

Lake Zurich

Canton of Zurich · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Lake Zurich is a long, curved lake in northern Switzerland. The city of Zurich sits at its northern end. Towns, vineyards and small harbours line both shores, and the Alps appear in the distance on clear days.

The lake is a place for swimming, boat trips and slow walks. Trains and boats link the towns, so you can easily see many in a day.

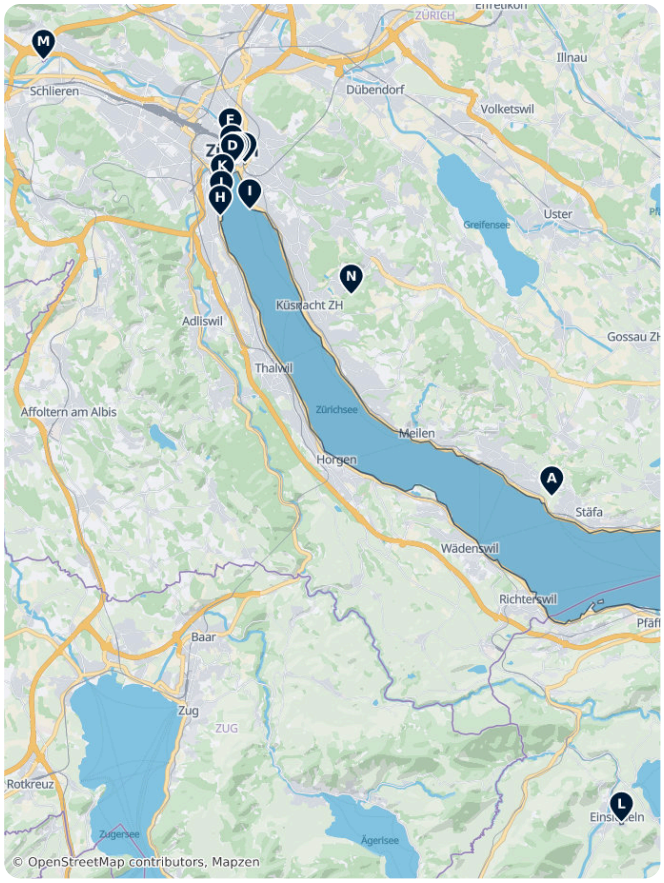
When to visit

June to September is the best time for swimming, boats and lakeside cafés. Spring and autumn are mild and good for walks and wine. Winter is cold and often grey, but the old towns and Christmas markets are pleasant.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like -1°	-2° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	-2° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22° Feels like 12°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	14° / 8°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 22°	7° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 16° Feels like 6°	2° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights



- A Zürichsee is the lake itself, with beaches, harbours and promenades.
- B Old Town Zurich is the historic centre of Zurich, on both sides of the river.
- C Grossmünster Church is the twin-towered church in the old town.
- D Fraumünster Church is a church known for its stained glass.
- E Kunsthaus is one of Switzerland's main art museums.
- F Landesmuseum shows Swiss history in a castle-like building.
- G Lindenhof is a quiet terrace above the river with city views.
- H Seepromenade (Quaianlagen) is a lakeside path with parks and swimming spots.
- I Parkanlage Zürihorn is a park on a point in the lake.
- J Sukkulenten-Sammlung Zürich holds a large collection of cacti and succulents.
- K Volière is an aviary with many birds.
- L Kloster Einsiedeln is a large baroque abbey and pilgrimage site south of the lake.
- M Kloster Fahr is a convent on the river west of Zurich.
- N Burgruine Wulp is a castle ruin above the lake.

