

Rapperswil-Jona

Canton of St. Gallen · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Rapperswil is a small medieval town on the north shore of Lake Zurich, on a peninsula below a castle. It is called the town of roses. A long wooden footbridge crosses the lake to the south shore.

The old town is car-free and compact. Rapperswil is a popular day trip from Zurich.

When to visit

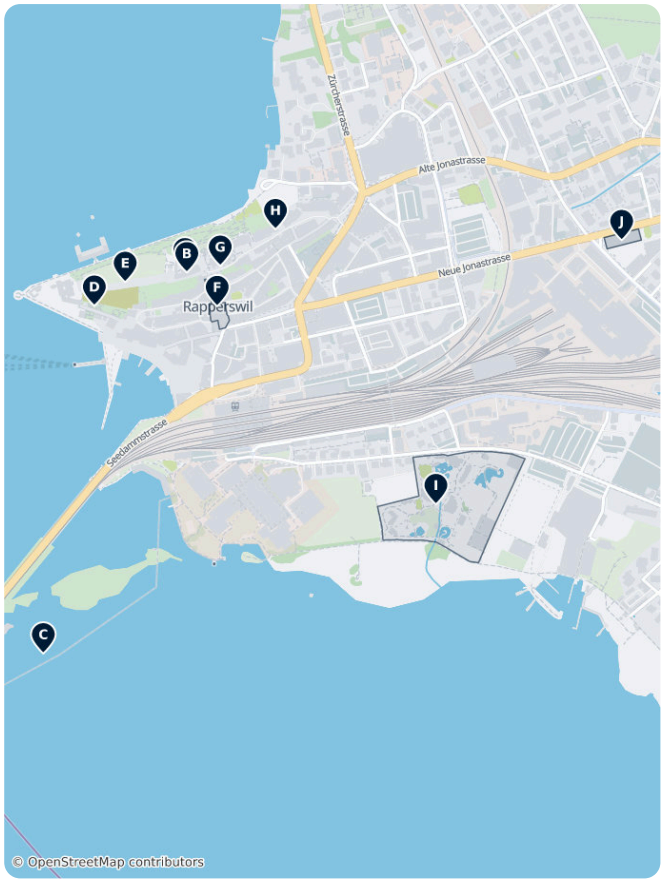
May to September is the best time for the lakefront, the castle and the rose gardens. The roses bloom from June. Summer is warm. Autumn is mild. Winter is cold and grey, and the lake is quiet. Rain is common in spring and summer.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-3° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 14° Feels like 3°	-2° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	6° / -1°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 27°	11° / 5°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	17° / 11°	20 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	17° / 11°	18 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	13° / 7°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 18°	3° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 12° Feels like 2°	-1° / -11°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Schloss Rapperswil is a medieval castle on the hill, with views of the lake and the Alps. It holds B Polenmuseum.
- C Holzsteg is a long wooden pedestrian bridge across Lake Zurich.
- D Rosengarten beim Kapuzinerkloster is a rose garden with many varieties.
- E Lindenhof is a terrace by the castle with views of the lake.
- F Hauptplatz is the main square of the old town.
- G Stadtpfarrkirche Rapperswil is the main church of the old town.
- H Breny-Turm is a tower in the old town wall.
- I Knie's Kinderzoo is a small zoo for children.
- J Kunst(Zeug)Haus shows modern art.



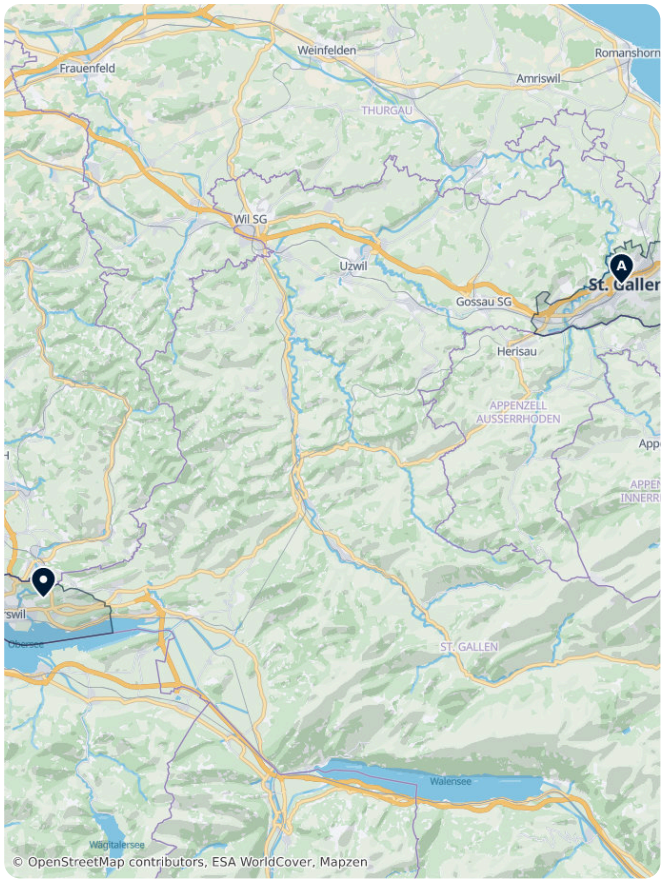
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Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
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What to experience

