

Zurich

Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Zurich is Switzerland's largest city and its financial capital, but it keeps a small-town feel: the compact Old Town, the lake and the surrounding hills are all reachable on foot or by a short tram ride. It works well as the anchor for a Swiss trip, whether as a couple of nights before heading into the Alps or a stay in its own right.

The city mixes centuries-old guild houses and Romanesque churches with a strong contemporary art scene, some of the world's most expensive shopping, and lake water clean enough to swim in during summer. *Carl Jung* built his career here, and *Albert Einstein* studied and later taught at its university. The Dada art movement was also founded in a small Old Town nightclub in 1916.

When to visit

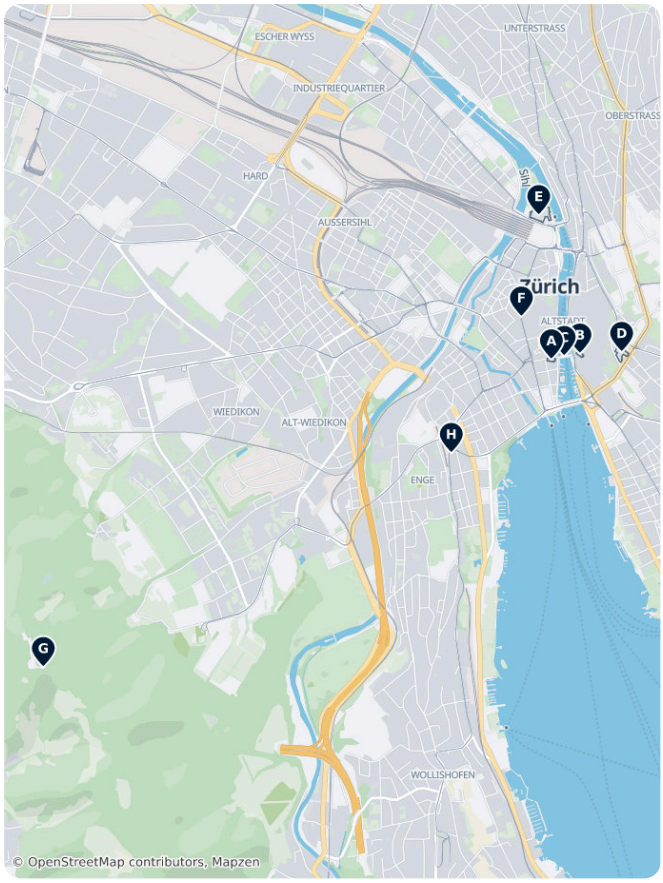
Zurich has warm, sometimes humid summers and cold, occasionally snowy winters; spring and autumn are usually the most comfortable seasons for sightseeing. Plan a visit around **Sechseläuten** in mid-April if you can: guild members in historical dress parade through the city before burning a giant snowman effigy called the Böögg on a bonfire, a centuries-old ritual marking the symbolic end of winter.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like -1°	-2° / -10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	-2° / -11°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	1° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22° Feels like 12°	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 5°	2° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Lake swimming season generally runs from June through September, and the Old Town and Hauptbahnhof concourse fill with Christmas markets from late November.

Top sights



Zurich's Old Town straddles the Limmat river, and most of the essential sights sit within a short walk of each other.

A Fraumünster Church rises on the west bank of the river, its five stained-glass windows designed by *Marc Chagall* in his later years. Across the water, the twin Romanesque towers of B Grossmünster Church mark the church where the priest Huldrych Zwingli launched the Swiss Reformation in 1519. Between and around them, C Old Town Zurich is a tangle of medieval lanes, guild houses and small squares, best explored on foot with no fixed route.

D Kunsthaus holds the largest art collection in Switzerland, spanning medieval altarpieces to Monet, Munch and Picasso. For a wider view of Swiss history, E Landesmuseum occupies a turreted, castle-like building next to the main station and covers the country from prehistory to the 20th century.

F Bahnhofstrasse runs from the station down to the lake and is one of the world's most expensive shopping streets, lined with banks, department stores and flagship boutiques. For a break from the city, ride the train up G Uetliberg, Zurich's local mountain, for a view over the rooftops, the lake and the Alps on a clear day.

Football fans should not skip H FIFA Museum, which traces the sport's history from its earliest recorded matches to the modern World Cup, in the city that hosts FIFA's headquarters.

