Essential Information

Everyone knows Lake Zurich, Swiss watches and chocolate, but there’s so much more to Zurich. As well as being the main cultural hub of the German-speaking part of Switzerland, it is a leading financial center with one of the world’s most important stock exchanges. The wealthy city is not afraid to show off its prosperity – there are majestic and almost lavish buildings, ornate mansions and streets full of luxurious shops and boutiques. Zurich also has plenty to offer culture-lovers. There are many amazing museums and galleries showcasing renowned historical artworks as well as new and emerging contemporary artists. Fans of theatre and music will have hard time making an itinerary too – there are so many cultural events of all genres taking place every night. Moreover, they are rivaled by countless annual festivities such as Street Parade, Jazz Festival, Theatre Festival and more!

When you’ve had enough of the city, it’s only a short ride on super-comfortable trains to reach stunning, unspoilt Swiss nature.

Time Zone
CET (UTC/GMT +1 hour), daylight saving time UTC/GMT +2 hours from March to October.

Contacts
Tourist Contacts

MONEY

Money can be best exchanged at railway station kiosks and in the banks (they charge a commission fee). Traveler’s checks are up for a slightly better exchange rate. ATMs are abundant and also offer great exchange rates.

Switzerland is significantly more cash-oriented than other countries, however cards are accepted in large stores; the most popular ones being Visa and Mastercard – always check the stickers on the door of the store for those card accepted. ATMs are readily available almost everywhere.

Prices
- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – 20 CHF
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-courses-100 CHF
- Combo Meal at McDonalds – 12 CHF
- Bottle of water at supermarket – 1 CHF
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) – 6 CHF
- Cappuccino – 4.50 CHF
- Souvenir t-shirt – 34 CHF
- Gasoline (1 liter) – 1.80 CHF
- Hostels (average price/night) – 45 CHF
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – 250 CHF
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – 110 CHF
Languages
Zurich belongs to the German-speaking area of Switzerland. It is actually a Swiss German (Schwyzerdütsch), Allemannic dialect different from standard German. But don’t be afraid – standard German is taught in schools so you will easily get by with it.

Thanks to the complicated language situation in Switzerland, the majority of Swiss are proficient in languages. However, English is not as common as you might think. Most people in Zurich should know enough English to at least give you basic directions or answer simple questions.

Mobile Phones
The standard mobile network (GSM/GPRS/3G) covers even the mountain areas well. If coming from non-GSM standard country, check compatibility with your local provider in advance.

If you intend to stay for a while, you might consider purchasing a pre-paid card. The supermarkets sell them for quite reasonable prices.

The country code for Switzerland is +41, the area code for Zurich is 44.

Internet
There are many free Wi-Fi hotspots in Zurich. Almost every café, bar or mall offers some kind of connection and some phone booths allow browsing too. At the major railway stations, there are paid Internet terminals. Wi-Fi is also available at the airport.

Hotels and hostels with free Internet connection are increasingly common, too.

Internet Resources
- Official Tourist Board Zurich (www.zuerich.com)
- Official Tourist Website Switzerland (myswitzerland.com)
- The weather in Switzerland (www.meteo.ch)
- Zurich cultural events (kultur.scheuble.ch)

The only federal holiday is August 1 (Swiss national day). The rest are set individually by the respective cantons.

The canton of Zurich observes these holidays:
- January 1 – New Year’s Day
- January 2 – St. Berchtold
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- May 1 – Labour Day
- Ascension
- Whit Monday
- August 1 – Swiss National Day
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- December 26 – St Stephen’s Day

Museums and attractions usually close during these holidays.

Opening Hours
The shops in the city center generally open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday opening times are shorter, usually until 5 p.m. Keep in mind that all shops, except for those situated at railway stations and gas stations, are closed on Sundays. In Zurich, you will find shops at Main Railway Station and Stadelhofen Railway Station open all year round.

