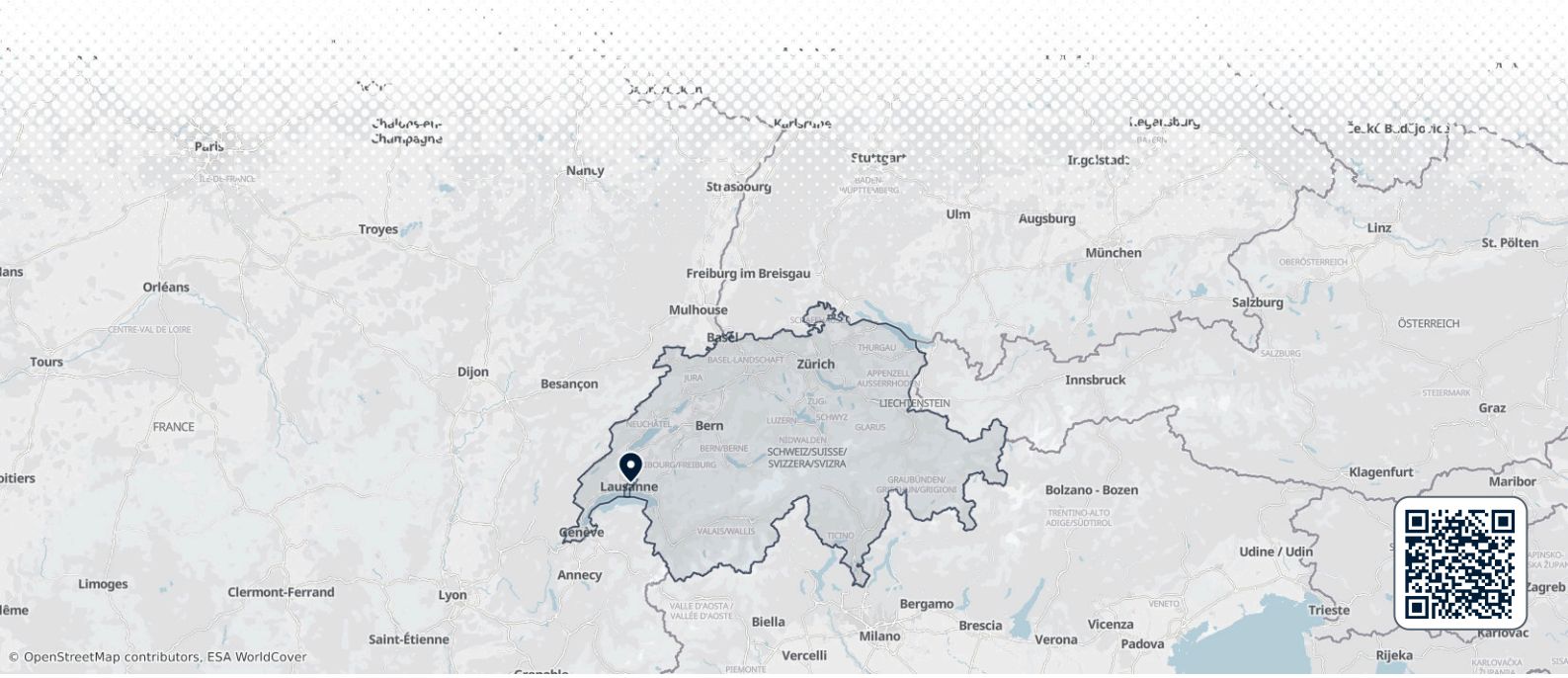


Lausanne

Canton of Vaud · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Lausanne rises in steps from the shore of Lake Geneva up to the old town and the cathedral. French is spoken here. The city is the home of the International Olympic Committee and has a strong student and arts scene.

The lakefront district of Ouchy is calm and green. Views of the Alps across the lake are a main reason to visit. Plan one or two days.

