

Poschiavo

Canton of the Grisons · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Poschiavo is a small town in an Italian-speaking valley of Graubünden, just north of the Italian border. The Bernina railway runs through its streets. It has an old square, a Spanish quarter of grand houses, and a lake.

The town is quiet and well kept. It is a place for slow stays and train rides.

When to visit

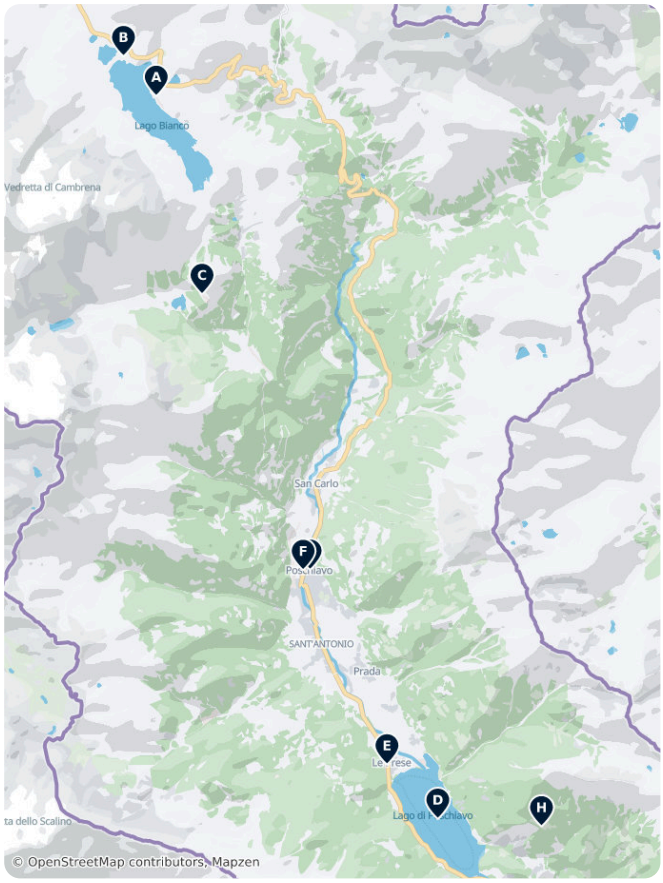
May to October is the best time for walks, the lake and the train. Summer is warm in the valley. Winter is cool and calm, and the pass above can have deep snow. Autumn is good for chestnut and for quiet walks.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -2°	-7° / -15°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-7° / -16°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	-3° / -12°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18°	2° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 23°	7° / 2°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 28°	13° / 7°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 28°	13° / 8°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	10° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	15° / 21°	6° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 15°	0° / -10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like 0°	-5° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Rhaetian Railway includes the Bernina line, which crosses the Alps from Chur to Tirano.
- B Berninapass is a high pass above the valley.
- C Alp Grüm is a rail stop with views of a glacier.
- D Lago di Poschiavo is a lake south of the town.
- E Chiesa San Francesco is a church in the old centre.
- F Museo Poschiavino is a local museum in the old town.
- G Museo Casa Console is a house museum with local life.
- H San Romerio is a small chapel on a hill above the lake.



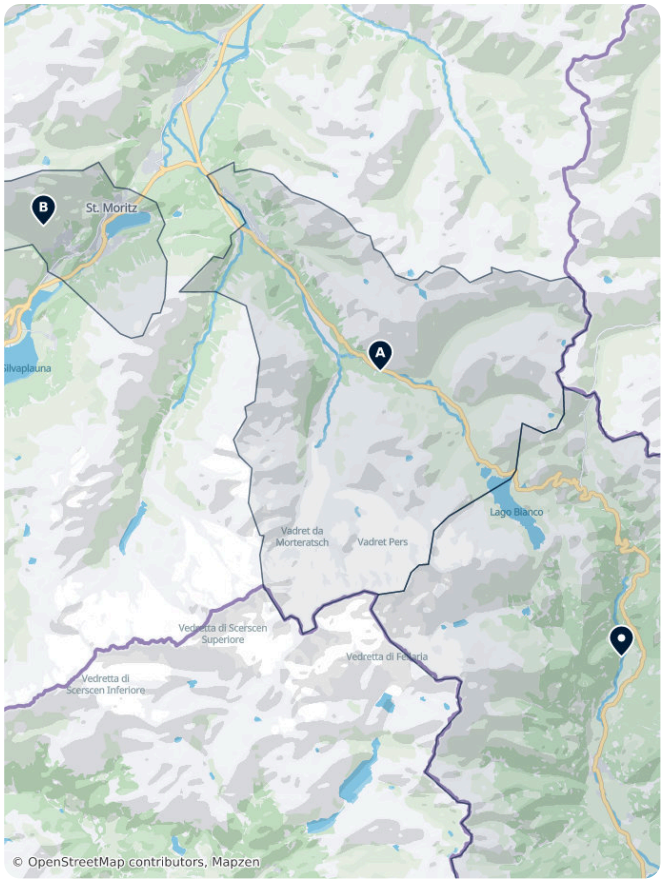
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What to experience

- Ride the Bernina train from Poschiavo to the Alp Grüm viewpoint.
- Walk through the old town and the Spanish quarter.
- Walk or cycle along the lake.
- Visit one of the small museums.
- Try local organic produce and herb teas.

