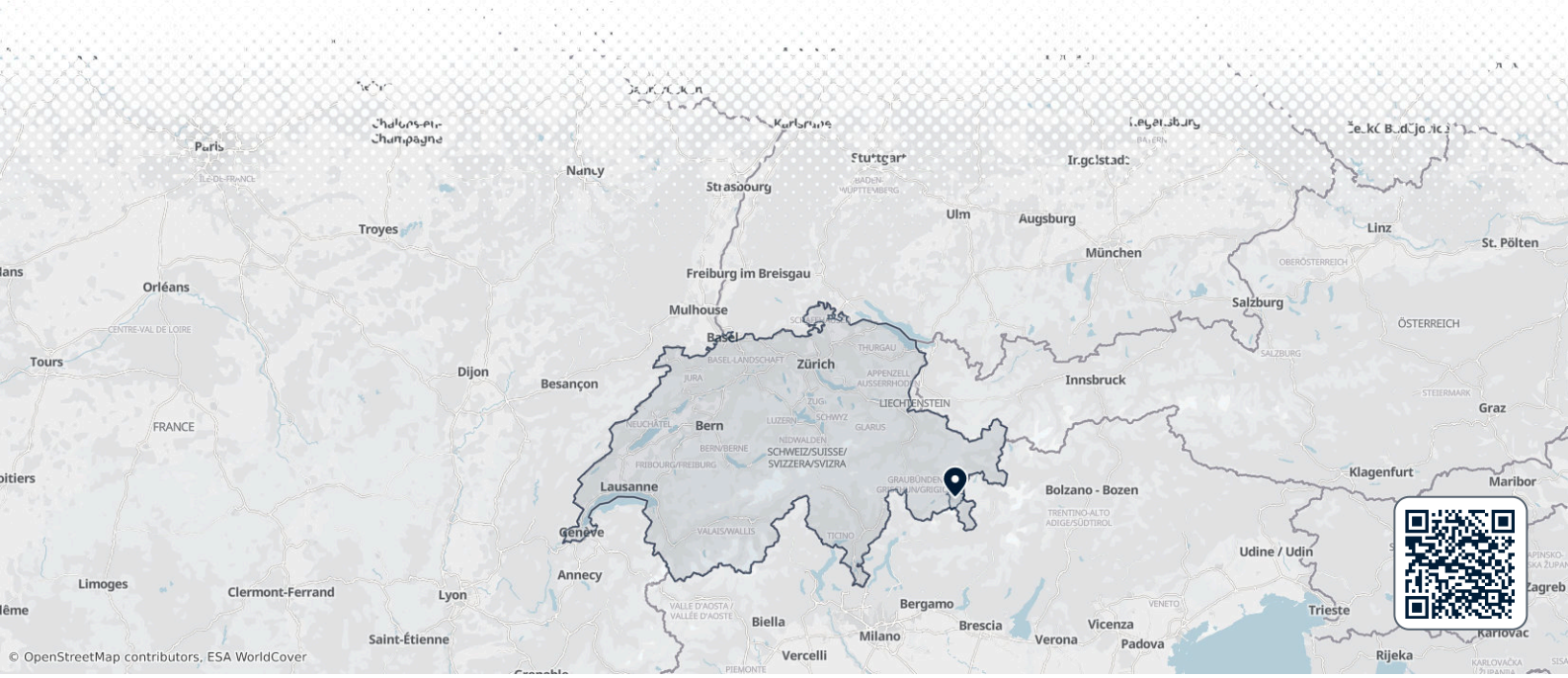
Pontresina

St. Moritz · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Pontresina is a mountain village in the Upper Engadin, a few kilometres from St. Moritz. It is quieter and more traditional. Old stone houses and a church tower stand on a terrace above the valley.

The Bernina mountains and glaciers are close. It is a base for hiking, mountaineering and the Bernina rail line.

When to visit

July to September is best for hiking and glaciers. December to March is the ski and cross-country season. Late spring and November are quiet, and many lifts and hotels close.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-3° / 3° Feels like -7°	-12° / -20°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 3° Feels like -7°	-12° / -21°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Great Great for skiing	1° / 6° Feels like -4°	-8° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for cycling	11° / 18°	2° / -3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for cycling	16° / 22°	6° / 0°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 22°	8° / 2°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	18° / 23°	8° / 2°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for cycling	14° / 20°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 16°	1° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	2° / 10° Feels like -1°	-5° / -15°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 4° Feels like -6°	-11° / -20°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights



- A Berninapass is a high mountain pass with views of glaciers and lakes.
- B Rhaetian Railway runs the Bernina line, a scenic mountain railway.
- C Vadret da Morteratsch is a glacier reached by an easy valley path.
- D Diavolezza is a high mountain with a cable car and views of the Bernina range.
- E Piz Bernina is the highest peak in the eastern Alps.
- F Piz Palü is a famous ridge peak near the pass.
- G Piz Languard is a viewpoint peak above Pontresina, reached on foot.
- H Museum Alpin shows the history of mountaineering.
- I Burgturm Spaniola is a medieval tower above the village.
- J Sta. Maria is a small old church near the village.
- K Lej Nair is a small lake near the pass.

