Chur

Canton of the Grisons · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Chur is the capital of Graubünden and one of the oldest towns in Switzerland. The old town is a car-free maze of lanes, squares and fountains. Mountains rise on all sides.

Chur is the gateway to the Alps in eastern Switzerland. Many visitors pass through on the way to the resorts, but the old town is worth a half day or more.

When to visit

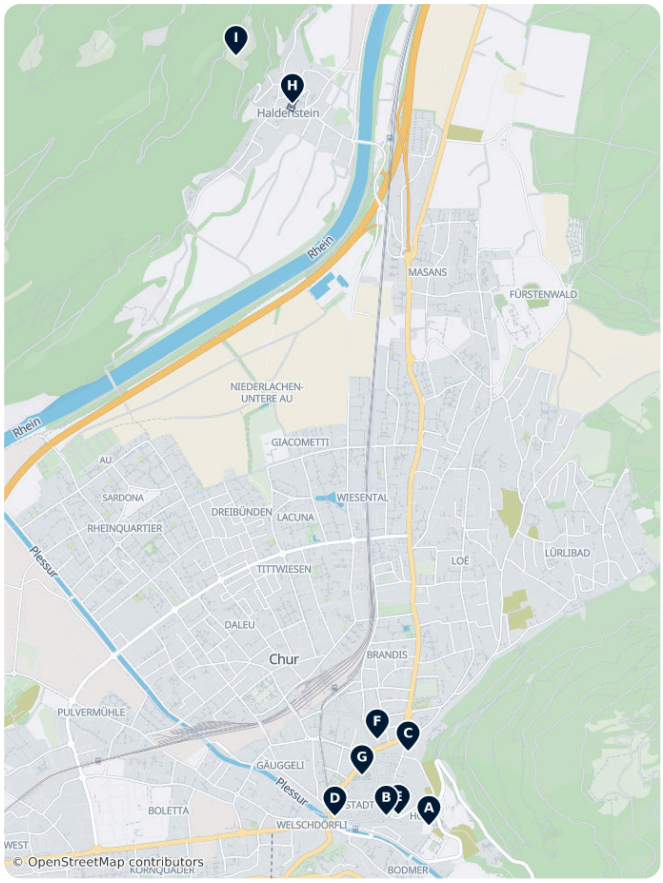
May to October is the best time for the old town and for hiking. Summer is warm. Autumn has clear light and the grape harvest. Winter is cold, and the ski areas nearby have snow from December. Spring is mild but can be wet.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 9° Feels like 0°	-5° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-4° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 17°	0° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 22°	4° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 7°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 9°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	14° / 10°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 23°	7° / 1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	2° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-3° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Kathedrale Sankt Mariä Himmelfahrt stands on a hill above the old town. It is a Romanesque cathedral with a carved altar.
- B Martinskirche is a late Gothic church in the old town.
- C Regulakirche is a small church near the old town.
- D Obertor is a gate in the old town wall.
- E Rätisches Museum shows the history of the Grisons.
- F Bündner Kunstmuseum shows art from the region.
- G Fontanapark is a park near the museums.
- H Schloss Haldenstein and I Ruine Haldenstein are a castle and a ruin in Haldenstein, just north of Chur.