Day trips

- A Pontresina is up the Bernina line, about 1 hour away.
- B St. Moritz is about 1 hour 30 minutes away by train and bus.
- Tirano in Italy is about 1 hour away by the Bernina train.



Where to explore

- Pontresina is the nearest village in the same region.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich and Milan are the nearest large airports.
- By train: Poschiavo is on the Bernina line between St. Moritz and Tirano. Check times on SBB.
- By bus: a postal bus runs from the Engadin in some seasons.

Getting around

- The old town is small and easy to walk.
- The Bernina train stops in the town.
- Local buses serve the valley villages.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old centre is small and flat.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley road is gentle. The side roads climb.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the town.
- The Bernina pass road can close in winter.
- Parking is easy near the centre.

Food & drink

People cook in the Italian style. Try pizzoccheri, which is buckwheat pasta with cheese and cabbage, and local rye bread. Many farms are organic.

People speak Italian with a local dialect. English is understood in hotels.

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

- Poschiavo is very safe.
- The pass above can have snow and fog.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Stay on marked trails in the mountains.

History

Poschiavo has been a market town on the route between Italy and the Engadin for centuries. In the 19th century many emigrants returned rich and built grand houses, known as the Spanish quarter.

The Bernina railway opened in 1910.

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

Poschiavo Essentials

This selection explores the Val di Poschiavo, a region defined by the UNESCO-listed Rhaetian Railway. Highlights include the Bernina Pass at 2,328 meters and the dramatic Palü Glacier. In the town of Poschiavo, the list covers the 17th-century Museo poschiavino and the historic Chiesa Evangelica. It also features high-altitude landmarks like the cliffside San Romerio church and the Alp Grüm station, which provides views of Lago di Poschiavo and the surrounding peaks of the Bernina Range.



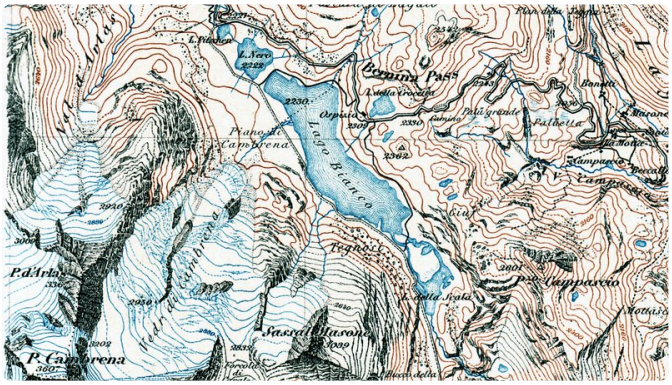


A Rhaetian Railway

The Rhaetian Railway, abbreviated RhB, is a Swiss transport company that owns the largest network of all private railway operators in...

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

rhb.ch/de/



B 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)



C Alp Grüm

A remote railway station and settlement at 2,091 meters, accessible only by train or on foot. It offers panoramic views of the Palü Glacier and the Val di Poschiavo.

(46.37450, 10.03123)



D Palü Glacier

The Palü Glacier is a 3.5 km long glacier on the southeastern flank of Piz Palü in the Bernina Range.

7710, Switzerland (46.36638, 9.97982)

E Lago di Poschiavo

Lago di Poschiavo is a natural lake in the Val di Poschiavo in the Swiss canton of Graubünden.

7746, Switzerland (46.28327, 10.09053)



F San Romerio

A historic 11th-century Romanesque church and alpine settlement perched on a steep cliff 1,800 meters above the valley floor.

7743, Switzerland (46.28195, 10.11661)

G Museo Poschiavino

Housed in the 17th-century Palazzo de Bassus-Mengotti, this museum showcases local history, traditional crafts, and the history of emigration from the valley.

(46.32654, 10.05667)

Tu–Su 14:00–17:30

museoposchiavino.ch, +41818341020



H Poschiavo railway station

Poschiavo railway station is a railway station in the municipality of Poschiavo, in the Swiss canton of Graubünden.

(46.32470, 10.05446)

I Palü Lake

Palü Lake is a lake below Piz Palü in the Swiss canton of Graubünden. It has an elevation of 1,923 m and a surface area of 5.2 ha.

7710, Switzerland (46.37299, 10.02555)



J 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)



K Chiesa Evangelica

A 17th-century Reformed church under cantonal monument protection, featuring a historic Baroque-style pulpit and organ.

31 Via da Mez, Poschiavo 7742, Switzerland
(46.32693, 10.05873)



L Cavaglia railway station

Cavaglia railway station is a railway station in the village of Cavaglia, within the municipality of Poschiavo in the Swiss canton of...

(46.36423, 10.04398)

DATA SOURCES

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