

Appenzell

Canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Appenzell is a small village in northeastern Switzerland, below the Alpstein mountains. The main street has brightly painted houses with flower boxes and carved signs. Farms and meadows surround it.

The village is the capital of the half-canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden. It is known for traditional customs, cheese and hiking. Most visitors come for a day or a few nights.

When to visit

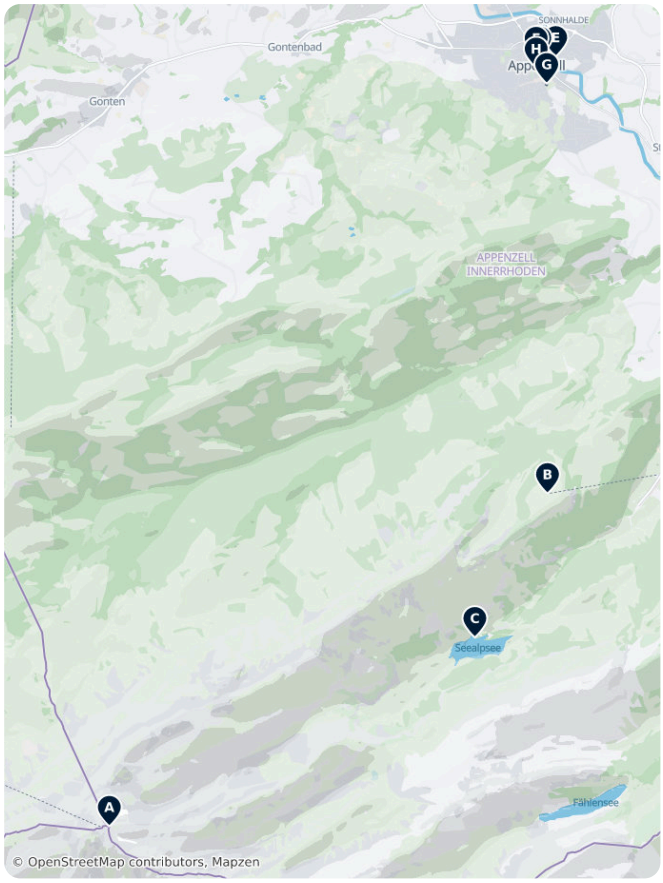
June to September is the best time for hiking and the high cable cars. Spring brings flowers and fresh green meadows. Autumn is clear and has the cattle processions when herds come down from the mountains. Winter is snowy and cold, and some mountain paths close. On the last Sunday of April, citizens vote in the open air at the Landsgemeinde.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-4° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for hiking	3° / 11° Feels like -1°	-4° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for hiking	8° / 15° Feels like 4°	-1° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for cycling	12° / 20° Feels like 9°	3° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 23°	8° / 2°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	12° / 6°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 8°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	13° / 8°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	18° / 24°	9° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 20°	6° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	7° / 15° Feels like 3°	0° / -7°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 9° Feels like -2°	-3° / -12°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Säntis is the highest peak in the Alpstein. A cable car climbs from Schwägalp, and the summit has views of six countries on a clear day.
- B Ebenalp is reached by cable car from Wasserauen. Trails lead to the cave church and a cliff-side inn.
- C Seealpsee is a mountain lake reached by a walk of about 1 hour from Wasserauen.
- D Pfarrkirche St. Mauritius is the village church, with a painted interior.
- E Brauerei Locher is a local brewery with a visitor centre.
- F Museum Appenzell tells the story of local customs and crafts.
- G Kunstmuseum Appenzell shows art in a modern building.
- H Klosterkirche is a small church in the village.



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What to experience

- Walk the painted main street and look at the carved signs.
- Ride the cable car to Ebenalp and walk to the cave church.
- Walk to Seealpsee and swim or rest at the lake.
- Ride to the Säntis summit for views.
- Visit the brewery and taste local beer.
- Hike on marked trails in the Alpstein hills.

