

Martigny

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Martigny is a small town in the Valais, at the point where the Rhone valley turns north to Lake Geneva. Roads and trains from here lead to France, Italy and the Alps. The town has been a crossing since Roman times.

Martigny is known for an art museum with Roman remains in its grounds. It is a good base for the Great St Bernard Pass, Chamonix and the Valais vineyards.

When to visit

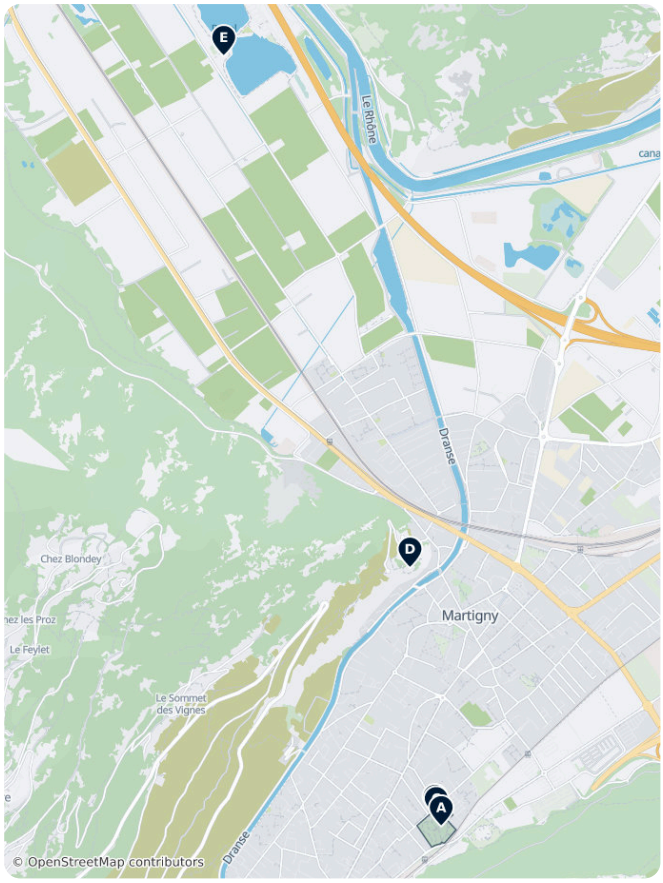
May to October is the best time for the town, the museums and the vineyards. Summer is warm and dry. Autumn is the grape harvest. Winter is cool, and nearby ski resorts have snow. The museums are open all year.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 10° Feels like 2°	-3° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	-2° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 17°	1° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	6° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	10° / 5°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	15° / 9°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 31°	16° / 11°	15 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	12° / 7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	9° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 19°	3° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 4°	-1° / -10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Fondation Pierre Gianadda is a large art museum with changing exhibitions, a sculpture park and the ruins of a Roman temple.
- B Musée gallo-romain shows finds from the Roman town of Octodurus.
- C Musée de l'automobile shows historic cars.
- D Château de la Bâtiaz is a medieval castle on a rock above the town, with a tall tower.
- E Western City Martigny is a small Wild West theme park.
- The Roman amphitheatre near the art museum is partly restored.



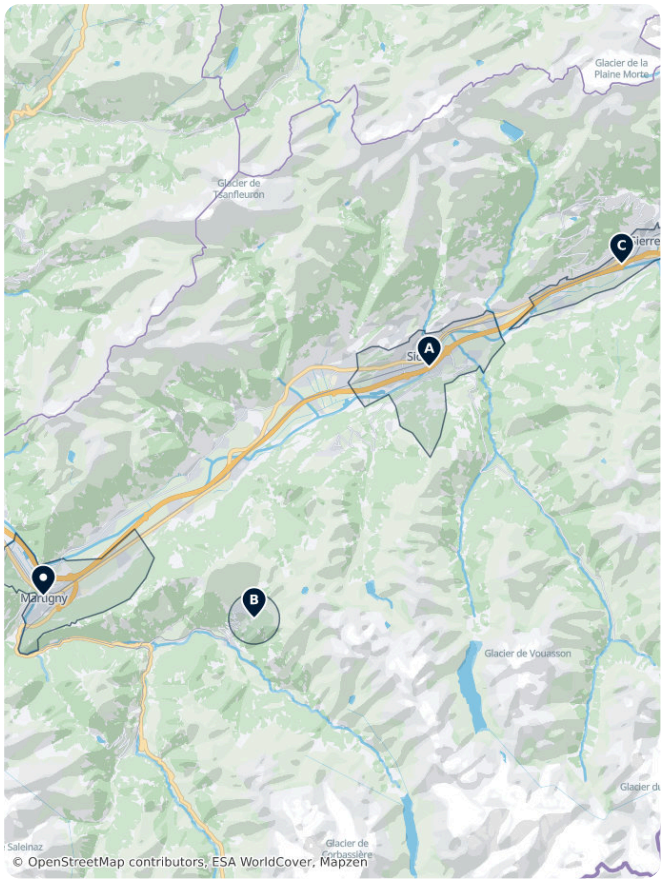
Martigny – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Visit the art museum and its sculpture park.
- Walk up to the castle tower for views.
- Take the mountain train to Chamonix.
- Taste wines in the vineyards around the town.
- Visit the Roman amphitheatre and the Gallo-Roman museum.

Day trips

- A Sion is the capital of the Valais, about 20 minutes away by train.
- B Verbier is a large ski and hiking resort above the valley.
- C Siders is a wine town further up the valley.
- Chamonix in France is reached by a scenic mountain train from Martigny.
- The Great St Bernard Pass is known for its hospice and the Saint Bernard dogs. The pass road is open in summer.



