

# Ascona

Canton of Ticino · Switzerland

## TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Ascona is a small town on the north shore of Lake Maggiore, next to Locarno. A lakeside promenade runs along the water, with colourful houses, cafés and boats. Behind it lie narrow lanes with galleries and shops.

The town has a mild, almost Mediterranean climate. It suits a relaxed stay by the lake.

## When to visit

May to September is the best time for the lake, the promenade and boats. Summer is warm. Spring and autumn are mild, with gardens in bloom in spring. Winter is quiet, and many cafés and boats close. A jazz festival fills the town in late June and early July.

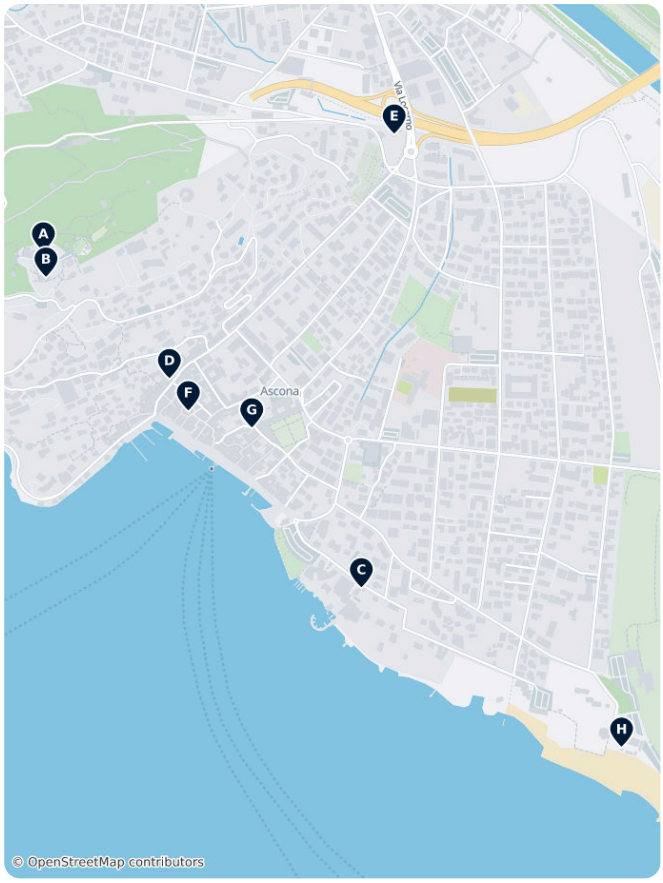
| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 7° / 12°<br>Feels like 4° | 0° / -6° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| February | Good<br>Good for cycling | 9° / 16°<br>Feels like 6° | 1° / -6° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| March | Good<br>Good for hiking | 13° / 20° | 5° / -2° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| April | Good<br>Good for cycling | 17° / 23° | 9° / 3° | 12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| May | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 21° / 27° | 13° / 8° | 17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| June | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 26° / 31° | 18° / 12° | 16 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 28° / 32° | 19° / 13° | Humid air · Calm winds |
| August | Fair<br>Fair for watersports | 28° / 33° | 19° / 14° | 16 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds |
| September | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 24° / 29° | 15° / 9° | Calm winds |
| October | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 19° / 25° | 11° / 5° | 12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| November | Good<br>Good for cycling | 12° / 19° | 6° / -1° | 12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| December | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 8° / 13°<br>Feels like 5° | 1° / -7° | Dry air · Calm winds |

Best months: September

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

## Top sights

- A Monte Verità Museum Complex is on the hill above the town. In the early 20th century it was home to a community of artists and thinkers. The complex includes B Museo Casa Anatta.
- C Museo Epper shows the work of two local painters.
- D Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna shows modern art.
- E Museo Castello San Materno is a small museum in a medieval castle.
- F Chiesa dei Santi Pietro e Paolo is the main church of the old town.
- G Museo Parrocchiale shows church objects.
- H Lido di Ascona is a lakeside swimming area with a beach.