When to visit

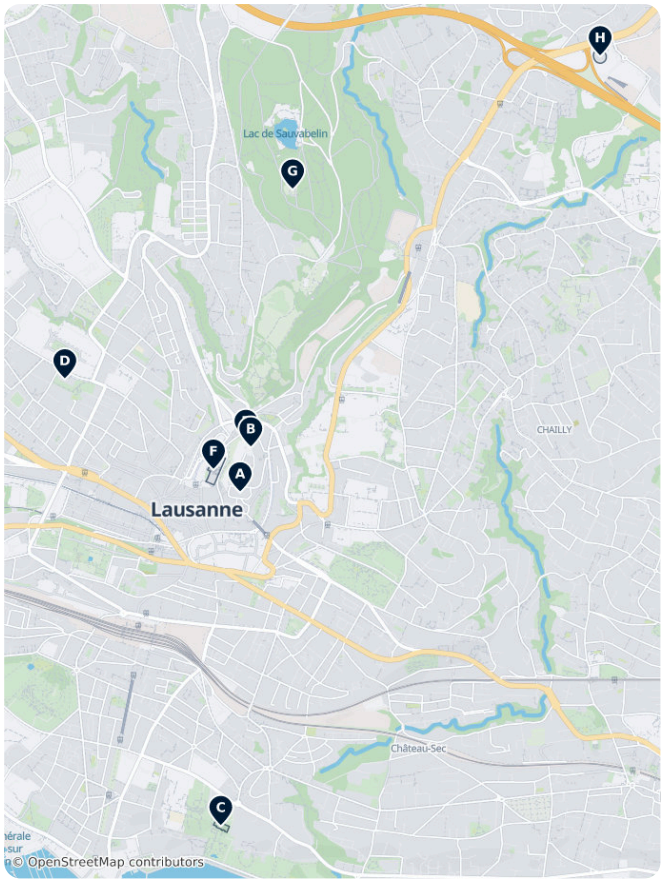
May to September is the best time for the lakeside and boat trips. Summer is warm and busy. Autumn is good for walks and wine villages nearby. Winter can be grey, and the lake fog sometimes hides the view. Rain falls throughout the year.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	-1° / -7°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	-1° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 17°	2° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	14° / 21°	5° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24°	9° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	13° / 8°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 11°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	12° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	15° / 21°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 15°	3° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 10° Feels like 2°	0° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Lausanne is a large Gothic cathedral above the old town. Climb the tower for the best view in the city.
- B La vieille ville de Lausanne has narrow streets, squares and stairs leading up from the market area.
- C The Olympic Museum stands by the lake in a park and covers the history of the Games. It has a good café terrace.
- D Collection de l'Art Brut shows art made outside the usual art world. It is one of the best collections of its kind.
- E Château Saint-Maire is a medieval castle that now houses cantonal offices. You can see it from the outside.
- F Palais de Rumine is a large museum building with natural history and archaeology.
- G Tour de Sauvabelin is a wooden lookout tower in the forest north of the centre.
- H Aquatis is a large freshwater aquarium. It is good for families.



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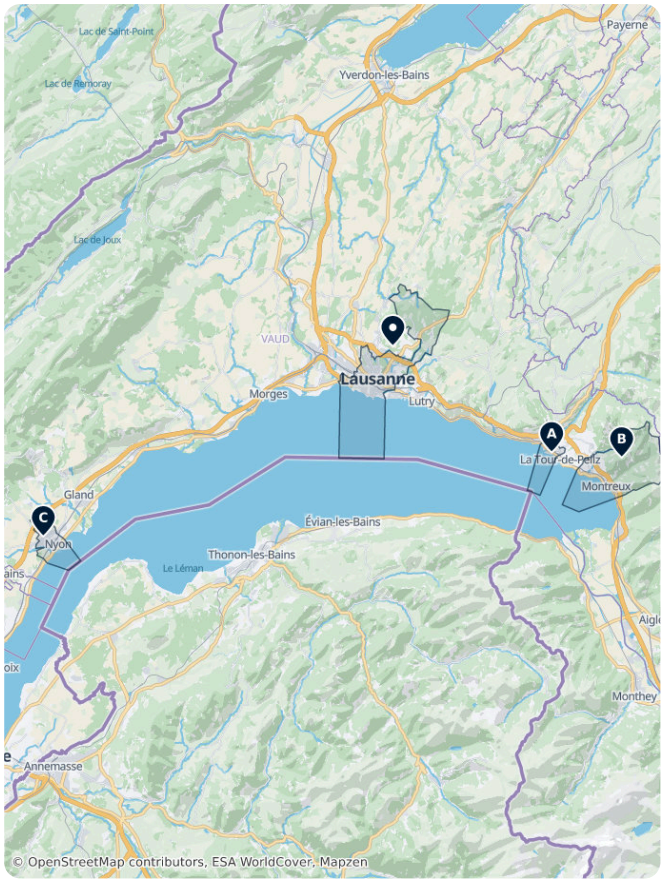
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Walk the lakeside promenade in Ouchy at sunset.
- Visit Musée de l'Élysée for photography.
- Learn about Roman Lausanne at Musée romain de Lausanne-Vidy.
- Have a drink in the Le Flon district, a former industrial area with bars and shops.
- Shop at the market on Place de la Palud on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Rest in Parc de Mon-Repos or Jardin Botanique de Lausanne.