Lake Zurich – Plan Your Trip

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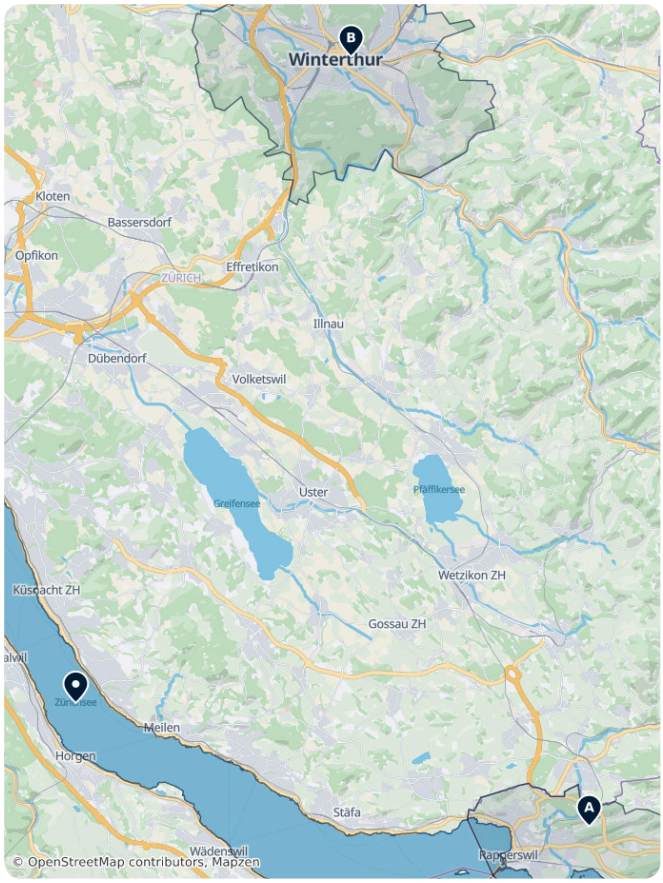
What to experience

- Swim in the lake at a public beach or lido in summer.
- Take a boat trip from Zurich to Rapperswil.
- Walk or cycle the shore path.
- Visit the museums and churches of the old town.
- Taste wine in the vineyards on the hills.
- See the abbey at Einsiedeln.

Day trips

- A Rapperswil-Jona is a medieval town with a castle at the south-east end of the lake.
- B Winterthur has good museums and is about 20 minutes from Zurich by train.
- Einsiedeln is a pilgrimage town with a large abbey.
- Lake boats stop at many small towns, such as Meilen, Stäfa and Männedorf.



Where to explore

- Rapperswil-Jona is the main town at the upper end of the lake.
- Winterthur is the nearest city in the same canton.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is about 15 minutes from the city by train.
- By train: Zurich Hauptbahnhof is the main hub for all of Switzerland. Check times on SBB.
- Lake towns are on commuter lines on both shores.

Getting around

- Trains run along both shores. They are frequent and fast.
- Lake boats connect the towns, from Zurich to Rapperswil, in summer.
- In Zurich, trams, buses and boats share one ticket system.
- Cycling paths follow the shore.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Zurich's old town and the lake promenades are flat and walkable. Other towns on the lake are small.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Paths run along both shores, mostly flat.

Driving

- A car is not needed for Zurich, which has good public transport.
- Roads along the lake are busy at rush hour.
- Parking in Zurich is limited and costly. Use car parks at the edge.

Food & drink

Try lake fish, such as perch, and Zürcher Geschnetzeltes, which is sliced veal in a cream sauce. Vineyards on the shore produce white and red wine. Many lakeside restaurants have terraces.

People speak Swiss German. 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

- The area is very safe.
- Lake water is cold in spring. Swim only in marked areas.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Zurich is expensive, so plan your budget.

History

People have lived on the lake since prehistoric times. Stilt houses stood on its shore, and some are now part of a World Heritage site. Zurich became a free imperial city in the Middle Ages and a centre of the Reformation in the 16th century.

Today the lake region is a mix of a major banking city and quiet lakeside towns.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