Where to explore

- Sion and Siders are the nearest towns in the valley.
- Verbier is the nearest large mountain resort.

Getting there

- By air: Geneva is the nearest main airport, about 1.5 hours away by train.
- By train: Martigny is on the main line along the Rhone valley. Check times on SBB.
- A narrow-gauge mountain railway goes from Martigny to Chamonix in France.

Getting around

- The town centre is small and easy to walk.
- The station is about 10 minutes from the main sights.
- Local buses serve the districts and nearby villages.
- Postal buses go to the Great St Bernard and to mountain resorts.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre is flat and compact. The castle tower is a short uphill walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Rhone valley is flat, and bike paths lead along the river.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the town centre.
- Parking near the main sights is limited at busy times.
- A car helps for the Great St Bernard Pass and for the side valleys.

Food & drink

Try raclette, which comes from the Valais. Dried meat, rye bread and local cheese are common. Local white wines such as Fendant and red Pinot Noir are made nearby.

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.

Martigny – 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

- Martigny is very safe.
- Mountain roads can close in winter.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Summer can be hot, so carry water on hikes.

History

The Romans founded Octodurus here in the 1st century BC to guard the route over the Great St Bernard Pass. The town kept its role as a crossing in the Middle Ages.

A Roman temple was found in 1976 and became the centre of the art museum that opened in 1978.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

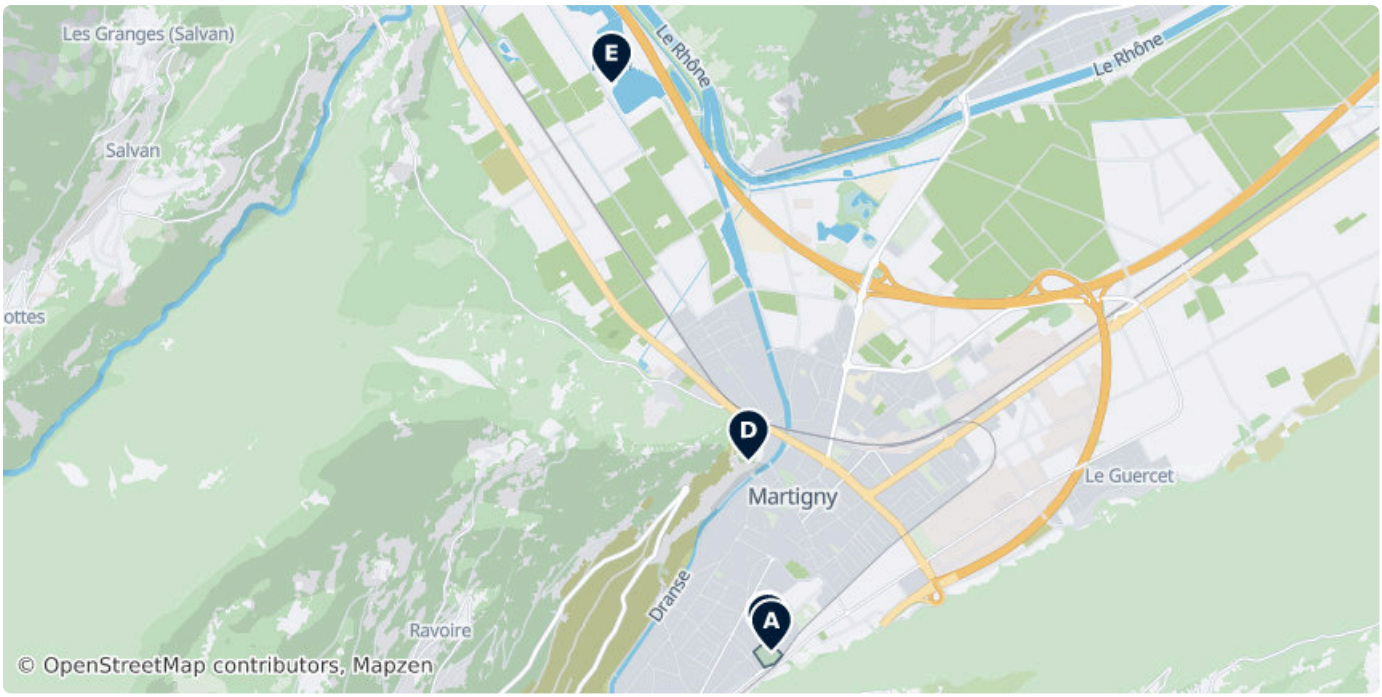
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Pierre Gianadda Foundation

This multi-genre museum displays temporary exhibitions ranging from iconography and vintage cars to modern art.

Rue du Forum 59, 1920 Martigny (46.09466, 7.07108)

Jun-Nov Mo–Su	09:00–19:00
Nov-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

gianadda.ch, +41 27 722 39 78

B Musée gallo-romain

Rue du Forum 59, 1920 Martigny (46.09511, 7.07072)

Jun-Nov Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Nov-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

gianadda.ch/espaces/musee_gallo-romain/

C Musée de l'automobile

Rue du Forum 59, 1920 Martigny (46.09503, 7.07079)

Jun-Nov Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Nov-Jun Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

gianadda.ch/espaces/musee_de_lautomobile/

D Château de la Bâtiaz

(46.10504, 7.06927)

E Western City Martigny

Rte des Iles 8 (46.12559, 7.05850)

western-city.ch

DATA SOURCES

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

IMAGE CREDITS

- Pierre Gianadda Foundation — "GianaddaPark" by Fondation Gianadda, copyrighted-free-use

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 16, 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.