- Walk the old town and climb to the castle terrace.
- Cross the lake on the wooden bridge.
- Stroll through the rose gardens in summer.
- Take a lake boat to Zurich or other lake towns.
- Swim in the lake at the beach in summer.
- Visit the children's zoo with a family.

Day trips

- Zurich is about 40 minutes away by train.
- A St. Gallen is about 1 hour away by train.
- Einsiedeln has a large abbey and is a pilgrimage place, reached by train.
- Lake boats go to other towns on Lake Zurich.



Where to explore

- St. Gallen is the nearest city in the same canton.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is the nearest main airport.
- By train: Rapperswil is on the lake line from Zurich. Check times on SBB.
- The station is a few minutes from the old town.

Getting around

- The old town is small, car-free and easy to walk.
- Local buses serve Jona and the lake.
- Lake boats leave from the harbour.
- The wooden bridge leads to Hurden on the other shore.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and car-free. The castle hill has a short climb.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Lakeside paths are flat and well marked.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the old town, which is car-free.
- Car parks lie around the old town and near the station.
- Traffic on the lake road can be heavy at rush hour.

Food & drink

Try lake fish, such as perch and whitefish. The old town has many cafés and lakeside restaurants. Local wine is made on the hills by the lake.

People speak German with a Swiss dialect. 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

- Rapperswil is very safe.
- Lake water is cold in spring. Swim in marked areas.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- The wooden bridge can be slippery when wet.

History

Rapperswil began as a castle town in the 13th century. In the 19th century, Polish exiles set up a museum in the castle. It was a national museum for Poland until 1927.

The long wooden bridge across the lake was first built in the Middle Ages. It has been rebuilt in modern times as a footbridge.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

