

Gstaad

Canton of Berne · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Gstaad is a small Alpine village in the Bernese Oberland, part of the municipality of Saanen. It has a reputation as one of Switzerland's most exclusive winter resorts, but day to day it is a compact, car-free village of chalet-style buildings rather than a big-city resort. Local building rules have kept the wood-and-stone chalet look consistent for decades, and the main street, Promenade, is closed to cars and lined with boutiques, cafes and hotels.

The village pairs winter sports with a strong cultural calendar. International contemporary art galleries open seasonal exhibitions here, and the classical Gstaad Menuhin Festival draws musicians to the valley every summer. Skiing is spread across several smaller, separately run mountains rather than one large connected area, which suits visitors looking for a quieter alpine base within reach of bigger resorts.

When to visit

Winters are cold and snowy, with the most reliable snow from December to March — this is the main ski season. Summers, from June to September, are mild and are the best time for hiking on the hills around the village. Spring and late autumn are quiet shoulder seasons, with patchy weather and many lifts and hotels closed.

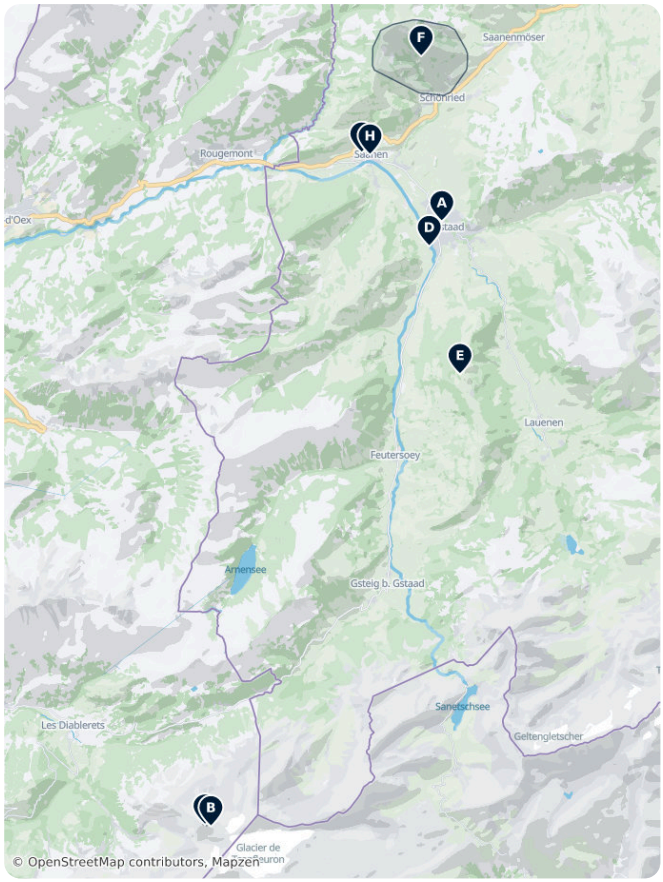
The village's biggest annual event is the **Gstaad Menuhin Festival**, a classical-music festival held over several weeks each summer in a large festival tent and in venues around the valley. It is worth timing a summer visit around a concert if you enjoy classical music.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	2° / 7° Feels like -2°	-6° / -13°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	3° / 9° Feels like -1°	-5° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	-2° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18°	2° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	6° / 1°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 5°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 7°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	12° / 7°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	18° / 24°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 20°	5° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 4°	0° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-4° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Even in high summer, evenings in the mountains cool down quickly, so bring a warm layer for the gondola rides.

Top sights



A Promenade is the heart of the village — a car-free street of chalet-style buildings, shops and cafes that has kept its historic look for decades.

A cable car from the Col du Pillon pass climbs to B Les Diablerets Glacier, a glacier ski area open for skiing most of the year; its summit restaurant was designed by architect *Mario Botta*. From there, C Peak Walk by Tissot is a pedestrian suspension bridge linking two mountain summits at 3,000 meters, built as the first bridge of its kind anywhere.

Closer to the village, D Eggli and E Wispile are two small local mountains reached by gondola, with hiking and biking trails in summer, gentle ski runs in winter, and a petting zoo for children at one of the two mountain stations. Further along the valley, F Rellerli above Schönried is another family-friendly hill with its own short ski runs and hiking paths.

