

Zurich

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Zurich: introducing the city



Zurich, Switzerland.

Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and the capital of the canton of Zürich. It is located in north-central Switzerland, at the northwestern tip of Lake Zürich. As of January 2023 the municipality has 443,037 inhabitants, the urban area 1.315 million (2009), and the Zürich metropolitan area 1.83 million (2011). Zürich is a hub for railways, roads, and air traffic. Both Zurich Airport and Zürich's main railway station are the largest and busiest in the country.

Permanently settled for over 2,000 years, Zürich was founded by the Romans, who called it Turicum. However, early settlements have been found dating back more than 6,400 years (although this only indicates human presence in the area and not the presence of a town that early). During the Middle Ages, Zürich gained the independent and privileged status of imperial immediacy and, in 1519, became a

primary centre of the Protestant Reformation in Europe under the leadership of Huldrych Zwingli.

The official language of Zürich is German, but the main spoken language is Zürich German, the local variant of the Alemannic Swiss German dialect.

Many museums and art galleries can be found in the city, including the Swiss National Museum and Kunsthaus. Schauspielhaus Zürich is considered to be one of the most important theatres in the German-speaking world, Zürich is also home to many financial institutions and banking companies.

Zurich is not the capital city of Switzerland

Guess what? The Swiss capital is not Zurich, Geneva or Lucerne. One of the surprising facts about Switzerland is that its capital city is actually Bern, located in the country's west-central part. There, you'll find the Parliament Building, the centuries-old French Church, and the UNESCO Heritage-listed Old Town.

Switzerland: quick facts about the country

Switzerland is a small mountainous country located in central Europe.

This landlocked country is about the size of New Jersey and is between France and Italy. It is also bordered by Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein.

Most of the population lives in the plateau which is between the high Alps in the south and the Jura mountains in the north. The mountainous area in the south is sparsely populated.

Switzerland was formed in 1291 as a union of three states and became an independent country in 1815. The constitution, adopted in 1848, does not allow for troops to be sent to serve in foreign wars. The country has remained neutral in conflicts around the world, including both world wars.

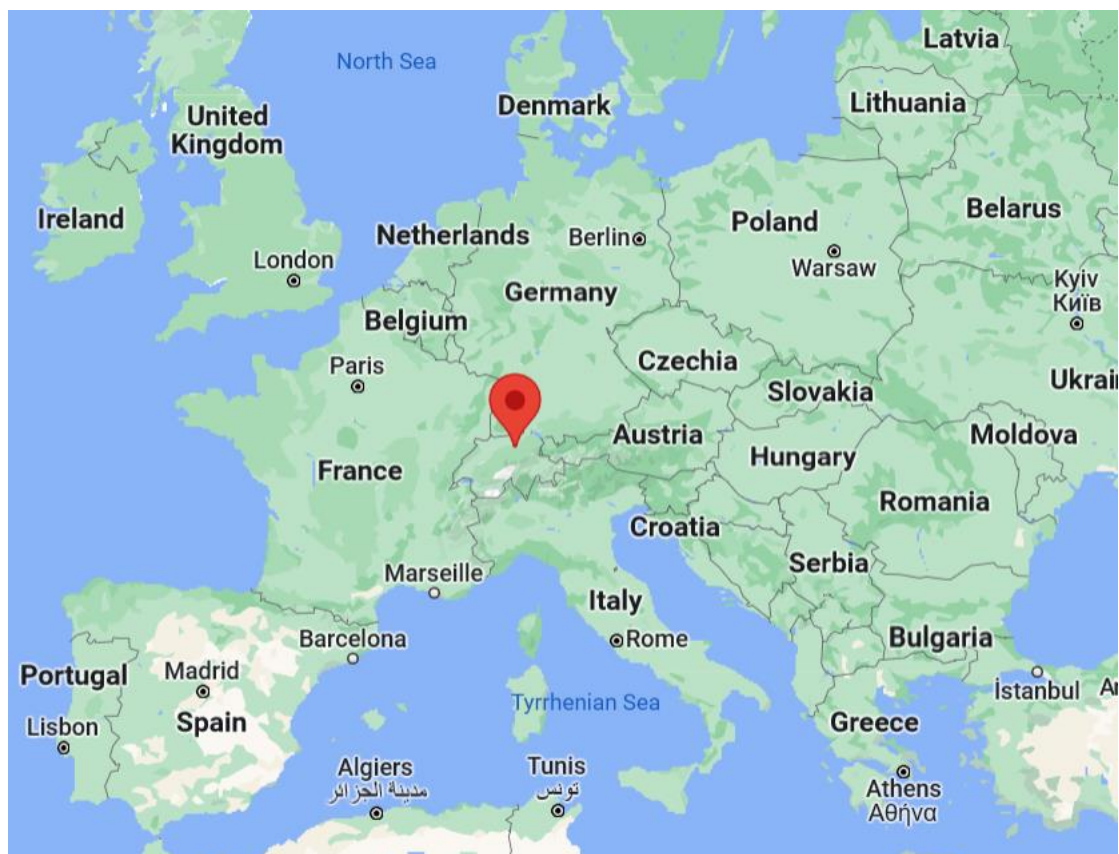
Switzerland did not become a member of the United Nations until 2002, and is not a member of the European Union.

- OFFICIAL NAME: The Swiss Confederation
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federal assembly-independent directorial republic with elements of a direct democracy
- CAPITAL: Bern
- POPULATION: 8,292,809
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: German, French, Italian, Romansch
- MONEY: Swiss franc
- AREA: 15,940 square miles (41,284 square kilometers)
-  Part of the European Union
- ELECTRIC OUTLET: type C (2-pin) and Type J (3-pin) plugs. The standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.
- PHONE PREFIX: +41
- MAIN PHONE OPERATORS: Swisscom, Salt Mobile, and Sunrise Mobile

Switzerland is one of the world's most developed countries. It has the highest nominal wealth per adult and the eighth-highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. Switzerland ranks first in the Human Development Index since 2021 and performs highly also on several international metrics, including economic competitiveness and democratic governance. Cities such as Zürich, Geneva and Basel rank among the highest in terms of quality of life, albeit with some of the highest costs of living.

