themes are: Swiss architecture from the Classical Modern period, international contemporary architecture, and the relationship between architecture and art. Open Tue, Wed & Fri 11 am - 6 pm, Thu 11 am - 8.30 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am - 5 pm (closed on Mon); CHF 10.-/students CHF 6.-.

● Basel's zoo is laid out in a large park near the SBB station and has a varied collection including Indian rhinos and king penguins. Feeding times (Fütterungen) are fun to watch (see display by the entrance). Open daily from 8 am – 5.30 pm; CHF 18.—/ youth under 25 CHF 12.—; cheaper admission on Mondays CHF 13.—/ youth under 25 CHF 9.—.

₱ Basel's impressive cathedral (called the Münster) is the landmark of the city and worth a visit. It was built in the thirteenth century of red sandstone with a patterned roof and rebuilt following an earthquake in 1356. Open Mon-Fri 11 am -4 pm, Sat 11 am -5 pm, Sun 11.30 am -4 pm, entry is free of charge.

If you're halfway interested in design, you'll love the **Vitra Design Museum**, one of the world's leading museums for industrial furniture design and architecture. You'll find the Vitra Design Museum across the border in Germany, 10 km north of Basel in the small town of Weil-Am-Rhein (at Charles-Eames-Strasse 1). Take bus no. 55 from Claraplatz directly to Vitra (passport needed!). Open Mon—Sun 10 am—6 pm, admission Euro 8.—/student Euro 6.50.

events

Oct 22nd - Nov 14th Avo Session.

Different acts, i.e. Sheryl Crow, Anastacia, Joe Jackson and many more

(tickets at www.ticketcorner.com).

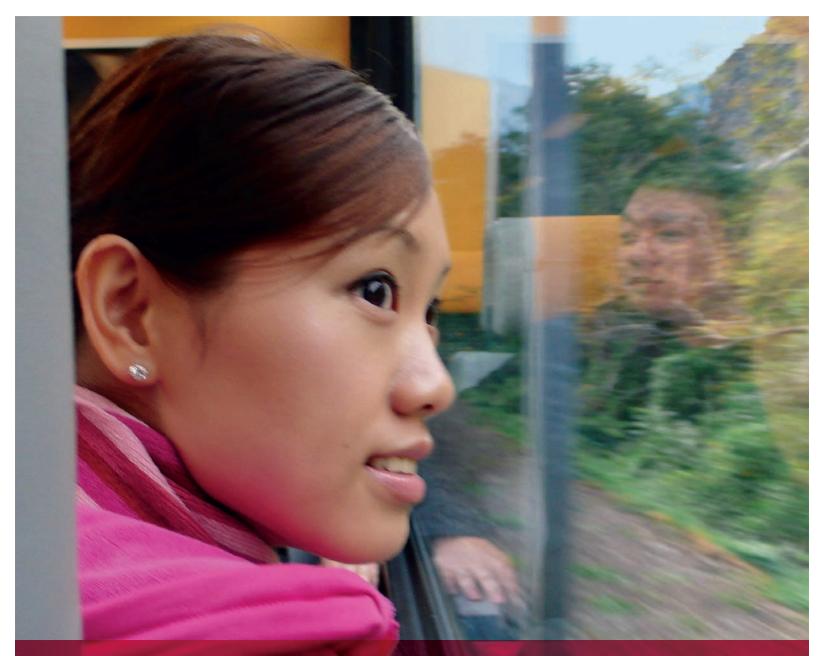
Nov 25th–Dec 23rd Christmas market at Barfüsserplatz.

Dec 31st New Year's Eve, something is aging on everywhere.

Jan 18th – 23rd Evita at the Musical Theatre.

Mar 14th – 17th It's carnival – the three crazy days of Basel.

For entertainment, fun and parties ask at your hostel or at the tourist office for the brochure "Basel Live" to get full listings.



Travel the Swiss Way.

This is how it feels to travel the Swiss way:

There is a train, whenever you need one, already at the airport. A bus to take you farther, or another train. And a boat, if you wish to enjoy the beauty of one of the lakes. Or a little red train to bring you up to the mountains. A whole system of it, working like a Swiss watch. And so many places to see, in that beautiful little country.

That's the Swiss Travel System: To have it all, with one pass, the Swiss Pass. Valid even on trams and buses in the cities, and also for the entrance to most of Switzerland's museums.

For further information about our products and our sales points please go to **www.swisstravelsystem.ch**





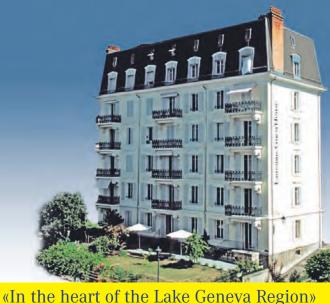




Dorm bed starts CHF 36.- | Double starts CHF 105.-Laundry | Kitchen | Garden with BBQ | WiFi | Free Lausanne Transport Card | Olympic Museum Packages

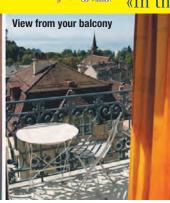
Lausanne GuestHouse & Backpacker

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View over the city and the lake









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