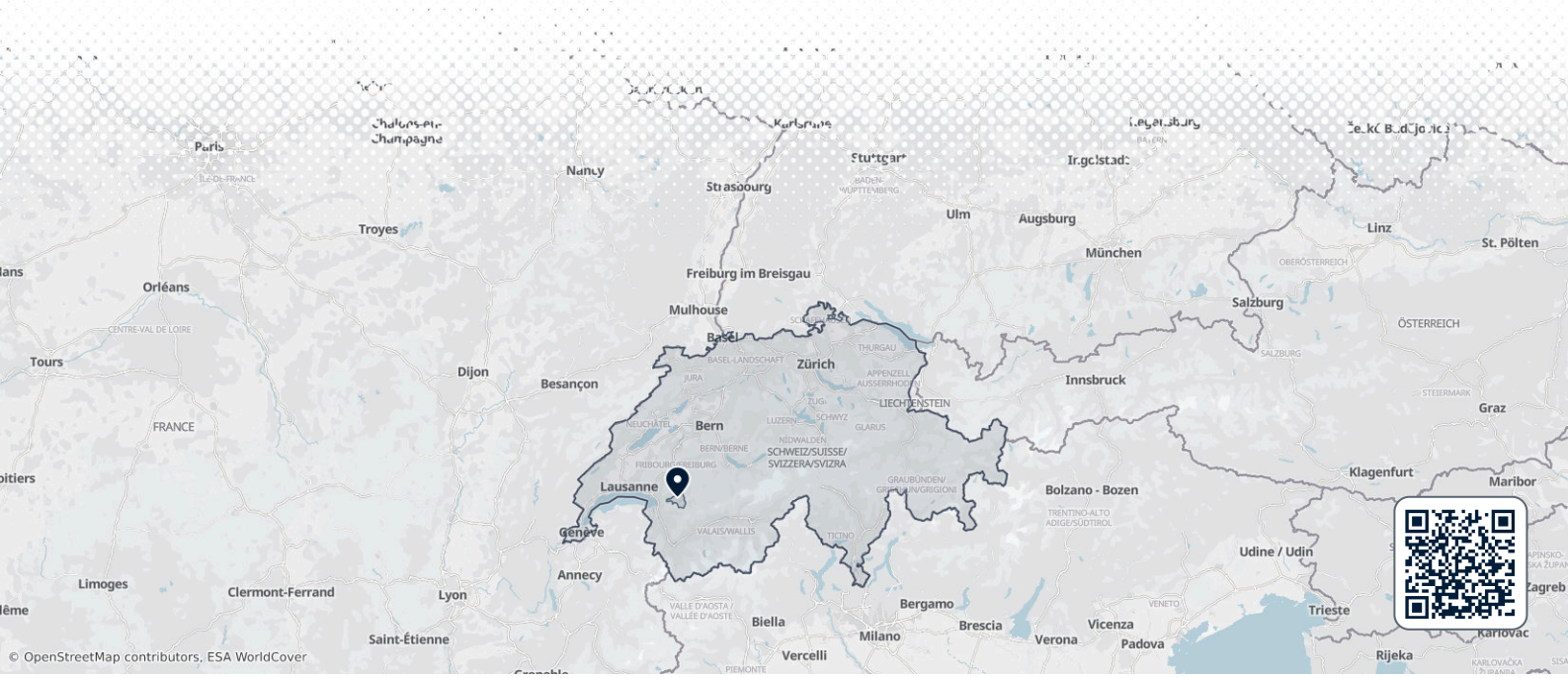
Château-d'Oex

Canton of Vaud · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Château-d'Œx is a village in the Pays-d'Enhaut, a green valley in the Vaud Alps, between Lake Geneva and Gstaad. It is the home of hot-air ballooning in Switzerland, and a balloon festival fills the sky each January.

The village is calm, with wooden chalets and cheese farms. It is a place for ballooning, skiing and cheese.