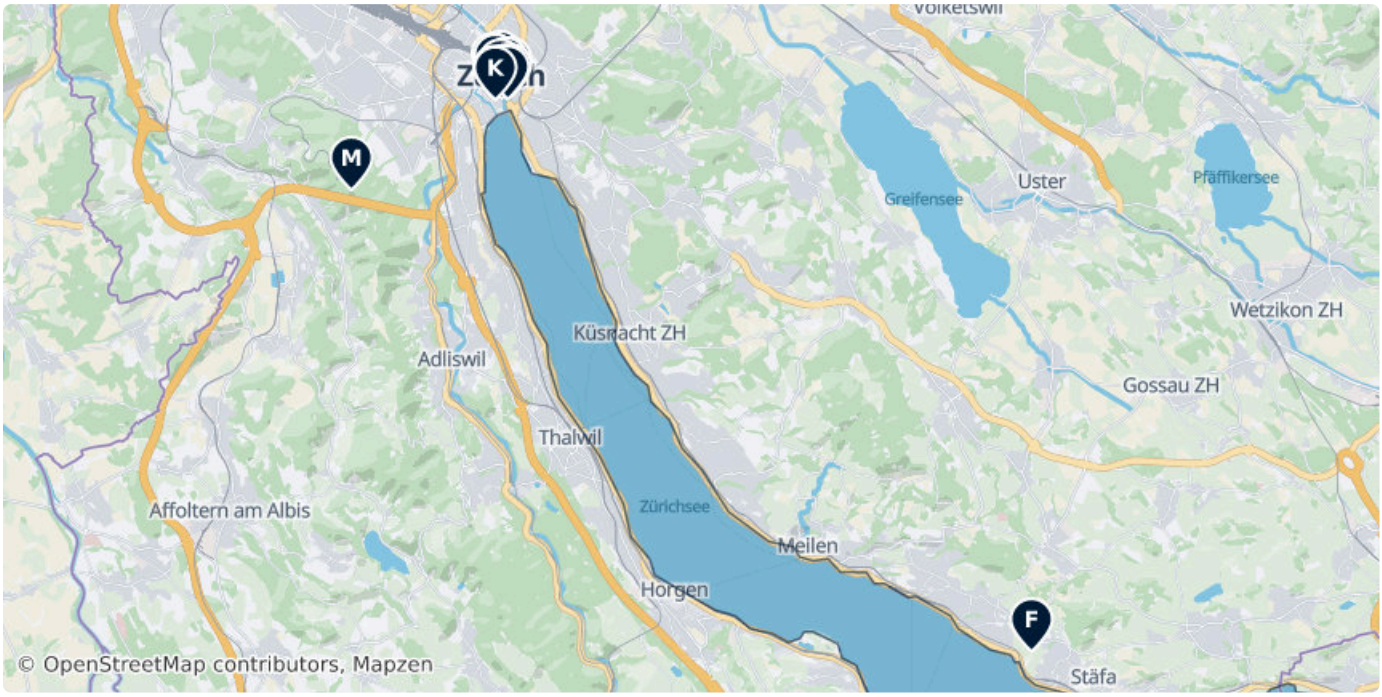
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lake Zurich's Absolute Essentials

This selection captures the architectural and cultural heritage of the Lake Zurich region. It spans from the medieval Altstadt and the Romanesque Grossmünster—a focal point of the Swiss Reformation—to the luxury boutiques of Bahnhofstrasse. Significant landmarks include St. Peter's Church with its record-breaking clock face, the 17th-century Rathaus, and the birthplace of Dadaism at Cabaret Voltaire. Natural features like the Lindenhof moraine hill and the Uetliberg summit offer panoramic views across the water to the Glarus Alps.





A St. Peter's Church

Historic Protestant church featuring Europe's largest clock face and baroque architecture, recently renovated and reopened in November 2025.

St. Peterhofstatt, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.37110, 8.54072)

Mo–Fr	08:00–18:00
Sa	10:00–16:00
Su	11:00–17:00

st-peter-zh.ch, +41442506655



B Fraumünster Church

Historic Protestant church known for its Gothic architecture and stained glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Münsterhof 2, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.36972, 8.54121)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

fraumuenster.ch/index.php, +41442506644



C Old Town Zurich

Historic district featuring medieval architecture, cultural landmarks, and pedestrian-friendly shopping streets.

1 Wühre, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36994, 8.54244)

hotel-altstadt.ch



D Grossmünster Church

Romanesque Protestant church notable for its twin towers and role in the Swiss Reformation.

Grossmünsterplatz, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37010, 8.54398)

Mar-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Nov-Feb Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

grossmuenster.ch, +41442506651



E Augustiner Street

Historic medieval street featuring colorful bay windows and well-preserved architecture connecting Bahnhofstrasse with the Augustiner Church and St. Peterhofstatt square.

34 Augustinergasse, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37223, 8.53913)

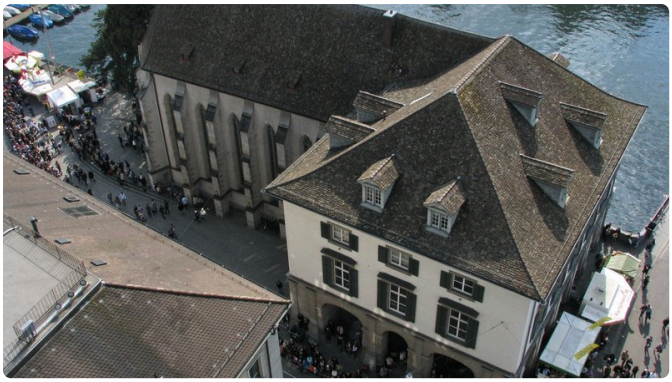
Mo–Su	00:00–23:59



F Lake Zurich

This picturesque lake in Zurich is all one could wish for after a long and tiring day.

