

Brig-Glis

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Brig-Glis is a small town in the upper Rhone valley in the Valais, at the foot of the Simplon Pass. It is a rail and road hub, and many visitors change trains here for Zermatt, the Aletsch area or Italy.

The old centre has a large 17th-century palace with three towers. The town is calm and makes a good stop for a few hours or a night.

When to visit

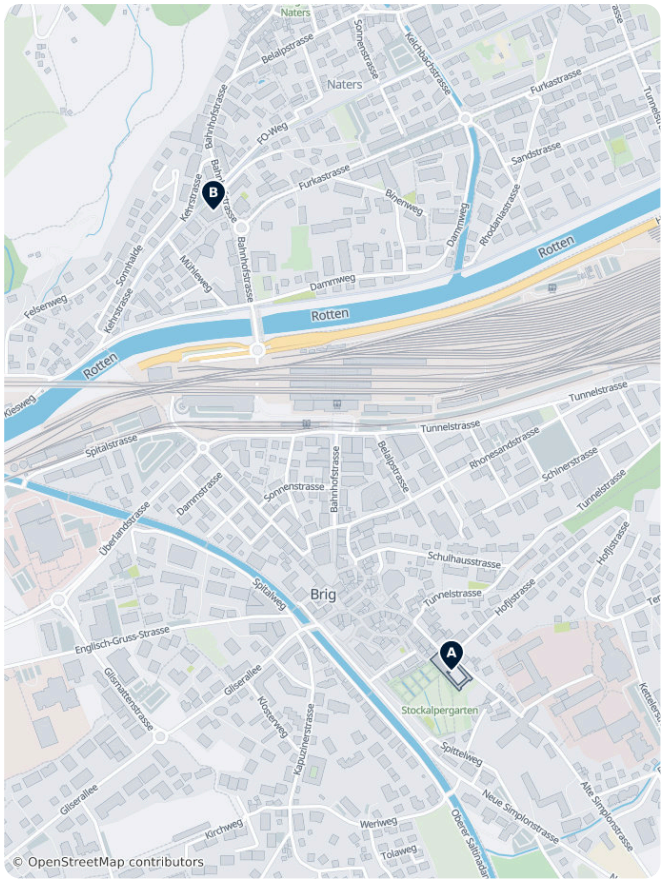
May to October is the best time for the old centre and the mountains around. Summer is warm and dry, as the Valais is one of the driest parts of Switzerland. Winter is cool, and ski resorts nearby have snow. Spring and autumn are mild.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 9° Feels like 0°	-4° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-4° / -12°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 13° Feels like 4°	0° / -8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 19°	4° / -4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 24°	9° / 3°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	14° / 8°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 29°	15° / 10°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 23°	8° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 16°	2° / -7°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-2° / -11°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Stockalperschloss is a large palace built in the 17th century by a wealthy trader. It has three onion-domed towers and a courtyard.
- B World Nature Forum in Naters is an information centre about the Aletsch area and other World Heritage sites.



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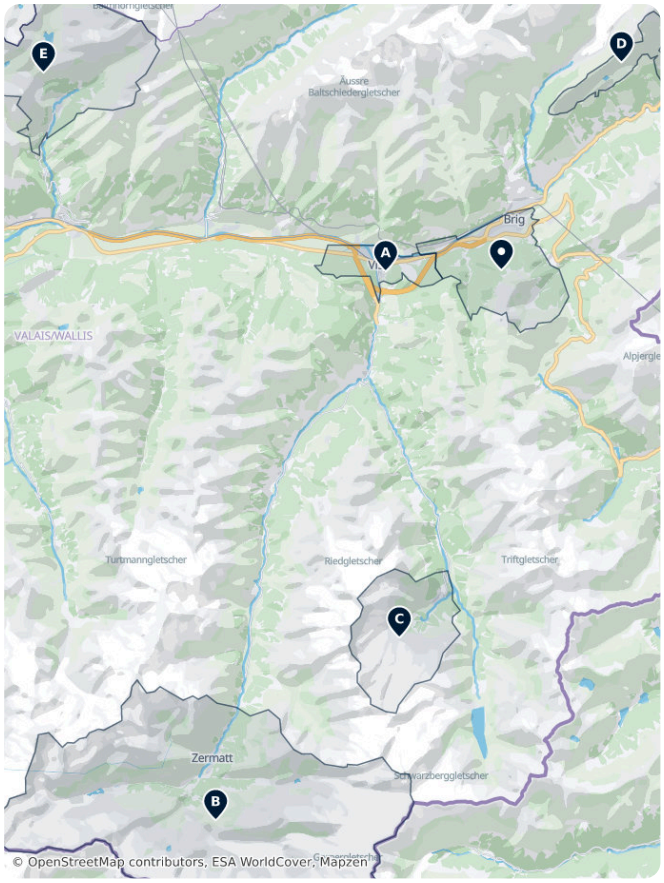
What to experience