Government

The country is made up of 26 cantons or states, which form the confederation. The leader of the government is the president. Both the president and vice president are elected by the Federal Assembly from the Federal Council. They serve a one-year term. Elections are usually held in December. Representatives of the cantons are elected to the assembly for four-year terms.



The country's economy

As many countries across the globe battle stubbornly high inflation, the rise in prices has been far less dramatic in Switzerland.

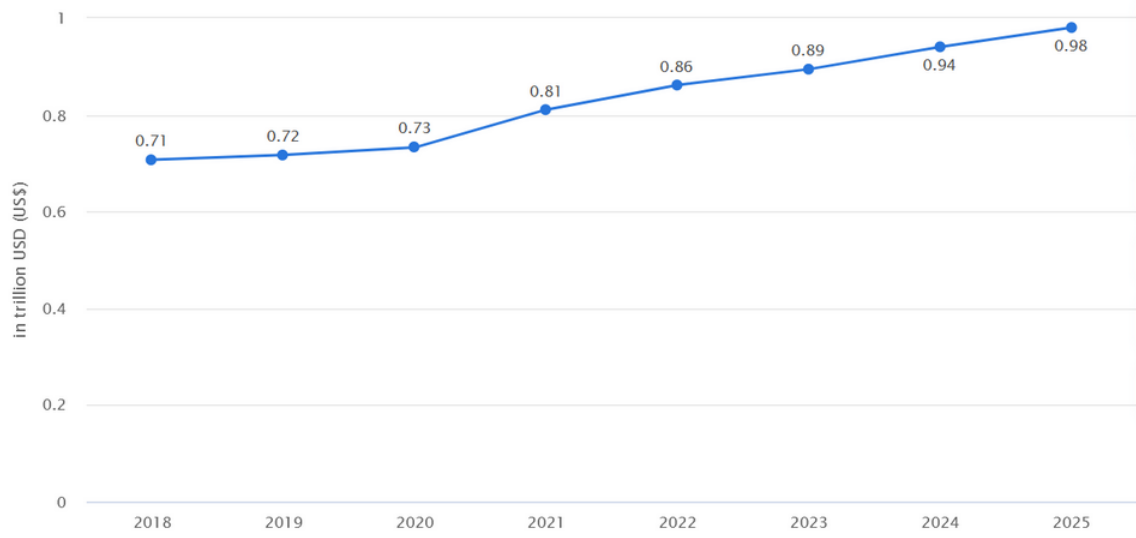
Switzerland is one of the world's wealthiest countries, with a [GDP per capita \(82 390 USD per capita\)](#) that outstrips that of other major economies, like the U.S., Japan and Germany.

It is also home to some of the richest citizens in the world, with a mean wealth of \$696,604 per adult — and a steep cost-of-living to match.

Read more: [The small European nation of Switzerland beat sky-high inflation. Here's how](#)

Switzerland has a highly developed economy that is known for its stability, low inflation, and strong currency. The country has a mixture of modern and traditional industries, including manufacturing, banking, and tourism. It is also a hub for international organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Switzerland has a high standard of living and is consistently ranked among the world's wealthiest countries. However, it also faces challenges such as a high cost of living and a need for continued innovation to maintain its position in a rapidly changing global economy.

- The GDP (gross domestic product) in Switzerland is forecast to amount to US\$0.99tn in 2026.
- The real total GDP (gross domestic product) in Switzerland is expected to grow by 4.67% by 2026.
- The GNI (gross national income) in Switzerland is forecast to amount to US\$0.98tn in 2025.
- In 2025, the total investment in Switzerland is forecast to amount to US\$264.40bn.



Source: [Statista](#)

Culture

Switzerland is a country known for its stunning natural beauty, high quality of life, and diverse cultural heritage. The country's unique blend of German, French, and Italian influences is reflected in its food, music, architecture, and traditions. From the picturesque villages nestled in the Swiss Alps to the cosmopolitan cities of Zurich and Geneva, Switzerland offers visitors a rich cultural experience that is both welcoming and unforgettable.

The Swiss culture is distinguished by its diversity, as the country lies at the crossroads of several outstanding European cultures. Switzerland is also a multilingual country, as its national languages include German, French, Italian and Romansh. In addition, there are numerous dialects spoken in every region. Each canton has its unique cultural features. The culture, customs and traditions differ in different regions of the country, as each canton and municipality has cultural autonomy.

The Most Innovative Country in the World

In 2018, Switzerland ranked first for the eighth consecutive year as the most innovative country in the world in [The Global Innovation Index](#).

In particular, the canton Vaud's economy has undergone some major transformations. [Based on a study by the Observatoire BCV de l'économie Vaudoise](#), from a farming-based economy in 1860 to a land of Start-Ups today, Vaud's economy is now one of Switzerland's biggest and fastest-growing, thanks to its 'large services sector, diversified manufacturing base, and focus on niche markets.'

No tips necessary

Calling all budget travelers! Here's a fun fact about Switzerland that you're sure to appreciate: you don't need to break out a calculator to figure out how much you're going to tip. The tip is already included in the final price. Of course, you can still show your appreciation to the waiter or waitress by adding a little extra to the bill.

Assisted Suicide Is Legal and It Attracts 'Suicide Tourists'

According to Swiss law, anyone who is of sound mind and who has, over a period of time, voiced a consistent wish to end their life can request a so-called assisted

voluntary death or AVD. However, people must commit suicide by their own hand, for example by taking the medication themselves.