Day trips

- A Vevey is a lake town with a market and a statue of *Charlie Chaplin*. It is about 20 minutes away by train.
- B Montreux is a lakeside town with a famous jazz festival and a nearby castle. It is about 30 minutes away by train.
- The Lavaux vineyards between Lausanne and Vevey are a UNESCO World Heritage site. You can walk between villages or take the train.
- C Nyon is a small castle town on the lake, about 20 minutes away by train.



Where to explore

- Vevey, Montreux and Nyon lie along the lake and are easy to reach by train.
- Yverdon-les-Bains is a spa town at the southern end of Lake Neuchâtel.

Getting there

- By air: Geneva Airport is the main gateway. Direct trains reach Lausanne in about 45 minutes.
- By train: Lausanne is a main rail hub. Trains run from Geneva in about 40 minutes, from Bern in about 1 hour and from Zurich in about 2 hours. Check times on SBB.
- By boat: lake boats run from towns in France and Switzerland to Ouchy.

Getting around

- The old town is best explored on foot. The city has many hills and stairs, so wear comfortable shoes.
- Two metro lines, buses and trolleybuses serve the city. The metro runs between the lake at Ouchy and the station and up to the centre.
- Buy tickets at stops or in an app before you ride.
- Hotel guests receive a free transport card for the stay. Ask at check-in.
- Boats on Lake Geneva link Ouchy with other lakeside towns.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is compact, but the city is built on steep hills above the lake.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills make cycling hard. E-bikes and the lakeside path are easier.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the city. Parking is limited and costly.
- The city centre has hills and one-way streets that are tricky for visitors.
- Public transport and trains reach most places.

Food & drink

Try a cheese fondue or raclette with white wine from nearby Lavaux. Perch fillets from the lake are common on menus. Papet vaudois is a regional dish of leeks, potatoes and sausage.

The cafés and terraces around Place de la Palud and Ouchy are good for a long lunch. Prices are high.

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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Scan to download the app

Safety & health

- Lausanne is very safe.
- Watch your bags near the station and in busy places.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Many streets are steep. Take care on wet cobbles.

History

Lausanne began as a Roman settlement near the lake, at the Vidy site. In the Middle Ages the city grew around the cathedral on the hill. It was ruled by a bishop until the 16th century.

In 1915 the International Olympic Committee moved to Lausanne. The city is now called the Olympic Capital.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