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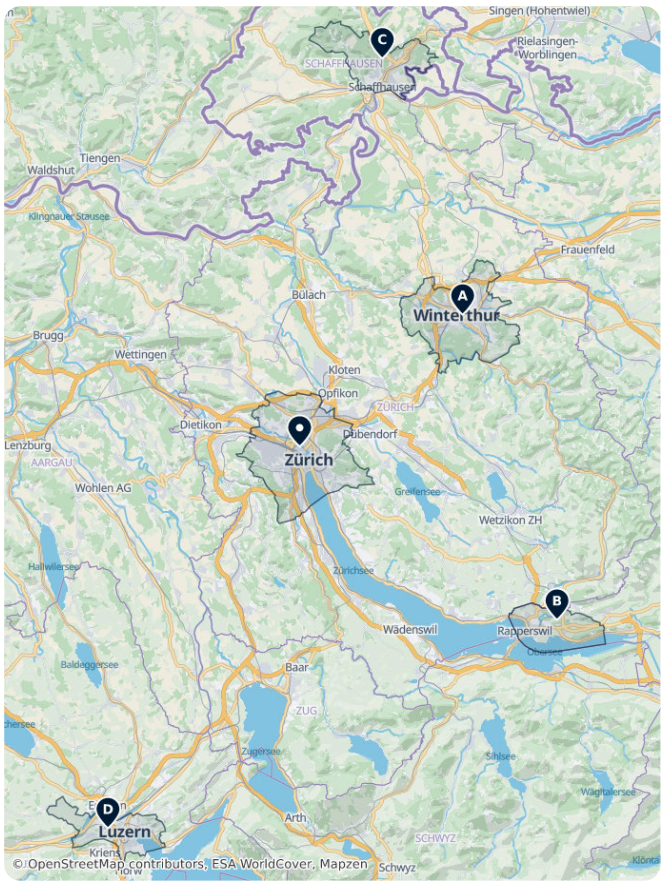
What to experience

- **Swim in the river**: on hot days, locals cool off by swimming down the Limmat from the Flussbad Oberer Letten bathhouse, letting the current carry them into the city centre — a summer ritual unique to Zurich.
- **Take a lake cruise**: boats leave from Bürkliplatz for short loops around Lake Zurich or longer trips toward Rapperswil, with views back over the Old Town skyline.
- **Browse the Christmas markets**: from late November, wooden stalls fill the Hauptbahnhof concourse and the Old Town squares with mulled wine, ornaments and local crafts.
- **Watch the Sechseläuten bonfire**: if visiting in mid-April, join the crowds along the lakeshore to watch the Böögg burn — locals read how fast its head explodes as a half-serious forecast for the coming summer.

Day trips

Zurich sits at the centre of an excellent rail network, and several worthwhile trips are possible in a single day.

- Ⓐ Winterthur — about 25 minutes by train. A former industrial town with a lively historic centre and several excellent art and photography museums housed in converted factories.
- Ⓑ Rapperswil-Jona — about 40 minutes by train, or a scenic boat ride down Lake Zurich in summer. A small lakeside town with a medieval castle, rose gardens and a long wooden footbridge across the lake.
- Ⓒ Schaffhausen — about 45 minutes by train. Combines a well-preserved medieval old town with the nearby Rhine Falls, the largest waterfall in Europe by water volume.
- Ⓓ Lucerne — about 50 minutes by train. A classic Swiss lake city, with a covered wooden bridge, a compact old town and lake steamers heading toward Mount Pilatus and Rigi.