(Unnamed Road), Stäfa 8712, Switzerland (47.24715, 8.71460)



G Water Church

The Wasserkirche of Zürich, first mentioned as ecclesia Aquatica Turicensi around 1250 and as wazzirkilcha in 1256, is a church built on a...

Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.36964, 8.54320)

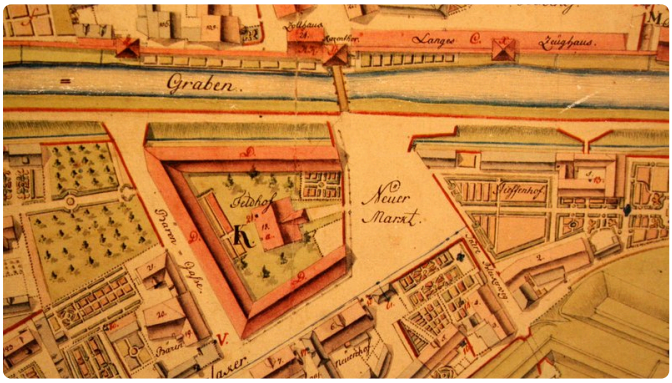
+41 44 251 61 77



H Lindenhof Hill

The Lindenhof is a moraine hill and a public square in the historic center of Zürich, Switzerland.

3 Pfalzgasse, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37298, 8.54080)



I Parade Square

Historic and prestigious public square known for its banking institutions and shopping. It serves as a transportation hub and a pedestrian zone featuring notable financial headquarters.

11 Paradeplatz, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36969, 8.53889)



J Bahnhof Street

Bahnhofstrasse is Zürich's main downtown street and one of the world's most expensive and exclusive shopping avenues.

Bahnhofstrasse, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37253, 8.53830)

bahnhofstrasse-zuerich.ch, +41 43 243 90 00



K Confiserie Sprüngli

A long-standing confectionery and café offering a heavenly collection of truffles, macarons, cakes, marzipan and chocolate.

Bahnhofstrasse 21, 8022 Zurich, Switzerland (47.36948, 8.53914)

Mo–Sa 07:30–18:00, 08:30–18:00

spruengli.ch/de/standorte/paradeplatz-..., +41 44 224 46 46



L Zürich Town Hall

The Rathaus in Zürich, Switzerland is Zürich's Town Hall. The Rathaus was built from 1694-1698.

Rathausbrücke, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37151, 8.54267)



M Üetliberg

Rising 870 meters above sea level, Zurich's local mountain offers panoramic views of the city, lake, and Alps. The summit features a lookout tower and the 'Planet Trail' hiking path, and is easily reached via the Uetlibergbahn railway from the city center.

8143, Switzerland (47.34952, 8.49202)

zuerich.com/en/visit/nature/uetliberg-zurichs-very-own-...



N Münsterbrücke, Zürich

Münsterbrücke is a pedestrian and road bridge over the Limmat in the city of Zürich, Switzerland.

1 Wühre, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36994, 8.54253)



Cabaret Voltaire

Cabaret Voltaire was the name of a short-lived artistic nightclub in Zürich, Switzerland in 1916.

Spiegelgasse 1, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland
(47.37161, 8.54393)

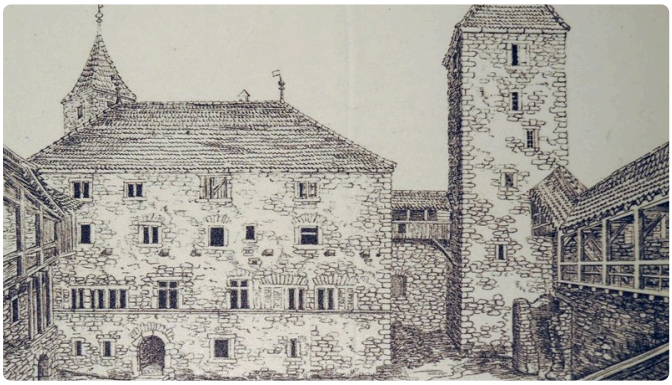
Mo	Closed
Tu–Th	13:00–24:00
Fr–Su	13:30–26:00, 13:30–18:00

cabaretvoltaire.ch, +41 043 268 57 20

Castles and Ruins

This collection features architectural landmarks around Lake Zurich, ranging from the 13th-century Rapperswil Castle to the medieval commandery of Ritterhaus Bubikon. It includes well-preserved estates like Schloss Au and Schloss Grüningen alongside strategic ruins such as Friedberg and Alt-Wädenswil. These sites represent the region's feudal history, featuring defensive towers, knightly residences, and hilltop fortifications that once guarded trade routes and local territories.