An Eco-Friendly Country

Switzerland is one of the world [leaders in recycling](#) and waste management. The Swiss successfully separate and recycle organic and recyclable waste whilst converting the rest to energy. Moreover, Switzerland provides nearly all CO2-friendly electricity to its citizens. [As FDFA reports](#), since 2011, Switzerland has commenced an energy transition process (“Energy Strategy 2050”), aiming to phase out of nuclear power step-by-step

Switzerland is the birthplace of the Red Cross

You might’ve not known but Switzerland’s flag resemblance with The Red Cross is not a coincidence. Its flag is simply a color-switching of the [Flag of Switzerland](#), showing proud Swiss roots. The Red Cross has 97 million volunteers and [was founded](#) in 1863 in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) where its headquarters still remain today.

Lifestyle

Swiss people enjoy a high standard of living with a strong focus on work-life balance. They enjoy spending time outdoors, engaging in sports and cultural activities, and taking advantage of the country's beautiful natural scenery. Switzerland is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live in the world due to its strong economy, excellent healthcare, and high quality of life.

The Swiss Marry Late

[Based on a report by the United Nations](#), the average marriage age for Swiss men is 31.8 and 29.5 for women. On the other hand, [The Local CH reports](#) that the divorce rate in Switzerland is about 40%, and [as per the Central Intelligence Agency's publication](#), the average age for Swiss women to have their first child is 30.4 years, which makes them the oldest women in Europe to do so.

Owns Lots of Guns, but Has the Lowest Crime Rates

Amongst industrialized nations, Switzerland has one of the [highest rates](#) of gun ownership. However, that does not necessarily have to lead to more crime; Switzerland has nearly half the gun-related deaths the United States has. Switzerland actually has one of [the lowest crime rates](#) of all industrialized countries.

It's important to be noted that the reason for this great amount of people owning guns in Switzerland is since this country has mandatory military service. After they finish their service, all of them [are supposed](#) to take their assault rifles or pistols at home, however, without ammunition.

One of the Countries with the Highest Quality of Life

Switzerland may have some of the most expensive cities in the world to live in, but its citizens get value for money. According to the [Social Progress Report](#), "medical", "nutritional" and "access to basic knowledge" is where the country shines. Its index is 88.87 out of 100.

The Least Obese European Country

It might've never crossed your mind, but another reason Switzerland is a good country to live in is for a fit life. [According to the World Health Organization](#), the Swiss country is the least obese European country with only 17.5% of the population being obese. If

you lived in the U.S., you'd be double more likely to be obese since 33% of the country is.

Is Home to Two of the Most Livable Cities in the World

The concept of [liveability](#) assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions. They look at five broad categories of Stability, [Healthcare](#), [Culture](#) and Environment, [Education](#), and Infrastructure. Two of the most livable cities turn out to be [Zurich](#) and [Geneva](#).

Sundays Are “Sacred”

Sundays in Switzerland mean no mowing the lawn, no laundry hanging outside, no hammering, or anything that neighbors can hear, see or overall disturb the peace. It is frowned upon to work on Sundays, so just commit to being lazy, lock the doors, and read a book or spend a quiet day with friends and family.

Zurich is ranked 20th in the Expat City Ranking 2022 by InterNations

Ranks 3rd in the Quality of life index → Top 10 categories:

- Travel and transit: 10th
- Safety and Security: 5th
- Environment and climate: 4th

Zurich: The Place for a Stable & Predictable Life Abroad

Ranking 3rd out of 50 for its quality of life, Zurich combines a pleasant urban (6th) with a spectacular natural (2nd) environment. The Swiss city nearly makes it into the top 3 of the Environment & Climate Subcategory (4th). It lands among the top 10 for all related factors, except for its climate and weather (28th). For example, 93% give the air quality a positive rating, compared to 65% worldwide.

Zurich is also a very safe place to live, placing fifth for Safety & Security: 93% of expats feel safe there (vs. 81% globally) – 70% even very much so (vs. 47% globally) – while 92% appreciate the political stability (vs. 64% globally). The city performs quite well for Health & Well-Being (16th), too. However, the healthcare costs (39th for affordability) are the reason why it does not feature in the top 10 of this subcategory. Still, 81% find it easy to access all necessary healthcare services in Zurich (vs. 67% globally), and 86% are satisfied with their quality (vs. 72% globally).

In the Travel & Transit Subcategory (10th), Zurich offers the best travel opportunities worldwide: 96% of expats are happy with this factor (vs. 82% globally). Another 93% rate the availability of public transportation favorably (vs. 73% globally). However, 23% think it is not affordable enough (vs. 15% globally). It is probably a good thing then that it is safe and easy to get around Zurich by bike or on foot (93% happy vs. 77% globally).

LGBTQ+ Rights

Switzerland has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, although there are ongoing discussions and efforts towards further progress. Here are some key points regarding LGBTQ+ rights in Switzerland:

1. **Legal Recognition:** Same-sex sexual activity has been decriminalized in Switzerland since 1942. The country legalized registered partnerships for same-sex couples in 2007, providing legal recognition and some rights similar to marriage. However, it was not until 2020 that same-sex marriage was finally legalized, granting equal marriage rights to all couples.
2. **Anti-Discrimination Laws:** Swiss federal law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in various areas, including employment, housing, and public services. These laws aim to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination and ensure equal opportunities.
3. **Adoption and Parental Rights:** Same-sex couples have the right to adopt children in Switzerland. Since 2018, married same-sex couples have been able to access stepchild adoption, allowing one partner to adopt the biological or adopted child of their spouse.
4. **Gender Recognition:** Switzerland allows individuals to legally change their gender through a process that requires medical procedures and legal documentation. However, the process is considered relatively strict compared to some other countries.
5. **LGBTQ+ Organizations and Activism:** Switzerland has several LGBTQ+ organizations and advocacy groups that work towards promoting LGBTQ+ rights, raising awareness, and supporting the community. These organizations play a crucial role in advocating for equal rights and providing resources and support for LGBTQ+ individuals.