Getting there

- **By air**: Zurich Airport (ZRH) is the main gateway, about 10 km north of the city centre. Trains run directly from the airport to Zürich Hauptbahnhof in around 10 minutes; a taxi takes about 20 minutes depending on traffic.
- **By train**: Zürich Hauptbahnhof is Switzerland's busiest railway station, with frequent domestic connections to every major Swiss city and international trains to Germany, France, Austria and Italy.
- **By bus**: long-distance coaches mostly arrive at the bus terminal beside the main station, though almost all travelers arrive by train or air given how central the rail network is.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: trams, buses, trains and boats run on a dense, reliable network covering the whole city on a single zone-based ticket. Buy a ticket from the machine at the stop, or the SBB or ZVV app, before boarding — Swiss transit works on proof-of-payment rather than gates, and inspectors do check. ZVV journey planner
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: regular taxis and ride-hailing apps both operate, though public transit is faster and cheaper for almost every trip in the city.
- **On foot / cycling**: the Old Town and lake shore are compact and entirely walkable, and the free Züri rollt bike-share scheme makes it easy to cover longer distances by bike.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The Old Town and lake shore are compact and easy to cover on foot, and trams reach every other part of the city quickly.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The free Züri rollt bike-share scheme and dedicated lanes make cycling easy along the lake and rivers, though the Old Town's cobbled lanes and hills are less comfortable by bike.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No — the city centre is dense, parking is expensive, and public transit covers the region far better than driving. Rent a car only for exploring rural parts of the canton or trips beyond easy train reach.
- **Parking**: use one of the Park + Ride facilities on the edge of the city and continue by train or tram; central car parks charge upward of CHF 3–4 per hour.
- **Restrictions**: a blue-zone permit system covers most residential streets in the centre; visitors need to use paid car parks or Park + Ride instead.

Food & drink

Zurich's café culture blends 19th-century confectioneries with a growing wave of specialty coffee roasters. The dish to try is Zürcher Geschnetzeltes — sliced veal in a creamy white-wine and mushroom sauce, usually served with rösti.

For something distinctive, stop at Confiserie Sprüngli on Paradeplatz, famous for its Luxemburgerli macarons and chocolate truffles. For a wider spread of places to eat and drink, head to the Niederdorf lanes in the Old Town, or the Langstrasse and Kreis 4 area west of the station, known for its mix of ethnic restaurants, bars and independent cafés.

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

Zurich is one of the safest major cities in Europe for visitors, and violent crime is rare. Watch for pickpockets on crowded trams and around the main station, and don't leave bags or phones unattended at outdoor cafés. A distinctly Zurich detail: the city has more than 1,200 public fountains, and nearly all of them run drinkable water — refill a bottle anywhere without hunting for a shop.

History

Zurich began as a Roman customs post on the Limmat and grew into a free imperial city in the Middle Ages under the patronage of the Fraumünster abbey, whose abbesses effectively ruled the town for centuries.

In 1519, the priest Huldrych Zwingli began preaching reform from the pulpit of Grossmünster Church, launching the Swiss Reformation and turning Zurich into one of Protestant Europe's most influential cities. Centuries later, in 1916, a group of exiled artists founded the Dada movement a few steps away at Cabaret Voltaire, rejecting the logic and nationalism they blamed for the First World War.

By the 20th century, Zurich had become one of the world's leading banking and finance centres, a status still visible along Bahnhofstrasse, where the vaults of the country's biggest banks sit beneath the shopping crowds.

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

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

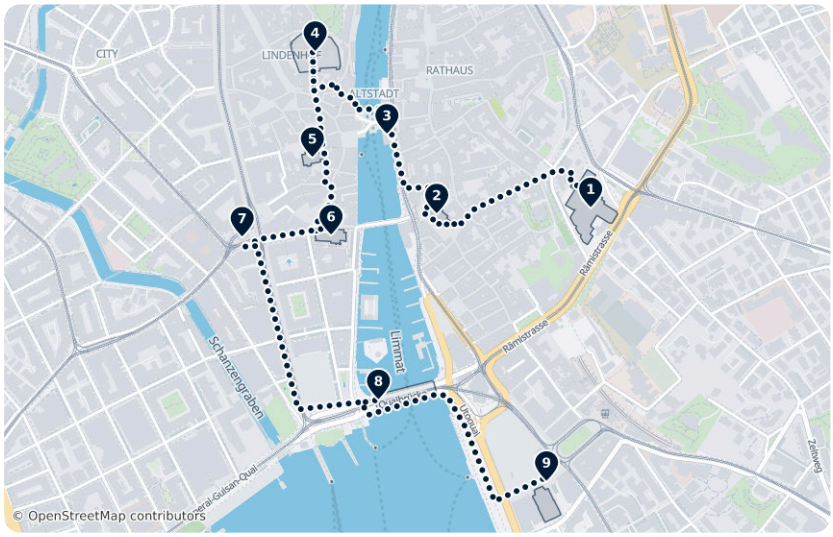
Best of Zurich

1h 35min · 2.8 km · 9 stops



1. Kunsthaus Zürich
2. Grossmünster
3. Zürich Town Hall
4. Lindenhof
5. Saint Peter's Church
6. Fraumünster
7. Paradeplatz
8. Quaibrücke and the Lake
9. Opernhaus and Sechseläutenplatz