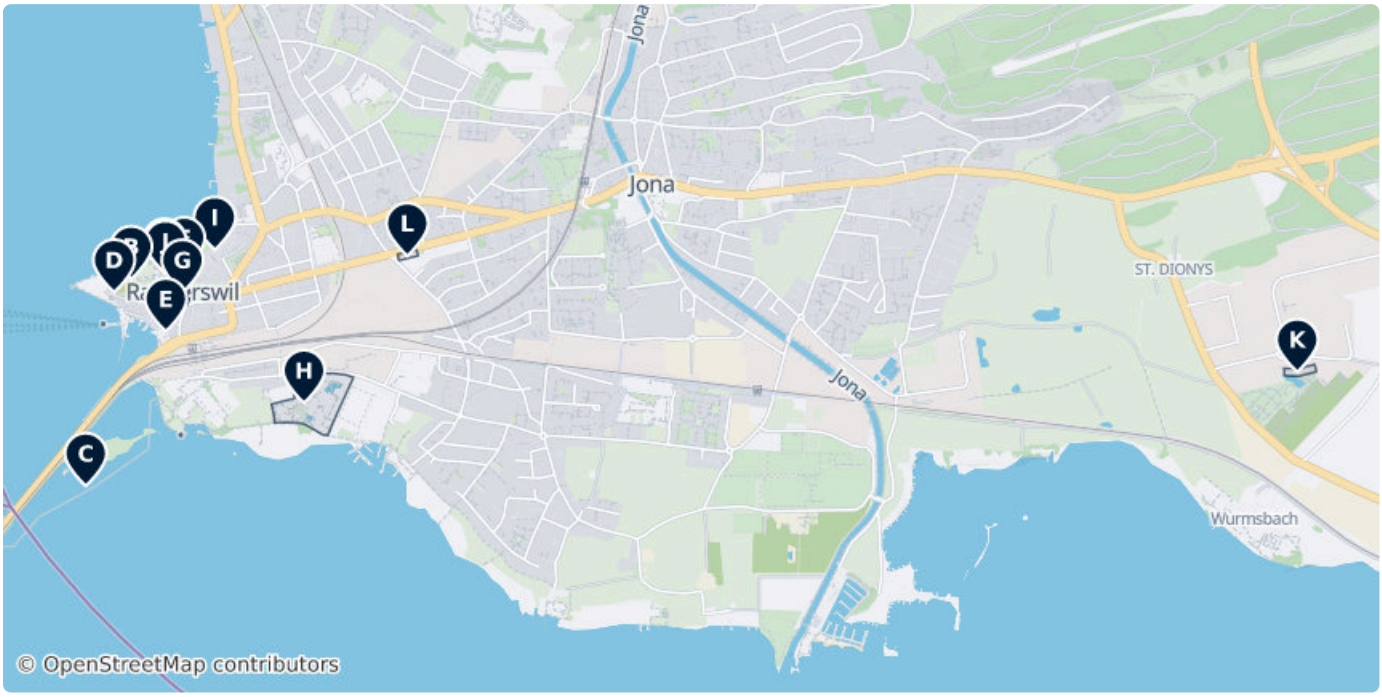
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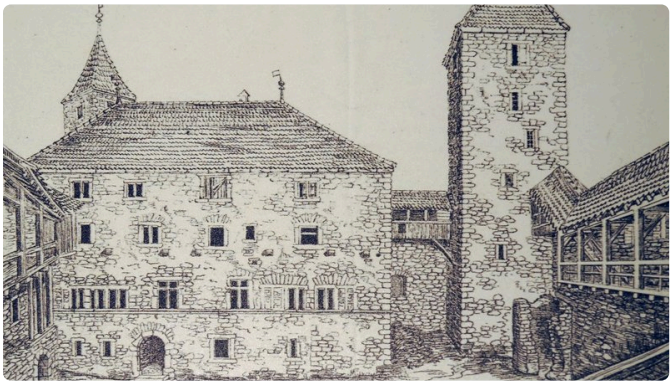
LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Rapperswil-Jona Essentials

Rapperswil-Jona, the 'Town of Roses,' is defined by its 13th-century castle and three rose gardens containing over 600 species. The historic center features the Lindenhof moraine hill and medieval squares like the Hauptplatz. A modern 841-meter wooden bridge, the Holzsteg, follows an ancient pilgrimage route across Lake Zurich. Cultural landmarks include the Polish Museum, the Enea Tree Museum's open-air sculptures, and the contemporary Kunst(Zeug)Haus, while Knie's Kinderzoo provides interactive animal experiences.





A Rapperswil Castle

Rapperswil Castle is a castle, built in the early 13th century AD by the House of Rapperswil in the former independent city of Rapperswil.

Hauptplatz, 8640 Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland (47.22732, 8.81557)

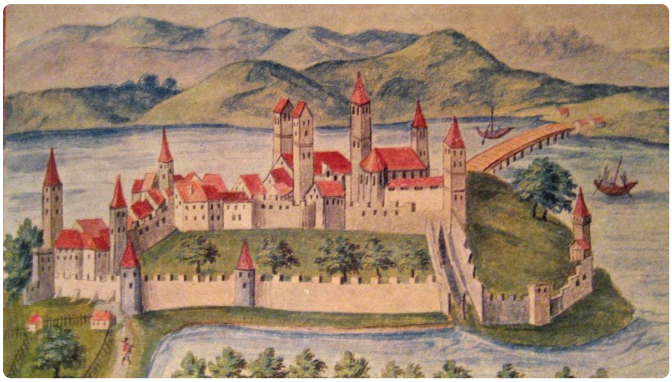
schlossrapperswil.com



B Lindenhof

Lindenhof in Rapperswil is a moraine hill and a public square being the historic center of Rapperswil, Switzerland.

