Samedan

Canton of the Grisons · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Samedan is the main village of the Upper Engadin, a high valley in eastern Switzerland. It is the seat of the district and has a small airport. Old Engadin houses with painted facades line its streets.

Samedan is quieter and cheaper than nearby St. Moritz. It is a good base for skiing, cross-country, hiking and train rides.

When to visit

July to September is best for hiking. December to March is the ski season, and the valley is a centre for cross-country skiing. Late spring and November are quiet, and some lifts and hotels close.

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

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

Top sights

- A Piz Nair is a high peak with a cable car and views over the lakes.
- B Muottas Muragl is a mountain with a funicular and a famous view of the Bernina range.
- C Engiadin'ota is the upper part of the valley.
- D Reformierte Kirche Samedan is the reformed church in the old village.
- E San Gian is a small old church on a hill.
- F La Tuor is a medieval tower in the village.
- G Lej da Gravatscha is a small lake in the valley, good for a walk.



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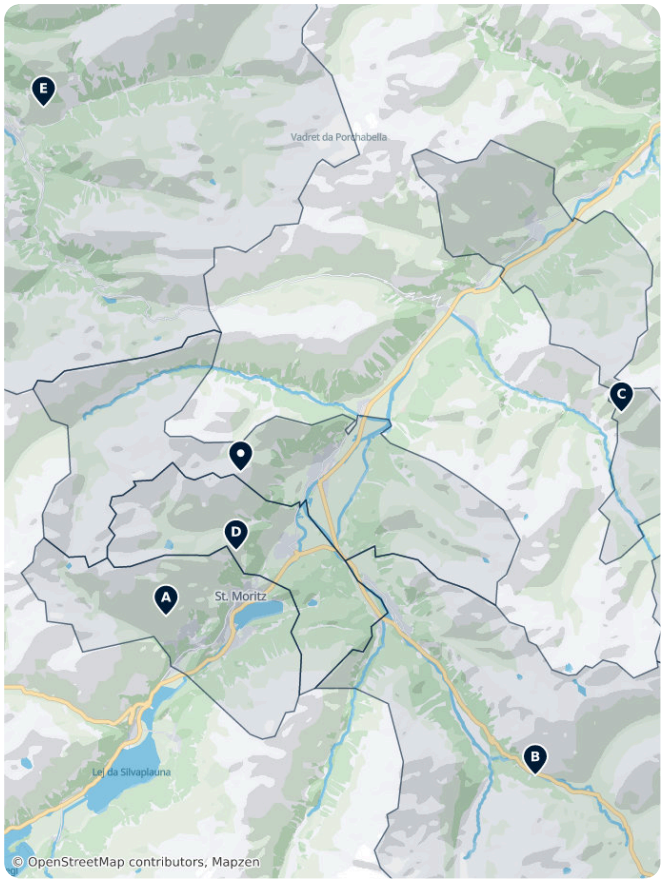
What to experience

- Ride the Albula line from Chur.
- Cross-country ski along the frozen lakes.
- Take the funicular to Muottas Muragl.
- Walk or cycle along the valley.
- Visit the old village and its painted houses.

Day trips

- A St. Moritz is a famous resort, about 10 minutes away by train.
- B Pontresina is at the foot of the Bernina mountains.
- C Zuoz is an old Engadin village.
- D Celerina is a village next to Samedan.
- E Bergün Filisur is on the Albula railway, about 45 minutes away.



Where to explore

- St. Moritz, Pontresina and Zuoz are the nearest villages in the Upper Engadin.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich is the main airport, about 3 hours 30 minutes away by train.
- By train: Samedan is on the Rhaetian Railway, on the Albula line from Chur. Check times on SBB.
- The Albula line is a World Heritage railway.

Getting around

- The old village is small and easy to walk.
- The railway and local buses link the valley villages.
- A bike path runs along the valley floor.
- Funiculars and cable cars climb the nearby mountains.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old village is small and flat. Mountain trails climb steeply.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Bike paths run along the valley floor.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the valley.
- Parking in the village is easy.
- Mountain passes may close in winter.

Food & drink

Try Engadin nut tart, barley soup and Graubünden dried meat. Local restaurants serve cheese dishes. Mountain huts offer simple meals.

