

KEY INFO

GRÜEZI

Switzerland in numbers

Area:

41,285km²

Cantons:

26

Population:

8,900,000

Swiss National Day:

1 August

4,000m peaks:

48

Mountain passes:

120

At the heart of Europe

Flight time to Zurich:

1 Amsterdam 85min.

2 Frankfurt 60min.

3 Vienna 85min.

4 Rome 95min.

5 Barcelona 110min.

6 Paris 80min.

7 London 100min.

8 Singapore 12h

9 São Paulo 12h

10 New York 9h

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is the airline of Switzerland. It serves Switzerland's Zurich and Geneva airports from numerous destinations worldwide. [swiss.com](https://www.swiss.com)

🌡️

All year round

Whatever the time of year, Switzerland is always worth a visit. The country has a mild climate, with moderate heat, cold and humidity.

🌸

SPRING

March – May, 8 to 15°C

Flowers bloom and birds sing. An ideal time for city breaks.

☀️

SUMMER

June – August, 18 to 28°C

The country's lakes and mountain regions offer a place to cool off.

🍂

AUTUMN

September – November, 8 to 15°C

Take a walk through the riotous colours of the trees and enjoy the summer's harvest.

❄️

WINTER

December – February, -2 to 7°C

Let off steam in the snow and relax by the open fire.

🚆

Well-connected

Switzerland has the densest transport network in the world, with 29,000km of road, rail and water links. sbb.ch

🗣️

4 languages

There are four official national languages.

🇨🇭

Hello in:

Swiss German (63.5%)

Grüezi

French (22.5%)

Salut

Italian (8.1%)

Ciao

Romansh (0.5%)

Allegra

🚆

Journey in comfort

1st & 2nd class

Train carriages in 1st class offer greater comfort than 2nd class, with wider seats, more legroom and quiet compartments.

Swiss navigation

You also have a choice of 1st or 2nd class on board Swiss boats. 1st class is generally located on the upper deck, with views guaranteed.

📖

More tips

MySwitzerland.com

myGrand TRAIN TOUR

GRAND TRAIN TOUR

RAIL

ZURICH

LUCERNE

INTERLAKEN

ZWEISMIMMEN

MONTREUX

VISE

ZERMATT

ST. MORITZ

TIRANO

BELLINZONA

LUGANO

FLÜELIEN

LUCERNE

NESSLAU

ST. GALLIEN

MUOLEN

SCHAFFHAUSEN

ZURICH

Lake Lungern

2¼h / 131km

Zurich → Lucerne → Interlaken

Remarkable cities, mountain panoramas, turquoise lakes and countless waterfalls: the journey to Lucerne and then on the Luzern–Interlaken Express goes by faster than you might want.

Rougemont

3¼h / 120km

Interlaken → Zweisimmen → Montreux

The GoldenPass Express passes grazing cows and magnificent castles before crossing the border between German- and French-speaking Switzerland to Lake Geneva.

Rhône

2½h / 148km

Montreux → Visp → Zermatt

From dazzling Montreux on Lake Geneva, the Matterhorn Gotthard Railway takes passengers up to the mountain of mountains, the Matterhorn. The train makes an ascent of more than 900 metres, with part of this route operated in cogwheel drive.

Schnitgantobel Viaduct

7¾h / 291km

Zermatt → St. Moritz

The Glacier Express connects the famous resorts of Zermatt and St. Moritz. The world's slowest express train travels along the UNESCO World Heritage route on the Albula Pass, passing through a total of 91 tunnels and crossing 291 bridges.

Ahp Grüm

6¾h / 154km

St. Moritz → Tirano → Lugano

Dive into a world of glaciers and mountain lakes with the Bernina Express, catch your breath among the palm trees in Valposchiavo, then resurface at Lake Lugano.

Flüelen

5½h / 182km

Lugano → Bellinzona → Flüelen → Lucerne

The panoramic journey by the Gotthard Panorama Express first takes you by train over the historic Gotthard route, before you chug by boat across Lake Lucerne to reach Lucerne itself.