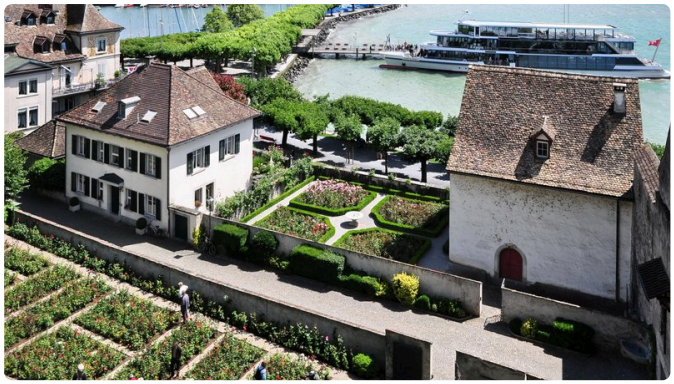
30 Hintergasse, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22708, 8.81407)



C Holzbrücke Rapperswil-Hurden

A 841-meter wooden pedestrian bridge reconstructed in 2001, following a historic pilgrimage route across Lake Zurich to Hurden.

Holzsteg, 8640, Switzerland (47.22073, 8.81201)



D Rose Garden, Rapperswil

Rapperswil being nicknamed town of roses, its vast rose gardens with more than 600 species are a must-see.

7 Endingerstrasse, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22668, 8.81330)



E Fischmarktplatz

A cobblestone public square located in the harbor area of the old town, serving as a hub for local markets and events.

3 Fischmarktplatz, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22548, 8.81564)



F St. John's Church

Stadtpfarrkirche St. Johann is a Roman Catholic parish church in the city of Rapperswil, canton of St.

Herrenberg 48, 8640 Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland (47.22736, 8.81646)



G Hauptplatz

The central pedestrian square of the medieval old town, surrounded by historic architecture and outdoor seating.

(47.22667, 8.81639)



H Knies Children's Zoo

Knie's Kinderzoo is a zoo aimed for children. It is located in the Swiss municipality of Rapperswil.

Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22328, 8.82189)

knieskinderzoo.ch, +41 55 220 67 60



I Breny-Turm

A 15th-century late Gothic residential tower that forms part of the town's historic fortifications and the Breny-Haus complex.

(47.22799, 8.81785)



J Polish Museum, Rapperswil

The Polish Museum, Rapperswil, was founded in Rapperswil, Switzerland, on 23 October 1870, by Polish Count Władysław Broel-Plater, at the...

Schlossweg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22725, 8.81562)

Apr-Oct Mo–Su	13:00–17:00
Mar Sa–Su	13:00–17:00

polenmuseum.ch, +41 55 210 18 62

K enea Baummuseum

A 75,000-square-meter open-air museum designed by Enzo Enea, showcasing over 50 varieties of trees alongside contemporary sculptures.

Buechmattstrasse 4, 8645 Jona, CH (47.22423, 8.86685)

enea.ch/baummuseum/



L Kunst(Zeug)Haus

This gallery has no match in Switzerland: awe-inspiring exhibition of modern art and the building itself is an architectural gem.

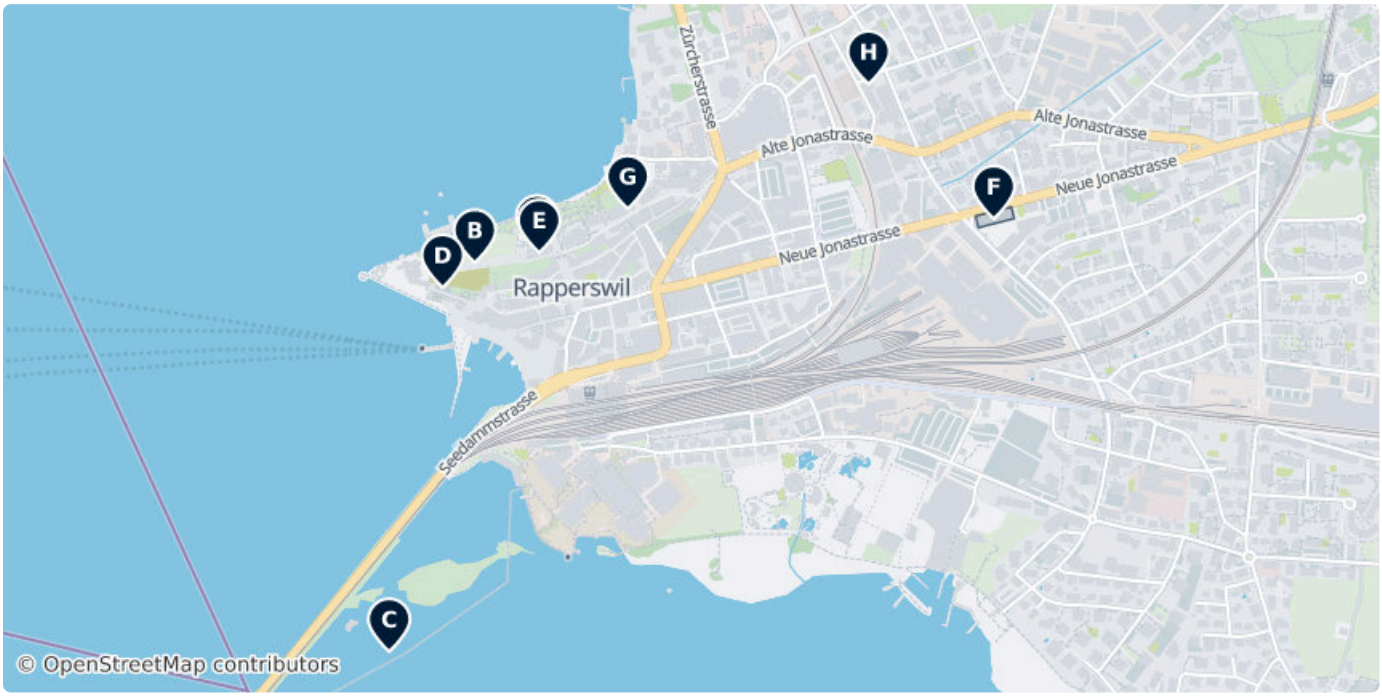
Schönbodenstrasse 1, 8640 Rapperswil (47.22780, 8.82656)