- Visit the palace and its courtyard.
- Walk the Rhone path to Naters.
- Take the train to Zermatt for the Matterhorn views.
- Hike on the sunny slopes above Brig.
- Drive or take the bus over the Simplon Pass.

Day trips

- A Visp is a small town a few minutes away by train.
- B Zermatt is the Matterhorn village, about 1.5 hours away by train.
- C Saas-Fee is a car-free resort village reached by bus.
- D Aletsch Arena is a mountain area beside the Aletsch Glacier.
- E Leukerbad is a spa village in the mountains.
- The Simplon Pass road leads to Italy.



Where to explore

- Visp is the nearest town and the junction for Zermatt and Saas-Fee.
- Aletsch Arena lies just north-east.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich and Geneva are the main airports, about 3 hours away.
- By train: Brig is on the main line from Bern via the Lötschberg tunnel and from Lausanne along the Rhone valley. Check times on SBB.
- Brig is also the start of the Matterhorn Gotthard railway, a narrow-gauge line to Zermatt and the Glacier Express route.

Getting around

- The old centre is small and easy to walk.
- The station is a few minutes from the palace.
- Local buses serve Naters and Glis.
- Postal buses go up the Simplon Pass and the side valleys.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old centre is small and flat. The castle and the town centre are within a short walk of the station.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The Rhone valley path is flat. Roads into the side valleys climb.

Driving

- A car is not needed for Brig itself.
- Cars cannot go to Zermatt. Park in Täsch and take the train.
- The Simplon Pass is a scenic road, but it can close in winter.

Food & drink

Try raclette, which comes from the Valais. Dried meat and rye bread are local products. Local white wines are served in cafés. Fendant is a common wine.

People speak German with a Valais 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

- Brig is very safe.
- Summer can be hot and dry.
- Mountain roads can close in winter.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Brig has controlled the route over the Simplon Pass since the Middle Ages. In the 17th century a trader named Kaspar Jodok von Stockalper built a large palace and ran a business on the pass.

The Simplon railway tunnel opened in 1906 and made Brig a major rail junction.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