A Rapperswil Castle

Rapperswil Castle is a castle, built in the early 13th century AD by the House of Rapperswil in the former independent city of Rapperswil.

Hauptplatz, 8640 Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland
(47.22732, 8.81557)

schlossrapperswil.com



B Ritterhaus Ürikon

A group of residential and administrative buildings dating from the 16th century, located in the Uerikon district of Stäfa.

Burgstallstrasse, 8713 Stäfa, Switzerland
(47.23436, 8.75697)

ritterhaus-uerikon.ch



C Grynau Castle

The Grynau Castle is the name of a castle tower in the municipality of Tuggen in the canton of Schwyz, built by the House of Rapperswil in...

St. Gallerstrasse, 9830 Tuggen, Switzerland (47.21643, 8.96998)



D Schloss Au

The Schloss Au, literally "Château Au", is a country estate located in Au, a locality of the municipality of Wädenswil in Switzerland.

Auweg, 8820 Wädenswil, Switzerland (47.25017, 8.63947)

schloss-au.ch



E Ritterhaus Bubikon

Bubikon Castle or Bubikon Commandery is a castle in the municipality of Bubikon of the Swiss Canton of Zürich.

37 Ritterhausstrasse, 8608, Switzerland (47.26648, 8.82807)

Tu–Fr	13:00–17:00
Sa–Su	10:00–17:00

ritterhaus.ch



F Schloss Grüningen

A historic castle complex in Grüningen that includes a museum and a reformed church, formerly serving as the seat of the local bailiwick.

5 Kirchgass, Grüningen 8627, Switzerland (47.28470, 8.76180)

schlossgrueningen.ch



G Ritterhaus Bubikon

Bubikon Castle or Bubikon Commandery is a castle in the municipality of Bubikon of the Swiss Canton of Zürich.

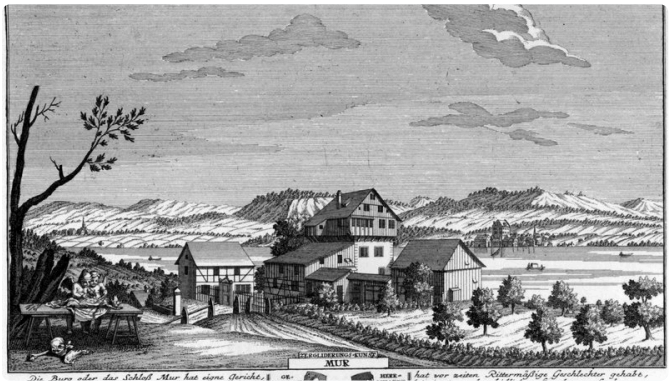
37 Ritterhausstrasse, 8608, Switzerland (47.26658, 8.82818)



H Burgruine Friedberg

The remains of a 13th-century hilltop castle in Meilen, which served as the seat of the Knights of Friedberg.

15 Auf der Burg, Meilen 8706, Switzerland (47.27871, 8.64213)



I Burg Maur

A small 13th-century castle complex in Maur that historically served as a residence for local bailiffs.

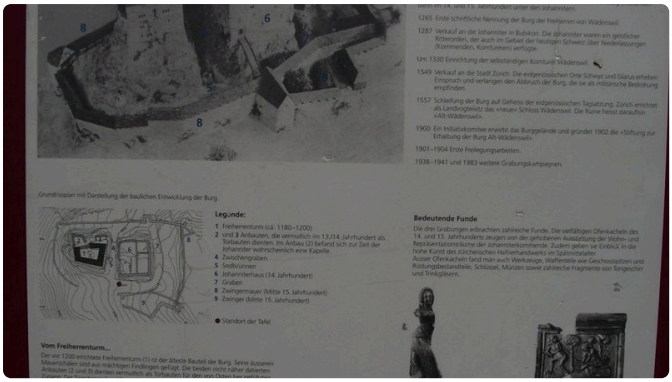
(47.33852, 8.66856)



J Ruine Uznaberg

The ruins of a hilltop castle situated at 491 meters elevation on the rocky Uznaberg ridge.