People speak Romansh and German. 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

- Samedan is very safe.
- The altitude is about 1,700 m. Take care in the first days.
- Avalanche risk exists in winter. Ski on marked runs.
- Mountain weather changes fast.

History

Samedan has been the main village of the Upper Engadin for centuries. It has old houses built by rich families. The valley was a route between Italy and the north.

The railway arrived in 1903 and helped tourism grow.

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

Samedan Essentials

Samedan serves as the historic and cultural hub of the Upper Engadin valley. This collection highlights the village's architectural heritage, including the 13th-century La Tuor tower and the Chesa Planta, a patrician house containing a significant library. The list covers various religious landmarks, from the hilltop San Peter to the iconic San Gian in nearby Celerina. Natural highlights include the panoramic Muottas Muragl and Piz Nair, alongside the Engadin Airport, recognized as the highest regional airport in Europe.





A Muottas Muragl

Muottas Muragl is a location on the southern slopes of the Blais da Muottas, a summit at the western end of the range descending from Piz...

7503, Switzerland (46.52195, 9.90286)



B Bibliothek Salis-Planta

Located within the historic Chesa Planta, this library is housed in a grand 16th-century patrician mansion that showcases aristocratic Engadin domestic culture.

(46.53438, 9.87169)

chesaplanta.ch/bibliothek/, +41 81 852 52 68



C La Tuor

A 13th-century medieval residential tower that now serves as a cultural center and exhibition space for local history and art.

Surtuor 10, 7503 Samedan (46.53426, 9.86927)

latuor.ch



D Reformierte Kirche Samedan

An Evangelical-Reformed church located in the center of the village, featuring a distinctive Baroque bell tower.

San Bastiaun, 7503 Samedan, Switzerland (46.53394, 9.87058)



E Reformierte Kirche San Peter

Situated on a hill overlooking Samedan, this late Gothic church dates back to the late 15th century and stands on the site of the village's original settlement.

San Peter, 7503, Switzerland (46.53580, 9.86609)

F Golfcourse Samedan

Established in 1893, this is the oldest golf course in Switzerland, offering an 18-hole championship layout on the flat floor of the Engadin valley.

7503, Switzerland (46.52145, 9.87227)

engadin-golf.ch/de/golfplaetze, +41 81 851 04 66



G Katholische Herz-Jesu-Kirche

A Roman Catholic church built in 1910 in the Neo-Romanesque style, serving the Catholic community in the region.

(46.53410, 9.86756)

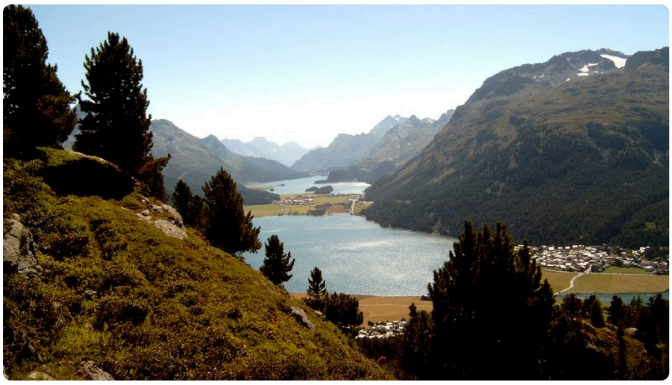


H Samedan Airport

Samedan Airport, also known as Engadin Airport, is a regional airport in Samedan in the Engadin valley of Switzerland, 5 km from St. Moritz.

7503, Switzerland (46.53410, 9.88411)

engadin-airport.ch



I Upper Engadin

The Engadin or Engadine is a long high Alpine valley region in the eastern Swiss Alps in the canton of Graubünden in southeasternmost...

7505, Switzerland (46.51933, 9.86840)



J Piz Nair

Piz Nair is a mountain of the Albula Alps in Switzerland, overlooking St. Moritz in the canton of Graubünden.

7500, Switzerland (46.50631, 9.78737)



San Gian

A prominent 15th-century landmark church perched on a hill, featuring two distinct towers: a large Romanesque bell tower and a smaller Gothic spire.

7505, Switzerland (46.51331, 9.86983)

DATA SOURCES

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