In Saanen, the village that gives the wider valley its name, G Saanen Church is a 13th-century church known for its frescoes and its long association with the region's classical-music festival, while the small H Yehudi Menuhin Museum nearby tells the story of the violinist who founded it.

Gstaad – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

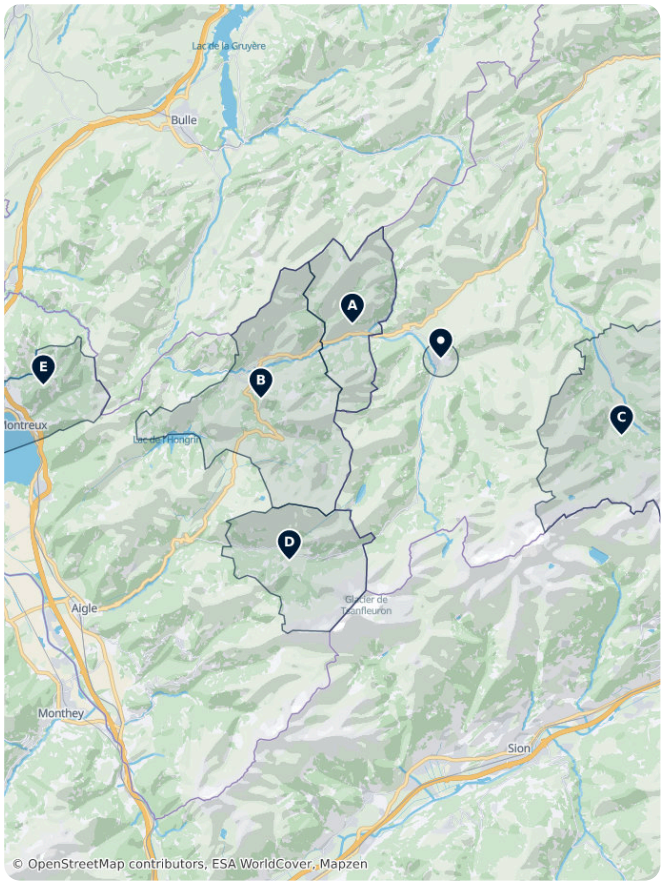
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Buy a regional multi-mountain lift pass and hop between Eggli, Wispile, Rellerli and the other small hills that make up Gstaad's ski area, rather than sticking to one mountain the way you would at a bigger resort.
- Warm up after a day outdoors with alpine fondue at a mountain restaurant on Wispile or one of the other summit stations.
- Browse the international contemporary art galleries that open seasonal exhibitions in the village every winter.
- If your visit coincides with the Gstaad Menuhin Festival in summer, catch a concert in the festival tent or in Saanen Church.

Day trips

Several villages in the valley make easy day trips by train, and a flagship glacier excursion is within reach by postbus or car.



- A Rougemont — about 10 minutes away by train. A tiny, well-preserved chalet village with some of the valley's oldest wooden houses.
- B Château-d'Oex — about 20 minutes by train. Known as Switzerland's hot-air-ballooning centre, with a small local history museum and a chairlift up to a panoramic ridge.
- C Lenk — about 40 minutes by train and bus. A quieter spa town with thermal baths fed by mineral springs, good for a relaxed day away from the slopes.
- D Les Diablerets — about 1 to 1.5 hours by postbus or car over the Col du Pillon pass. Base for the Glacier 3000 cable car and the Peak Walk suspension bridge described under Top Sights.
- E Montreux — under 2 hours on the GoldenPass panoramic train. A lakeside town on Lake Geneva, with a lakeside promenade and Chillon Castle.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest airports are Geneva (GVA) and Zurich (ZRH), both roughly 2.5 to 3 hours away by train or car. Geneva generally has more convenient onward train connections.
- **By train**: Gstaad sits on the GoldenPass panoramic line, with direct trains from Spiez and Interlaken via Zweisimmen to the east, and from Montreux to the west. Change at Zweisimmen for connections toward Bern and Zurich.
- **By car**: Gstaad is reached via the Simmental valley road, or in summer over the Col du Pillon pass from the Rhone valley; the pass can close after heavy snowfall.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Regional PostAuto buses connect Gstaad with Saanen, Schönried, Saanenmöser, Gsteig and Lauenen. Buy a ticket from the driver or a machine, or tap a contactless bank card or phone directly on board. PostAuto journey planner
- **On foot**: The village centre is compact and car-free, so walking is the easiest way to get around.
- **Cycling**: The valley floor is fairly flat and suits cycling and e-biking, though reaching the surrounding hills involves steep climbs.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The village centre is compact, car-free and easy to explore on foot; reaching outlying villages needs a bus, train or car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley floor is fairly flat, but reaching the surrounding hills involves steep climbs.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for staying in the village itself — the centre is car-free and walkable. A car helps if you want to visit several Saanenland villages or the Simmental valley in one day at your own pace; otherwise trains and postbuses cover the same ground.
- **Parking**: Cars are not allowed on the village promenade; visitors park in paid car parks at the edge of the centre and walk in.
- **Mountain passes**: The Col du Pillon route toward Glacier 3000 can require winter tyres and chains, or close entirely, after heavy snowfall.

