

## 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/Inter-rail-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.

## TIP!



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...



Chillon Castle

**Vevey 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 chateau. 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.–.

**Vevey 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 am – 5 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!).



The monument of Freddie Mercury

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 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 **Riviera Lodge** or check out their website »www.riviera lodge.ch, they offer great winter specials at reasonable prices!

entertainment, fun & parties

Vevey

- **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

**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

**vevey**  
montreux-riviera

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Lavaux, UNESCO vineyard

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

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**.

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

**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

**WINTER SPECIAL**



**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 2009–Mar 28th 2011.

**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

**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 record-breaking 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 peacefully 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).

**Saanen-Gstaad**

The Gstaad-Saanenland holiday region in the Bernese Oberland is popular with a charming mix of visitors. While the car-free 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 snow-parks 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 unusual activities on offer, there is Bavarian curling in the centre of Gstaad and glacier- and heli-skiing.

**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).

**WINTER SPECIAL**



**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