

Attractions

- Bellinzona and Valleys**

 - 1 The Greina Plateau and its Arch (D1)
 - 2 **Gothard Pass and the Tremola Road (B1)**
 - 3 Strada Alta of Leventina (B2)
 - 4 **Ritom Region (B2)**
 - 5 Gottardo Arena, Ambri (C2)
 - 6 Lukmanier Region (C2)
 - 7 Punta di Larescia, Gorda Hut (D2)
 - 8 Pluogno Waterfall, Faido (C2)
 - 9 Historical Ethnographic Museum, Blenio Valley (D2)
 - 10 San Carlo Church, Negrentino (D2)
 - 11 Historical Trails of Blenio Valley (D2)
 - 12 Serravalle Castle, Malvaglia (D3)
 - 13 The 7 Churches of Giornico (D3)
 - 14 Cava Hut and Pontirone Valley (E3)
 - 15 Santa Petronilla Waterfall, Biasca (D3)
 - 16 **Carasc Tibetan Bridge, Caraz (D5)**
 - 17 **Bellinzona Fortress and its Castles (E5)**
 - 18 Saturday Market, Bellinzona (E5)
 - 19 Teatro Sociale, Bellinzona (E5)
 - 20 Museum Villa dei Cedri, Bellinzona (E5)
- Ascona-Locarno**

 - 21 **Church of San Giovanni Battista, Magno (B3)**
 - 22 Cable Car San Carlo-Robiei (B3)
 - 23 International Center and School of Sculpture, Peccia (B3)
 - 24 Foroglio Waterfall, Bavona Valley (B3)
 - 25 Verzasca Valley Museum and Village, Sonogno (C3)
 - 26 Bosco Gurin (A4)
 - 27 Beech Forests of Lodano Valley (B4)
 - 28 **Romanic bridge Ponte dei salti, Lavertezzo (C4)**
 - 29 Farina bôna of Onsernone Valley (C5)
 - 30 GoldenEye Bungee Jumping, Verzasca Dam (D5)
 - 31 Dimitri Theater, Verscio (C5)
 - 32 **Cardada-Cimetta Cable Car (C5)**
 - 33 Centovallina Railway Locarno-Domodossola (B5)
 - 34 Visconteo Castle, Old Town and Piazza Grande, Locarno (C5)
 - 35 Sanctuary Madonna del Sasso, Orselina (C5)
 - 36 Falconry Locarno (C5)
 - 37 Lido Locarno and Termali Salini & Spa (C5)
 - 38 **Ascona Lakeside Promenade and Village (C5)**
 - 39 **Brissago Islands Botanical Garden (C5)**
 - 40 Botanical Garden of Gambarogno, Vairano (C5)