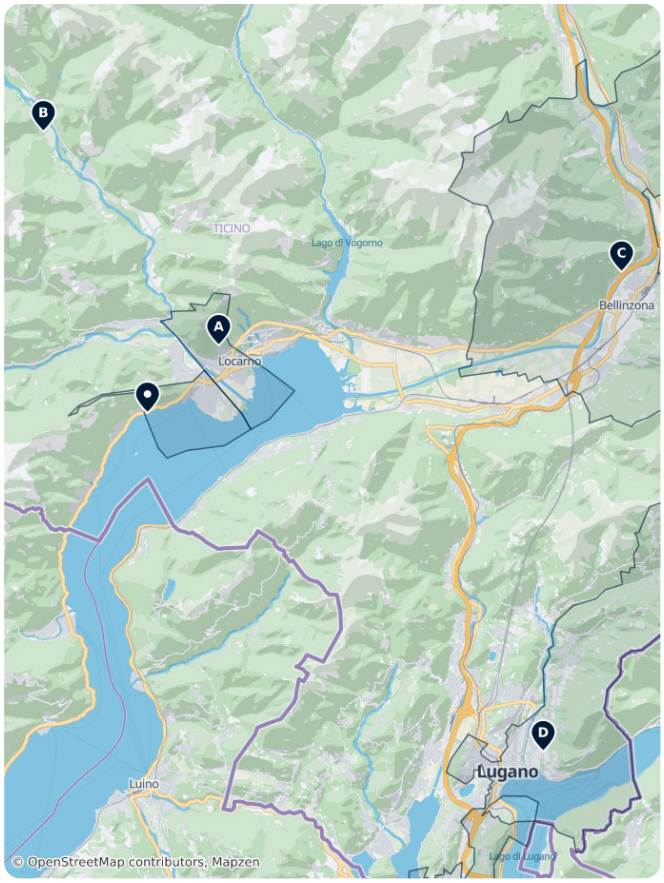

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## What to experience

- Walk the lakeside promenade and have a coffee.
- Swim or relax at the lido in summer.
- Take a boat to the Brissago Islands.
- Visit Monte Verità for the history and the views.
- Browse the galleries and shops in the old lanes.
- Cycle along the lake or the Maggia delta.

## Day trips

- A Locarno is next door, with a large square and a pilgrimage church above the town.
- The Brissago Islands, in the lake, have a botanical garden. Boats leave from Ascona.
- B Maggia Valley has rivers, stone villages and swimming spots.
- C Bellinzona has three castles and is about 30 minutes away by train from Locarno.
- D Lugano is about 1 hour away.




## Where to explore

- Locarno is the nearest town and the rail hub.
- Bellinzona and Lugano are the nearest larger towns in Ticino.

## Getting there

- By air: Zurich and Milan Malpensa are the main airports. Milan is about 2 hours away.
- By train: Ascona has no station. Take the train to Locarno and then a bus or taxi. Check times on SBB.
- The bus from Locarno takes about 15 minutes. You can also walk or cycle along the lake.

## Getting around

- The old town and promenade are small, flat and easy to walk.
- Buses link Ascona with Locarno and the lake villages.
- Lake boats leave from the town for the Brissago Islands and other shores.
- Bikes can be rented in town.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**High**

The old town and lakefront are flat. The hill of Monte Verità is a short climb.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**High**

Flat paths follow the lake and the Maggia delta.

## Driving

- A car is not needed in the old town.
- The old town has limited parking. Use a car park nearby and walk.
- Traffic on the lake road can be heavy in summer.

# Food & drink

Ticino food is close to Italian. Try risotto, polenta and fresh lake fish. Local Merlot wine is common. Many lakeside restaurants have terraces.

Most people speak Italian. Many also speak German and English.

## 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

- Ascona is very safe.
- Lake water can be cold and has currents near rivers. Swim in marked areas.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Summer can be hot, so use sun protection.

## History

Ascona began as a fishing village. In the early 20th century, artists, writers and reformers came to Monte Verità to try new ways of living. The hill became a famous meeting place.