The offices and banks are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The majority of shops close on public holidays.
Public Transportation

Providing a fast and effective system covering Zurich and neighboring cantons, there are many modes of transport which can be combined for a fare counted by zone. Tickets are distinguished according to the class traveled, too. Even some cable cars are included in the zone system.

Tickets can be purchased at vending machines or kiosks. You need to validate them before boarding. A single ticket for 2 zones in 2nd class costs CHF 4.10 (2.90 for children). There are also short distance tickets valid in Zurich and Winterthur for CHF 2.50 (2.20) – see vending machines where validity is specified. The day pass costs CHF 8.60 (5.20) for traveling around the city center. If you are staying longer or plan to travel a lot, you might consider purchasing multiple day passes with six freely selectable days of travel – CHF 44.40 (32) or multiple-journey tickets for six single journeys – CHF 22.20 (16). There’s also the ZürichCARD designed for tourists: valid for 24 hours (CHF 20/14) or 72 hours (CHF 40/28) for travel around Zurich, recreational areas around the city, shop discounts and free admission to all museums in Zurich. Keep in mind that you need to validate it before boarding for the first time.

Trams and buses are the main means of transport in the city center. There are night buses (marked N) running on weekends only. You need to buy a ‘night ticket’ and validate it before boarding. The S-Bahn covers the suburbs and connects them with the city. The main transportation hub where all lines meet is Hauptbahnhof (Main Station). Boats – operate on the lake as well as the Limmat river. The routes can be tourist-oriented but there are also lines used by the locals.

- Zürich Public Transport – route planner (www.zvv.ch)
- Zürichsee Schifffahrtsgesellschaft (boats) (www.zsg.ch)
- ZürichCARD (www.zuerich.com)

Taxis

There are not many taxis on the streets and they are usually full. Therefore it is always better to book your taxi by phone or to find a taxi rank. The fare is always shown on the meter.

Expect taxis to be expensive – the ride from the airport to the city center is around CHF 60. A ride always starts at CHF 6, and for every kilometer CHF 3.80 is added. Waiting time is CHF 69 per hour. Only some taxis accept credit cards.

Phone numbers:
- 105 TAXI Zürich, +41 842 105 105
- Taxi Zürich, +41 44 404 13 80
- Taxi 444 AG, +41 44 444 44 44

Regional Transportation

As mentioned above, Zurich is connected to the surrounding cities in a compact net with a zoning system. The whole transportation system is clean, effective and comprehensible – one of the best in Europe. Expect it to operate punctually.

If you plan to travel a lot, purchase the Half-Fare Card for CHF 165 which will grant you a 50% discount of the Swiss Card that will provide you with unrestricted traveling for the chosen duration and significant discounts at various establishments. Overall, the discount system is quite complicated but it pays off to study it thoroughly beforehand and decide what the best option for you is.

The majority of trains don’t require reservation but there are some exceptions – they are marked with R on the timetables. You always need to buy your tickets before boarding.

The buses are complementary to the trains and they connect well. Timetables and routes are always posted at bus stops. There are also long-distance buses for which tickets need to be booked in advance.

- Switzerland Public Transport (routes, fares) (www.sbb.ch)
- PostBus (www.postauto.ch)

Walkability

Zurich has developed into a perfectly walkable city – there are many pedestrian streets and the public transport is very comprehensible and effective. Walking around is a delight; there’s so much to see on the streets and you can explore the city very comfortably.

You can also easily rent a bike at Züri rollt (www.zuerich.com) for a refundable deposit. Check the rental kiosks’ locations in advance.

Zurich is also known for its good accessibility; public transport is, with few exceptions, equipped with low boarding platforms and pavements and access to sights is generally designed thoughtfully.
Here are some of Swiss specialties:
- Zürigsnätzlets – veal in cream sauce
- Chnöpfli – noodle dumplings
- Rösti – potato pancakes
- Pretzlen
- Bratwurst – grilled sausages
- Fondue, Raclette – melted cheese in various combinations
- Türggeli – honey pastry, eaten mainly for Christmas
- Mandelfisch – almond pastry
- Bircher muesli – the precursor of world-wide popular müsli

The most popular non-alcoholic drinks are Rivella (carbonated sweet drink), sparkling apple juice and Ovomaltine (malt and chocolate drink).

