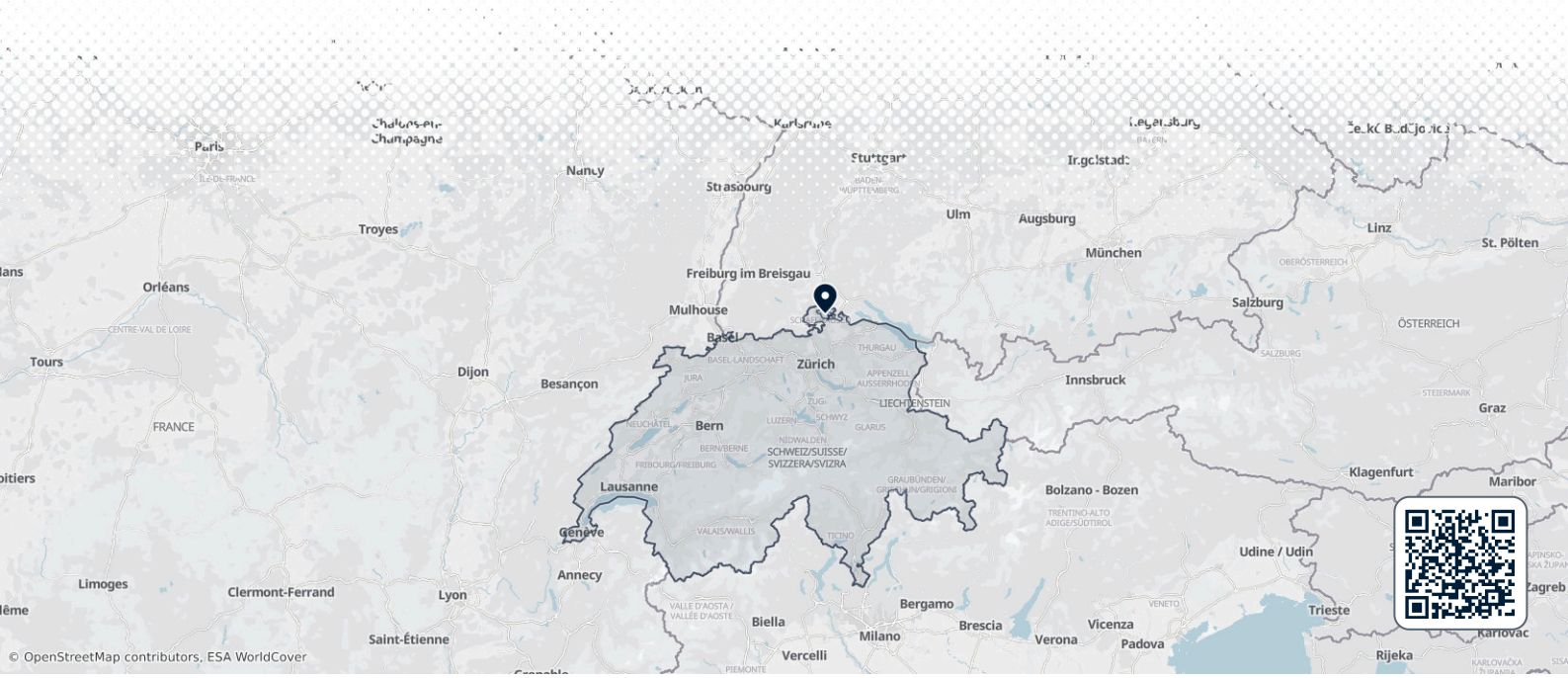


Schaffhausen

Canton of Schaffhausen · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Schaffhausen is a medieval town on the north bank of the Rhine, close to the German border. The old town is car-free and full of painted houses and carved bay windows. A round fortress, the Munot, stands on the hill above it.

The Rhine Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in Europe, lie a few kilometres downstream. Most visitors combine the old town with the falls in one day.