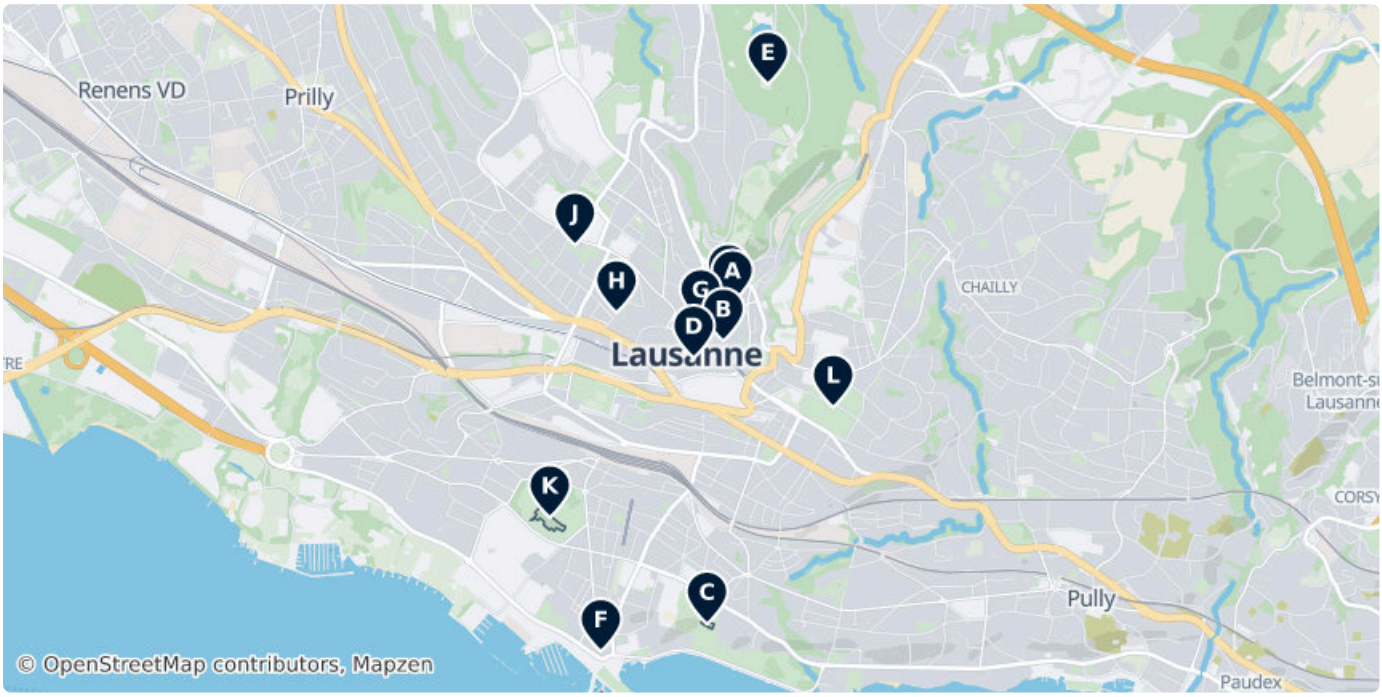
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lausanne's Absolute Essentials

Lausanne blends medieval heritage with its status as the Olympic Capital. The car-free Old Town features the 13th-century Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame and the 14th-century Tour de l'Ale, a remnant of former city fortifications. Along Lake Geneva, the Olympic Museum documents the history of the games, while the Ouchy district provides lakeside access via the m2 metro. Notable landmarks include the Renaissance-style Palais de Rumine and the 15th-century Château Saint-Maire, the seat of the cantonal government.





A Lausanne Old Town

The car-free old town of Lausanne is a real gem. Just strolling around the cobblestone streets is pleasant enough.

3 Place du Château, Lausanne 1005, Switzerland
(46.52446, 6.63600)



B Lausanne Cathedral

The Cathedral of Notre Dame of Lausanne is a church located in the city of Lausanne, in the canton of Vaud in Switzerland.

Place de la Cathédrale 7, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
(46.52258, 6.63535)

cathedrale-lausanne.ch, +41 21 316 71 60



C The Olympic Museum

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland houses permanent and temporary exhibits relating to sport and the Olympic movement.

Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne, CH (46.50860, 6.63418)

Tu–Su 09:00–18:00

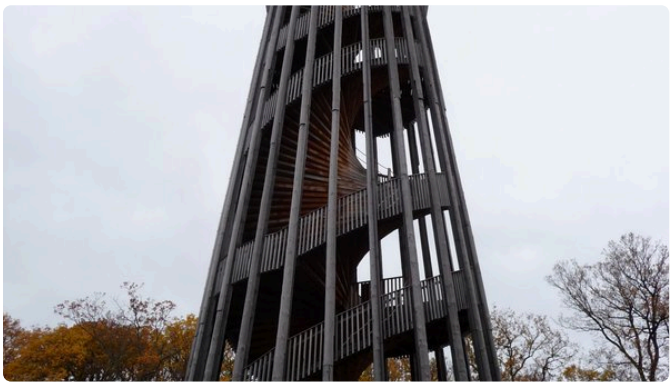
olympics.com/museum/, +41 21 621 65 11



D Palud Square

Lausanne's oldest town square retains its historical atmosphere until today. Moreover, often is enliven with markets and events.