When to visit

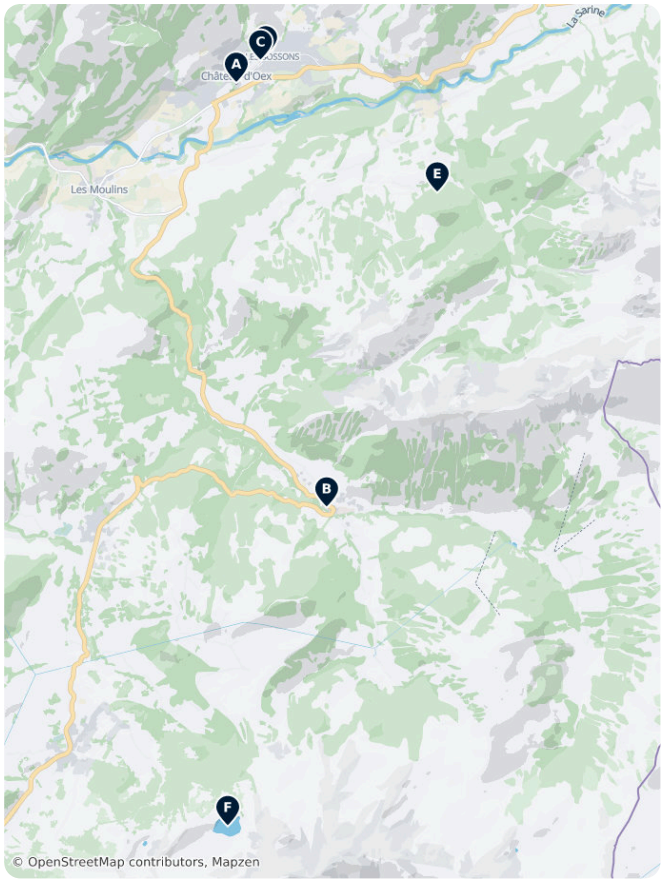
January is the time of the balloon festival. December to March is the ski season. June to September is best for hiking and cheese farms. April, May and November are quiet.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 4° Feels like -6°	-8° / -16°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	0° / 8° Feels like -4°	-7° / -17°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	5° / 12° Feels like 0°	-4° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	9° / 16° Feels like 5°	-1° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 20° Feels like 10°	4° / -2°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24°	8° / 3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	10° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	10° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22°	6° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18° Feels like 8°	2° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 12° Feels like 0°	-3° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	0° / 5° Feels like -5°	-7° / -15°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Espace Ballon is a museum about hot-air ballooning.
- B Cave de l'Etivaz is the cellar where local Etivaz cheese is aged.
- C Musée du Vieux Pays-d'Enhaut is a museum in an old chalet.
- D Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut is a local history museum.
- E Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut is a cheese region, known for its mountain cheese.
- F Lac Lioson is a small mountain lake above the valley.



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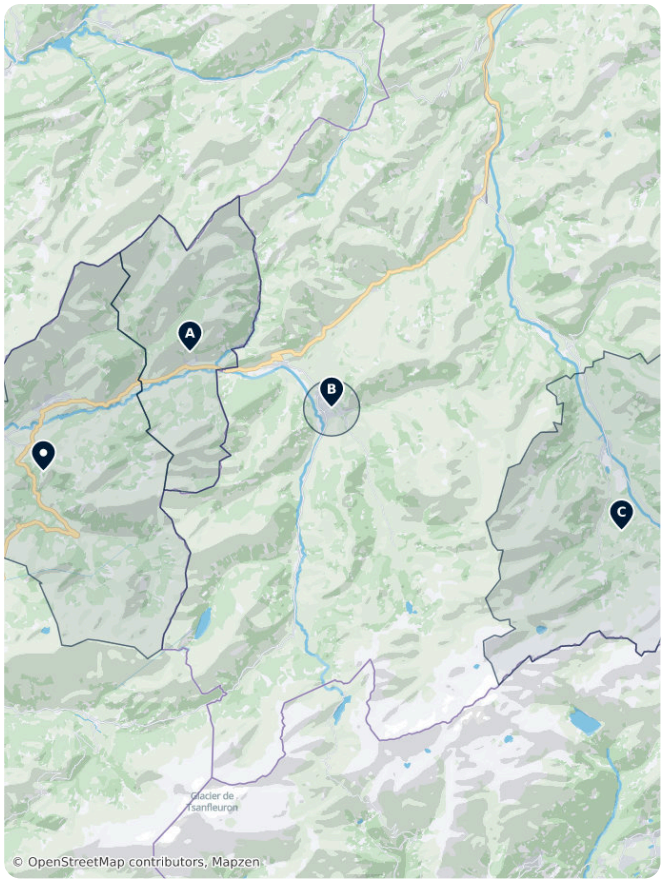
What to experience

- Take a hot-air balloon flight, one of the best places in Europe for it.
- Taste Etivaz cheese at the cellar.
- Visit the balloon museum.
- Ski or sledge in winter.
- Ride the Golden Pass train.
- Hike on the high pastures.

Day trips

- A Rougemont is a village with a large wooden church, about 10 minutes away by train.
- B Gstaad is a famous resort, about 25 minutes away by train.
- C Lenk is a ski and spa village in the Bernese Oberland.
- Montreux on Lake Geneva is about 1 hour away by train.
- Gruyères, with its castle and cheese, is nearby.



Where to explore

- Rougemont and Gstaad are the nearest villages on the same railway.

Getting there

- By air: Geneva is the main airport, about 2 hours 30 minutes away.
- By train: Château-d'Œx is on the Golden Pass line between Montreux and Gstaad. Check times on SBB.
- Trains from Montreux take about 1 hour.

Getting around

- The village is small and easy to walk, with some slopes.
- The Golden Pass train links the nearby villages.
- Local buses and lifts serve the ski area.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is small and sits on a slope.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley road is gentle. Side roads climb.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the village.
- Roads are mountain roads with bends.
- Parking in the village is easy.

Food & drink

Try Etivaz cheese, a hard mountain cheese made on high pastures in summer. Cheese fondue and raclette are common. Many farms sell cheese and cream.