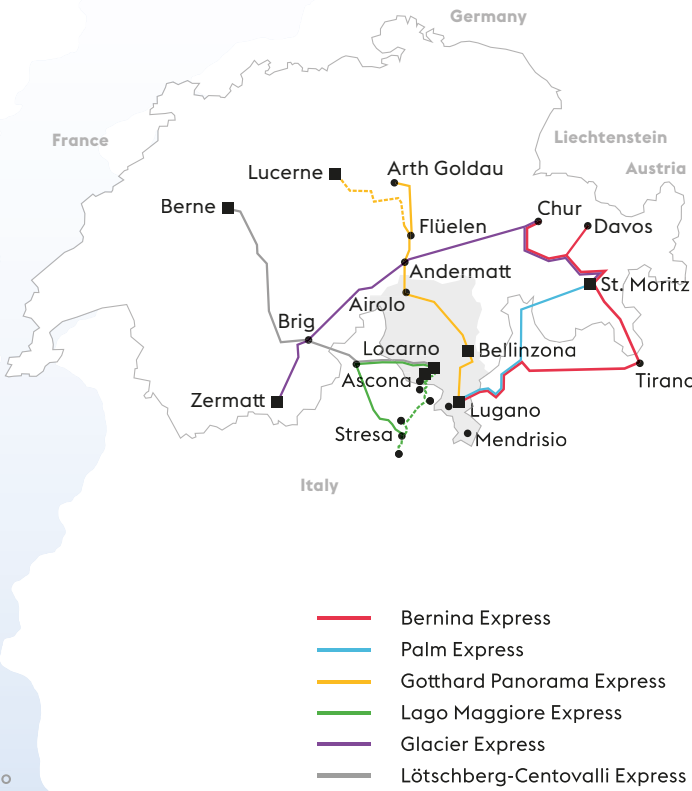
- Lugano Region**

 - 41 Monte Tamaro Cable Car (D5)
 - 42 Splash & Spa Tamaro (D5)
 - 43 **Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, Alpe Foppa (D5)**
 - 44 Themed trail Via dei sapori Capriasca (D6)
 - 45 Lema Mountain Cable Car (D6)
 - 46 Corner Arena, Porza (D6)
 - 47 Gold Mine Museum, Sessa (C6)
 - 48 Bally Foundation Villa Heleneum (D6)
 - 49 Monte Brè Funicular (D6)
 - 50 Cruises of Lake Lugano (D7 C5)
 - 51 Gandria and the Olive Path (D6)
 - 52 MASI Museo d'Arte della Svizzera italiana (D7)
 - 53 **LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura (D7)**
 - 54 **Monte San Salvatore Funicular (D7)**
 - 55 Zoo al Maglio, Magliaso (D7)
 - 56 Hermann Hesse Museum, Montagnola (D7)
 - 57 Museum and Chocolate Experience Alprose, Caslano (D7)
 - 58 **Swissminiatur, Melide (D7)**
 - 59 San Grato Park, Carona (D7)
 - 60 Morcote and Scherrer Park (D7)
- Mendrisiotto**

 - 61 **Mills of the Mendrisiotto (D7 D8 E8)**
 - 62 Botto Waterfall, Rovio (D7)
 - 63 Brusino-Serpiano Cable Car (D7)
 - 64 **Rack railway and Fiore di pietra of Monte Generoso (E7)**
 - 65 Bear Cave, Monte Generoso (E7)
 - 66 Nevère ice pits, Alpe Nadiagh (E7)
 - 67 Monte San Giorgio (D7)
 - 68 Ethnographic Museum of the Mugello Valley (E7)
 - 69 **Fossil Museum of Monte San Giorgio (D7)**
 - 70 **Tremona Archaeological Park (D8)**
 - 71 FoxTown, Mendrisio (D8)
 - 72 Arzo Quarries (D8)
 - 73 Baumgartner Gallery, Mendrisio (D8)
 - 74 Vincenzo Vela Museum, Lignetino (D8)
 - 75 Teatro dell'architettura Mendrisio (D8)
 - 76 Mendrisio Art Museum (D8)
 - 77 Museo del Trasparente, Mendrisio (D8)
 - 78 Breggia Gorges Park and Cement Trail (E8)
 - 79 Corte del vino Ticino, Morbio Inferiore (E8)
 - 80 m.a.x. museum, Chiasso (E8)

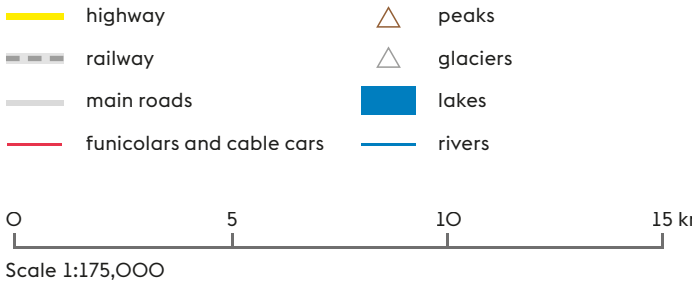
Scenic journeys

The best way to reach the south of Switzerland is to choose one of the 6 panoramic routes. An unforgettable journey by train, bus or boat through mountain landscapes, Alpine villages and along many lakes.