While Switzerland has made significant progress in LGBTQ+ rights, it's important to note that challenges and ongoing discussions exist. Some activists and advocacy groups continue to call for further improvements in areas such as transgender rights, comprehensive anti-discrimination laws, and education on LGBTQ+ issues.

As with any country, it's essential to be aware that attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals may vary among different regions and communities within Switzerland. Overall, Switzerland is generally considered LGBTQ+ friendly, but it's always recommended to stay informed and exercise awareness while traveling or residing in the country.

Nature

The Swiss Alps are high, snow-covered mountains most of which are over 13,000 feet (4,000 meters). The most famous peak is the Matterhorn which is 14,692 feet (4,478 meters) tall, but the highest peak is Dufourspitze at 15,203 feet (4,634 meters).

Scientists are concerned that glaciers in the Swiss Alps have lost a lot of ice coverage in the past 40 years. This may be related to global climate change. Rapid melting of the glaciers could cause flooding to the villages below.

Most animals in Switzerland live in the mountains. The ibex, a species of mountain goat, was hunted to near extinction in the early 1800s. The species has since been reintroduced and more than 15,000 ibex now live in the Swiss Alps.

Hikers may also encounter chamois, another goatlike animal, and marmots. The forests of Switzerland are also home to deer, rabbits, foxes, badgers, squirrels, and many bird species.

The Alps make up almost 60% of the country

One of the most incredible facts about Switzerland is that the Swiss Alps cover around 58% of the land area. Despite the abundance of mountains, the country's landscape is actually pretty diverse. In the northern part of the Alps, like the Bernese Oberland, you'll find that the scenery is very green and vibrant. While in the south like Valais, it's drier and rougher. You'll also see stunning lakes and villages full of palm trees in between.



The Swiss Alps

Pristine water around

Thanks to great underground water reserves and natural springs, Switzerland boasts some of the finest drinking water around the world. In fact, their tap water has a much better ecological balance than the average bottled mineral water. All you need to do is to bring your water bottle and refill from one of the many drinking fountains and you're good to go.

Switzerland Has 7000 Lakes

[Switzerland's lakes are the best ones to swim in](#) and you have plenty to choose from. With an area of 580.03 km² (224 sq mi). For the most part, the freshwater is so clear that you can drink out of rivers and lakes. Only if you cannot see the bottom of a lake is it considered dirty.

Nature in Zurich

Above all, Zurich's nature is freely accessible. The Zurichhorn green space is accessible from the city center by walking along Lake Zurich. What you will find are stunning

mountain and lake views. A short train ride will take you to the surrounding mountains and hills if you want to explore them. The Travel Pass has made using public transportation in Switzerland more affordable than ever before.

The Planet Route, which runs from Mount Uetliberg to the Felsenegg Mountains, is one of Zurich's most popular hiking trails. Take the Sihltal Zürich Uetliberg fast train to the trailhead. The 3.7-mile walk from there is meant to represent the distances of our solar system. That will bring you views of Lake Zurich and mountains in the distance. Along the way, there are markers representing one million kilometers for each planet. This hike can take you from the Sun to Pluto.

Even if you don't care about planetary landmarks, this is one of the most beautiful trails in Zurich. It takes about 40 minutes to get from Zurich Central Station to Arth-Goldau Station. This 6.5-kilometer trail winds along the mountainside, providing stunning views of the lake and the Alps.

Hiking the seven-mile Pfannenstiel trail, which offers breathtaking views of Lake Zurich, is highly recommended. Climb the 115-foot wooden lookout tower for panoramic views of Lake Zurich and the surrounding hills, passing some of the area's many waterfalls. Take a 24-minute train ride from Zurich HB and hike to Forch.



Swiss train through the Alps.