Food & drink

Alpine cheese is the local specialty — the Saanenland is cheese-making country, and the nearby AOP variety Etivaz is aged in mountain huts above the valley through the summer. Rösti, fondue and raclette appear on most menus in winter.

For a meal out, look around Promenade, where most of the village's restaurants and cafes are clustered, from casual cafes to hotel dining rooms.

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.

Gstaad – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Gstaad is a very safe destination, with almost no visitor crime beyond the usual care with valuables in busy places. The main practical risks are alpine ones: weather on the mountains can change quickly, so dress in layers, use sun protection at altitude, and check conditions before hiking or skiing away from marked routes.

History

Gstaad grew from a small farming settlement in the Saanenland into a resort after the railway reached the valley in the early 20th century, opening the mountains to winter tourism. Strict local building rules have since kept the village's wood chalet look largely unchanged, which is part of why Promenade still looks much as it did decades ago.

The valley's musical history centres on the violinist *Yehudi Menuhin*, who settled nearby and founded the Gstaad Menuhin Festival in 1957; its first concert was held in Saanen Church in Saanen, a church that dates back to the 13th century. The festival and the Yehudi Menuhin Museum in Saanen both keep that history alive today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

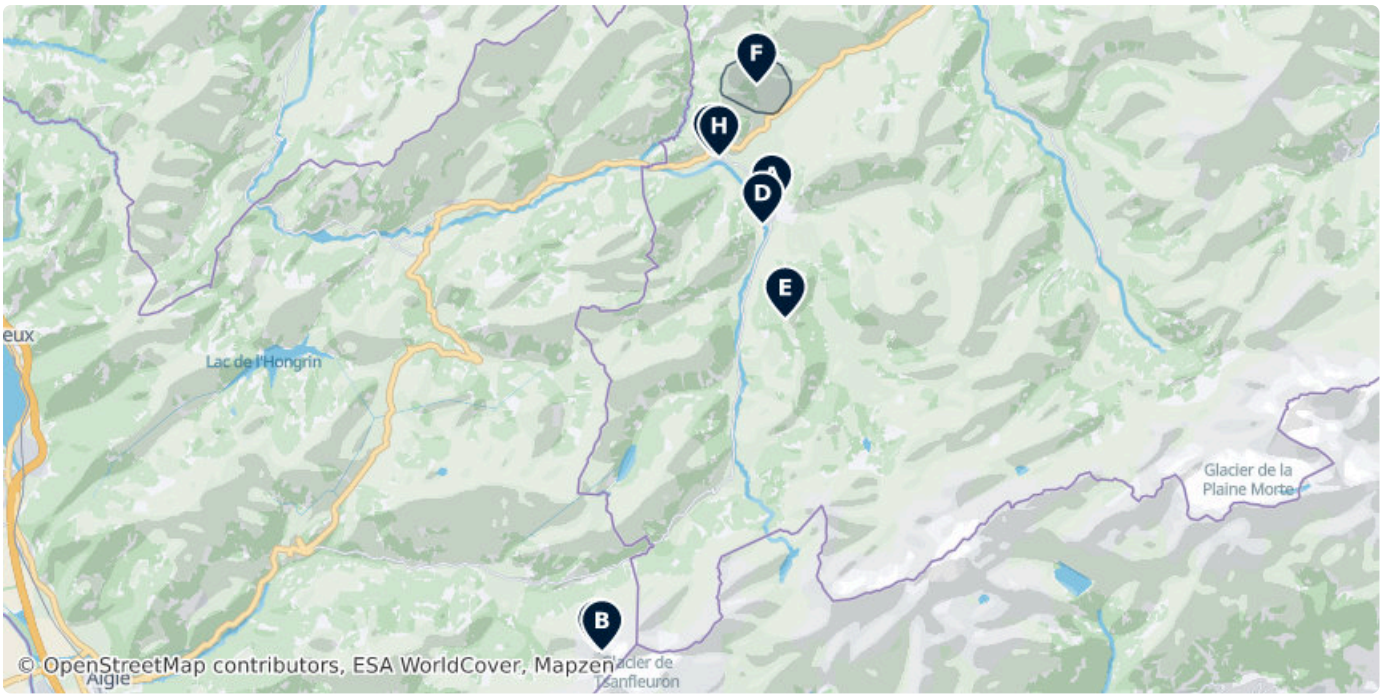


Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Promenade

A truly picturesque promenade with many boutiques, shops, restaurants and cafes. Definitely a must-see place when nearby.

41 Promenade, Gstaad 3780, Switzerland (46.47355, 7.28647)



B Les Diablerets Glacier

Popular resort for winter and adventure sports. Being the part of the Glacier 3000 area, skiing is possible throughout the year.

1865, Switzerland (46.32657, 7.20521)

diablerets.ch, +41 24 492 00 10



C Peak Walk by Tissot

Pedestrian suspension bridge measuring 107 meters in length that connects two mountain peaks at an altitude of 3,000 meters. Panoramic views encompass major Alpine summits including the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, and the Eiger.

