Sierre

Canton of Valais · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sierre is a town in the Valais, on the sunny slopes of the Rhone valley, at the border between the French- and German-speaking parts. It is one of the sunniest towns in Switzerland. Vineyards cover the hills around it.

The town is known for wine and as the poet *Rainer Maria Rilke*'s last home. It is a base for wine walks and for the Val d'Anniviers.

When to visit

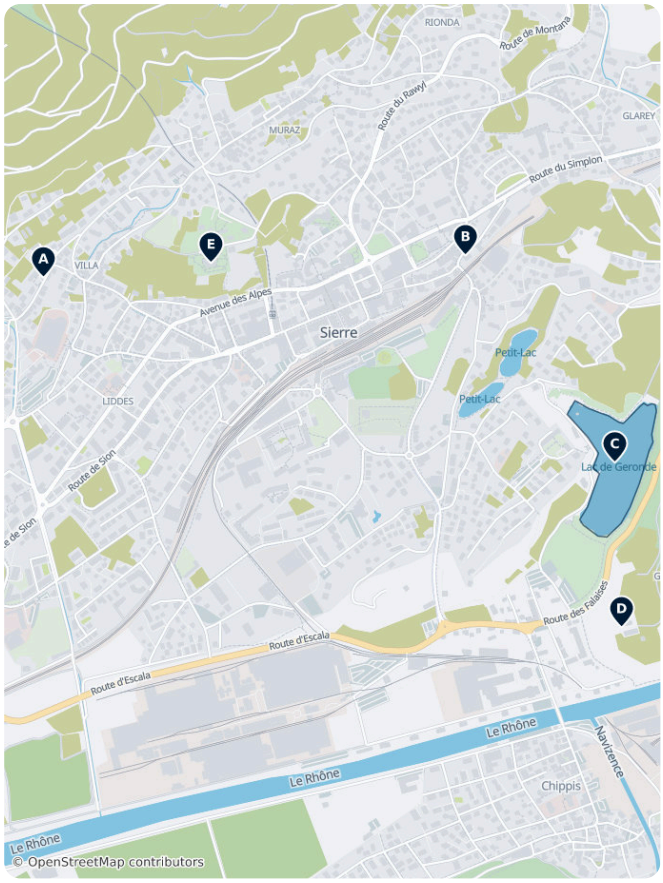
May to October is the best time for the vineyards and walks. Summer is warm and dry. Autumn is the grape harvest. Winter is cool, and nearby ski resorts have snow. The Valais is one of the driest parts of Switzerland.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-2° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 3°	-2° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 16° Feels like 6°	1° / -6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 21°	5° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	10° / 4°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	14° / 9°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	15° / 10°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	3° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	-1° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A The Wine Museum shows the history of winemaking in the Valais.
- B Maison de Courten - Musée Rainer Maria Rilke is a museum in a historic house, about the poet.
- C Lac de Geronde is a small lake east of the town, good for a walk or a swim.
- D Monastère de Géronde is a small monastery on a rock above the lake.
- E Château Mercier is a manor house in the town.
- The vineyard paths above the town have views of the valley.



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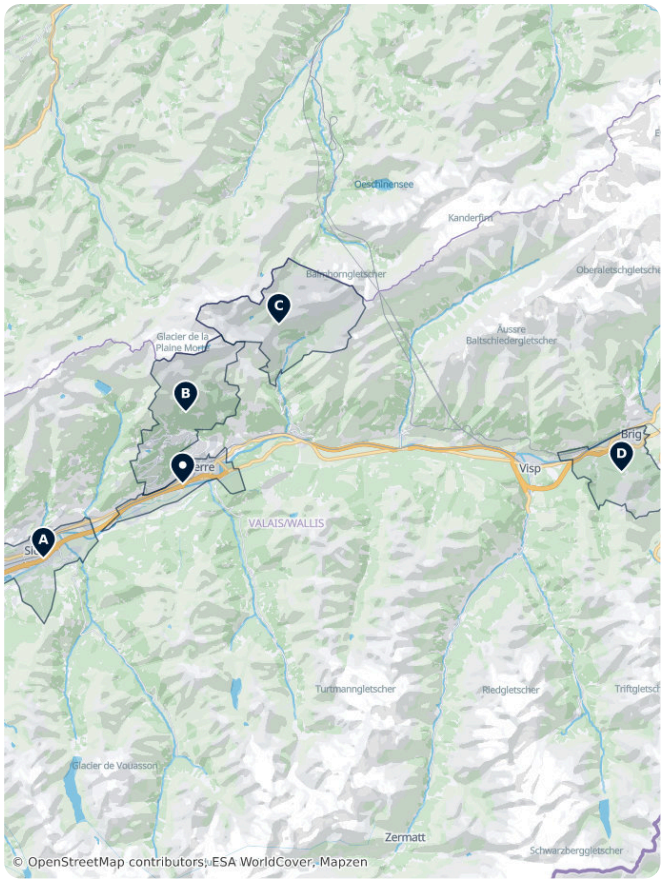
What to experience

- Walk the wine path through the vineyards.
- Taste local wine in a cellar.
- Visit the museum about the poet.
- Swim or walk at the lake.
- Ride the funicular to Crans-Montana.

Day trips

- A Sion has two castle hills and is about 10 minutes away by train.
- B Crans-Montana is a ski and golf resort reached by a funicular and bus.
- C Leukerbad is a thermal spa village.
- D Brig-Glis is further up the Rhone valley.
- The Val d'Anniviers is a side valley with villages and trails.