Switzerland produces delicious white wines such as Riesling X Sylvaner. There’s also a rich tradition of absinthe distilling and drinking that has been resumed recently – try Kübler or La Clandestine.

**Legal Age**
The minimum drinking age for non-spirits varies according to the canton. It is usually 16 for drinking cider, wine or beer and 18 for spirits.

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**EVENTS DURING THE YEAR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>January</strong></th>
<th><strong>February</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Horse Show (en.horse-sport-travel.com)</td>
<td>Art on Ice (<a href="http://www.artonice.com">www.artonice.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>March</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>ZüriCarneval</td>
<td>Zurich Marathon (<a href="http://www.zurichmarathon.ch">www.zurichmarathon.ch</a>)</td>
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<th><strong>May</strong></th>
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<td>Sechseläuten (en.wikipedia.org) – Zurich spring festival</td>
<td>Zurich OpenAir Festival (zurichopenair.ch)</td>
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<th><strong>July</strong></th>
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<td>Caliente (<a href="http://www.caliente.ch">www.caliente.ch</a>) – Latin music festival</td>
<td>Street Parade (<a href="http://www.streetparade.ch">www.streetparade.ch</a>)</td>
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<th><strong>September</strong></th>
<th><strong>October</strong></th>
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<td>Live at Sunset Festival (<a href="http://www.liveatsunset.ch">www.liveatsunset.ch</a>)</td>
<td>Art International Zurich (art-zurich.com)</td>
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<th><strong>November</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Zurichsee Festival (<a href="http://www.zuerichseefestival.ch">www.zuerichseefestival.ch</a>)</td>
<td>Christmas Market (<a href="http://www.zuerich.com">www.zuerich.com</a>)</td>
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THINGS TO DO

**Free Things To Do**
- St. Peter’s Church, Great Minster and other sacral buildings
- Lindenhof – great views of the city
- Lake Zurich
- Mythenquai Beach
- Botanical Garden

**DOS AND DO NOTS**
- **DO** swim in Lake Zurich in summer – it is amazing! And then.
- **DO** stay and enjoy the sunset at one of the ‘beach’ bars.
- **DO** be polite – the Swiss are too!
- **DO** be punctual!
- **DO NOT** eat out in the evening if you're traveling on a budget – lunches are almost half the price.
- **DO NOT** confuse the inhabitants of German-speaking regions with Germans – the Swiss are sensitive to this comparison.

**Safety**
Zurich is a safe city, even the so-called red light district is deemed to be safe. Exercise the general precautions, though: always keep an eye on your belongings and never wear anything valuable in easily accessible pockets or backpacks. This applies especially to the crowded areas such as transportation hubs and the main thoroughfares.

The tap water is safe to drink.
Old Town Zurich / Altstadt
Historical core of the city. Pedestrian-only walking cobblestone streets and picturesque houses with authentic feel.
GPS: N47.36994, E8.54244

Augustiner Street / Augustinergasse
A frequented traditional street with medieval houses. Great place to aimlessly stroll and drift in various shops and cafés.
Augustinergasse, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37168, E8.54020

Bahnhof Street / Bahnhofstrasse
The main and most expensive street in the city centre. Full of luxurious shops and exclusive department stores.
Bahnhofstrasse, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37253, E8.53830
**Opening hours:**
Shops usually open at 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. They close earlier on Saturdays and stay closed on Sundays.
**Great Minster / Grossmünster**
A Majestic Romanesque church from 12th century which towers dominate Zurich. Underneath lies the largest crypt in Switzerland.
Grossmünsterplatz 9, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37014, E8.54400
Phone: +41 44 252 59 49
Opening hours:
Mar – Oct: daily: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov – Feb: daily: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tower:
Mar – Oct:
Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun: 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Nov – Feb:
Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sun: 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Admission: Admission to the church is free.
Admission to the tower:
Adults: CHF 4
Seniors, students, children (6-16): CHF 2

**St. Peter’s Church / St. Peterskirche**
The oldest church in the city, also with the largest clock face in Europe. It has an interesting baroque interior with wall paintings.
Schlüsselgasse 17, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37114, E8.54107
Phone: +41 044 221 06 74
Opening hours:
Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Admission: Admission to the church is free.