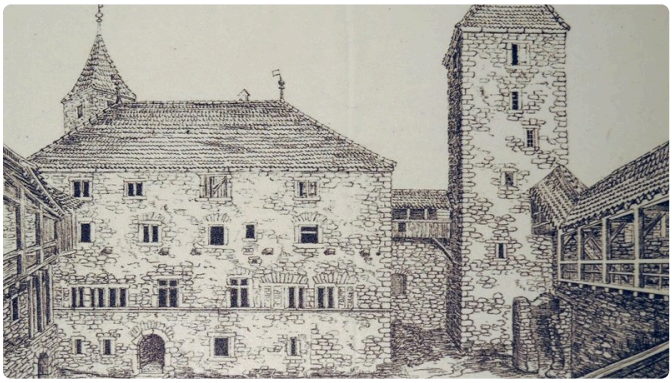
We	14:00–20:00
Th	14:00–17:00
Fr–Su	11:00–17:00

kunstzeughaus.ch, +41 55 220 20 80

Best of Rapperswil

Rapperswil, known as the "Town of Roses," features gardens with over 600 varieties. The historic center is defined by the 13th-century Rapperswil Castle and the Lindenhof moraine hill. A significant architectural feature is the Holzsteg, a wooden pilgrimage bridge crossing Lake Zurich. Cultural institutions include the Kunst(Zeug)Haus modern art gallery in a former armory, the Polish Museum, and a dedicated museum for Switzerland's Circus Knie.





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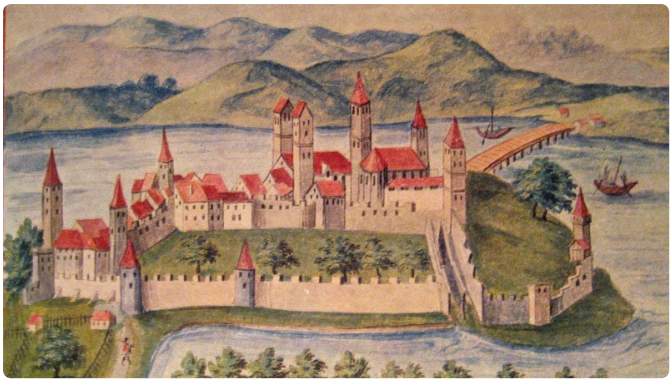
schlossrapperswil.com



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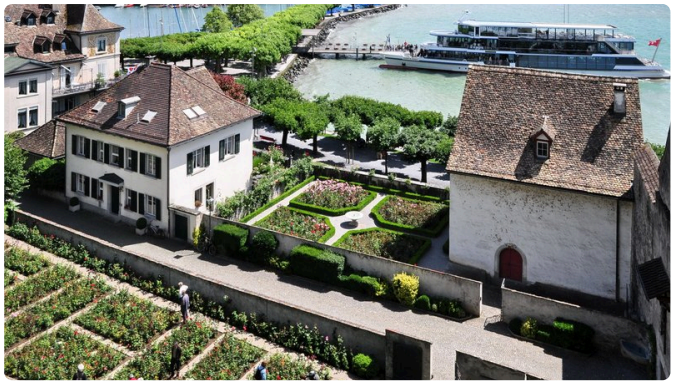
30 Hintergasse, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22708, 8.81407)