- Bernina Express
- Palm Express
- Gotthard Panorama Express
- Lago Maggiore Express
- Glacier Express
- Lötschberg-Centovalli Express

Legend





Ticino in brief

Source: Federal Statistical Office June 2023

Politics and society		
Official language: italian Capital: Bellinzona, seat of Government and Parliament Population: 352,000 inhabitants (4% of the Swiss population) Major centres: Lugano, Bellinzona, Locarno, Mendrisio Southernmost village in Switzerland: Pedrinatte Highest village in Ticino: Bosco Gurin (1,494 m s.l.m.)		
Territory		
2,812 km² total area (7% of Swiss territory)	52% wooded area	12.3% agricultural area
122 km² area of lakes and rivers	3,402 m highest point: Adula	193 m lowest point: Lake Maggiore
112 days per year with a temperature of at least 25°C	11 days per year with a minimum tempera- ture below 0°C	2,170 hours of sunshine over the year in Ticino
Tourism		
9.6% of GDP with a gross added value of 2.1 billion CHF	380 accommodation facilities	2.6 million overnight stays with 9,000 rooms available
36 campsites for 1 million overnight stays	+4,300 km trails	+180 km cycle paths
+815 km MTB tracks	+30 cable cars	3 golf courses

Ticino

The only canton south of the Alps and with Italian as its official language, it is a diverse region and a land where opposites come together in harmony. The wealth of leisure activities on offer, the variety of accommodation options and the quality of its services all make this region a must-visit destination. Visitors of every kind will find just what they are looking for here: absolute tranquility, 4,000 km of signposted hiking trails, almost 1,000 km for cycling, a lively nightlife in the towns, superb cuisine and numerous outdoor sports. There are plenty of cultural opportunities, not to mention shopping, conference

tourism and wellness. Visitors will never tire of Ticino's scenery. To the north are the Alps: huge, majestic mountains furrowed by valleys carved by glaciers and the rivers that flow into Lake Maggiore. Further south, the climate is already Mediterranean, with Lake Lugano at the centre of the splendid panorama. There are innumerable bodies of water, with around 130 alpine lakes in the area. The Mendrisiotto – the southernmost region – is known as the Tuscany of Switzerland thanks to its gently rolling hills covered with vineyards and its reddish sunsets on warm autumn evenings.

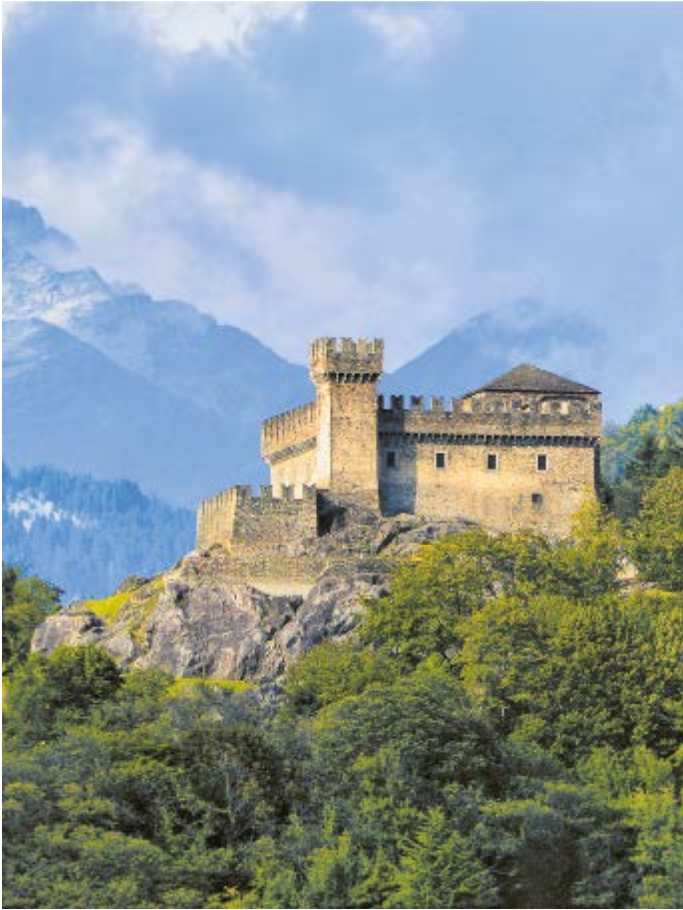
History

Where did the first inhabitants of Ticino come from? No one knows. The oldest settlements, including the archaeological site of Tremona and the remnants on the hill of Castelgrande, date back to Neolithic times. In Roman times it was a land of passage and, for centuries, its lands were disputed between Como, the Duchy of Milan and the Swiss cantons, until it achieved independence in 1803