Discover Zurich's essential sights in one relaxed walk through the old town and along the Limmat river. Begin at the Kunsthaus, the city's leading art museum, then cross the historic centre to the twin-towered Grossmünster, the Town Hall on the riverbank, the Lindenhof terrace with its view over the rooftops, St. Peter's giant clock face and the Chagall windows of Fraumünster. Follow Bahnhofstrasse down to the lake at Quaibrücke and finish at the Opera House on Sechseläutenplatz. The walk starts at the Kunsthaus, served by a tram stop of the same name.



Zürich's Unmissable Highlights

Zurich's landscape is defined by its medieval Altstadt and the iconic towers of its three major churches: the Romanesque Grossmünster, the Fraumünster with its Marc Chagall windows, and St. Peter's, which boasts Europe's largest clock face. The city's history as a global financial and luxury hub is evident in the boutiques of Bahnhofstrasse and the banking institutions of Parade Square. Visitors can explore Swiss heritage at the National Museum, enjoy scenic boat tours from the lakefront, or sample world-renowned chocolates at the historic Confiserie Sprüngli.





A St. Peter's Church

Historic Protestant church featuring Europe's largest clock face and baroque architecture, recently renovated and reopened in November 2025.

St. Peterhofstatt, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.37110, 8.54072)

Mo–Fr	08:00–18:00
Sa	10:00–16:00
Su	11:00–17:00

st-peter-zh.ch, +41442506655



B Fraumünster Church

Historic Protestant church known for its Gothic architecture and stained glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Münsterhof 2, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.36972, 8.54121)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

fraumuenster.ch/index.php, +41442506644



C Grossmünster Church

Romanesque Protestant church notable for its twin towers and role in the Swiss Reformation.

Grossmünsterplatz, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37010, 8.54398)

Mar-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Nov-Feb Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

grossmuenster.ch, +41442506651



D Old Town Zurich

Historic district featuring medieval architecture, cultural landmarks, and pedestrian-friendly shopping streets.

1 Wühre, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36994, 8.54244)

hotel-altstadt.ch

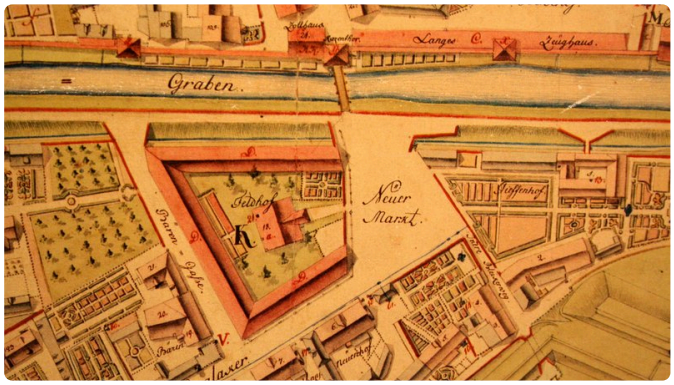


E Augustiner Street

Historic medieval street featuring colorful bay windows and well-preserved architecture connecting Bahnhofstrasse with the Augustiner Church and St. Peterhofstatt square.

34 Augustinergasse, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37223, 8.53913)

Mo–Su	00:00–23:59



F Parade Square

Historic and prestigious public square known for its banking institutions and shopping. It serves as a transportation hub and a pedestrian zone featuring notable financial headquarters.

11 Paradeplatz, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.36969, 8.53889)



G Bahnhof Street

Bahnhofstrasse is Zürich's main downtown street and one of the world's most expensive and exclusive shopping avenues.

Bahnhofstrasse, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37253, 8.53830)

bahnhofstrasse-zuerich.ch, +41 43 243 90 00



H Zurich Main Station

Everything a traveller needs, all in one place. This old and charming railway station is quite modern on the inside, extending both on and...