Place de la Palud, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.52174, 6.63322)



E Lausanne Sauvabelin Tower

The Tour de Sauvabelin is a wooden tower located in the Sauvabelin forest, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Chemin de la Lisière 9-15, 1018 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.53526, 6.63854)

Mo–Su 09:00–21:00

tour-de-sauvabelin-lausanne.ch, +41 21 315 42 74



F Ouchy-Olympique

Terminal station of the m2 metro line located in the lakeside Ouchy district. It provides direct access to the lakefront promenade and the Olympic Museum, connecting the waterfront to the city center and main railway station.

8 Place de la Navigation, Lausanne 1006, Switzerland (46.50725, 6.62655)



G Palais de Rumine

The Palais de Rumine is a late 19th-century building in Florentine Renaissance style in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Place de la Riponne 6 (46.52353, 6.63373)

Mo–Fr	07:00–22:00
Sa	07:00–17:00
Su	10:00–17:00

palaisderumine.ch, +41 21 316 33 10



H Ale Tower

This cylindrical tower is a silent remnant of Lausanne's medieval past when it served as a part of the fortification.

Rue de la Tour, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.52397, 6.62768)



I Château Saint-Maire

Château Saint-Maire is a castle in Lausanne, Switzerland, that serves as the seat of the cantonal government, the Council of State of Vaud.

Esplanade du Château, 1014 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.52478, 6.63571)



J Art Brut Museum

The Collection de l'art brut is a museum dedicated to outsider art located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Avenue des Bergières 11, 1004 Lausanne (46.52732, 6.62469)

Tu–Su	11:00–18:00

artbrut.ch, +41 21 315 25 70



K Musée et jardins botaniques cantonaux

On January 1, 2023, the cantonal botanical gardens and museum merged to become a department of the Naturéum, Switzerland's natural science...

18 Avenue de Cour, Lausanne 1007, Switzerland
(46.51385, 6.62288)

May-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–18:30
Nov-Apr Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

