

ZURICH

Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland. The city is Switzerland's main commercial and cultural center. According to a survey in 2006, it offers the best quality of life. Zurich is tops for leisure and pleasure. Gentle hills, peaceful woods, the lakes and rivers, picturesque villages - and all just a stone's throw from the Alps. Zurich is the ideal starting point for all kinds of varied excursions.



TRANSPORTATION

Cities and towns offer excellent transportation networks. Buy your ticket at the vending machine that is located at every street-car or bus stop. Tickets are not sold on the bus or streetcar. The Swiss Pass, Swiss Flexi Pass and Swiss Youth Pass are valid throughout the network of 37 Swiss cities.

BANKS AND CURRENCY

Banks are usually open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Once a week they extend their hours. Please check locally. The Swiss Franc is the currency of Switzerland. It's available in banknotes, of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, or 1000 Francs. Each Swiss Franc is equal to 100 Centimes. Centimes are available in coins of 1, 20 and 50.



SHOPPING

Shops in smaller towns and villages are generally open from 8:30am - noon and again from 2 - 6:30pm. In larger cities they do not close for lunch. In larger cities, shops generally extend their hours till 8pm on one evening of the week, usually on Thursdays.



CLIMATE

The climate is moderate. From July to August the daytime temperature ranges from 65-82F and the January - February range is 28-45F. Depending on the altitude the temperature range may vary.



EATING

The quintessential Zürich dish is Zürigschnätzlets, veal in a cream and wine sauce. Various kinds of grilled Wurst (sausages) are also popular. These are most often accompanied by boiled potatoes, Rösti, a Swiss potato pancake or Spätzle (small noodle dumplings). Veal is still very popular, though the use of turkey and other meats as a substitute is growing.

For those with a sweet tooth, there's a huge variety of chocolates to enjoy, from the cheapest chocolate bar to individually hand-made truffles. Also enjoy pastries and cakes from the various Konditorei scattered around town. A typical cake is the Mandelfisch, an almond cake shaped like a fish.



MUSEUMS

A conglomeration of 8 museums spread around the country, the Swiss National Museum offers you a glimpse into the cultural, historical and developmental splendor of Switzerland. The main section of the Swiss National Museum is located in Zurich, and was opened in 1898. Other museums included those which specialize in archeology, design, humans and animals, and art.



GENERAL INFO

Ambulance dial 114
Fire dial 118
Police dial 117
US Embassy 043 499 29 60
Post Office M-F 8am- noon and 2pm-5pm