C Holzbrücke Rapperswil-Hurden

An 841-meter wooden pedestrian bridge across Lake Zurich, reconstructing a medieval crossing. It serves as part of the Way of St. James pilgrimage route, connecting Rapperswil with the village of Hurden.

Holzsteg, 8640, Switzerland (47.22073, 8.81201)



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polenmuseum.ch, +41 55 210 18 62



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We	14:00–20:00
Th	14:00–17:00
Fr–Su	11:00–17:00

kunstzeughaus.ch, +41 55 220 20 80



G Stadtmuseum Rapperswil-Jona

Stadtmuseum Rapperswil-Jona is a museum of local history and art in Rapperswil, canton of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

34 Herrenberg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland
(47.22796, 8.81776)

We–Fr	14:00–17:00
Sa–Su	11:00–17:00

stadtmuseum-rapperswil-jona.ch

H Circus Museum

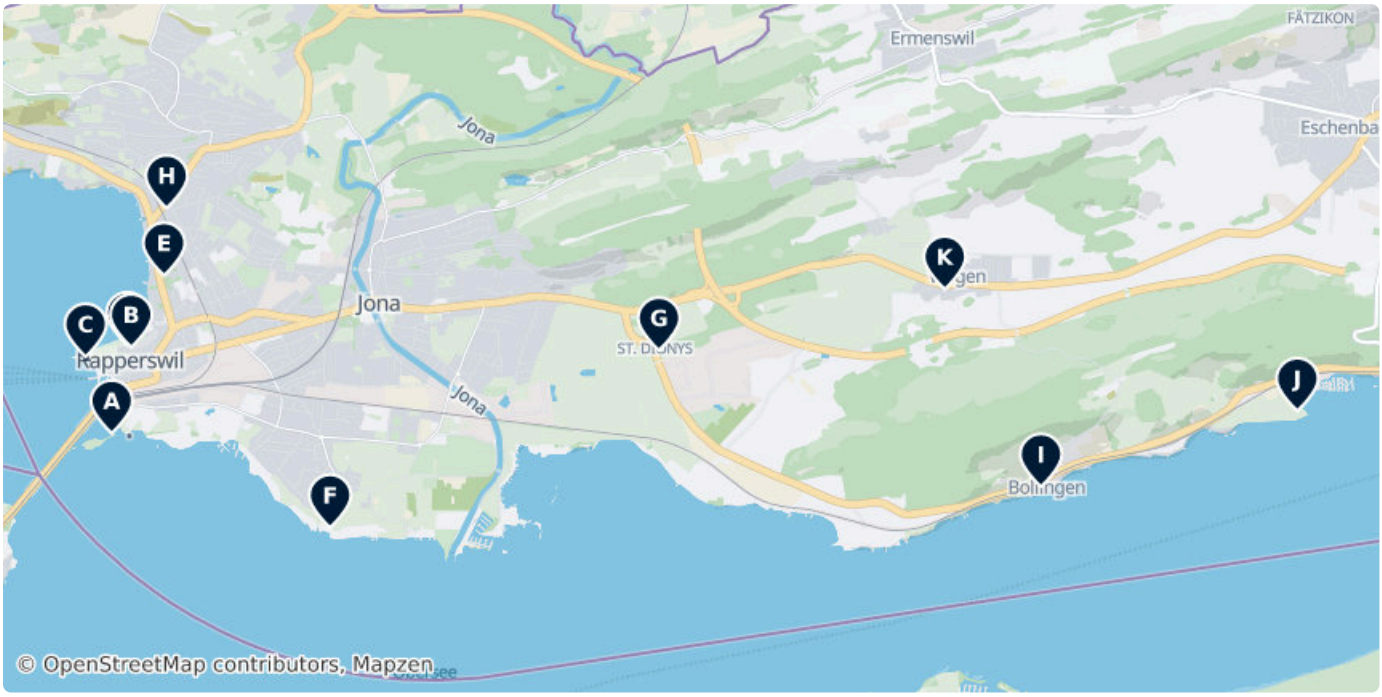
Captivating museum dedicated to the history of Switzerland's famous circus Knie.
Wonderful collection of circus proprieties.