When to visit

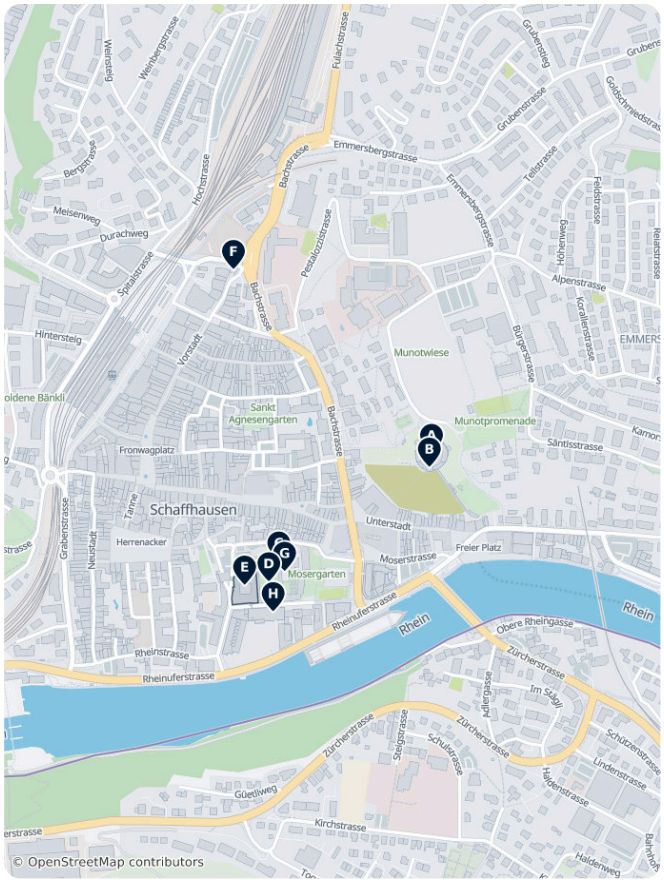
May to September is the best time for the old town, the falls and the Rhine. Summer is warm, and the falls are at their strongest in early summer. Autumn is mild and quiet. Winter is cold and grey, and some boat trips stop. Rain is common in spring and summer.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like -1°	-2° / -10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	-2° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	5° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	13° / 8°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 22°	7° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 16° Feels like 6°	2° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Munot is a round stone fortress built in the 16th century. You can walk on its roof and climb the B Munotturm for views over the town and the Rhine.
- C Münster Schaffhausen is a Romanesque church in the old town.
- D Kloster Allerheiligen is a former abbey with a large cloister. It houses E Museum zu Allerheiligen, with art, history and archaeology.
- F Schwabentor is a medieval town gate on the old town wall.
- G Schillerglocke is a bell linked to a poem by *Friedrich Schiller*.
- H Vebikus Kunsthalle Schaffhausen shows contemporary art.



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What to experience

- Walk the old town and look at the bay windows and painted houses.
- Climb to the Munot for views.
- Visit the Rhine Falls from both banks.
- Take a boat or cycle along the Rhine to Stein am Rhein.
- Swim in the Rhine in summer. Use the marked swimming areas.
- Visit the abbey cloister and museum.

Day trips

- The Rhine Falls are about 10 minutes away by train or bus, at Neuhausen. Paths and viewpoints lead to the water. Boats go to a rock in the middle of the falls in season.
- Stein am Rhein is a small town with painted façades. It is reached by train or boat along the Rhine.
- Zurich is about 40 minutes away by train.
- Lake Constance is about 1 hour away.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is the nearest main airport. Trains take about 1 hour.
- By train: Schaffhausen is on the line from Zurich. Check times on SBB.
- The station is a 5-minute walk from the old town.

Getting around

- The old town is flat, car-free and easy to walk.
- Local buses link the station with the Rhine Falls and the districts.
- Boats run on the Rhine in the warm months.
- The Rhine path is good for walking and cycling. Bikes can be rented at the station.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is flat and car-free. The Munot fortress is a short climb.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Bike paths follow the Rhine. The area is mostly flat.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the old town, which is car-free.
- Car parks lie at the edge of the old town.
- The border with Germany is close. Carry your passport or ID.

Food & drink

Try Rhine fish, such as perch and trout. Schaffhausen is known for the Schaffhauser Zungenbrot, a local sweet bread, and for local wine from the surrounding hills. Cheese dishes and rösti are common.

People speak German with a local accent. 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

- Schaffhausen is very safe.
- The Rhine has strong currents. Swim only in marked areas.
- Stay behind the barriers at the Rhine Falls.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Schaffhausen grew where boats had to unload before the falls. The town became rich by trade and by moving goods around the rapids. It joined the Swiss Confederation in 1501.

The Munot was built in the 16th century to defend the town. In 1944, American bombers hit the town by mistake. The old town was rebuilt, and many of its decorated houses survive.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