Pontresina – Plan Your Trip

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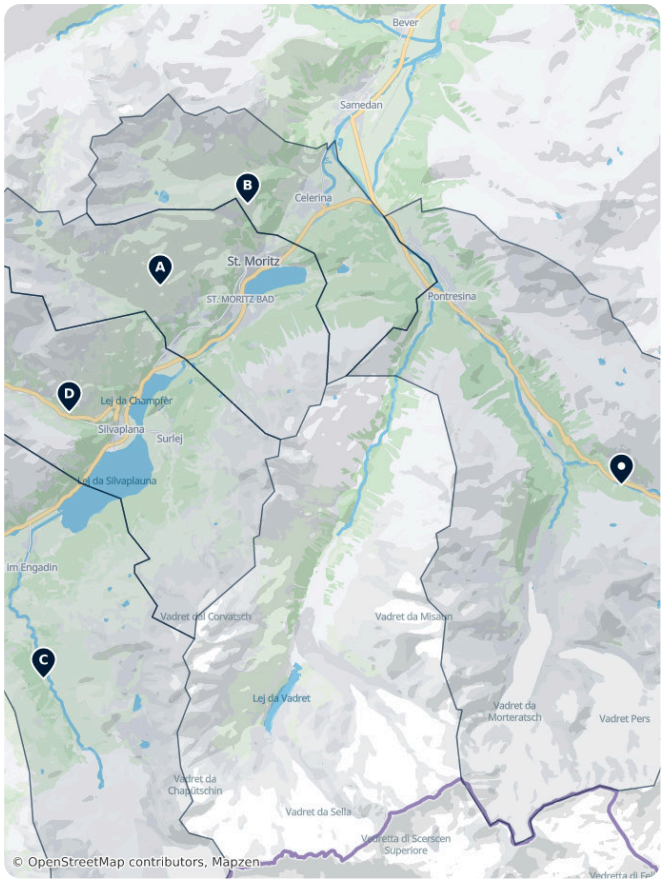
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What to experience

- Ride the Bernina train towards Italy.
- Walk the valley path to the Morteratsch glacier.
- Take the cable car to Diavolezza.
- Ski or cross-country ski in winter.
- Visit the mountaineering museum.
- Hike to Piz Languard.

Day trips

- A St. Moritz is a famous resort, about 15 minutes away by bus or train.
- B Celerina is a village between Pontresina and St. Moritz.
- C Sils and D Silvaplana lie on lakes up the valley.
- The Bernina train leads to Italy at Tirano, about 2 hours 30 minutes away.



Where to explore

- St. Moritz is the nearest and best-known resort.
- Celerina, Silvaplana and Sils are nearby villages.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich is the main airport, about 4 hours away by train.
- By train: Pontresina is on the Rhaetian Railway from Chur via the Albula line. Check times on SBB.
- The Albula and Bernina lines are scenic mountain railways.

Getting around

- The village is small and mostly easy to walk, with some slopes.
- Local buses and the train link the villages.
- Cable cars leave for the nearby mountains.
- A bike path runs along the valley.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is small, but it sits on a slope. Trails are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Bike paths run along the Engadin valley.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the village.
- Parking in the centre is limited.
- The Bernina pass road is closed in heavy snow at times.

Food & drink

Try Engadin nut tart, barley soup and Graubünden dried meat. Local restaurants use cheese from nearby farms. Mountain restaurants are open in the high season.

People speak German, Romansh and Italian. 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

- Pontresina is very safe.
- The altitude is about 1,800 m. Take care in the first days.
- Do not walk on glaciers without a guide.
- Avalanche risk exists in winter.

History

Pontresina has been a pass village for centuries, on the route between Italy and the Engadin. The medieval tower above the village is a sign of that past. In the 19th century visitors began to come for mountaineering.

The Bernina railway opened in 1910 and is now a World Heritage line.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