Later the town drew painters and tourists. Its lakefront and mild climate made it a resort.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
**CHF CHF**

EMERGENCY
**112**

ELECTRICITY

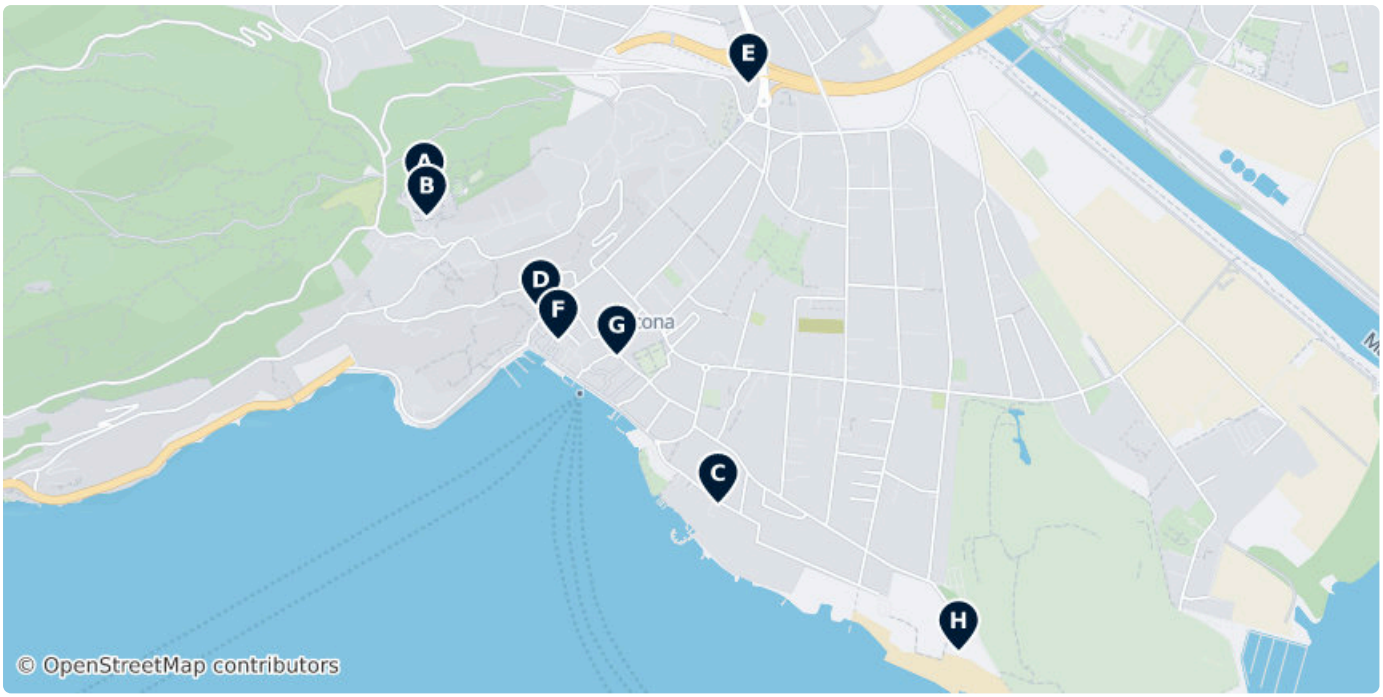


Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
**Safe to drink**

# Top sights




## A Monte Verità Museum Complex

Museum complex exploring utopian history and modernist architecture within a park. It features buildings in the Bauhaus style, including a hotel and a dedicated museum facility.

(46.15858, 8.76303)

monteverita.org/it, +41917854040

## B Museo Casa Anatta

(46.15801, 8.76312)

## C Museo Epper

(46.15094, 8.77347)

fondazioneepper.ch

## D Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna

Via Borgo 34, 6612 Ascona, CH (46.15570, 8.76717)

museoascona.ch

## E Museo Castello San Materno

(46.16126, 8.77455)



## F Chiesa dei Santi Pietro e Paolo

(46.15497, 8.76779)

## G Museo Parrocchiale

(46.15458, 8.76987)

## H Lido di Ascona

(46.14731, 8.78201)

## DATA SOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
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## IMAGE CREDITS

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