**Minster of Our Lady / Fraumünster**
Church best known for being decorated with ten meter high fascinating stained glass windows made by Marc Chagall. Worth seeing.
Fraumünsterstrasse 28, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36971, E8.54091
Phone: +41 044 252 75 69
Opening hours:
Nov – Mar: Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Apr – Oct: Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Check the official website for concerts.
Admission: Admission to the church is free.

**Parade Square / Paradeplatz**
The heart of the city. Lively square with adjacent streets full of shops and restaurants. Enjoy the real Swiss urban atmosphere here.
Paradeplatz 11, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36969, E8.53889

**Confiserie Sprüngli**
Long-standing confectionery and café offering an unbelievable collection of truffles, cakes, marzipan and chocolates.
Bahnhofstrasse 21, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36939, E8.53914
Phone: +41 44 224 46 46
Opening hours:
Mon – Fri: 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Schipfe
Medieval fishing district, now somewhat artistic place with many galleries and craftmen working at the streets. Picturesque and romantic place.
Schipfe 16, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37308, E8.54172

Zurich Lake / Zürichsee
Dominant of the city, beautiful serene lake mirroring the city panorama. A must see.
GPS: N47.36594, E8.54159

Teuscher
A prime Swiss chocolate brand originated in the Alps. Flagship store sells assorted truffles and pralines that are simply delicate.
Storchengasse 9, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37075, E8.54120
Phone: +41 022 310 8778
Opening hours:
Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (December: 6 p.m.)
Sun: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Lakeside Promenade / Seepromenade (Quaianlagen)
The promenade runs along the eastern shore and passes a number of statues and monuments. A popular place for outdoor activities.
Utoquai 34, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36619, E8.54488

Rhine Falls / Rheinfall
These plain waterfalls are the widest ones in Europe. Breathtaking nature scenery that is worth the trip from Zurich.
Laufengasse 18, 8212 Neuhausen am Rheinfall, Switzerland
GPS: N47.67829, E8.61484
Opening hours:
Southern bank:
Jun – Aug: daily: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sep, Oct, Apr, May: daily: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov – Mar: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Admission:
Northern bank: no admission fee
Southern bank:
general admission: CHF 5
children (6 – 16): CHF 3.50
Payment in euros is possible.

Lindt & Sprüngli Factory / Lindt & Sprüngli
Visit the production facility of the famous chocolate brand and buy some delicacies in its factory shop.
Seestrasse 204, Kilchberg, 8802, Switzerland,
GPS: N47.31774, E8.55260
Phone: +41 01 716 22 33
Opening hours:
Factory shop:
Mon – Fri: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Dec 24 and 31.
Closed during Christmas, Easter and other holidays.
**Swiss National Museum** / Schweizerisches Landesmuseum
Place where you can get lots of information about Swiss history. The collection is usually enriched by numerous temporary exhibitions.

Museumstrasse 2, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37902, E8.54100

**Phone:** +41 044 218 65 11

**Opening hours:**
Tue – Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (7 p.m. on Thu)

**Admission:**
Adults: CHF 10
Concessions: CHF 8
Children (up to 16): free

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**Water Church** / Wasserkirche
Medieval church built on a tiny river island that is now part of the shore. Closed during Reformation, since 1940 is in service again.

Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36988, E8.54325

**Phone:** +41 044 261 66 19

**Opening hours:**
Tue: 9 a.m. – noon
Wed – Fri: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat: noon – 5 p.m.

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**Meister Zürich**
Prestigious jewellery and watch shop showcasing precisely handcrafted masterpieces by world-renowned producers.