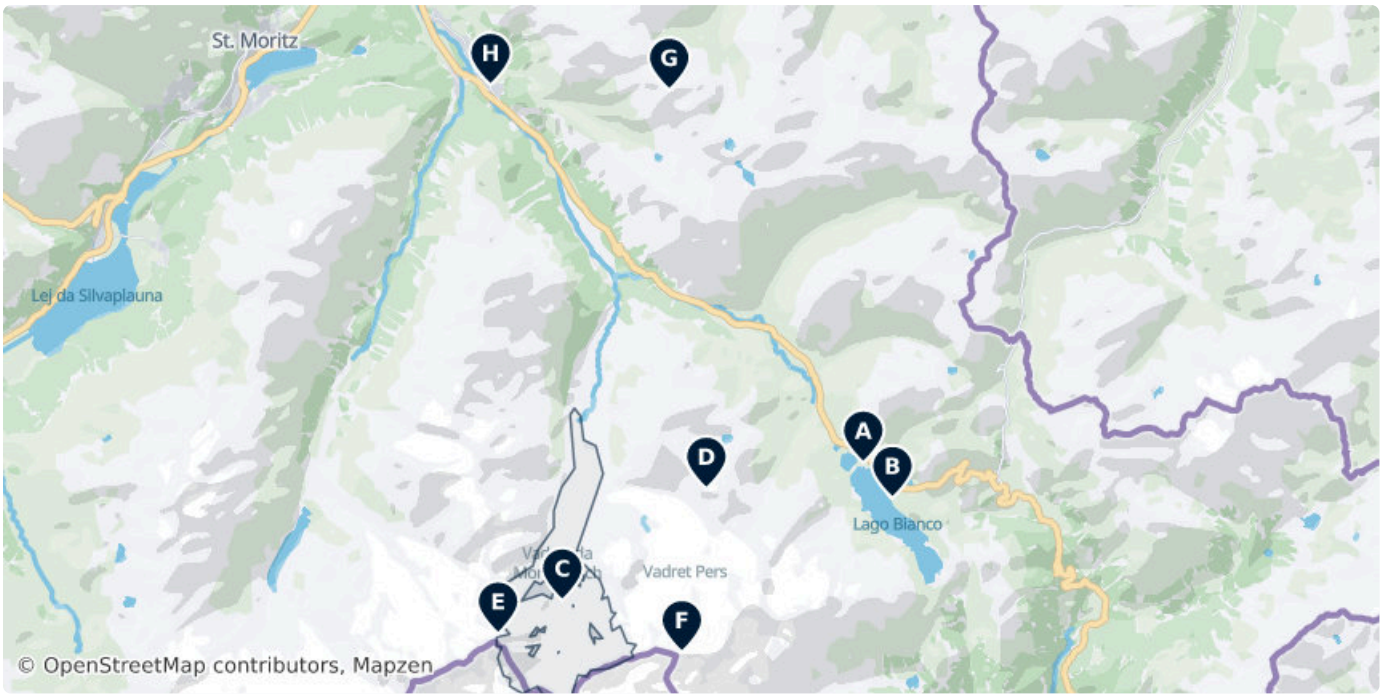


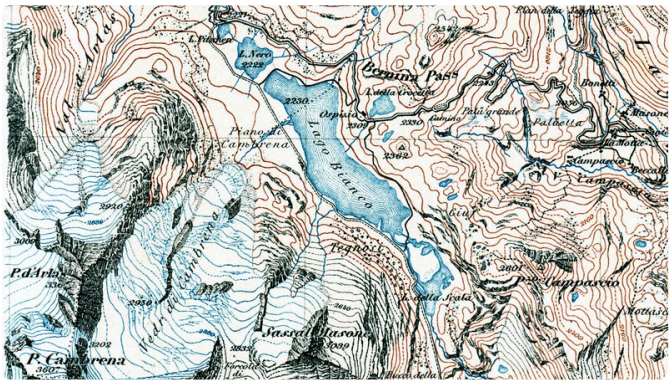
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LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Bernina Pass

The Bernina Pass is a high mountain pass in the Bernina Range of the Alps, in the canton of Graubünden in eastern Switzerland.

(Unnamed Road), 7504, Switzerland (46.41578, 10.01148)



B Rhaetian Railway

Major railway company and infrastructure manager operating a meter-gauge network featuring UNESCO World Heritage-listed routes. The system is known for its historic viaducts, tunnels, and scenic alpine paths passing by glaciers.

2378 Via dal Bernina, 7710, Switzerland (46.40889, 10.01972)

rhb.ch/de/



C Morteratsch Glacier

The Morteratsch Glacier is the largest glacier by area in the Bernina Range of the Bündner Alps in Switzerland.

7504, Switzerland (46.38892, 9.92625)



D Diavolezza

The Diavolezza is a col and ski resort above the Val Bernina in Graubünden.

7504, Switzerland (46.41070, 9.96706)



E Piz Bernina

Piz Bernina is the highest mountain in the Eastern Alps, the highest point of the Bernina Range, and the highest peak in the Rhaetian Alps.

7504, Switzerland (46.38243, 9.90805)



F Piz Palü

Piz Palü is a mountain in the Bernina Range of the Alps, located between Switzerland and Italy.

7504, Switzerland (46.37880, 9.96012)



G Piz Languard

Piz Languard is a mountain of the Livigno Alps, overlooking Pontresina in the canton of Graubünden.

7522, Switzerland (46.48844, 9.95653)



H Museum Alpin

Via Maistra 199, 7504 Pontresina
(46.48942, 9.90593)

pontresina.ch/winter/kultur-freizeit/museum-alpin/willko...

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