(Unnamed Road), 8730, Switzerland (47.23332, 8.96251)



K Alt Wädenswil Castle

Alt Wädenswil Castle is a castle in the municipality of Richterswil and the canton of Zurich in Switzerland.

Burgweg, 8805, Switzerland (47.21327, 8.68482)

L Wildenburg

Ruins of a medieval castle in Baar, positioned on a rocky spur overlooking the confluence of the Lorze and Schwarzenbach rivers.

6340, Switzerland (47.17680, 8.55716)



M Schloss Neu-Wädenswil

A 16th-century castle in Wädenswil built to replace the older fortress; it currently serves as a research station for agriculture.

(47.22305, 8.67664)



N Burgruine Oberes Baliken

Medieval castle ruins located near the village of Wald, situated below a former pilgrimage house.

8636, Switzerland (47.27418, 8.89744)



O Ruine Bernegg

The remnants of a hilltop castle located northeast of Hinwil, dating back to the High Middle Ages.

8340, Switzerland (47.30887, 8.86706)



P Schloss Knonau

A heritage-protected castle in Knonau, originally constructed in the 16th century as a residence for the Zurich bailiffs.

(47.22288, 8.46434)

schlossknonau.ch



Q Schloss Wetzikon

A manor house and former castle site in Wetzikon, serving as a historic administrative center for the region.

(47.32541, 8.79908)

R Schnabelburg Castle

Schnabelburg Castle was a small castle erected in 1150 by the lords of Eschenbach on the Albis chain South-west of Zurich, Switzerland,...

8915, Switzerland (47.26316, 8.53341)



Burgruine Bibiton

The ruins of a medieval castle located near Kaltbrunn in the canton of St. Gallen.

Bibitonstrasse, 8722, Switzerland (47.20871, 9.01038)

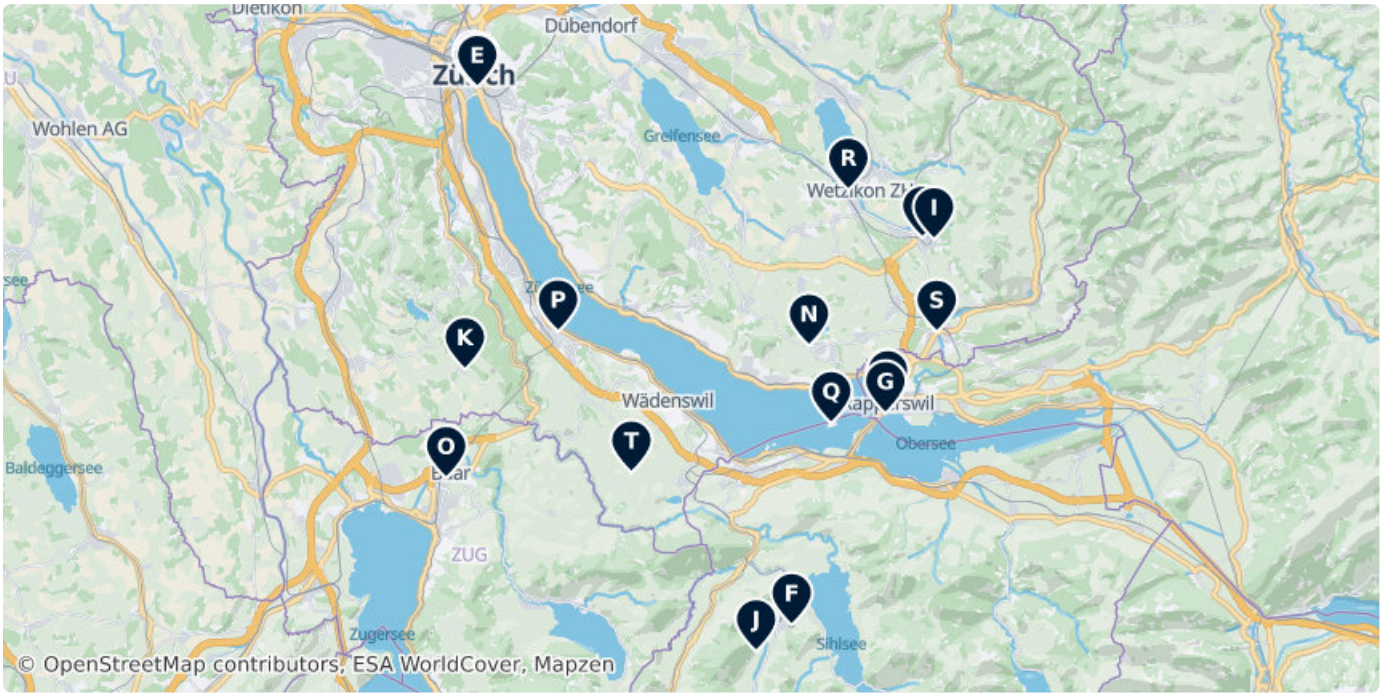
Burgstelle Liebenberg

The archaeological site and remains of a medieval castle located in the municipality of Zell.