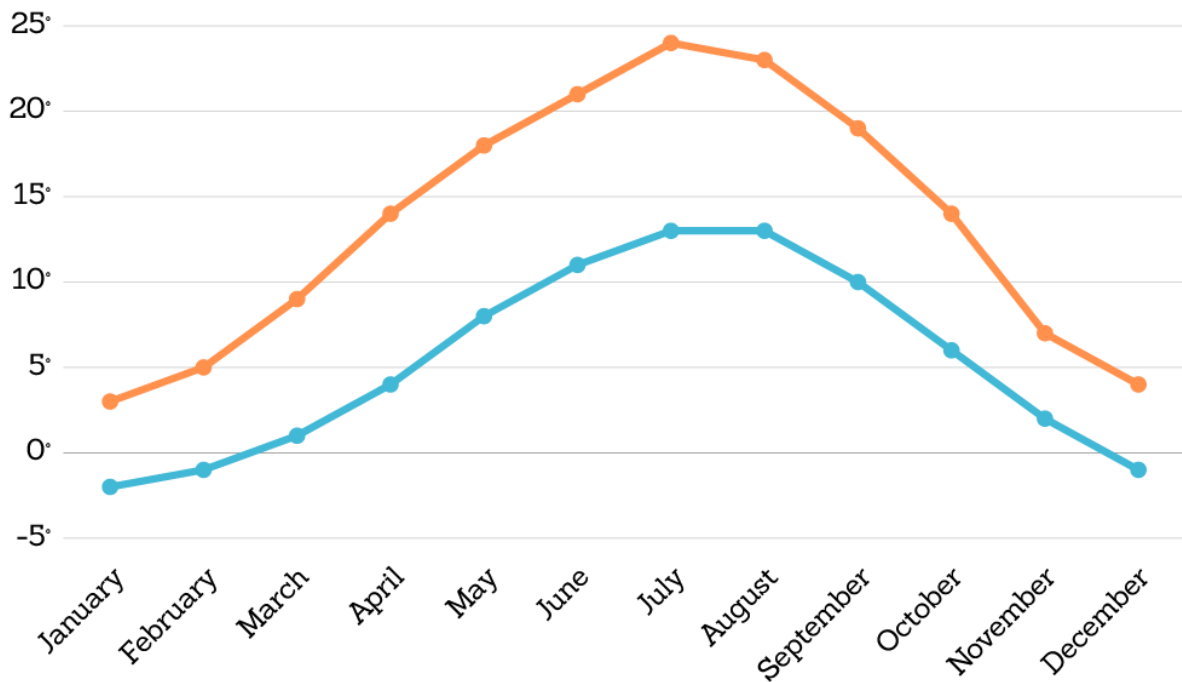
Weather

Zurich lies in the temperate climate zone and has four distinct seasons. In winter, temperatures occasionally drop below zero, while hot summer days can record temperatures of over 30° C (86° F).

Zurich has a temperate, continental climate with four distinct seasons. Summers are generally milder than in many parts of Europe, and winters, while once reliably cold and snowy, are now only moderately cold

The climate is more mild than cold

Because of the popularity of the ski resorts and the Alps, Switzerland has gained a reputation for being a cold country. But the climate is actually considered more moderate rather than cold because of the nearby Atlantic Ocean. If you're hoping for snow days, it's best to visit in January, February, and March.



Average Temperature Chart

Best time to visit

Zurich, with its charming blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, is a city that can be enjoyed throughout the year. However, the best time to visit largely depends on your preferences and interests. The summer months from June to August are popular for outdoor activities and festivals, with pleasant temperatures ranging from 21°C to 24°C (70°F to 75°F). Spring (April and May) and autumn (September and October) offer milder weather, making it ideal for exploring the city's parks and gardens. If you're a fan of winter sports, December to February is the perfect time to visit, as nearby ski resorts provide excellent opportunities for skiing and snowboarding.

These are the highlights for each season:

Spring:

- Explore the blooming gardens and parks, such as the beautiful Botanical Garden or the lakeside promenades.
- Visit the Kunsthaus Zurich or other art galleries to immerse yourself in the vibrant art scene.
- Take a boat ride on Lake Zurich and enjoy the pleasant weather.
- Attend outdoor festivals and events, like Sechseläuten, a traditional spring celebration.

Summer:

- Swim in Lake Zurich or enjoy water activities like paddleboarding, kayaking, and sailing.
- Relax in the numerous parks and green spaces, such as the popular Zurichhorn Park or the Chinese Garden.
- Attend open-air concerts, film screenings, and cultural festivals held throughout the city.
- Explore the nearby mountains and indulge in hiking, biking, or picnicking in the picturesque landscapes.

Autumn:

- Admire the colorful foliage in the forests surrounding Zurich and take scenic walks in the crisp air.

- Visit local vineyards and participate in wine tastings during the grape harvest season.
- Attend cultural events, such as the Zurich Film Festival or the Theater Spektakel.
- Explore the museums and art exhibitions to escape the occasional autumn showers.

Winter:

- Embrace the magical atmosphere of Zurich's Christmas markets, with their festive decorations, mulled wine, and artisanal crafts.
- Enjoy winter sports in the nearby Swiss Alps, with skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing opportunities.
- Visit museums and art galleries to appreciate the city's cultural treasures.
- Attend the Zurich Street Parade, a lively techno music festival held during winter.

History

Ancient Times

Already 5000 years ago the first settlers made the shores of Lake Zurich, where the waters exit, their place of home. Traces of these settlements can be detected from Bauschänzli to Wollishofen.

In 57/58 BC the Romans came to Zurich and founded the Turicum customs station, where travelers and goods were dispatched before crossing into the province of Raetia.

The ancient name Turicum and evidence that there was a customs station is only because of the grave inscription for Urbicus, son of the local customs superintendent, made in 1747 and found on the Lindenhof. In the 4th century a castle was built on the Lindenhof, which remained until the Early Middle Ages, around which the settlement of Zurich expanded.

In 1218, after the death of the last of the Zähringers, Zürich's ruling family, Zürich became a free city. Although it was under the emperor's rule, Zürich was allowed to govern itself.

Early Middle Ages

According to legend, in the 8th century, Charlemagne rediscovered the tombs of the patron saints of Zurich, Felix and Regula. While out hunting, he was pursuing a stag from Aachen to Zurich when his horse suddenly fell to its knees to pay homage to the saints' tombs. Charlemagne subsequently had the bones exhumed and he founded the church and the provostry of the Grossmünster in their honor.

In 853 AD, Charlemagne's grandson, Louis the German, built a "Pfalz", or palace, on the Lindenhof and gave an existing women's convent with its own jurisdiction as a gift to his eldest daughter, Hildegard. Thus the Fraumünster abbey was founded.

Zurich prospered in the 11th and 12th centuries thanks to the Fraumünster, which as a convent for aristocratic women attracted princesses from all over Europe. Under the Frankish kings, Zurich also grew to become the most important market town, with trade connections reaching from northern Italy to Holland. Thanks to the relics of Zurich's patron saints, Felix and Regula, the city was also an important pilgrimage site.

In 1218, Zurich gained its freedom from the Empire after the extinction of the main line of the Zähringer family, the imperial bailiffs responsible for Zurich. Zurich was placed under the direct control of the emperor, but was allowed to govern itself.

Late Middle Ages

In 1336, Rudolf Brun and the tradesmen of the city stormed the Town Hall. From this time on, the council no longer consisted only of aristocrats; half of it was made up of tradesmen, who organized themselves into guilds.

