

Murten

Canton of Fribourg · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Murten, also called Morat, is a small walled town on the shore of Lake Murten, between Bern and Fribourg. The old town is on a hill above the lake, with arcaded streets, fountains and a medieval wall. A clock tower stands at the main gate.

The town is on the language border, and both German and French are spoken. It is calm and good for a half day or a night.

When to visit

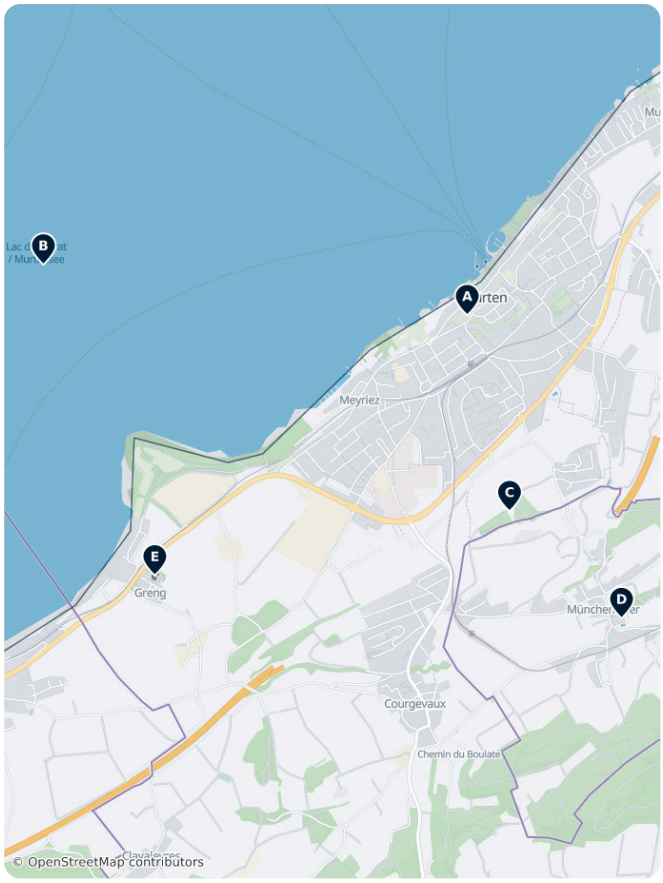
May to September is the best time for the old town wall, the lake and boats. Summer is warm. Spring and autumn are mild. In winter the old town is quiet, and some boats do not run. A light festival lights the town in January.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-2° / -9°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	-1° / -10°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17° Feels like 6°	2° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 21° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	9° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	13° / 8°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 32°	15° / 10°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	11° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 23°	8° / 2°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 16° Feels like 5°	3° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	0° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- The old town wall is a complete medieval wall that you can walk along for views of the lake and the roofs.
- A Schloss Murten is a castle on the edge of the old town.
- B Lac de Morat / Murtensee is a lake with beaches, boats and vineyards.
- C Schlacht von Murten is the field where the Swiss defeated Charles the Bold in 1476.
- D Schloss Münchenwiler is a castle near the lake.
- E Château de Greng is a country manor near Murten.



