Altdorf (UR)

Canton of Uri · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Altdorf is the capital of the canton of Uri, in central Switzerland. It lies on the flat floor of the Reuss valley, just south of Lake Lucerne. High mountain walls rise on both sides.

Altdorf is linked to the legend of William Tell. A statue of the hero stands on the main square. The town is on the old route to the Gotthard Pass.

When to visit

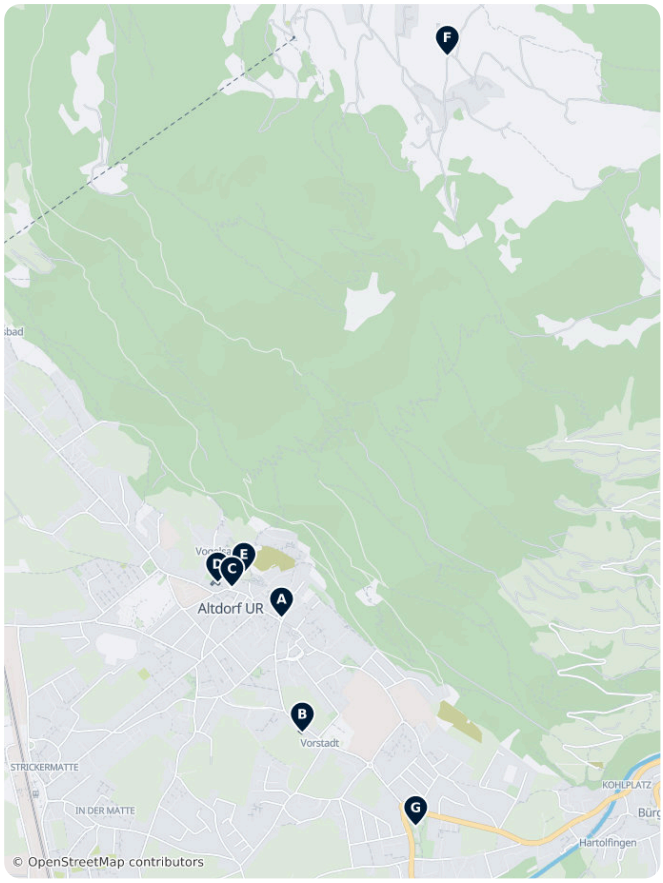
May to October is best for the town, the lake and mountain walks. Summer is warm. Winter is cold and the valley can be foggy, but ski areas nearby have snow.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-3° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 2°	-2° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 17° Feels like 7°	2° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22°	6° / -1°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	10° / 5°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	15° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	16° / 11°	20 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	16° / 11°	18 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	12° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	17° / 24°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	3° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 2°	-1° / -11°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Telldenkmal is a statue of the hero William Tell and his son on the main square.
- B Historisches Museum Uri tells the history of the canton.
- C Kirchenschatzmuseum shows church treasures.
- D Haus für Kunst Uri shows modern art.
- E St. Martinskirche is the main parish church.
- F Wildheuerpfad Rophaien is a path on steep grass slopes above the town, where farmers cut wild hay.
- G Naturkundesammlung is a small natural history collection.



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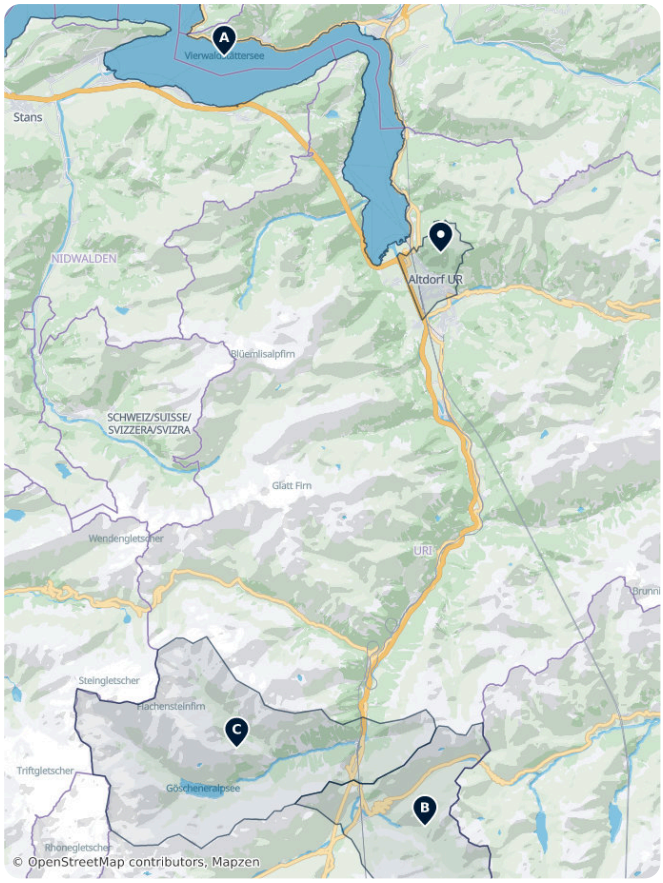
What to experience

- See the Tell statue on the main square.
- Walk the lake path towards Flüelen.
- Take a cable car into the mountains.
- Hike on the old Gotthard path.
- Go to the Tell play, which is performed in some summers.

Day trips

- A Lake Lucerne is just north, with boats and villages.
- B Andermatt is a mountain village on the Gotthard route.
- C Göschenen is at the north end of the Gotthard rail tunnel.
- Lucerne is about 1 hour away by train.