Nesslau

2¼h / 125km

Lucerne → St. Gallen

Climb aboard the Voralpen-Express at Lake Lucerne to discover the Alps, Lake Zurich and the rolling hills to the east and to marvel at the highest railway bridge in Switzerland.

Muolen

2½h / 133km

St. Gallen → Schaffhausen → Zurich

The Thurbo line passes by Lake Constance and takes passengers on to the Rhine Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in Europe. With the roaring sound still ringing in your ear, the train pulls into the pulsating city of Zurich.

🌟 Highlight

🏠 UNESCO World Heritage site

🚆 Stamp station

CITIES

Basel

Home to 40 museums, Basel has the highest concentration of museums in Switzerland. One of the most beautiful is the Fondation Beyeler. It is located just outside the city in a green park with mature trees and an idyllic pond in which you can see the reflection of Monet's water lilies from through the museum windows. A wonderful way of saying that art is there for everyone.

Bern

Bern's historic old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site and covers just 0.85 square kilometres, making the sheer architectural variety found within it all the more remarkable: from the Federal Palace with its towering dome to the 13th-century Zytgloggeturm, which was once a prison for women found guilty of dangerous liaisons with priests.

Lausanne

Closely associated with the Olympic rings and featuring countless steps, this city on the shores of Lake Geneva is characterised by Mediterranean flair, and it is a place where the most modern of architecture is cultivated alongside its historical heritage. Those looking to quickly travel from one district to the next can take the metro, the only one of its kind in all of Switzerland.

Lucerne

Urban flair or imposing mountain panoramas? World-class culture or fun at the lake? In Lucerne you don't have to choose: the historic old town borders Lake Lucerne, the "dragon mountain" Pilatus rises in the background, and in between the KKL Luzern Culture and Convention Centre hosts musicians and artists from all over the world.

Lugano

Nestled in a bay on the northern shore of the eponymous lake, Lugano lies between the mountain destinations of Monte San Salvatore and Monte Brè. The city's Mediterranean-style buildings, narrow streets of the old town and subtropical vegetation give the city a special flair. It is an architectural and cultural gem.

St. Gallen

Around 612 AD, the wandering Irish monk Gallus came to what is now Eastern Switzerland and founded a monastery – the basis for what would later become St. Gallen. In the Middle Ages it was one of Europe's most important centres for culture and education. The charming and cosy old town has preserved its medieval character to this day.

Winterthur

Winterthur combines mighty industrial complexes with charming workers' cottages, glamorous villas and venerable town houses. Despite the big city flair, people still know each other here. Locals are proud of their city's working-class and cultural roots. After all, while industry flourished, art lovers like Oskar Reinhart also grew up in the city.

St. Gallen

My insider tips:

Zurich

This is Switzerland's largest city, with vibrancy and flair in its DNA. Zurich is the city that wears its history with pride and dignity, like pearls on a necklace, while celebrating urban lifestyle in its various neighbourhoods. The River Limmat, which flows through the city, and the lake nurture the locals' attitude to life.

Touring apps

It not only simplifies planning, but also helps you keep track of the stages, sights and offers along the way.

Photo spots

High peaks and vast landscapes: the photo spots set the scene for the most beautiful views along the Grand Tour.

Dive right in

The routes and their landscapes can be enjoyed as a virtual experience before embarking on the journey itself:

Stamps

The myGrand Train Tour booklet allows you to collect nine unique stamps at different destinations along the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland. The booklet is available free of charge:

Swisustainable

It is time for a new way of travelling, and we in Switzerland are considered pioneers in sustainable travel. Here are a few tips on how you too can make your tour more climate-friendly:

Legend: 🌟 Highlight 🏠 UNESCO World Heritage site 🚆 Stamp station

GRAND TOUR

ROAD

ZURICH

APPENZELL

ST. MORITZ

LUGANO

ZERMATT

LAUSANNE

NEUCHÂTEL

BERN

ZURICH

175km

Zurich → Appenzell

The Rhine Falls

From the big-city hustle and bustle to one of the largest waterfalls in Europe and on to the historic city of St. Gallen. From there, it's just a stone's throw to rural Appenzell with its green hills and richly decorated houses.