Where to explore

- Sion and Brig-Glis are the nearest towns on the Rhone line.
- Crans-Montana and Leukerbad are the nearest mountain resorts.

Getting there

- By air: Geneva is about 2 hours away by train.
- By train: Sierre is on the main line along the Rhone valley. Check times on SBB.
- Trains from Lausanne take about 1 hour 15 minutes.

Getting around

- The town centre is small and easy to walk.
- A funicular climbs from Sierre to Crans-Montana.
- Postal buses go to the side valleys.
- A wine path crosses the vineyards above the town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre is flat and small. Vineyard paths above it are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Rhone valley is flat. Bike paths run along the river.

Driving

- A car is not needed in the town centre.
- Parking in the centre is limited at busy times.
- A car helps for the side valleys.

Food & drink

Try Valais wines such as Fendant and the local red wines. Raclette and dried meat are local products. Many cellars offer tastings.

People speak French 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

- Sierre is very safe.
- Summer can be hot and dry.
- Vineyard paths are steep and can be slippery.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Sierre has been a wine town for centuries. Rilke lived in a tower at Muzot, near Sierre, in the 1920s. He wrote some of his best-known poems here.

The town grew in the 20th century with industry in the valley.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

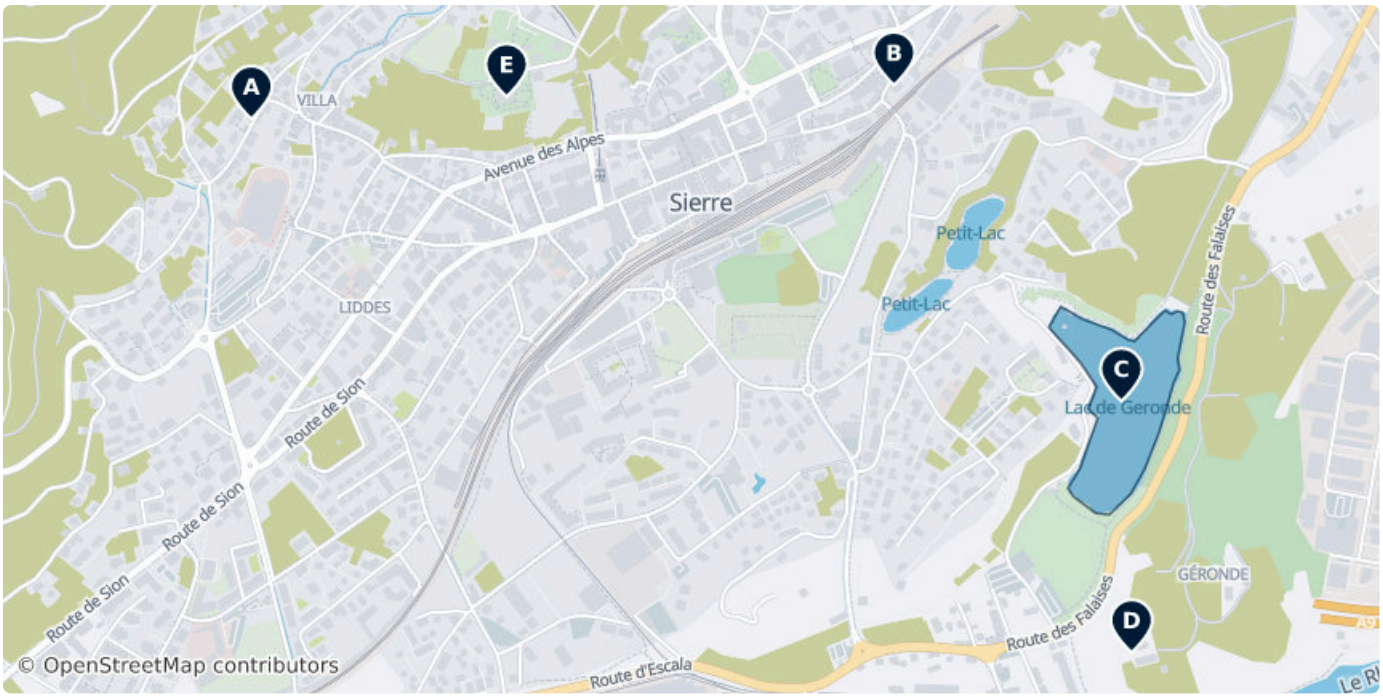


Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights



A The Wine Museum

Rue Sainte-Catherine 6, 3960 Sierre (46.29369, 7.52129)

We–Fr	14:00–18:00
Sa–Su	11:00–18:00

museeduvin-valais.ch, +41 27 456 35 25

B Maison de Courten - Musée Rainer Maria Rilke

(46.29426, 7.53706)



C Lac de Géronde

Lac de Géronde is a lake at Sierre, Valais, Switzerland. At an elevation of 523 metres, it has a surface area of 0.055 square kilometres.

3960, Switzerland (46.28891, 7.54263)

D Monastère de Géronde

(46.28465, 7.54289)

+41(0)27 455 11 68

E Château Mercier

19 Montée du Château, Sierre 3960, Switzerland
(46.29406, 7.52755)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

- Lac de Géronde — "Géronde lake in Vallis label QS:Len,"Géronde lake in Vallis"" by Charles Louis Guigon, pd

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