1 Löwenstrasse Passage, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37810, 8.53936)

sbb.ch/de/bahnhof-services/bahnhoefe... , +41 900 300 300



I Swiss National Museum

The Swiss National Museum, part of the Musée Suisse Group, itself affiliated with the Federal Office of Culture, is located in the city of...

Museumstrasse 2 (47.37919, 8.53998)

Tu–We	10:00–17:00
Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Su	10:00–17:00

landesmuseum.ch, +41 44 218 65 11



J Lake Cruises

Enjoy the special experience of a cruise around the Zurich lake and select what suits you best from a wide offer of trips.

Mythenquai 333, 8038 Zürich, Switzerland (47.36596, 8.54069)

zsg.ch, +41 44 487 13 33



Confiserie Sprüngli

A long-standing confectionery and café offering a heavenly collection of truffles, macarons, cakes, marzipan and chocolate.

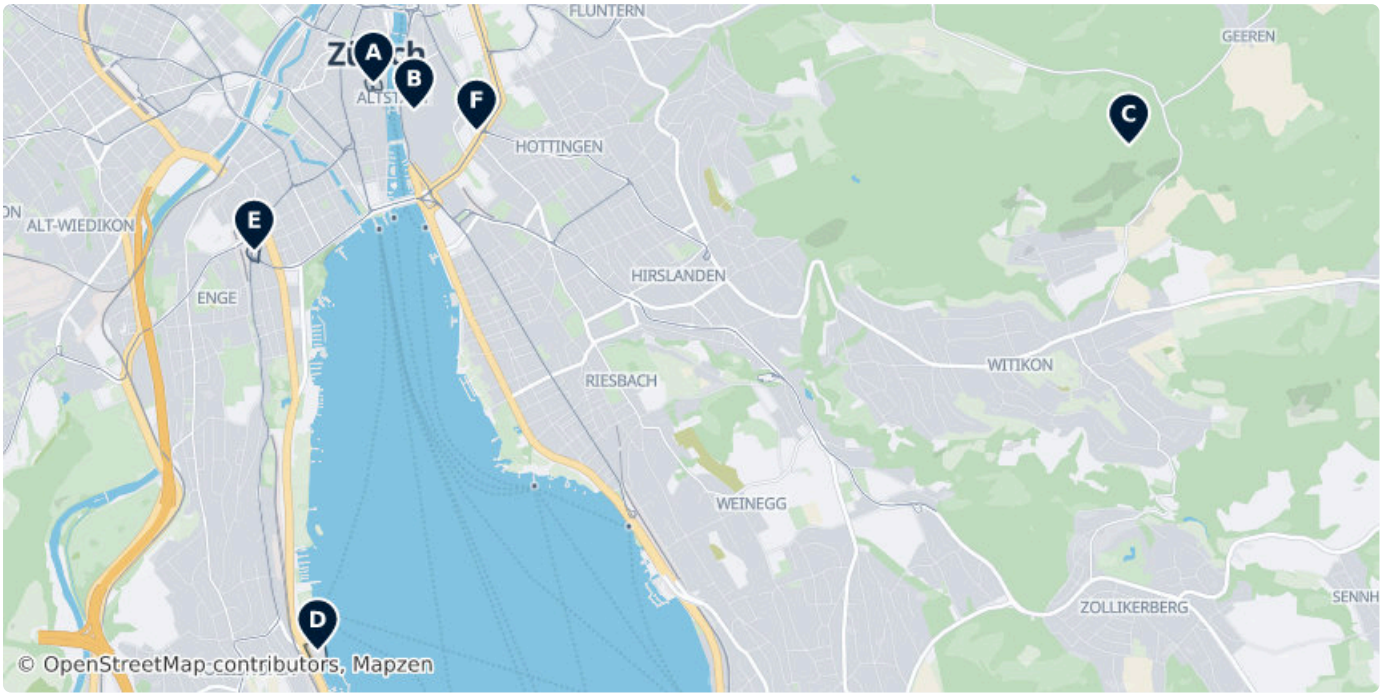
Bahnhofstrasse 21, 8022 Zurich, Switzerland
(47.36948, 8.53914)

Mo–Sa 07:30–18:00, 08:30–18:00

spruengli.ch/de/standorte/paradeplatz-..., +41 44 224 46 46

Hidden Gems

Discover Zurich's alternative side beyond the Bahnhofstrasse. This selection features the birthplace of Dadaism at Cabaret Voltaire and the Rote Fabrik, a repurposed factory turned cultural hub. For panoramic views, the Lindenhof offers a historic vantage point over the Old Town, while the 33-meter Loorenkopf tower provides a perspective from the Adlisberg forest. Urban squares like Tessinerplatz and Heimplatz highlight the city's architectural evolution, from the granite facade of Bahnhof Enge to the cultural cluster near the Kunsthaus.