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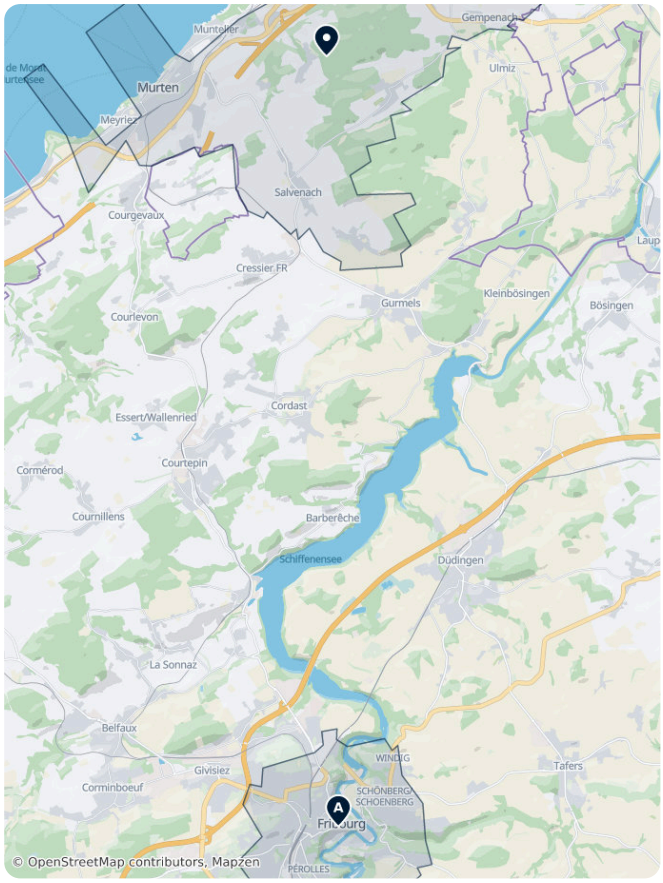
What to experience

- Walk the old town wall.
- Swim or paddle in the lake in summer.
- Cycle around the lake.
- Take a boat to Vully and taste local wine.
- Visit the weekly market.

Day trips

- A Fribourg is a medieval town on a river gorge, about 30 minutes away by train.
- Bern is about 30 minutes away by train.
- Avenches has a Roman amphitheatre and is close to Murten.
- Lake boats connect Murten with the Vully vineyards and with Neuchâtel.



Where to explore

- Fribourg is the nearest town in the same canton.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich, Geneva and Bern are the nearest airports.
- By train: Murten is on a regional line between Bern and Fribourg. Check times on SBB.
- The station is a 10-minute walk from the old town.

Getting around

- The old town is small and easy to walk.
- Local buses link the station with the old town and nearby villages.
- Lake boats run in the warm months.
- A bike path circles the lake.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and compact. The wall walk has steps.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The terrain around the lake is flat. Paths are well marked.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the old town.
- Park near the lake or the station and walk in.
- Parking is limited in summer.

Food & drink

Try Murten's sweet pastry, Nidletäfeli, which is a cream candy. Lake fish and cheese dishes are common. Vully wine is a local white wine.

People speak German and 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.

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Safety & health

- Murten is very safe.
- Lake water is cold in spring. Swim in marked areas.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- The wall walk has steep steps and gaps. Take care with children.

History

The town was founded in the 12th century by the Duke of Zähringen. In 1476, the Swiss defeated the army of Duke Charles the Bold near the town, which made the Swiss famous across Europe.

The old town wall has survived almost whole. It is one of the best preserved in Switzerland.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