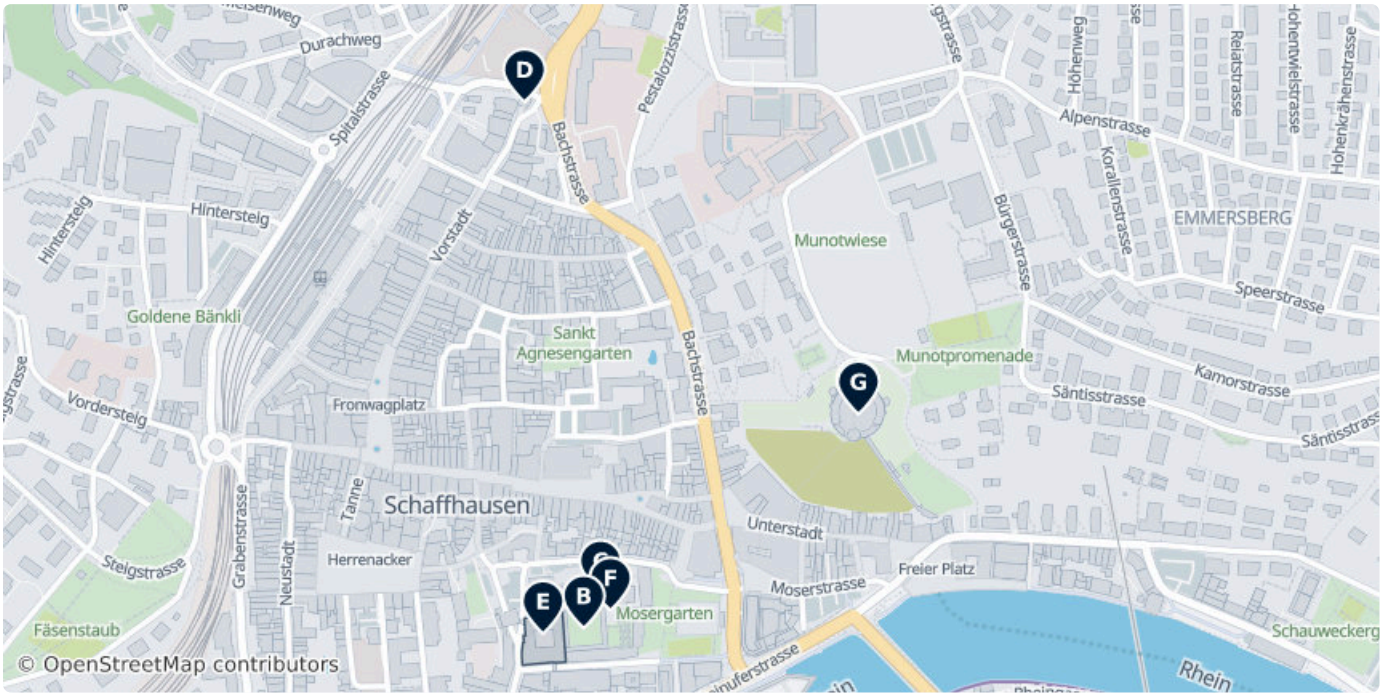
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Schaffhausen Essentials

Schaffhausen is characterized by its well-preserved medieval architecture and the circular 16th-century Munot fortress. The historic core features the Kloster Allerheiligen, a former Benedictine monastery housing a museum and the Romanesque Münster cathedral. Nearby, the Schwabentor gate stands as a remnant of the city's ancient fortifications, while the 15th-century Schillerglocke bell, which inspired Friedrich Schiller's poetry, remains on display in the cloister garden.





A Munot Fortress

The Munot is a circular 16th century fortification in the center of the Swiss city of Schaffhausen.

Munotstieg 17, 8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland (47.69690, 8.63988)

munot.ch, +41 52 625 42 25



B Cloister Allerheiligen

Kloster Allerheiligen is a former Benedictine monastery in the Swiss municipality of Schaffhausen in the Canton of Schaffhausen.

19 Baumgartenstrasse, Schaffhausen 8200, Switzerland (47.69495, 8.63621)



C Kloster Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen

Kloster Allerheiligen is a former Benedictine monastery in the Swiss municipality of Schaffhausen in the Canton of Schaffhausen.

20 Münsterplatz, Schaffhausen 8200, Switzerland (47.69527, 8.63644)



D Schwabentor

A historic city gate first documented in 1361 as the Neuturm. It served as a key entrance to the northern part of the medieval Old Town.

69 Vorstadt, Schaffhausen 8200, Switzerland (47.69970, 8.63542)

stadtarchiv-schaffhausen.ch/pictures/Schwabentor1.htm



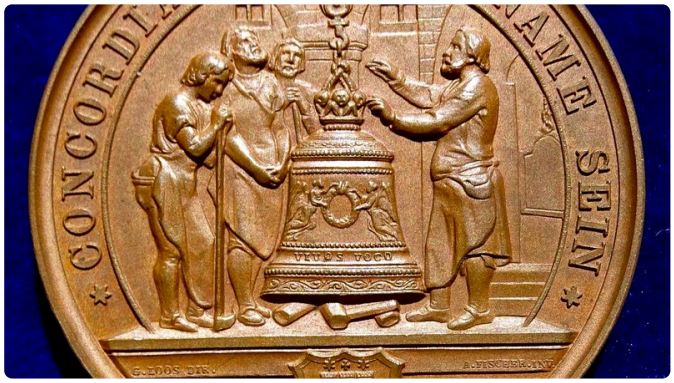
E Museum zu Allerheiligen

Located within the former Benedictine monastery, this museum hosts comprehensive collections covering archaeology, history, and art, ranging from classic to contemporary works.

8200 Schaffhausen, CH (47.69490, 8.63567)

Tu–Su 11:00–17:00

allerheiligen.ch, +41 52 633 07 77



F Song of the Bell

The "Song of the Bell" is a poem that the German poet Friedrich Schiller published in 1798.

4 Baumgartenstrasse, Schaffhausen 8200, Switzerland (47.69511, 8.63657)

G Munot

Elevated platform atop the circular 16th-century fortress offering panoramic views over the Rhine River and the tiled roofs of the Old Town.

(47.69688, 8.63990)

DATA SOURCES

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