A Lindenhof Hill

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

3 Pfalzgasse, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37298, 8.54080)



B Cabaret Voltaire

Cabaret Voltaire was the name of a short-lived artistic nightclub in Zürich, Switzerland in 1916.

Spiegelgasse 1, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37161, 8.54393)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Th	13:00–24:00
Fr–Su	13:30–26:00, 13:30–18:00

cabaretvoltaire.ch, +41 043 268 57 20



C Loorenkopf Turm

Loorenkopf tower is a 33-metre high freestanding wood lattice tower on Adlisberg, north of Witikon in Zürich, Switzerland.

Loorenkopfstrasse, 8053 Zurich, Switzerland (47.36976, 8.59897)

stadt-zuerich.ch/prd/de/index/stadtarchiv/bilder_u_texte/...



D Rote Fabrik

Rote Fabrik is a former factory in the Wollishofen neighbourhood of Zürich, Switzerland. It is now used as a music venue and cultural centre.

Seestrasse 395, 8038 Zurich, Switzerland (47.34339, 8.53650)

rotefabrik.ch, +41 044 485 58 58



E Tessinerplatz

A public square in the Enge district situated in front of the Bahnhof Enge. The station building, constructed between 1925 and 1927, is notable for its Ticino granite architecture.

10 Tessinerplatz, Zürich 8002, Switzerland (47.36423, 8.53162)



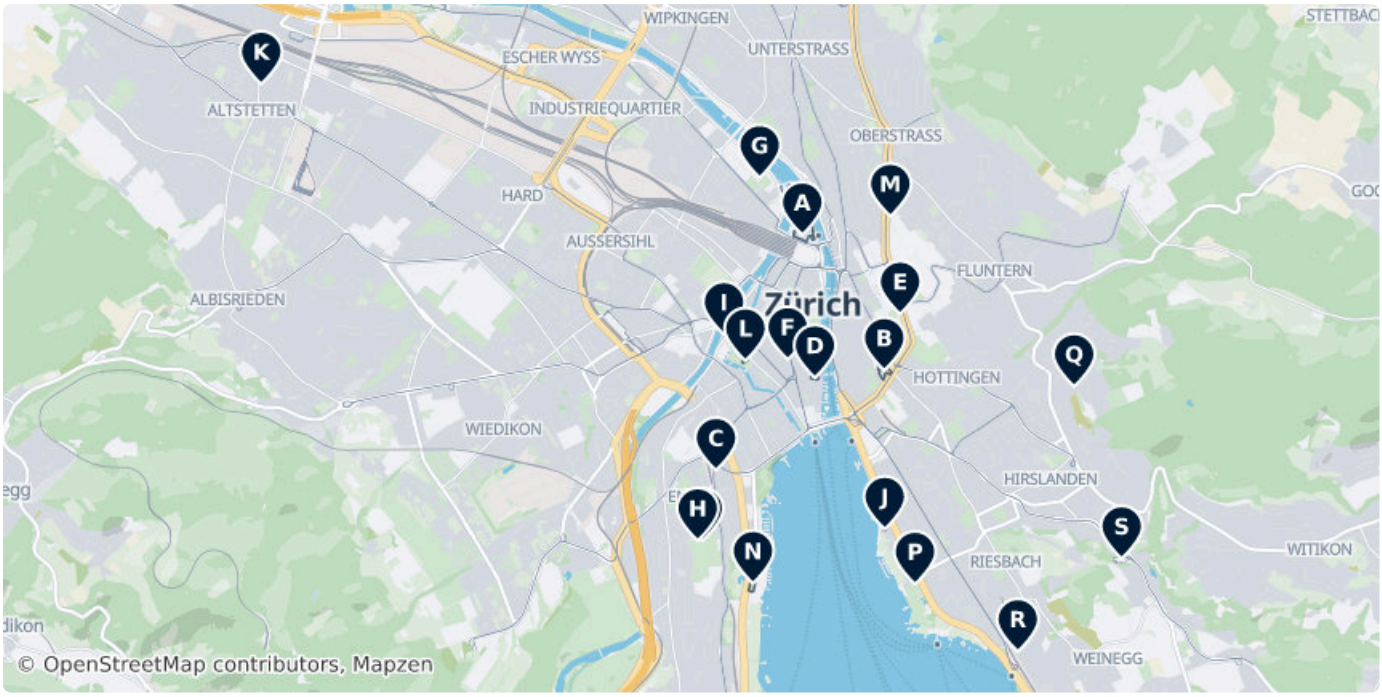
F Heimplatz

A cultural hub on the edge of the Old Town, colloquially known as 'Pfauen.' It is bordered by major institutions including the Kunsthaus Zürich art museum and the Schauspielhaus theatre.

6 Heimplatz, Zürich 8001, Switzerland (47.37049, 8.54874)

Zurich Museums

Zurich's museum landscape spans from the Swiss National Museum's historical archives to the Kunsthaus, Switzerland's largest art museum. Specialized collections include the FIFA World Football Museum, the Clock and Watch Museum Beyer, and the Rietberg Museum's non-European art. Niche interests are represented by the Zurich Tram Museum, the Johann Jacobs coffee museum, and the Succulent Plant Collection, which houses over 6,000 specimens. Notable architectural sites include the Fraumünster's Chagall windows and the Pavillon Le Corbusier.





A Swiss National Museum

The Swiss National Museum, part of the Musée Suisse Group, itself affiliated with the Federal Office of Culture, is located in the city of...

Museumstrasse 2 (47.37919, 8.53998)

Tu–We	10:00–17:00
Th	10:00–19:00
Fr–Su	10:00–17:00