200km

Appenzell → St. Moritz

Appenzell

This stage takes you past Werdenberg, the smallest town in Europe, and on to the Bündner Herrschaft, home of the heroine of the Heidi story and the oldest documented winery in Europe. For the moment, the journey ends in luxurious St. Moritz.

221km

St. Moritz → Lugano

San Bernardino Pass

The leisurely journey takes you from alpine St. Moritz down to palm-fringed Lugano. In between lies the San Bernardino Pass, where impressive feats of road engineering can be admired.

298km

Lugano → Zermatt

Tremola

Paved with granite cobblestones, the Tremola snakes its way up to the Gotthard Pass. In the most spectacular section, it climbs 300 metres in height via 24 hairpin bends within just 4 km. Later, you'll come to the Furka Pass, which is the highest pass on the Grand Tour.

178km

Zermatt → Lausanne

Lausanne

Before you arrive, you'll need to change your mode of transport, since Zermatt is a car-free village. The shuttle train takes visitors from the car park in Täsch to Zermatt and back again. The tour then continues by car to Lake Geneva.

170km

Lausanne → Neuchâtel

Neuchâtel

Watchmaking spread from Geneva across the Jura mountain range to other regions such as Le Sentier and Neuchâtel. This route leads into the history of watches, but also up to the Creux du Van natural rock arena, Switzerland's very own Grand Canyon.

252km

Neuchâtel → Bern

Bern

"Always by the water" could be the motto of this route, running from Lake Neuchâtel to Lake Murten, Lake Schaffenen, Lake Gruyère and Lake Thun. Finally you arrive in Bern, with a view of the River Aare.

315km

Bern → Zurich

Lake Lucerne

While there may be faster routes from Bern to Zurich, you would miss out on a lot. That includes Hallwyl moated castle and the Rüti meadow, where the oath marking the alliance of the original cantons was sworn.

Accommodation

Typically Swiss Hotels

Traditional furnishings, a regional architectural style or culinary treasures from Switzerland: a real treat for all Switzerland fans. MySwitzerland.com/typically

Boutique & Design Hotels

Brilliant architecture, clear design vocabulary and careful selection of materials: lovers of good design will be happy here. MySwitzerland.com/boutiquedesign

Swiss Historic Hotels

Whether a grand hotel from the Belle Epoque or a baroque guesthouse: guests here will sleep in a setting that is steeped in history. MySwitzerland.com/historic

Luxury Hotels & Homes

Impressive architecture, excellent service, creative restaurant concepts: exclusive wishes are fulfilled in the Luxury Hotels & Homes. MySwitzerland.com/luxury

Spa & Vitality Hotels

Sauna, medical treatment or an outdoor pool: guests at the Spa & Vitality Hotels can relax amid the beauty of Swiss nature. MySwitzerland.com/spa

Swiss Family Hotels & Lodgings

Cinema or an adventure playground: the needs of little ones are a top priority here. MySwitzerland.com/familyhotels

Swiss Bike Hotels

These accommodation options are all about action and fun – ideal for road bike, mountain bike and e-bike enthusiasts. MySwitzerland.com/bikehotels

Inspiring Meeting Hotels

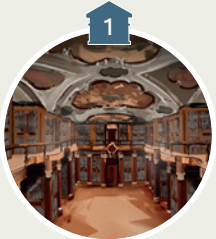
Meetings in a former monastery or in the gardens of your own hotel: these hotels guarantee successful meetings and team retreats. MySwitzerland.com/inspiration

CREDITS – Publisher: Switzerland Tourism, Morgartenstrasse 3A, 8004 Zurich, Switzerland | Concept/Editor: Transbelvetica, Passaport AG | Photos: Switzerland Tourism | Illustration: Silvan Borer

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

SWITZERLAND

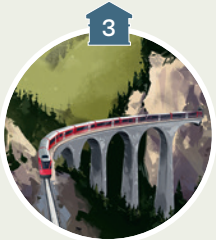
HIGHLIGHTS



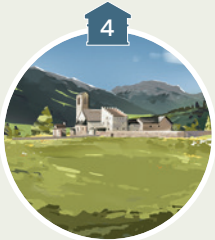
St. Gallen abbey district
In addition to the baroque cathedral, the city's landmark site also includes the oldest library in Switzerland.