2 Obere Burgstrasse, 8617, Switzerland (47.29831, 8.72693)

Switzerland's Sacred Heritage

This collection spans centuries of Swiss religious history, featuring Romanesque and Gothic architecture alongside Baroque masterpieces. Key sites include Zurich's Grossmünster, a center of the Reformation, and St. Peter's Church, home to Europe's largest clock face. Beyond the city, the list explores the Benedictine tradition at Einsiedeln Abbey and unique island chapels like those on Ufnau. These sites showcase significant artworks, from Marc Chagall's stained glass to medieval murals, reflecting the region's spiritual and cultural evolution.





A St. Peter's Church

Historic Protestant church featuring Europe's largest clock face and baroque architecture, recently renovated and reopened in November 2025.

St. Peterhofstatt, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.37110, 8.54072)

Mo–Fr	08:00–18:00
Sa	10:00–16:00
Su	11:00–17:00

st-peter-zh.ch, +41442506655



B Fraumünster Church

Historic Protestant church known for its Gothic architecture and stained glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Münsterhof 2, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.36972, 8.54121)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

fraumuenster.ch/index.php, +41442506644



C Grossmünster Church

Romanesque Protestant church notable for its twin towers and role in the Swiss Reformation.

Grossmünsterplatz, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37010, 8.54398)

Mar-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Nov-Feb Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

grossmuenster.ch, +41442506651



D Old Town Zurich

Historic district featuring medieval architecture, cultural landmarks, and pedestrian-friendly shopping streets.

1 Wühre, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36994, 8.54244)

hotel-altstadt.ch



E Water Church

The Wasserkirche of Zürich, first mentioned as ecclesia Aquatica Turicensi around 1250 and as wazzirkilcha in 1256, is a church built on a...

Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.36964, 8.54320)

+41 44 251 61 77



F Einsiedeln Abbey

Einsiedeln Abbey is a Catholic monastery administered by the Benedictine Order in the village of Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

Kloster, 8840 Einsiedeln, Switzerland (47.12676, 8.75246)

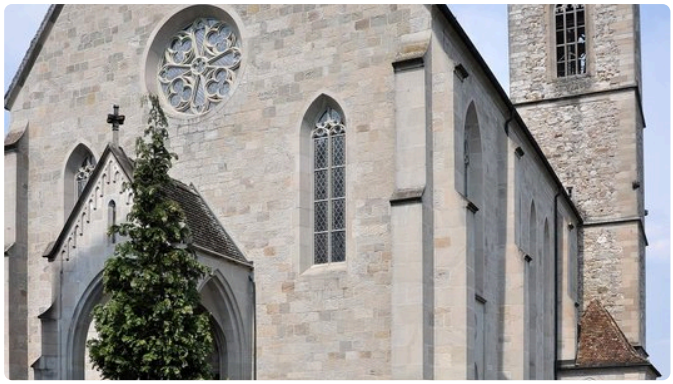
kloster-einsiedeln.ch, +41 55 418 61 11



G Heilig Hüsli

Heilig Hüsli is a bridge chapel in Rapperswil, Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Holzsteg, 8640, Switzerland (47.22250, 8.81482)



H Stadtpfarrkirche Rapperswil

Stadtpfarrkirche St. Johann is a Roman Catholic parish church in the city of Rapperswil, canton of St.

46 Herrenberg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22749, 8.81649)

krj.ch



I Ref. Kirche

A Protestant transverse church in Hinwil, representing a specific architectural layout common in Zurich's Reformed tradition.

(47.30101, 8.84714)

ref-hinwil.ch



J Kloster Au

A Benedictine convent located in the Trachslau district of Einsiedeln, housing a community of nuns since the 15th century.