Chur – Plan Your Trip

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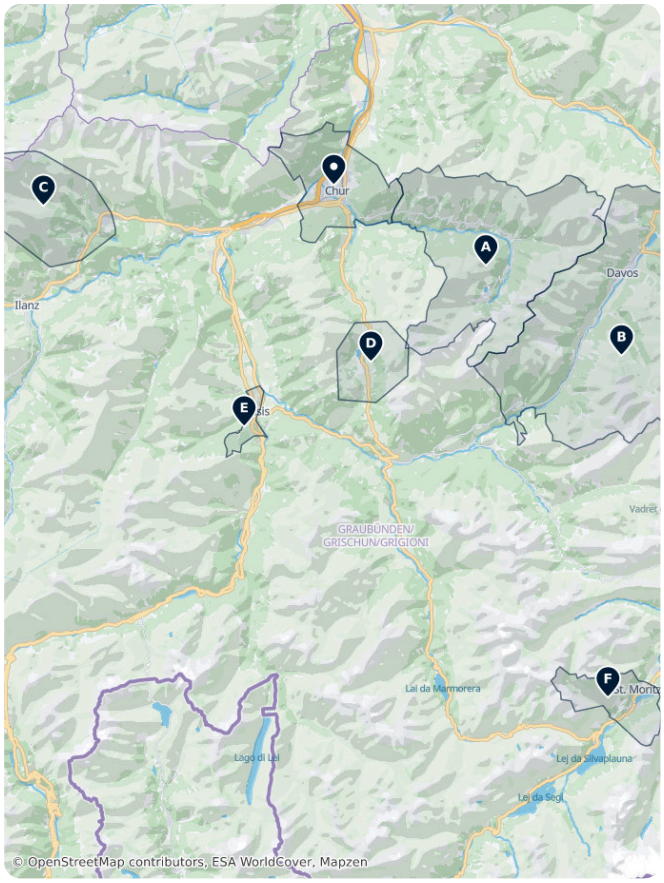
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Walk the old town lanes and squares.
- Visit the cathedral on its hill.
- Take the narrow-gauge train to Arosa or St. Moritz.
- Hike in the hills above the town.
- Taste wine in the villages north of Chur.

Day trips

- A Arosa is a mountain resort reached by a scenic train. The trip takes about 1 hour.
- B Davos is a large resort town, about 1.5 hours away by train.
- C Flims Laax Falera is a ski and hiking area near the Rhine gorge.
- D Lenzerheide is a lakeside resort and ski area.
- E Thusis is the start of the Viamala gorge and the Albula line.
- F St. Moritz is a famous resort in the Engadin, reached by scenic train.



Where to explore

- Arosa, Lenzerheide and Flims Laax Falera are the nearest ski areas.
- Ilanz/Glion and Thusis lie in the valleys to the south and west.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is the main gateway. Trains take about 1.5 hours.
- By train: Chur is on the main line from Zurich. Check times on SBB.
- Chur is also the start of several narrow-gauge mountain lines, including scenic routes to the Engadin.

Getting around

- The old town is small, car-free and easy to walk.
- The station is a 10-minute walk from the old town.
- Local buses link Chur with the nearby villages and the valley.
- Cable cars and mountain railways run from Chur's surroundings.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and mostly flat, with some slopes near the cathedral.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The Rhine valley is flat. Mountain roads above Chur are steep.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the old town, which is car-free.
- Parking is in car parks around the edge of the centre.
- A car helps for the side valleys, but the mountain roads can close in winter.

Food & drink

Try capuns, which are dumplings wrapped in chard. Pizokel are local pasta. Bündner Nusstorte is a nut tart from the region. Dried beef from Graubünden is a local product.

Most people speak German. Romansh, a local language, is also spoken in the region.

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

- Chur is very safe.
- Mountain weather changes fast. Check forecasts before any hike.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Winter roads to the passes may need chains or winter tyres.

History

People have lived at Chur for thousands of years. The Romans built a settlement here. The town became a bishop's seat in the 5th century, and the bishop's court still stands on the hill.

The town was a stop on the old trade routes across the Alps. It joined Switzerland in the 19th century with the canton of Graubünden. A fire in 1464 destroyed much of the old town, so most buildings are later.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