Day trips

- Wasserauen is about 15 minutes away by train. It is the start of the paths to Ebenalp and Seealpsee.
- Schwägalp, the base of the Säntis cable car, is reached by bus and takes about 1 hour.
- St. Gallen is about 50 minutes away by train.
- Lake Constance is about 1 hour away.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is the nearest main airport. The trip takes about 2 hours by train.
- By train: Appenzell is on a narrow-gauge line from St. Gallen. Check times on SBB.
- Trains also run on to Wasserauen.

Getting around

- The village is small and easy to walk.
- Local trains and buses reach the mountain stations.
- The cable cars to Ebenalp and Säntis run all year, with breaks for maintenance.
- Hiking paths link the village to nearby farms and hills.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The village centre is small and flat. Mountain trails nearby are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley roads are quiet. The hills around the village are steep.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the village. Public transport reaches the mountain stations.
- Parking in the village is limited at busy times.
- Mountain roads can be steep and narrow.

Food & drink

Try Appenzeller cheese, a strong cheese ripened in herb brine. Appenzeller Biberli are filled gingerbread. Local sausages and dried meats are common. The herbal liqueur Alpenbitter comes from the area.

The region keeps old customs, such as yodelling, folk music and the Landsgemeinde. Local people speak a distinctive German dialect.

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

- Appenzell is very safe.
- Mountain weather can change fast. Check the forecast before any hike.
- Wear good boots on trails. Paths can be wet and steep.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Appenzell grew around an abbey of St. Gall. The area joined the Swiss Confederation in 1513. The region later split into two halves, Innerrhoden and Ausserrhoden, over religion in 1597.

Innerrhoden stayed Catholic, and the village kept its customs. Today it is a small canton with a strong local identity.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

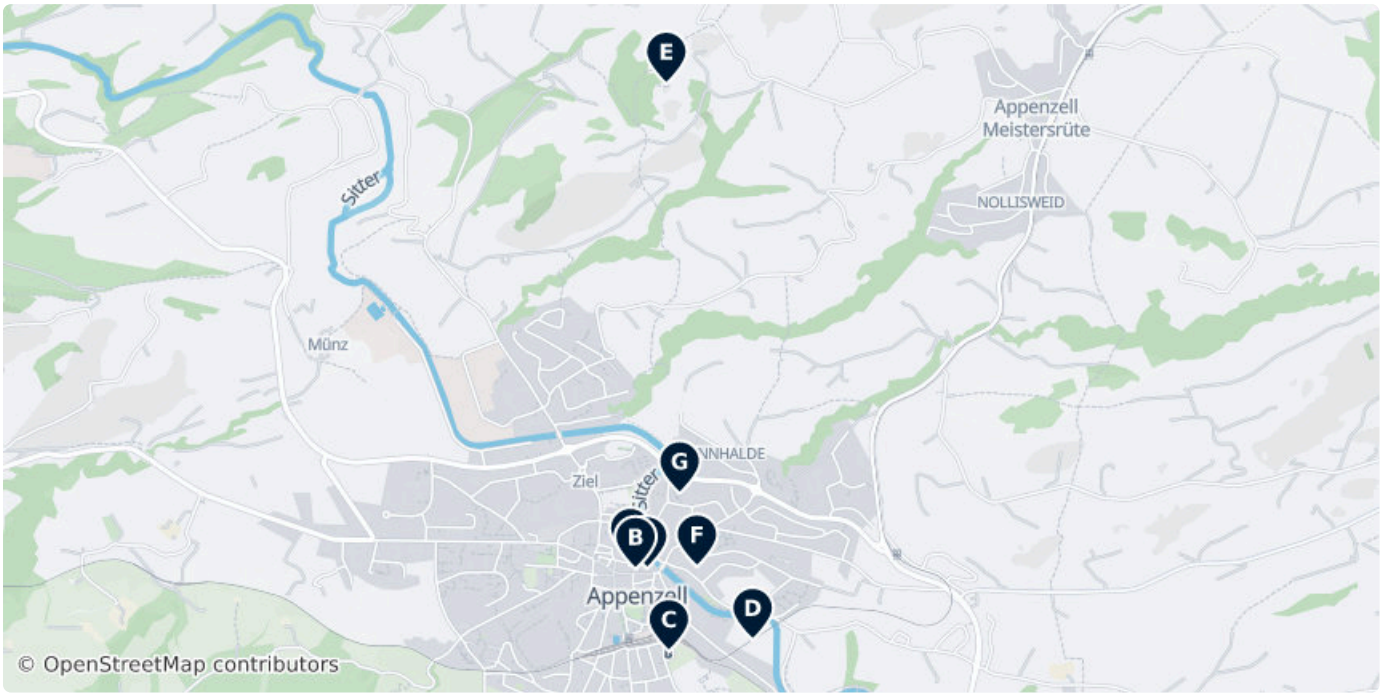
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Appenzell Essentials