botanique.vd.ch/natureum-departement-de-botanique/



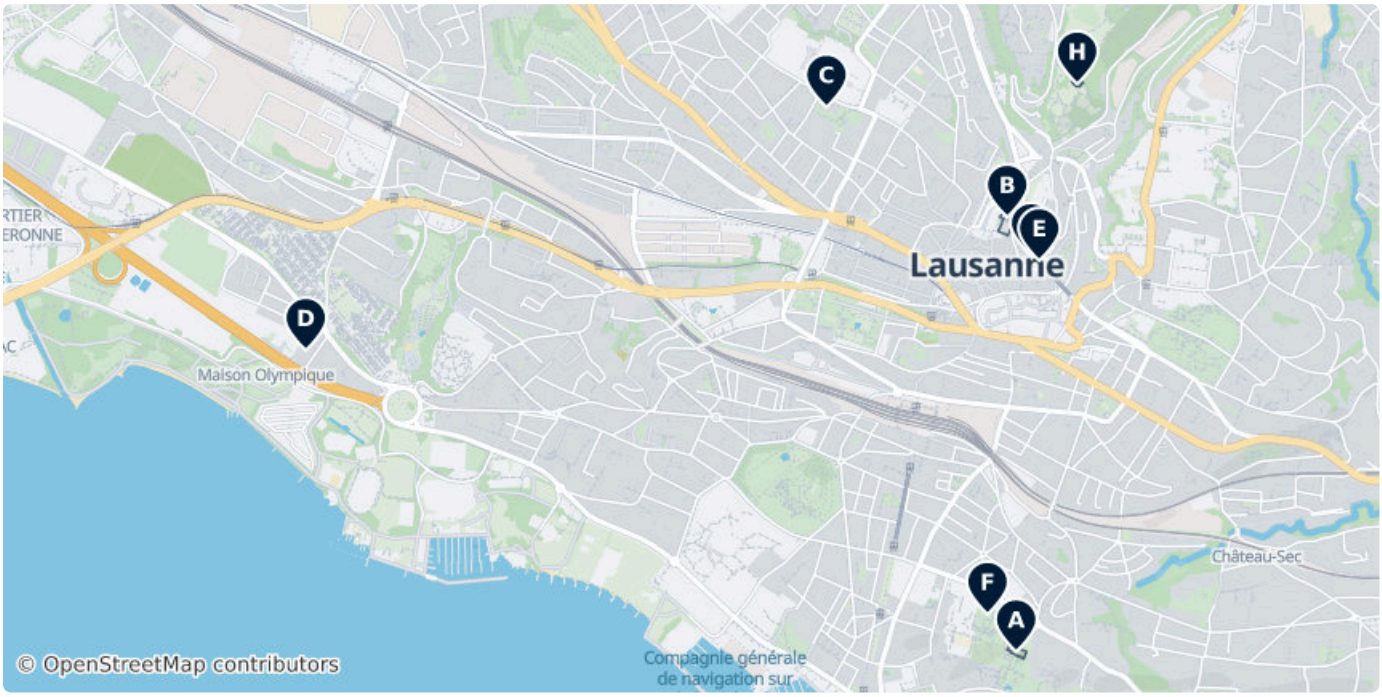
L Parc de Mon Repos

The Parc de Mon Repos is a public park of the city of Lausanne, Switzerland.

1 Parc Mon-Repos, Lausanne 1005, Switzerland
(46.51931, 6.64324)

Lausanne's Premier Museums

Lausanne's cultural landscape spans from the world-renowned Olympic Museum, dedicated to the history of the Games, to specialized institutions like Photo Élysée and the Collection de l'Art Brut. The city's heritage is preserved through the Roman Museum's archaeological finds and the historical exhibits within the former Bishop's Palace. Architectural highlights include the Renaissance-style Palais de Rumine, which houses multiple cantonal collections, and the modern Plateforme 10 district, which serves as a hub for contemporary design and fine arts.





A The Olympic Museum

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland houses permanent and temporary exhibits relating to sport and the Olympic movement.

Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne, CH (46.50860, 6.63418)

Tu–Su	09:00–18:00

olympics.com/museum/, +41 21 621 65 11



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Place de la Riponne 6 (46.52353, 6.63373)

Mo–Fr	07:00–22:00
Sa	07:00–17:00
Su	10:00–17:00

palaisderumine.ch, +41 21 316 33 10



C Art Brut Museum

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Avenue des Bergières 11, 1004 Lausanne (46.52732, 6.62469)

Tu–Su 11:00–18:00

artbrut.ch, +41 21 315 25 70



D Roman Museum

Museum dedicated to the Roman history of Lausanne. It displays wide collection of artefacts, statues and tools excavated in the area.

Chemin du Bois-de-Vaux 24, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.51896, 6.59867)

lausanne.ch/vie-pratique/culture/muse... , +41 21 625 10 84



E MUDAC

The Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts is a museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Place de la Cathédrale 6, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.52204, 6.63533)

+41 21 315 25 30



F L'Elysée Museum

Photo Élysée, formerly known as Musée de l'Élysée, is a museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, entirely devoted to photography.

Avenue de l'Elysée 18, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.50989, 6.63275)

elysee.ch, +41 21 316 99 11



G Musée Historique de Lausanne

Located in the former Bishop's Palace near the cathedral, this museum chronicles Lausanne's urban development. It features a detailed 17th-century scale model of the city and exhibits on social, economic, and political history from the Middle Ages to the present.

Place de la Cathédrale 4 (46.52222, 6.63492)

Tu–Su 11:00–18:00

lausanne.ch/vie-pratique/culture/muse... , +41 21 315 41 01

H Fondation de l'Hermitage

Housed in a 19th-century manor, this museum hosts major temporary exhibitions focused on fine arts, including Impressionist and modern works. The estate is set within a public park offering views of Lake Geneva and the Alps.

