

Travel in Switzerland

LUCERNE, A WORLD OF ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU!

Lucerne boasts a charming city centre dating from the Middle Ages, famous Lake Lucerne with Europe's biggest inland navigation fleet and a fantastic panorama of famous mountains. Lucerne is Switzerland: the city, the lake and the mountains.

Welcome to Lucerne and its lake – a world of adventure awaits you.



Lucerne acts as a gateway to a very special part of the world: the magic that is Lake Lucerne Region. It's often described as "Switzerland in miniature": there is nowhere else you find so much Switzerland in so little space. Lake Lucerne is home to Europe's largest network of lakes; the world's steepest cog railway takes you up Mount Pilatus and its 360-degree alpine panorama. The UNESCO Biosphere captures the fascination of nature. From historic Rutli Meadow and the ever-popular Mount Rigi to the famous locations on the Lucerne Riviera and upwards to the perpetual snow on Mount Titlis, everything is within easy reach, even in Winter.

Lucerne Sites: Elaborate churches and medieval bridges border sparkling Lake Lucerne



Lucerne traces its roots directly to ST. Leodega monastery, a small 8th century Benedictine cloister. Over the centuries a community grew along the Reuss River from the monastery to a nearby settlement. The Water Tower and the Chapel Bridge, two of Lucerne's most important symbols, were built about the same time period. The Chapel Bridge, the oldest in Europe, and its mate, the Spreuer Bridge were adorned with 17th century paintings. Both wooden bridges and the octagonal Water Tower formed part of Lucerne's fortifications, as did the Musegg Wall built in 1400, one of the longest and best preserved ramparts in Switzerland.



Lucerne Excursions: Ideal starting point for many excursions

Lucerne is the ideal starting point for many excursions to the highlights of central Switzerland. A trip up one of Lucerne's regional mountains, the Pilatus or the Rigi – the queen of mountains – is a must. The Mt. Pilatus features the "world's steepest cogwheel train" and just opened the new hotel "Pilatus Kulm". But excursions up onto the Stanserhorn, the Bürgenstock or a steamship cruise on Lake Lucerne with its many bends and arms are certainly no less worthy. The Wilhelm Tell Express originates in Lucerne and ferries its passengers to the foot of the Gotthard pass via Lake Lucerne and then continues by rail into Ticino, south of the Alpine ridge. The «cherry road» leads from Lucerne through the landscape of cherry trees and kirsch.



Lucerne is world famous for its beautiful lake, stunning mountain scenery and magnificent Old Town. However, it also hosts several annual festivals



The Lucerne Festival, for example, is one of Europe's most well-respected classical music festivals. Its core summer event of world-class classical music and performances by the lauded Lucerne Festival Orchestra is now accompanied by two other festivals during the year: the Lucerne

Festival at Easter and the Lucerne Festival at the Piano. The latter takes place each autumn and showcases some of the best piano players from across the globe.

Also in autumn, the town hosts the annual Lucerne Blues Festival, a non-profit event that aims to boost the profile of blues music in Switzerland. If you're a true blues fan, this festival provides the ideal opportunity to hear established acts and up-and-coming talent from around the world.

Contemporary music lovers will also find entertainment in Lucerne, with the annual Blue Balls Festival attracting international pop and rock stars to the town. However, Lucerne's yearly festivals are not confined to the sphere of music. The Lucerne Cheese Festival takes place each October and the Rose d'Or festival – an important awards ceremony for international TV.



For more information about Lucerne:

Discover Lucerne

<http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/destinations/holiday-destinations-in-switzerland/lucerne.html>

<http://www.luzern.com/en/welcome.cfm>

History

<http://www.luzern.com/en/navpage-FactsLU-LuzernAZLU-72886.html>

Excursions

<http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/interests/excursion-summer/religious-sites/excursion-lake-lucerne-cruise-luzern.html>

http://www.myswitzerland.com/en.cfm/interests/excursions/offer.cfm?category=Activities_Excursions&rkey=736&list=yes&all=yes

Events

http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/event_calendar/event_results.cfm?resortid=736

<http://www.luzern.com/en/navpage-CityExperienceLU.html>

For more information about Switzerland, please go to:

<http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/home.html>

Text and pictures above courtesy of www.myswitzerland.com