Appenzell is defined by its well-preserved traditional architecture and deep-rooted cultural heritage. This collection features the late-Gothic Pfarrkirche St. Mauritius, the distinctive notched facade of the Kunstmuseum Appenzell, and the historic ruins of Clanx Castle. It also highlights local industry at Brauerei Locher, the producer of Appenzeller beer, and the Sitterviadukt, a railway bridge dating back to 1904. These landmarks reflect the religious, artistic, and engineering history of the Appenzell Innerrhoden capital.





A Pfarrkirche St. Mauritius

Late-Gothic Roman Catholic parish church featuring a prominent tower and ornate interior decor. It serves as a central landmark in the village of Appenzell.

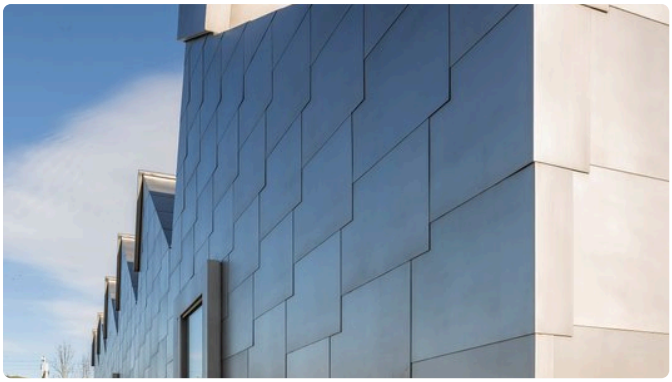
2 Hauptgasse, Appenzell 9050, Switzerland (47.33092, 9.41043)

B Museum Appenzell

Located in the Town Hall, this museum focuses on the history and folk culture of Appenzell Innerrhoden, including traditional embroidery, hand-painted furniture, and local customs.

Hauptgasse 4, 9050 Appenzell, CH (47.33089, 9.40986)

museum.ai.ch



C Liner Museun

This fascinating notched building houses collection related to Liner painters and temporary exhibitions of modern art.

Unterrainstrasse 5, 9050 Appenzell, CH (47.32811, 9.41151)

Mo–Su 18:00–20:00

kunstmuseum-kunsthalle.ch/de/, +41 71 788 18 00



D Sitterviadukt

A railway bridge constructed between 1902 and 1904 for the Appenzell Tramway. It spans the Sitter River and remains an active piece of local transportation infrastructure.

49B Weissbadstrasse, 9050, Switzerland (47.32850, 9.41570)

E Clanx Castle

Clanx Castle is a ruined castle in the Appenzell District of the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden in Switzerland.

9050, Switzerland (47.34728, 9.41139)



F Brauerei Locher

A family-owned brewery established in 1886, famous for producing Appenzeller Bier and Säntis Malt whisky. It is one of the last independent breweries in Switzerland.

2 Blumenrainstrasse, Appenzell 9050, Switzerland (47.33098, 9.41291)

appenzellerbier.ch



G Lourdeskappelle

Also known as Martinskapelle, this small chapel sits on a hill between the Sitter and Bleichwäldibach streams north of the town center.

(47.33345, 9.41205)

H Kantonsbibliothek

The public scientific and educational library of the canton, serving as a repository for regional literature and historical documents.

2 Marktgasse, Appenzell 9050, Switzerland
(47.33120, 9.40959)

Mo	09:30–12:00, 14:00–17:00
Tu	14:00–17:00
We	09:30–12:00, 14:00–17:00
Th	14:00–17:00
Fr	09:30–12:00, 14:00–17:00

ai.ch/verwaltung/ratskanzlei/kantonsbi... , +41 71 788 93 33

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