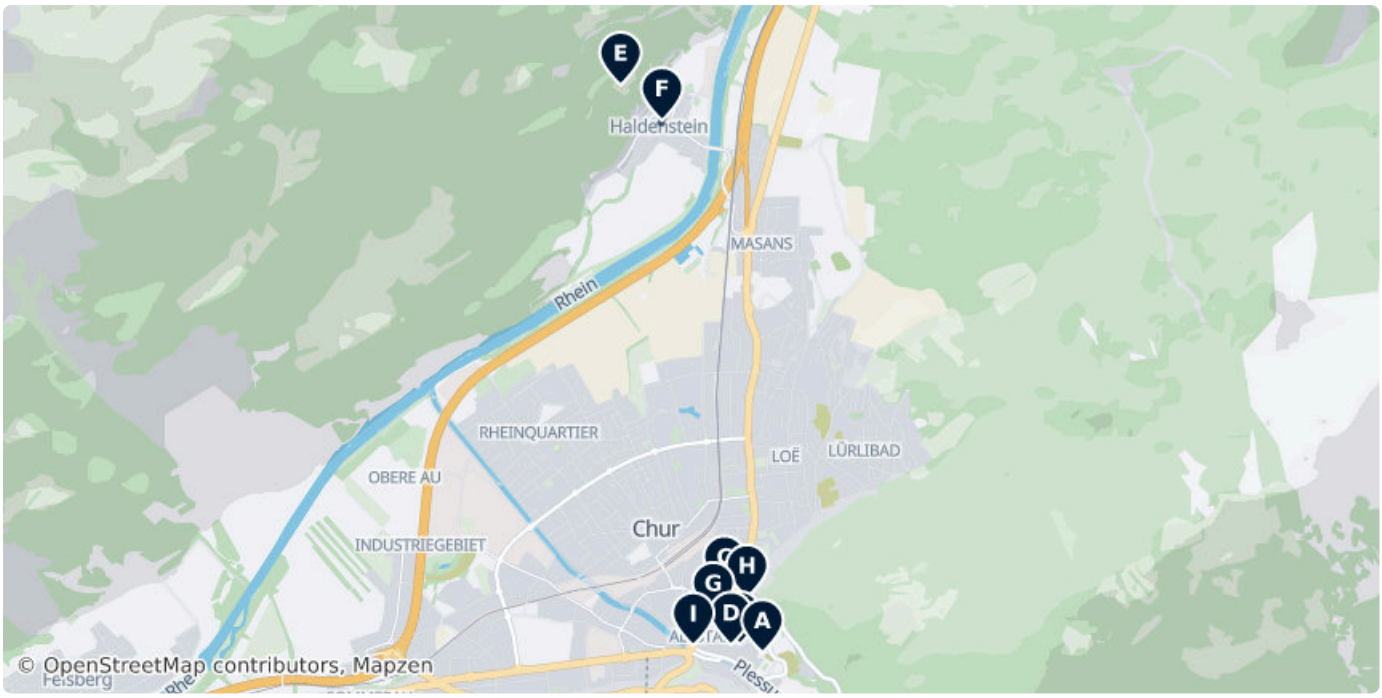


Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Kathedrale Sankt Mariä Himmelfahrt

Jochstrasse, 7001 Chur, Switzerland
(46.84766, 9.53551)



B Rätisches Museum

(46.84813, 9.53360)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

raetischesmuseum.gr.ch, +41 812574840



C Bündner Kunstmuseum

Bündner Kunstmuseum is a Swiss art museum founded in 1919, and located in Chur, Switzerland.

35 Bahnhofstrasse, Chur 7000, Switzerland (46.85134, 9.53230)

Tu–We	10:00–17:00
Th	10:00–20:00
Fr–Su	10:00–17:00

buendner-kunstmuseum.ch



D Martinskirche

3 Comandergasse, Chur 7000, Switzerland (46.84809, 9.53286)



E Alt-Haldenstein Castle

Alt-Haldenstein Castle is a castle in the municipality of Haldenstein of the Canton of Graubünden in Switzerland.

7023, Switzerland (46.88045, 9.52351)



F Haldenstein Castle

Haldenstein Castle is a castle in the former municipality of Haldenstein of the Canton of Graubünden in Switzerland.

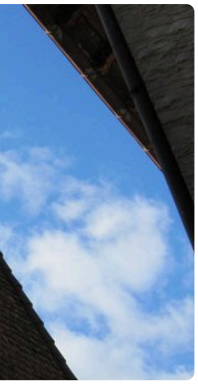
4 Schlossweg, Haldenstein 7023, Switzerland (46.87841, 9.52702)

schlossgarten.ch



G Fontanapark

11 Klostergasse, Chur 7000, Switzerland
(46.84981, 9.53135)



H Regulakirche

19 Reichsgasse, Chur 7000, Switzerland
(46.85083, 9.53422)

I Obertor

(46.84806, 9.52966)

DATA SOURCES

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