landesmuseum.ch, +41 44 218 65 11



B Kunsthaus Zürich

The Kunsthaus Zürich is in terms of area the biggest art museum of Switzerland and houses one of the most important art collections in...

Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zürich, CH (47.37021, 8.54800)

Tu–We	10:00–18:00
Th	10:00–20:00
Fr–Su	10:00–18:00

kunsthaus.ch, +41 44 253 84 84



C FIFA World Football Museum

The FIFA World Football Museum is an association football museum operated by FIFA but not owned - it is rented under suspicious...

Seestrasse 27, 8002 Zürich, CH (47.36358, 8.53152)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Su	10:00–18:00

fifamuseum.com, +41 43 388 25 00



D Fraumünster Church

Historic Protestant church known for its Gothic architecture and stained glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Münsterhof 2, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland (47.36972, 8.54121)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

fraumuenster.ch/index.php, +41442506644



E Museum of the History of Medicine

Exciting and maybe a little scary exhibition on how medical science evolved. Plus it is located in the former office of A.

Rämistrasse 69, University of Zurich, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37395, 8.54955)

uzh.ch/outreach/museums/medizinhist... , +41 44 635 01 11



F Clock and Watch Museum Beyer

The Uhrenmuseum Beyer is located in the heart of the city of Zürich, Switzerland, and is one of the world's leading private museums...

Bahnhofstrasse 31, 8001 Zürich, CH (47.37092, 8.53854)

Mo–Fr	14:00–18:00

beyer-ch.com/de/uhrenmuseum/, +41 043 344 63 63



G Museum of Design

The Museum of Design, Zürich is a museum for industrial design, visual communication, architecture, and craft in Zurich, Switzerland.

Ausstellungsstrasse 60, 8005 Zürich, CH (47.38298, 8.53580)

Tu	10:00–17:00
We	10:00–20:00
Th–Su	10:00–17:00

museum-gestaltung.ch, +41 43 446 67 67



H Rietberg Museum

The Rietberg Museum is a museum in Zürich, Switzerland, displaying Asian, African, American and Oceanian art.

Gablerstrasse 15, 8002 Zürich, CH (47.35892, 8.52974)

Mo	Closed
Tu	10:00–17:00
We	10:00–20:00
Th–Su	10:00–17:00

rietberg.ch, +41 44 415 31 31



I Constructive Art House

Haus Konstruktiv, or Museum Haus Konstruktiv, is an arts foundation founded by private individuals in 1986 in Zürich, Switzerland.From 1987...