with the support of Napoleon. The Gotthard railway tunnel was opened in 1882, the highway tunnel in 1980 and the Gotthard base tunnel, the world's longest, in 2016. Eight Swiss Federal Councillors were or are natives of Ticino: the first of these was Stefano Franscini in 1848, while the most recent is Ignazio Cassis, elected in 2017.



Fiore di pietra, Monte Generoso.



Castle of Sasso Corbaro, Bellinzona.



Locarno Film Festival, Piazza Grande.



Vineyards in Novazzano, Mendrisiotto.

Nature

Quiet paths and roads lead to the discovery of an immense natural paradise, where man is a mere spectator.

- Some twenty alpine lakes, an 8-km-wide valley bottom at 2,000 metres above sea level and one of the world's most famous cheese: **Piora Valley**.
- Just a stone's throw from the **Basoldino** glacier: from the bottom of Bavona Valley with a comfortable cable car up to Robiei.
- A botanical park above the city: in **Carona**, 62,000 square metres are shared by azaleas and rhododendrons and the local flora of Insubria.
- Traditions live on in the **Muggio Valley**: Switzerland's southernmost valley is characterised by the mill of Bruzella, roccoli (bird-catching towers) and nevère (ice pits).
- Bearing witness to another era: the **Breggia Gorge Park** reveals the beauty of geology, taking us 200 million years back in time.

52% wooded area

Ticino is an area packed with unspoilt nature. Offering countless activities, it is a real paradise for lovers of the great outdoors and those wanting to relax and unwind.

Culture

A land of encounters, packed with museums and architecture surrounded by greenery. Culture has forged Ticino, the homeland of many artists.

- **UNESCO:** the fossil deposit of **Monte San Giorgio**, with more than 20,000 finds including reptiles, fish, invertebrates and plants. The **Fortress of Bellinzona** is an extraordinary testimony of the medieval architecture of the Alps, while the **Lodano Valley** with its beech woods stands out for its authenticity.
- **LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura:** the beating heart of the city, this centre is a place of sharing and fusion between different artistic disciplines.
- **Churzütt:** the San Barnàrd church features an unusual Last Supper just a short distance from a modern 130-metre-high cable bridge.
- **Fiore di pietra:** at an altitude of 1,700 metres on Monte Generoso, Mario Botta's building dominates the Mendrisiotto.
- **Chiesa di Negrentino:** the small church of Sant'Ambrogio Vecchio is a splendid example of Romanesque architecture dating back to 1050.

Museums, galleries and cultural events

+60 cultural tourist attractions, including museums, theatres and architectural gems, affiliated with the Ticino Ticket project.

Events

Music in the squares, cinema under the stars: Ticino loves music, the seventh art, and major outdoor events.

- A band emerging from an alley, a jam session that ends at dawn: in June, **JazzAscona** brings a piece of New Orleans to Lake Maggiore.
- **Autumn festivals:** music and markets, colourful community events where you can enjoy traditional products.
- Since the 17th century, Mendrisio has continued its ancient tradition of **Holy Week Processions**, which now enjoy UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status.
- **Rabadan:** Ticino's most famous carnival has been celebrated in the streets of Bellinzona for over 160 years.
- The **Piazza Grande** becomes a big stage. International guests and films come to the heart of the city for Locarno Film Festival. Moon&Stars excite the crowd, while Christmas events such as Winterland create a magical atmosphere.

Swisstainable

Switzerland Tourism has coined the term "Swisstainable", assigning a central role to sustainability in Swiss tourism. The programme is open to everyone in the sector and aims to highlight each company's commitment to sustainable development. In the first year, more than 100 tourism partners in Ticino achieved the top level of three.