Sankt Wendelinstrasse 10, 8640 Rapperswil, Switzerland
(47.23000, 8.82355)

+41 55 220 57 57

Historic Churches & Chapels

Rapperswil-Jona's religious landscape spans over a millennium, featuring sites like the 14th-century Heilig Hüsli bridge chapel and the prominent St. Johann parish church. This collection includes the Capuchin Friary, noted for its Saint Anthony cave, and ancient sites like St. Martin in Busskirch, which sits on foundations dating back to the 7th century. From the Neo-Gothic Reformierte Kirche to the lakeside chapels of Bollingen and the medieval St. Dionys-Wurmsbach, these buildings showcase architectural styles ranging from Romanesque to Baroque.

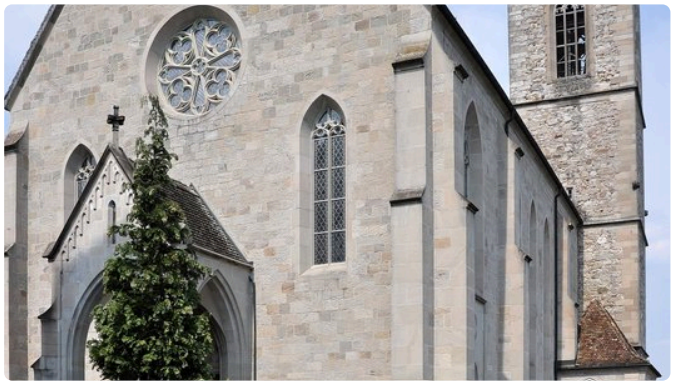




A Heilig Hüsli

Heilig Hüsli is a bridge chapel in Rapperswil, Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Holzsteg, 8640, Switzerland (47.22250, 8.81482)



B Stadtpfarrkirche Rapperswil

Stadtpfarrkirche St. Johann is a Roman Catholic parish church in the city of Rapperswil, canton of St.

46 Herrenberg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland (47.22749, 8.81649)

krj.ch

C Capuchin Friary Rapperswil

The monastery is noteworthy for the cave consecrated to Saint Anthony of Padua - it attracts pilgrims from the whole country.

Bühlerallee, 8640 Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland
(47.22694, 8.81259)

klosterrapperswil.ch, +41 55 220 53 10



D Liebfrauenkapelle

Liebfrauenkapelle is a chapel in Rapperswil, Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland, which dates back to the ossuary that was built by the House...

57 Herrenberg, Rapperswil SG 8640, Switzerland
(47.22761, 8.81616)



E Reformierte Kirche Rapperswil

Neo-Gothic Evangelical-Reformed church built in 1902, serving the Protestant community of Rapperswil.

(47.23164, 8.81929)



F St. Martin

Former parish church in Busskirch with archaeological remains dating to the 7th century. The current structure features late Gothic and Baroque architectural elements.

170 Busskirchstrasse, 8645, Switzerland
(47.21702, 8.83349)



G St. Dionys-Wurmsbach

Medieval church located near Wurmsbach Abbey, showcasing Romanesque and Gothic architectural transitions.

2 Sankt Dionys, 8645, Switzerland (47.22731, 8.86160)



H St. Ursula

Roman Catholic chapel located in Kempraten, an area known for its ancient Roman settlement history.

4 Rütistrasse, Kempraten 8640, Switzerland (47.23555, 8.81952)



I St. Pankratius

Roman Catholic church situated in the Bollingen district, serving as a local religious landmark near the shores of Lake Zurich.

26 Dorfstrasse, 8715, Switzerland (47.21939, 8.89425)



J St. Meinrad

Roman Catholic chapel in Jona-Bollingen dedicated to Saint Meinrad, a significant figure in the region's pilgrimage history.

8715, Switzerland (47.22379, 8.91615)



St. Wendelin Kapelle

Small Roman Catholic chapel in the village of Wagen, dedicated to Saint Wendelin, the patron saint of shepherds and peasants.

8 Kapellweg, Wagen 8646, Switzerland (47.23085, 8.88602)

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- Reformierte Kirche Rapperswil — "Reformierte Kirche in Rapperswil (Switzerland)" by Roland zh, CC BY-SA 3.0
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