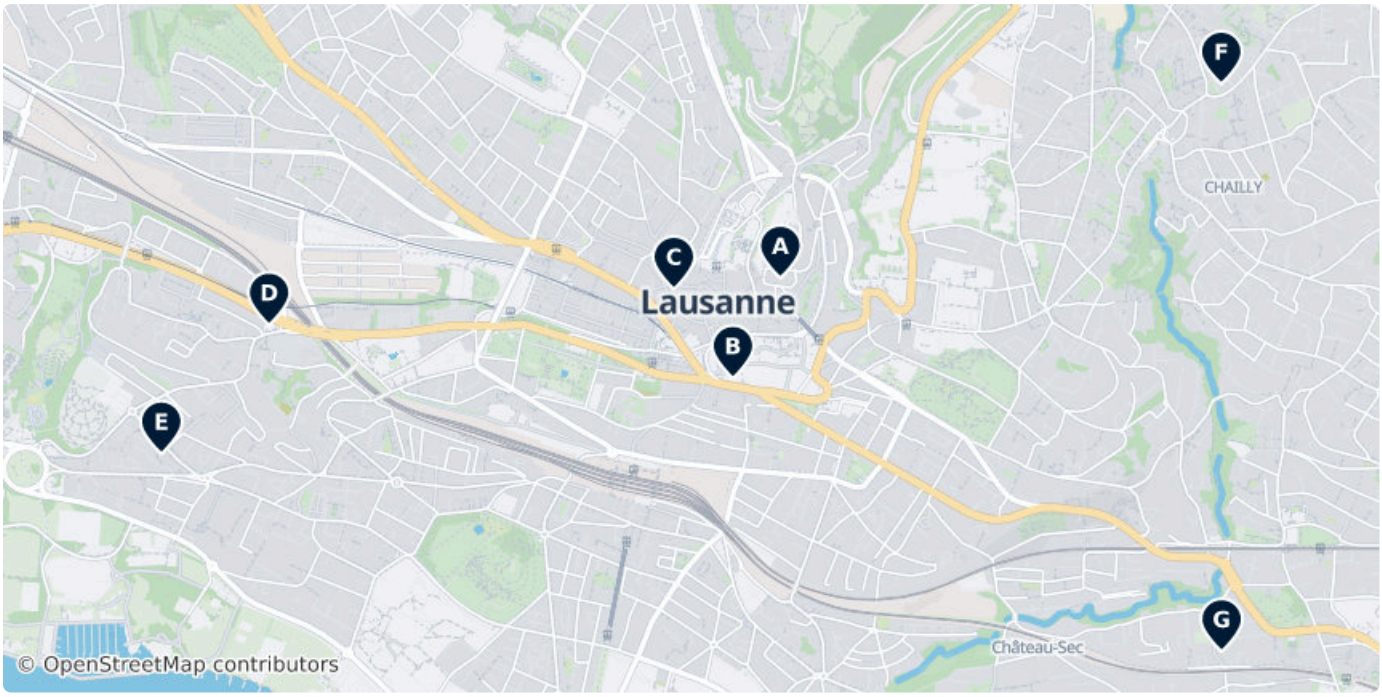
Route du Signal 2, 1018 Lausanne, CH (46.52811, 6.63722)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00, 10:00–21:00

fondation-hermitage.ch, +41 21 320 50 01

Lausanne's Protestant Churches

Lausanne's religious landscape is defined by its transition from Catholicism to Protestantism during the Reformation. This collection features the 13th-century Gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral, known for its rose window and night watch tradition, alongside the former Franciscan monastery of Saint-François. The list also includes the Baroque Saint-Laurent church and various evangelical temples like Sévelin and Saint-Jean-Cour, representing the evolution of Reformed worship from the historic city center to its modern residential neighborhoods.





A Lausanne Cathedral

The Cathedral of Notre Dame of Lausanne is a church located in the city of Lausanne, in the canton of Vaud in Switzerland.

Place de la Cathédrale 7, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.52258, 6.63535)

cathedrale-lausanne.ch, +41 21 316 71 60



B St Francis Church

The oldest church in Lausanne and a former monastery. There's not much left from the past but for the newly restored frescoes.

Place Saint-François, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland (46.51967, 6.63335)



C Église Saint-Laurent

A Baroque Reformed church featuring an 18th-century facade, located in the historic Saint-Laurent district.

(46.52226, 6.63086)

D Temple de Sévelin

An evangelical Reformed temple located in the Sévelin district.

(46.52122, 6.61379)

E Église de Saint-Jean-Cour

An evangelical church serving the Saint-Jean-Cour neighborhood.

(46.51748, 6.60924)

F Paroisse de Chailly

An evangelical Reformed parish church located in the residential Chailly district.

(46.52820, 6.65395)

G Chapelle du Coteau

A Protestant chapel located in the southern residential area of Lausanne.

(46.51175, 6.65396)

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