Gastronomy

Whether in a restaurant or a grotto, the ingredients are always typical of the area: polenta, cheese, cured meats, risotto, panettone. The person preparing them may be a rustic cook or a star chef, but they always share the same great passion.

- **3 Slow Food Presidia:** *farina bona*, flour from the Onsernone Valley, zincarlin cheese from the Muggio Valley and cicitt, typical goat meat sausages from the valleys of Locarno.
- **Corte del vino Ticino:** the wine culture permeates the area and shapes the landscape, where 50 tonnes of grapes are harvested every year. 80% of the cultivated area is used for Merlot grapes.
- **South of the Alps, cuisine becomes art.** One can appreciate its aromas while sitting around a stone table in a popular grotto or in the elegant atmosphere of Ticino's starred restaurants.
- **Cheese:** cow, goat or mixed cheeses are definitely among Ticino's finest products. Ticino produces almost 20 million litres of milk a year, most of which becomes cheese.

100% local

Authenticity above all. The "Ticino regio.garantie" quality label proudly guarantees the local origin of products, whereas the "Ticino a Tavola" initiative is akin to promoting Ticino's agri-food products and the restaurants that use them.



Alpe Pian Cavallo, Leventina Valley.



Summer evening, Lugano.



Train Centonallina, Intragna.



Alpine Lake Salei, Onsernone Valley.

Families

Set out together to discover medieval castles, treasure hunts and educational trails. Families can make the most of every moment of their holiday, relaxing and having fun.

- **Cardada:** a mountain to discover offering thrills, fun and views. An exceptional vantage point from which the highest and lowest points of Switzerland can be observed.
- **Falconeria Locarno:** a flight into the Middle Ages featuring eagles, vultures, owls and hawks, with more than 20 bird species flying overhead.
- **Swissminiatur:** in Melide you can go on a tour of Switzerland in just 14,000 m², where 120 models in 1:25 scale can be admired.
- **Lido Locarno:** a swimming pool on the lake in a dreamlike panorama close to the beach, with its deckchairs and beach volleyball courts.
- **Monte Tamaro:** adventure park, swimming pools and slides, panoramic views and wellness in the heart of Ticino.

Accessible tourism

Tourism knows no barriers or limits in Switzerland's southernmost canton. Visit a region proud to offer tourism accessible to all. Ticino's high-quality services ensure a particular focus on those with special requirements.

Relaxation

Taking time for yourself, being pampered in a wellness centre, strolling by the lake or enjoying an afternoon of shopping.

- A walk through the narrow streets of the town centre, a coffee in the square or a visit to Monte Verità show why **Ascona** is called "the pearl of the Verbano lake".
- **Termali Salini & Spa:** in Locarno there is no need to choose between the sea and mountains. From here you can see the peaks overlooking Lake Maggiore while bathing in warm salt water! Visitors are regenerated by pools, saunas and massages.
- **Via Nassa:** the 270 metres of this shopping street offer major brands, designer goods, jewellery and watches.
- **Lugano, Mendrisio and Locarno:** the sophisticated casinos offer great games, slot machines and special evenings to be enjoyed in good company.
- **FoxTown:** this shopping outlet in Mendrisio is world-famous for its wide range of major brands.

1st in Switzerland

The MNE Ceresio 1931, which operates on Lake Lugano, is Switzerland's first electric motor vessel with rapid recharging and zero emissions, as well as the first electric motor vessel regularly used to transport passengers.

Ticino Ticket

A perfect solution for those staying in a hotel, campsite or youth hostel.



Guests can use all public transport free of charge for the duration of their stay. They can also benefit from discounts on mountain railways, boat trips on the Swiss part of the lakes, and major tourist attractions throughout the canton. The Ticino Ticket is available in digital format on your smartphone. Lakes, rivers and mountains – all accessible with the Ticino Ticket! ticino.ch/ticket

A responsible choice for those who want to move independently.

For those who wish to spend a day in Ticino and Moesano using public transport, **Arcobaleno** is the right choice. It offers a wide range of tickets to meet a variety of mobility needs. arcobaleno.ch

Contacts

Partners

Switzerland.

*ASCONA LOCARNO

LUGANO REGION

Mendrisiotto

Regional Fare Network