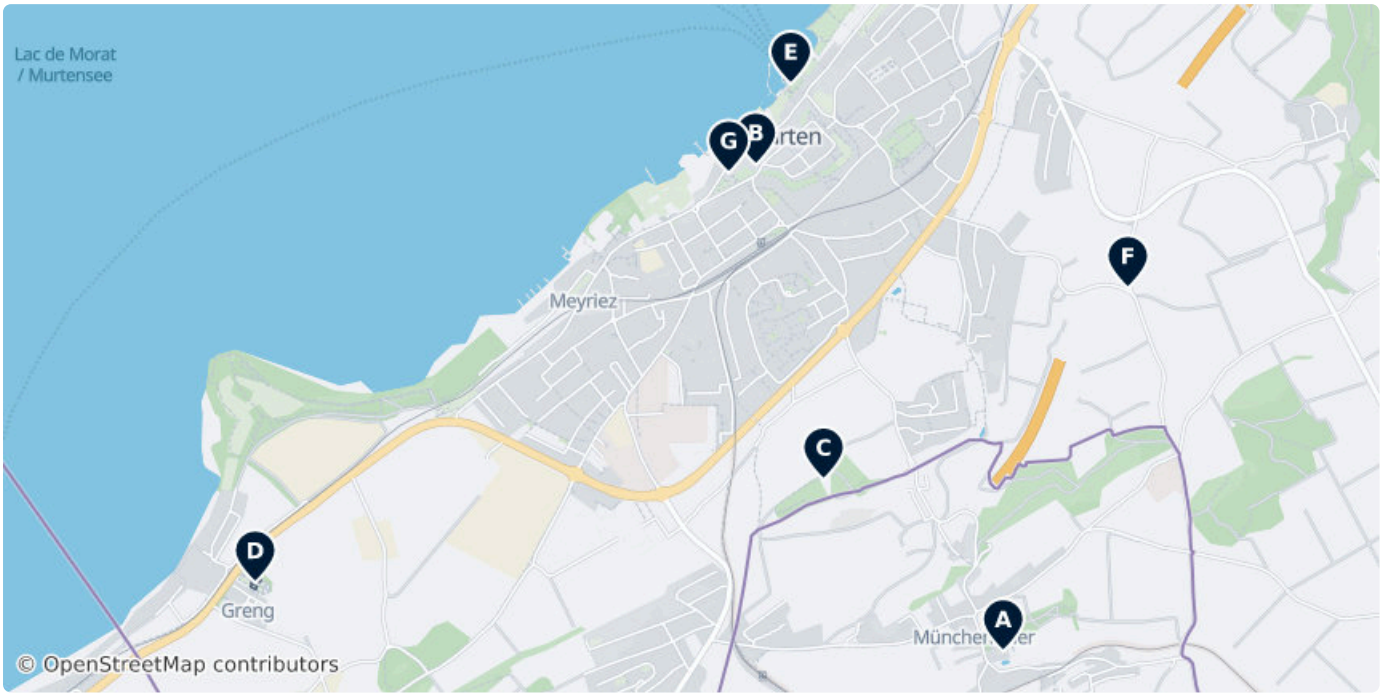
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Murten Essentials

Murten's historical landscape is anchored by its 13th-century castle and the site of the 1476 Battle of Morat, where Swiss Confederates defeated Charles the Bold. This collection explores the region's military and architectural heritage, from the lakeside museum housed in an old mill to the Cluniac origins of Münchenwiler Castle. Visitors can access the town via the central boat station or take in panoramic views of Lake Murten and the Jura Mountains from elevated vantage points.





A Münchenwiler Castle

Münchenwiler Castle or Château de Villars-les-Moines is a castle and former Cluniac priory in the municipality of Münchenwiler of the...

7 Kühergasse, Münchenwiler 1797, Switzerland
(46.91204, 7.12693)

schloss-muenchenwiler.ch



B Schloss Murten

A 13th-century fortress and former residence of the bailiffs, featuring architectural elements ranging from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. It occupies a strategic position overlooking the town's rooftops and the lake.

5 Schlossgasse, Murten 3280, Switzerland
(46.92796, 7.11506)



C Battle of Morat

The Battle of Morat took place during the Burgundian Wars that was fought on 22 June 1476 between Charles the Bold, the Duke of Burgundy,...

3280, Switzerland (46.91767, 7.11832)

D Château de Greng

An 18th-century neoclassical manor house located on the southern shore of Lake Murten, originally built as a country estate for local aristocracy.

37 De-Castella-Weg, Greng 3280, Switzerland (46.91429, 7.09106)

E Murten Schiffstation

The primary passenger boat terminal on Lake Murten, serving as a departure point for ferry cruises connecting to Neuchâtel and Biel via the Broye Canal.

53 Ryf, Murten 3280, Switzerland (46.93061, 7.11674)

F Point de vue sur le lac de Morat

An elevated vantage point providing panoramic views across Lake Murten toward the vineyards of Mont Vully and the Jura Mountains.

(46.92393, 7.13290)

G Murten Museum

The lakeside old mill now houses historical museum displaying various objects ranging from Neolithic era to Burgundian battles.

Ryf 4, 3280 Murten (46.92770, 7.11376)

Apr 06-Dec 19 Tu–Sa	14:00–17:00
Apr 06-Dec 19 Su	10:00–17:00
Mar Mo–Su	Open 24/7

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DATA SOURCES

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