Where to explore

- Andermatt, Göschenen and Realp are the nearest villages in the canton of Uri.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich is the main airport, about 1 hour 30 minutes away.
- By train: Altdorf is on the Gotthard line between Zurich and Ticino. Check times on SBB.
- The station is close to the centre.

Getting around

- The old town is small and easy to walk.
- Local buses link the nearby villages.
- A cable car goes to the high pastures in the mountains above.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The valley floor and lake path are flat.

Driving

- The A2 motorway passes Altdorf on its way to the Gotthard tunnel.
- Traffic can be heavy at holidays.
- Parking in the town centre is easy.

Food & drink

Try Urner cheese, dried meat and cream-based dishes. Mountain restaurants serve rösti and cheese. Chocolate and baked goods are local specialities.

People speak German with a local dialect. English is widely understood.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Birchermüesli
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

LUNCH

Rösti
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

DINNER

Cheese Fondue · Fondue
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

Raclette
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

Zürcher Geschnetzeltes
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

Älplermagronen
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Cervelat
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

Basler Läckerli
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

DRINKS

Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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Safety & health

- Altdorf is very safe.
- Rockfall and avalanches can occur on mountain roads.
- Mountain weather changes fast.
- Stay on marked paths.

History

Altdorf is part of the original core of the Swiss Confederation. Tradition tells that William Tell shot an apple from his son's head here, in the early 14th century. The story became a national legend.

The town was rebuilt after a fire in 1799. It is on the main route across the Alps to Italy.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

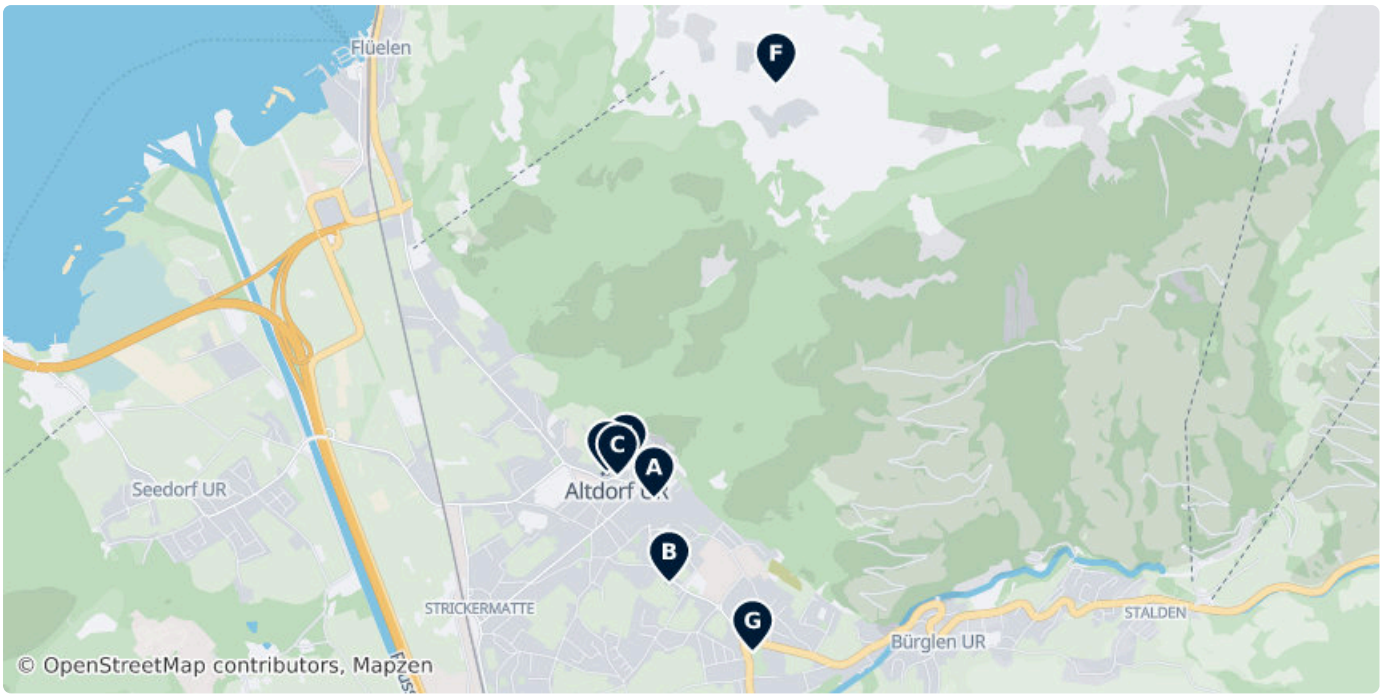


Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Telldenkmal

Marktgasse, Altdorf UR 6460, Switzerland
(46.88177, 8.64395)

B Historisches Museum Uri

(46.87782, 8.64499)

C Kirchenschatzmuseum

(46.88282, 8.64147)

D Haus für Kunst Uri

Herrengasse 4, 6460 Altdorf UR (46.88297, 8.64075)

Th–Fr	16:00–18:00
Sa–Su	11:00–17:00

hausfuerkunsturi.ch



E St. Martinskirche

(46.88330, 8.64207)

G Naturkundesammlung

(46.87462, 8.65068)

F Wild haymaking trail

Educational hiking route leading through wonderful nature and informs about the traditional art of haymaking in Alps.

Eggberge 117, 6460 Altdorf, Switzerland
(46.90103, 8.65226)

luzern.com/en/navpage.cfm, +410 41 874 80 00

DATA SOURCES

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- St. Martinskirche — "Altdorf UR Pfarrkirche" by Andreas Faessler, cc-by-sa-4.0

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