In 1351, 60 years after the founding of the Helvetic Confederation, Zürich was the sixth canton to join.

Reformation

In the 16th century, as moral decline reached its peak and the council could not bring the population to its senses, Ulrich Zwingli became the priest of Grossmünster Church. He started the Reformation, which spread from Zürich to all of German-speaking Switzerland.

In the time following the Reformation, many religious refugees came to Zürich. Thanks to them, Zürich developed into a center of the textile industry.

Modern Age

In 1648, the Peace Treaty of Westphalia granted the Confederation independence from the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

During the age of industrialization in the late 18th and 19th centuries, Zürich changed from a city of tradesmen to a capital of machine-driven industry.

After World War II, 70% of the workforce was already active in the service sector. Restaurants, bars, galleries and shops took up residence in former factory halls. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, the former industrial districts have become the trendy districts in Zürich.

In past years, Zürich has repeatedly been chosen as the city with the highest quality of life in the world.

Language

There are four official languages in Switzerland.

Switzerland is divided into four different language regions: French in the western part, Italian in the southern part, Romansh in some areas of the southeast, and Swiss-German in the rest. But don't worry, you can get by speaking English in major cities like Zurich, Geneva, and other tourist destinations. Of course, learning some new phrases won't hurt.

Here's an overview of the languages spoken and the approximate number of speakers for each language:

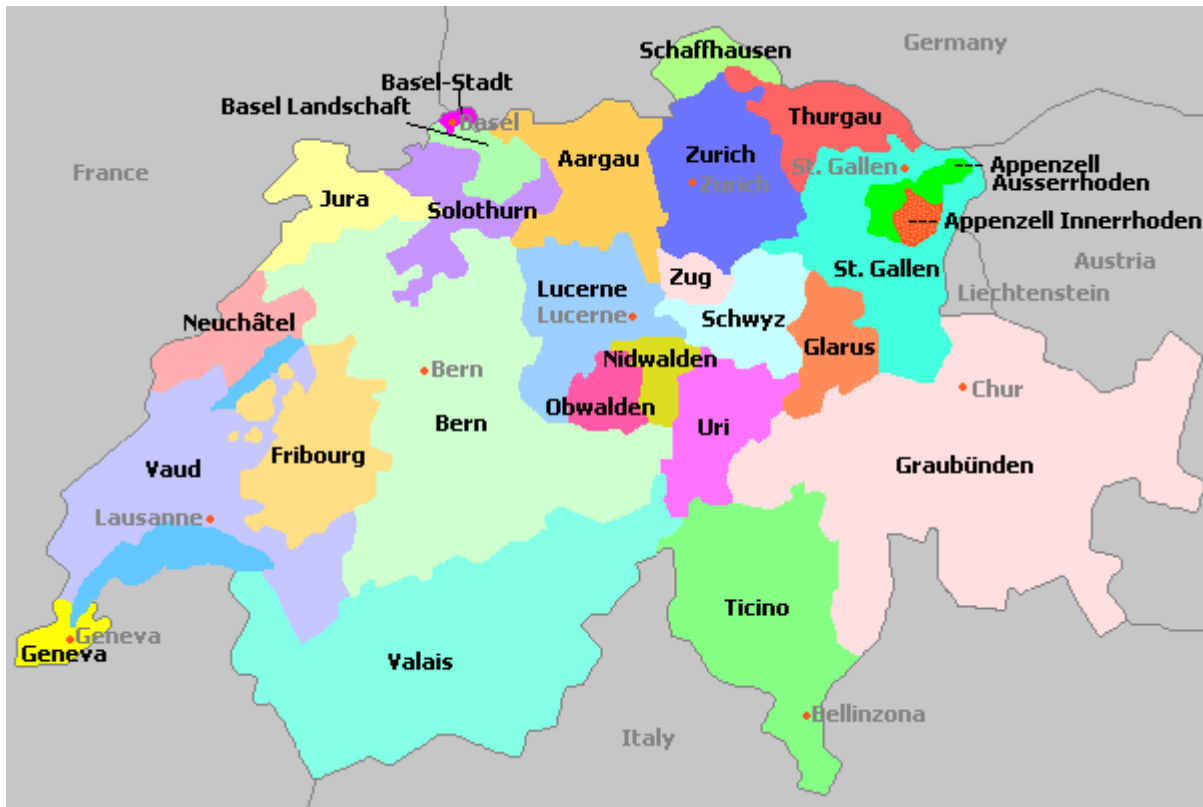
1. **German (63%):** German is the most widely spoken language in Switzerland. It is primarily spoken in the northern and central parts of the country, including Zurich, Basel, and Bern. Swiss German, a dialect of German, is the spoken form of German in Switzerland.
2. **French (22%):** French is mainly spoken in the western regions of Switzerland, including Geneva, Lausanne, and Neuchâtel. The majority of French speakers reside in the cantons of Vaud, Geneva, and Fribourg.
3. **Italian (8%):** Italian is spoken in the southern part of Switzerland, primarily in the canton of Ticino and parts of Graubünden. Cities like Lugano and Locarno are predominantly Italian-speaking areas.
4. **Romansh (0.5%):** Romansh is a minority language spoken in the southeastern canton of Graubünden. It has several dialects and is mainly used in small, rural communities.

It is important to note that while Switzerland is a multilingual country, the proficiency in each language may vary depending on the region. Most Swiss people are at least bilingual, and many are even trilingual or more. It is common for Swiss citizens to speak their native language plus one or two other official languages.

While it is possible to get by in certain regions of Switzerland with just one language, having a basic understanding of at least one additional official language can be highly beneficial for everyday communication, work opportunities, and integration into Swiss

society. English is also widely understood, especially in urban areas and among the younger population, but it is not an official language.