Selnaustrasse 25, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.37259, 8.53231)

Tu	11:00–17:00
We	11:00–20:00
Th–Su	11:00–17:00

hauskonstruktiv.ch/noflash.htm, +41 44 217 70 80



J Johann Jacobs Museum

Museum rather unusually dedicated to coffee. Comprehensive and catchy exhibition combined with multimedia.

Seefeldquai 17, 8008 Zürich, CH (47.35968, 8.54804)

Tu	16:00–21:00
Sa–Su	11:00–17:00

johannjacobs.com, +41 44 388 61 90



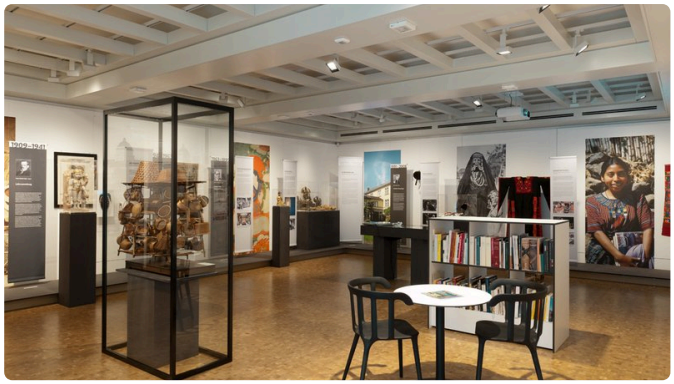
K Zurich Toy Museum

Museum just perfect for the children: its collections consist of hundreds of antique toys from the whole Europe.

Fortunagasse 15, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland (47.38918, 8.48700)

Mo–Fr	14:00–17:00
Sa	13:00–16:00

z%c3%bcrcher-spielzeugmuseum.ch, +41 044 211 93 05



L Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich

The Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich is the third oldest ethnological museum of Switzerland.

Pelikanstrasse 40, 8001 Zürich, CH (47.37085, 8.53441)

Tu–We	10:00–17:00
Th	10:00–19:00
Fr	10:00–17:00
Sa	14:00–17:00
Su	11:00–17:00

musethno.uzh.ch



M Moulagenmuseum

Houses one of the world's largest collections of wax moulages. These medical models of skin diseases were created between 1918 and 1948 for teaching and research at the University of Zurich.

Haldenbachstrasse 14, 8091 Zürich (47.38042, 8.54860)

We	14:00–18:00
Sa	13:00–17:00

moulagen.uzh.ch



N Succulent Collection

Sukkulenten-Sammlung Zürich, literally succulent plant collection of the city of Zürich, is a botanical garden in the Swiss municipality of...

Mythenquai 88 (47.35610, 8.53515)

Mo–Su	09:00–16:30

stadt-zuerich.ch/sukkulenten, +41 043 344 34 80



O Villa Wesendonck

A neoclassical villa built in 1857 for Otto Wesendonck. It now forms part of the Museum Rietberg, displaying an extensive collection of art from Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

(47.35892, 8.53023)

Tu–Su	10:00–17:00, 10:00–20:00



P Pavillon Le Corbusier

The final building designed by architect Le Corbusier, completed in 1967. The colorful steel and glass pavilion serves as a museum dedicated to his architectural theories, furniture, and art.

Höschgasse 8, 8008 Zürich (47.35605, 8.55102)

Mo	Closed

pavillon-le-corbusier.ch



Q Coninx-Museum

Formerly an art museum in Zurich-Hottingen, it housed 14,000 works from the Werner Coninx collection, including modern paintings, sculptures, and graphic arts.

32 Heuelstrasse, Zürich 8032, Switzerland (47.36913, 8.56659)



R Mühlerama

Set in a historic industrial mill, this museum documents the history of grain and bread. It features a fully operational 1913 mill and exhibits on traditional milling techniques.

(47.35157, 8.56107)

Tu	14:00–18:00
We	14:00–21:00
Th–Sa	14:00–18:00
Su	10:00–17:00

muehlerama.ch



Zurich Tram Museum

The Zürich Tram Museum is a transport museum in the Swiss city of Zürich, specialising in the history of the Zürich tram system.

Forchstrasse 260, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland
(47.35773, 8.57125)

tram-museum.ch, +41 044 380 2162

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