(47.11481, 8.72879)

kloster-au.ch

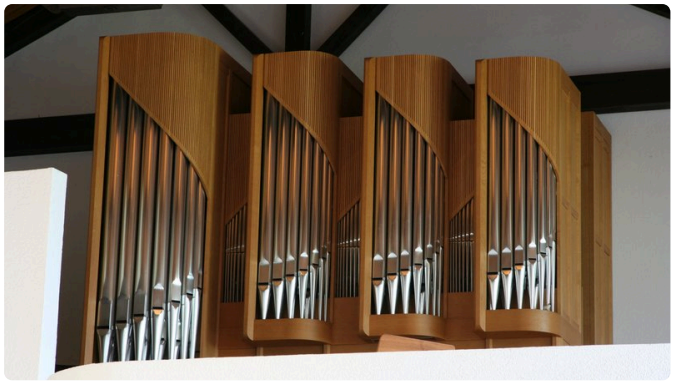


K Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Hausen am Albis

Historic Reformed church serving the community of Hausen am Albis in the Canton of Zurich.

(47.24229, 8.53493)

ref.ch/hausen/, +41 44 764 02 15



L Katholische Kirche Liebfrauen Hinwil

Roman Catholic parish church in Hinwil, located on Untere Bahnhofstrasse.

(47.30167, 8.83936)

kath-hinwil.ch



M Liebfrauenkapelle

Liebfrauenkapelle is a chapel in Rapperswil, Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland, which dates back to the ossuary that was built by the House...

57 Herrenberg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland
(47.22761, 8.81616)



N Reformierte Kirche

Protestant church notable for its Rococo architecture, serving the municipality of Hombrechtikon.

17 Chilerai, Hombrechtikon 8634, Switzerland
(47.25298, 8.76396)



O St. Martin

Roman Catholic parish church in the municipality of Baar, serving as a significant local landmark in the Canton of Zug.

1 Zugerstrasse, Baar 6340, Switzerland (47.19321, 8.52253)



P Reformierte Kirche Horgen

Evangelical-reformed church located in the center of Horgen, serving as a focal point for the local Protestant community.

33 Kirchstrasse, Horgen 8810, Switzerland (47.25942, 8.59697)



Q St. Peter und Paul

Romanesque church situated on Ufnau island in Lake Zurich, dating back to the 12th century and built over earlier Roman foundations.

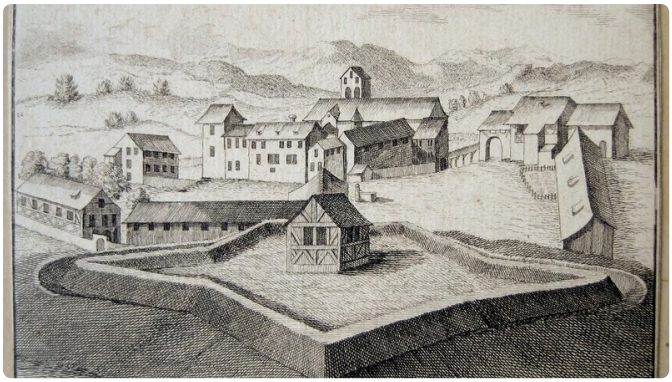
(Unnamed Road), 8808, Switzerland (47.21800, 8.77873)



R St. Francis's Church, Wetzikon

The Church of Saint Francis is a Roman Catholic parish church located in Wetzikon, Switzerland.

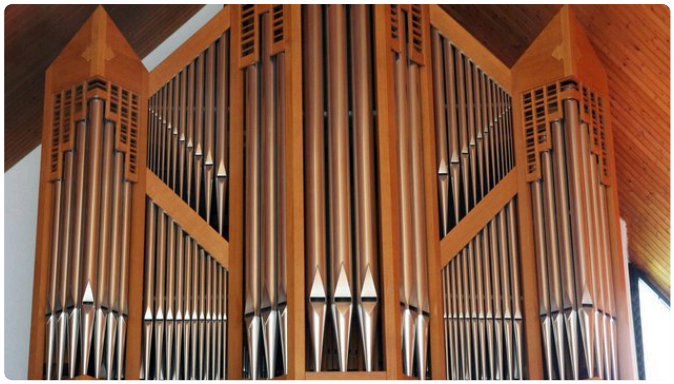
(47.32330, 8.79016)



Rüti Reformed Church

Reformierte Kirche Rüti is an Evangelical Reformed church in the Swiss municipality of Rüti in the Canton of Zürich.

2 Amthofstrasse, Rüti ZH 8630, Switzerland
(47.25925, 8.84896)



Kirche Heilige Familie

Roman Catholic parish church serving the village of Schönenberg in the Canton of Zurich.

3 Ferneggweg, Schönenberg ZH 8824, Switzerland
(47.19574, 8.64582)

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