Overall, Switzerland's linguistic diversity is one of its cultural strengths, and the country values and promotes multilingualism in various aspects of life, including education, administration, and public services.



Switzerland's cantons

Best things to do

[Top 10 Places to Visit in Zurich](#)

Obviously, there are far more than 10 tourist attractions in Zurich, but this list points out the absolute highlights, nobody should miss. Visit the places in Zurich that tell the exciting history of the city, see the beautiful parks and green spaces in the middle of the Old Town and enjoy the breathtaking views from the numerous overlooks, and you will experience Zurich's true character and beauty.

Art lovers may also want to visit the [Kunsthaus Zürich](#) with its masterpieces and the [Rietberg Museum](#), Switzerland's biggest museum of non-European cultures.

- **Grossmünster**

The twin towers of the Grossmünster are not only Zurich's most prominent landmark, visitors can also climb up the Karlsturm and enjoy a breathtaking view over the city.

- **Fraumünster**

On the other side of the Limmat stands the Fraumünster church with its famous windows created by Chagall and the Swiss artist Augusto Giacometti.

- **Uetliberg: Zurich's very own Mountain**

The best way to take in a city is from above. The Uetliberg lookout is just a short train ride and a 10-minute walk away, and the view over the city, lake and Alps is spectacular.

- **Bahnhofstrasse Shopping Street**

The Bahnhofstrasse is Zurich's most exclusive and famous shopping destination. Boutiques, jewelers, department stores and high street fashion stores line the elegant avenue.

- **Lake Zurich**

Those who haven't seen Lake Zurich, weren't in Zurich. When standing next to the famous Ganymede statue on the Bürkliterrasse, you can see as far as the Swiss Alps.

- **Sechseläutenplatz: The Square**

With the opera house, the Kronenhalle, the Café Odeon and Lake Zurich just a stone's throw away, the Sechseläutenplatz is the ideal starting point for your sightseeing tour.

- **Lindenhof**

This glorious park has been known since the year 80 BC and is regarded as the origin of Zurich's history. Thanks to its great view it's also the ideal selfie spot.

- **The Old Town**

The Limmat river separates the medieval Old Town into two parts, however both are equally marked by narrow streets, beautiful houses, glorious guildhalls and charming squares.

- **Zürich-West**

Once Zurich's industrial district, today the neighborhood is an ode to creativity, design and architecture with numerous restaurants, bars, galleries and quirky boutiques.

- **Polyterrasse**

Take the Polybahn cable car up to the ETH Zurich, the Polyterrasse patio offers an amazing view over the Old Town, the lake and city center.

[Guided City Tours, Excursions, and Unique Experiences in Zurich](#)

1. Zurich Old Town Walking Tour
2. Zürich Food Tour
3. Züri Bar Quest - Scavenger Hunt Through Zurich's Bars
4. Day Trip to Mt. Pilatus 10 am
5. Treichler Cherry Cake Guided Tour
6. Day Trip to the Jungfrauoch 8 am
7. Zurich Old Town Walking & Bus Tour
8. Day Trip to Kleine Scheidegg 8.30 am
9. Christmas Tour with the Night Watchman
10. Make Chocolate Figures and Lollipops Yourself
11. City Tour of Zurich by Private Bus
12. City Tour Through Zurich by Bus

Zurich on a Budget: Things to do in Zurich for free

Zurich does not have to be expensive. Here are some simple tricks and tips on what you can do in Zurich for little or no money.

1. Zürich Card The Clever City Pass. With the Zürich Card, you can travel in the city for free – and enjoy free admission, discounts, and surprises in museums, stores, and restaurants.
2. 1,200 Water Fountains, Fresh Drinking Water. You never need to go thirsty in Zurich. Fresh drinking water flows out of over 1,200 fountains. So simply buy a drinking bottle and keep filling it up.
3. Rental Bikes. Tourists and commuters can easily hire e-bikes or normal city bikes at various rental stations in the city.
4. Picnicking in Zurich. Picnic in the Park: Buy some bread and cheese in the supermarket, then sit down and enjoy your picnic in the nearest public park.
5. Riverside Bathing Facilities. The riverside bathing facilities, Oberer Letten, Unterer Letten and Schanzengraben, and the lido on the Werd island, do not charge admission.
6. Art in Public Places. Free art 1 Art in public places is free and accessible for everyone. There are over 1,300 public works of art on display in Zurich.
7. Architecture. Free Art 2 These architectural highlights by both national and international star architects will thrill visitors who love beautiful buildings.
8. Vantage Points Beautiful Views 1 A hike at lofty heights or a visit to a roof terrace combined with a coffee or other beverage treats you to stunning views over Zurich.
9. Hiking Beautiful Views 2 These hiking paths near Zurich can be reached quickly and easily. Some even begin on the outskirts of Zurich – so you do not even need a travel ticket.
10. myclimate Audio Adventure in Zurich Free Tour 1 Download the app and discover more about Zurich's biodiversity on a stroll through the city's urban quarters, squares, parks, and gardens.

Zurich's historic architecture, such as walkways, trees, and lakes, is also available. The old town is accessible to the public and can be explored at leisure.

All of the attractions in the old town are free of charge, from the cobblestone pedestrian zone of Niederdorf to the Augustinergasse, which is lined with colorful old houses and the two churches of St. Peter and Fraumünster.

- **Go green at Zurich! The Old Botanical Garden**

The Old Botanical Garden does not require you to leave the city to enjoy nature. The garden, which dates from 1837 and is one of Zurich's last remaining Baroque fortifications, is open to the public. This medieval hillside herb garden contains 50 plants used for medicinal purposes by 16th-century healers. It's found in the gardens.