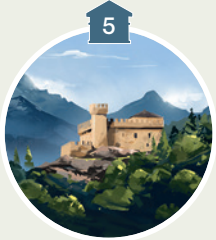
Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona
You can see here the impressive evidence of how the mountains shifted over one another a long, long, long time ago.



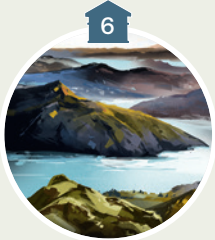
Albula/Bernina railway line
Measuring 142 metres in length, the Landwasser Viaduct is just one of the highlights along the spectacular train route.



Convent of St. John in Müstair
According to legend, the convent was built by Charlemagne as a mark of gratitude for having survived a thunderstorm.



The castles of Bellinzona
This is where the Dukes of Milan controlled access to the most important Alpine passes from the 15th century onwards.



Monte San Giorgio
A glimpse of the distant past: this mountain is one of the world's most important sites for fossils from the Middle Triassic period.



Old beech forests
The gnarly giants live to a ripe old age in the forest reserves of Lodano, Busai, Soladino, and on Bettlachstock mountain.



Jungfrau-Aletsch
A trip to the Jungfraujoch is a special experience. Since, at 3,454 metres up, you'll feel as though you can almost touch the sky.



Le Corbusier
This name has left an indelible mark on modern architecture. Of his 17 award-winning works, two are in Switzerland.



Winegrowing area of Lavaux
The expansive vineyards and the blue lake nestle side by side amid an enchantingly beautiful landscape.



Prehistoric pile dwellings
The pile dwellings act as a window into the Bronze Age and offer an insight into the lives of the people here at that time.



The old town of Bern
In Switzerland's capital, some elements of the city's medieval structure can still be experienced today.



Watchmaking industry
La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle serve as the beating heart of Switzerland's watchmaking industry, which is synonymous with timeless quality.

Access routes

Grand Train Tour



Grand Tour

Access routes

→ Individual stages are shown on the reverse



Säntis
With its 2,502 metres, it is the highest mountain in the Appenzell Alps. From its summit, you can enjoy a view of six different countries.



Aletsch Glacier
20 kilometres long, 79km² of solid ice, and weighing 10 billion tonnes: this is the largest glacier in the Alpine region.



The Matterhorn
Photos of the Matterhorn are captured and sent, or taken home as a souvenir, more than perhaps any other emblem of Switzerland.



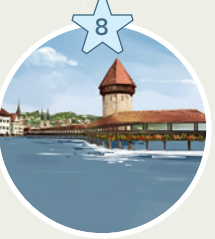
Chillon Castle
The medieval moated castle is perched on a rocky island on the shores of Lake Geneva not far from Montreux.



Creux du Van natural rock arena
At the Grand Canyon of Switzerland, nature has produced steep vertical cliffs in a horseshoe formation.



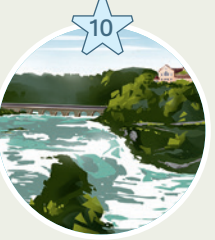
Pilatus
Passengers ascend Lucerne's legendary local mountain on the world's steepest cog railway.



Chapel Bridge
Lucerne's most famous landmark is the second-longest covered wooden bridge in Europe.



Titlis
This giant is 3,238 metres high. The world's first revolving cable car will whisk you to its glacier world.



The Rhine Falls
The view from the platform of the Rhine Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in Europe, is one thing above all else: impressive.