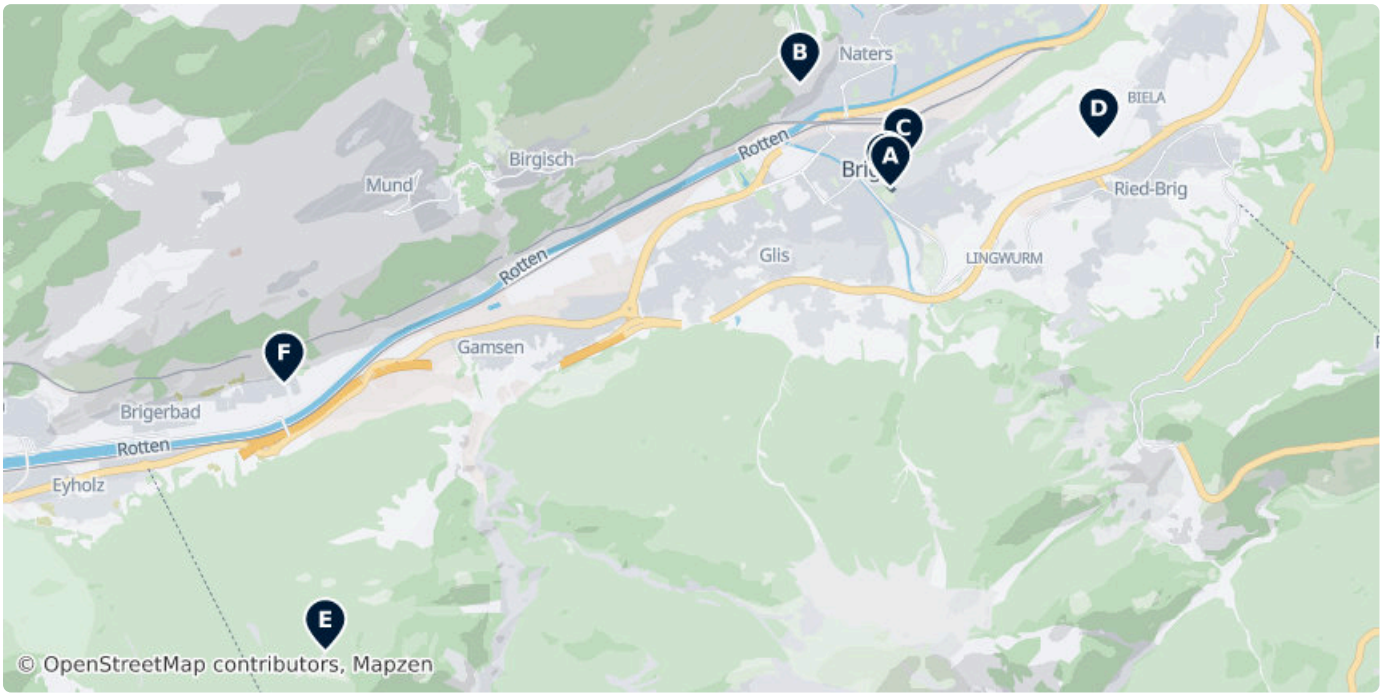
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Brig-Glis Essentials

Brig-Glis serves as a historic gateway to the Simplon Pass, anchored by the 17th-century Stockalper Palace and its distinctive granite-topped towers. The town preserves its military past at Festung Naters, a former artillery fortress carved into the rock that now houses the Swiss Guard Museum. Beyond the Baroque architecture, the area provides access to the Brigerbad thermal complex and high-altitude viewpoints like Kreuz and Wyssi Flue, which offer panoramas of the Rhone Valley and the Bernese Alps.





A Stockalper Palace

The Stockalper Palace is a castle in Brig-Glis, Switzerland. It was built between 1658 and 1678 by Kaspar Stockalper, a silk merchant of...

28 Alte Simplonstrasse, Brig-Glis 3900, Switzerland (46.31515, 7.99084)

brig-simplon.ch/schloss/index.php

B Festung Naters

A former secret artillery fortress built into the rock. It currently houses the Swiss Guard Museum, an exhibition on the Simplon tunnel construction, and a fortress museum.

Felsenweg 100 (46.32226, 7.98186)

zentrumgarde.ch



C Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche

A heritage-listed Protestant church serving the Oberwallis region.

9 Tunnelstrasse, Brig-Glis 3900, Switzerland
(46.31708, 7.99214)

D Kreuz

Alpine viewpoint offering panoramic views of the Rhone Valley and the surrounding peaks.

(46.31842, 8.01154)

E Wyssi Flue

High-altitude mountain viewpoint located south of Brig.

3932, Switzerland (46.28337, 7.93475)

F Brigerbad, Thermalbad

Transport link providing access to the Brigerbad thermal complex, one of Switzerland's largest open-air thermal baths featuring a thermal grotto and river pool.

115 Thermalbadstrasse, Brigerbad 3900, Switzerland
(46.30167, 7.93066)

G Keller Theater

A performing arts venue located in the historic vaulted cellars of the Stockalper Palace.

(46.31537, 7.99042)

DATA SOURCES

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