People speak French. 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

- Château-d'Œx is very safe.
- Mountain weather changes fast.
- Avalanche risk exists in winter. Stay on marked trails.
- Balloon flights depend on weather.

History

The Pays-d'Enhaut was a farming and cheese region for centuries. Its main language is French, but it was once ruled from Bern. Tourism began in the 19th century.

Hot-air ballooning came in the 1990s. In 1999 the first round-the-world balloon flight took off from here.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

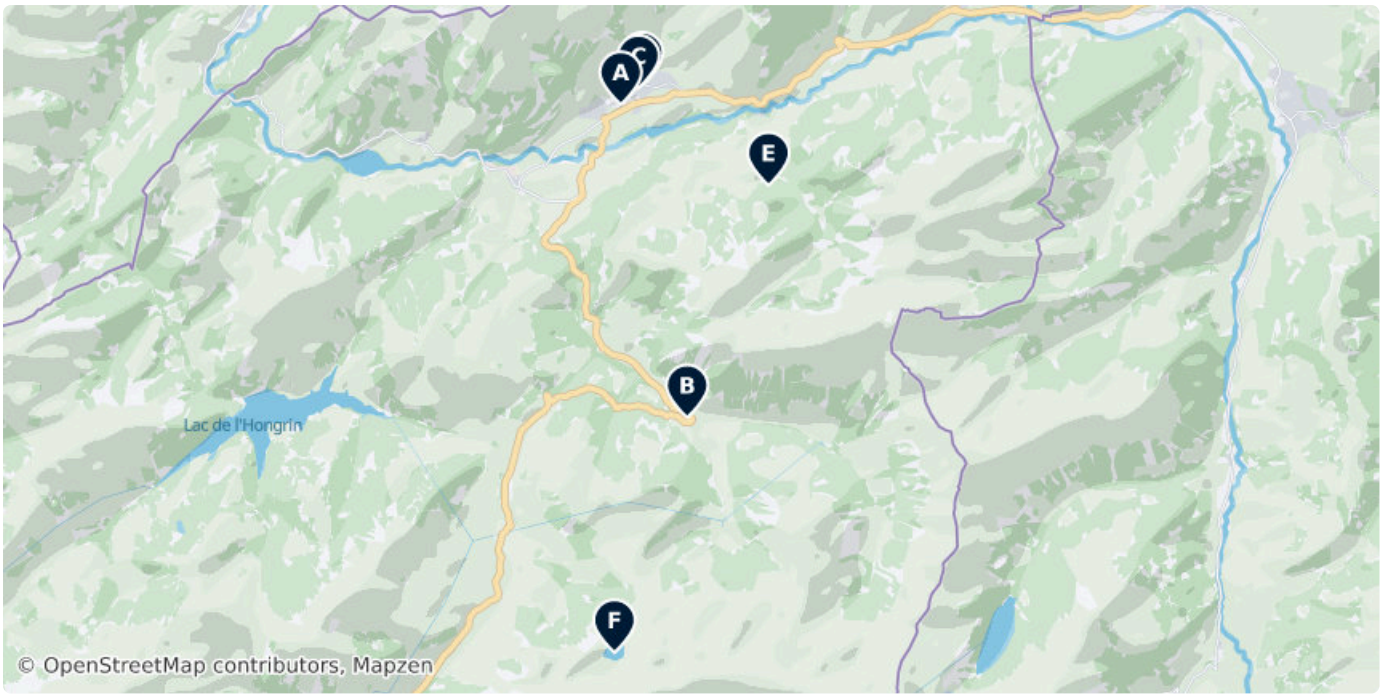
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights



A Espace Ballon

9 Chemin des Ballons, Château-d'Oex 1660, Switzerland (46.47308, 7.13032)

Mo–Fr	09:00–12:00, 13:30–17:30
Sa–Su	10:00–12:30, 13:00–17:00

ballonschateaudoex.ch/en/espace-ballon

B Cave de l'Etivaz

Route des Mosses, 1660 Château-d'Oex, Switzerland (46.42347, 7.14562)

Mo–Su	10:00–14:00

etivaz-aop.ch/la-maison-de-letivaz/, +41 26 924 70 60

C The Museum of the Pays-d'Enhaut

This homely museum displays a heart-warming exposition of furbished rooms arranged in the way how people used to live.

Grand'Rue 93, 1660 Château-d'Œx, Switzerland (46.47570, 7.13440)

musee-chateau-doex.ch, +41 26 924 65 20

D Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut

Grand Rue 107, 1660 Château-d'Oex (46.47619, 7.13528)

Tu–Su	13:30–17:30

musee-chateau-doex.ch, +41 26 924 65 20



E Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut Nature Park

A perfect example of unspoilt Alpine nature. Vast green pastures dotted with cows - the Swiss cheese making originated here.

1660, Switzerland (46.46028, 7.16434)

pnr-gp.ch, +41 26 924 76 93

F Lac Lioson

1862, Switzerland (46.38621, 7.12886)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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