Bahnhofstrasse 33, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37119, E8.53851

**Phone:** +41 044 221 27 30

**Opening hours:**
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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**Zurich Toy Museum** / Zürcher Spielzeugmuseum
Museum just perfect for the children: its collections consist of hundreds of antique toys from the whole Europe.

Fortunagasse 15, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37301, E8.53989

**Phone:** +41 044 211 93 05

**Opening hours:**
Mon – Fri: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and general holidays.

**Admission:**
Adults: CHF 4
Children (up to 16): free

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**Jucker Farmart Adventure Farm** / Jucker Farmart Erlebnis-bauernhof Seegräben
Drop by at this real Swiss farm keeping goats and other farm animals. You can also pick your own vegetables and fruits here.

Dorfstrasse 23, 8607 Seegräben, Switzerland
GPS: N47.34357, E8.77303

**Phone:** +41 44 934 34 84

**Opening hours:**
Restaurant and farmers' shop:
Nov – Apr:
Sun – Wed: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Apr)
Thu – Sat: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
May – Oct: daily: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Schweizer Heimatwerk
Gift shop selling products manufactured according to the tradition. Wide selection for everyone, a place where to shop for souvenirs!

Uraniastrasse 1, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37432, E8.54168
Phone: +41 044 217 83 00
Opening hours:
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thermalbath & Spa Zurich / Thermalbad & Spa Zürich
Vast spa premises containing thermal spa and extraordinary stone vaults. Relax in the rooftop pool and enjoy the great views of Zurich.

Brandschenkestrasse 150, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36487, E8.52528
Phone: +41 044 205 96 50
Opening hours:
Daily: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. (last admission at 8:30 p.m.)
Tue: no access for men
Admission:
Thermal bath:
Adults: CHF 32
Children (7 – 14): CHF 16
Children (up to 6): free

Kunsthaus Zürich
Here you can admire European masterpieces ranging since 17th century to modern art. Interesting collection of art since 1945.

Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37016, E8.54846
Opening hours:
Tue, Sat, Sun: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wed – Fri: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Admission:
Admission to the permanent collection:
Adults: CHF 15
Concessions: CHF 10
Admission to the separate exhibitions varies.
Combined ticket:
Adults: CHF 25
Concessions: CHF 18

Lake Cruises / Rundfahrten am Zürichsee
Enjoy the special experience of a cruise around the Zurich lake and select what suits you best from a wide offer of trips.

Bürkliplatz ZSG, Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36601, E8.54081
Phone: +41 44 487 13 33
Opening hours:
Tours take place daily.
Departure times differ according to the type of a cruise.
Check the website for the timetable.
Admission:
Prices start at CHF 8.40 per adult.
Longer cruises cost more.
**Zurich on Wheels / Züri rollt**
You can borrow bikes for free to get around Zurich streets! You only need to leave deposit and some ID.
Museumstrasse 1, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.37855, E8.54041
**Opening hours:**
Daily: 8 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
**Admission:**
Bike rent is free during the day.
You need to leave a deposit of CHF 20.
Overnight rent: CHF 10

**Teddy's Souvenir Shop**
As the name says it, this is a shop that will cater to all your gift needs. Wide selection from clocks and music boxes to cowbells.
Limmatquai 34, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.36946, E8.54374
**Phone:**
+41 044 261 2289
**Opening hours:**
May – Oct:
Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Nov – Apr:
Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Botanical Garden / Botanischer Garten**
Adjacent to the Zurich University, there are many exotic plants and cacti in the glasshouses. Free entrance.
Zollikerstrasse 107, University of Zurich, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland
GPS: N47.35893, E8.56006
**Phone:**
+41 044 634 84 61
**Opening hours:**
Mar – Sep:
Mon – Fri: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat – Sun: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Oct – Feb:
Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat – Sun: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
**Admission:**
Admission to the garden is free.