Peak Walk, 1865 Ormont-Dessus, Switzerland (46.32696, 7.20314)

Mo–Su 00:00–23:59

glacier3000.ch

D Eggli Valley Station

Gondola base station providing access to mountain areas for hiking, dining, and panoramic views. It serves as a starting point for winter sports including a dedicated sledding trail.

43 Egglistrasse, Gstaad 3780, Switzerland (46.46753, 7.28207)

gstaad.ch/planen-buchen/tour/detail/w57-eggli-panoram...

E Höhi Wispile

Mountain peak standing at 1,939 meters above sea level featuring a mountain station with a petting zoo and playground. It serves as a starting point for high-altitude ridge trails and winter skiing.

Moosfangstrasse, 3782 Lauenen, Switzerland (46.43646, 7.29290)

F Rellerli – Schönried

Alpine destination featuring hiking and biking trails alongside scenic panoramas. It belongs to the Bergbahnen Gstaad network.

Eheftiweg, 3778, Switzerland (46.51363, 7.27921)

gstaad.ch/bergbahnen/



G St. Mauritius Church

Late Gothic Protestant church with origins dating back to the 10th or 11th century. It features 15th-century frescoes and serves as a venue for international music festivals.

Chilchgasse, 3792 Saanen, Switzerland (46.49021, 7.25834)

gstaad.ch/en/plan-book/poi/detail/st-mauritius-church-sa...

H Yehudi Menuhin Museum

Small exhibition dedicated to the life and work of a world-renowned violinist. The collection features historical documents and artworks detailing his career and involvement with musical institutions.

Dorfstrasse 61, Saanen (46.48973, 7.26123)

Mo–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:30–17:30
Sa	08:00–12:00
Su	Closed

menuhincenter.ch/museum/

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Promenade — "GstaadPromenade" by GstaadTourismus, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Les Diablerets Glacier — "Les Diablerets Glacier" by Tripomatic user, cc-by-4.0
- Peak Walk by Tissot — "Peak to peak suspension walk" by CaramelizedOnions, cc-by-sa-4.0
- St. Mauritius Church — "Saanen Church Fresco" by Sumit Surai, cc-by-sa-4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 13, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.