The lake and the Alps dominate Zurich's views, which are best appreciated from the water. Take a ferry boat instead of a lake tour. If you buy a Swiss Travel Pass (details below), ships up and down the lake and public transportation in Zurich are included. You can cross Lake Zurich in a rental car on the Meilen-Horgen ferry.

When the schedule departs so frequently, it is pointless to look at it. Cars cost around \$8 and are surprisingly smooth. You can also walk for \$1.50 or ride a bike for \$3. Bicycles can be rented from Bike Rental Zurich for about \$30/day and \$20 for each subsequent day if you prefer to tour the city by bike.

- **Take a Segway tour of Zurich to see the city differently.**

You will fly over parks during your city tour, past the impressive Tonhalle, and up Bahnhofstrasse.

This is a great way to see the city's historical monuments, and there are plenty of photo opportunities along the way. The imposing Uetliberg mountain, which towers over Zurich, can be seen from the city. Hikers are rewarded with breathtaking views of the red roofs and the lake as they wind their way to the top. Mountain biking and sledding are popular year-round activities, and many trails are open to the public. Cycling through Zurich is an excellent way to become acquainted with the city. The Landesmuseum, located on the banks of the Limmat River, is a must-see during your visit.

Exhibits and workshops at this national museum trace Switzerland's cultural history over time. The building's castle-like structure is also impressive.



Lake Zurich

Shopping

Zurich offers a diverse shopping experience with a mix of high-end boutiques, department stores, local shops, and vibrant markets. Whether you're looking for fashion, luxury goods, Swiss souvenirs, or unique finds, Zurich has something to offer every shopper. Here's a guide to help you navigate the shopping scene in Zurich:

1. **Bahnhofstrasse:** Start your shopping adventure at Bahnhofstrasse, one of the world's most exclusive shopping streets. This elegant boulevard is home to luxury brands, upscale boutiques, and department stores. Explore the flagship stores of international fashion labels and browse Swiss watchmakers renowned for their craftsmanship.
2. **Niederdorf:** Head to Niederdorf, Zurich's historic district, for a more eclectic shopping experience. This vibrant area is lined with independent shops, trendy boutiques, and quirky stores. Discover unique fashion pieces, accessories, and handmade crafts while enjoying the lively atmosphere of this pedestrian-friendly neighborhood.
3. **Zürich West:** For a more alternative and creative shopping scene, visit Zürich West. This former industrial district has transformed into a trendy hotspot, offering a mix of designer studios, concept stores, and art galleries. Explore the unique fashion, furniture, and design shops that showcase local Swiss talent.
4. **Freitag Flagship Store:** Don't miss the Freitag Flagship Store, a must-visit for sustainable fashion enthusiasts. This iconic store is housed in stacked shipping containers and offers a range of upcycled bags, accessories, and clothing made from recycled materials.
5. **Flea Markets:** Zurich is also known for its flea markets, where you can hunt for vintage treasures and unique antiques. The Kanzlei Flohmarkt takes place on Saturdays and offers a wide variety of items, including clothing, books, vinyl records, and collectibles. Another popular flea market is the Rosenhof Market, held on Saturdays from April to October, which specializes in furniture, home decor, and vintage finds.
6. **Street Food Markets:** Indulge in Zurich's culinary delights by exploring the city's street food markets. Im Viadukt is a vibrant market located under the arches of

a viaduct, offering a wide range of food stalls, local produce, and artisanal products. Markthalle is another popular food market where you can sample international cuisines, fresh produce, and gourmet treats.

Remember to check the opening hours of shops and markets, as they may vary. Keep in mind that Sundays are generally considered a day of rest in Switzerland, and most shops are closed.

City awards

Zurich has received several accolades and awards as a city, recognizing its exceptional qualities and contributions in various areas. Here are some notable awards and recognition that Zurich has received:

1. **Quality of Life:** Zurich consistently ranks among the top cities in the world for quality of life. It has been recognized by various surveys and indexes, such as the Mercer Quality of Living Survey and The Economist's Global Liveability Index, for its high standard of living, safety, excellent infrastructure, and cultural offerings.
2. **Financial Center:** Zurich is renowned as a global financial hub. It has received recognition as one of the leading financial centers in the world, with a stable economy, robust banking sector, and favorable business environment. The Global Financial Centers Index consistently ranks Zurich among the top financial centers globally.
3. **Sustainable City:** Zurich is committed to sustainability and environmental initiatives. The city has been recognized for its efforts in urban sustainability, including efficient public transportation systems, renewable energy projects, waste management, and green spaces. Zurich has received accolades such as the European Green Capital Award and the Global Green City Award.
4. **Smart City:** Zurich is known for its innovative use of technology and smart city initiatives. It has been acknowledged for its advancements in digitalization, urban mobility, and infrastructure. The city has received awards such as the Smart City Strategy Award and recognition as one of the world's leading smart cities.
5. **Cultural Destination:** Zurich is a vibrant cultural hub with a rich artistic and creative scene. It has been honored as a cultural destination, celebrated for its museums, galleries, theaters, and music festivals. Zurich has received awards like the European City of Culture designation and recognition as a UNESCO Creative City of Design.
6. **Tourist Destination:** Zurich attracts visitors from around the world with its picturesque landscapes, historical sites, and cultural offerings. It has been

recognized as a top tourist destination, receiving awards such as the World's Best Tourist Destination by the Global Traveler Awards and the World's Leading City Destination by the World Travel Awards.

These are just a few examples of the awards and recognition that Zurich has earned over the years. The city's continuous commitment to excellence in various aspects has solidified its reputation as a world-class destination.

Working in Zurich

Working in Zurich offers a unique and enriching experience, especially for expats seeking professional opportunities in a dynamic and prosperous city. The working culture in Zurich is known for its efficiency, punctuality, and high professional standards. Here's an introduction to the working culture and what expats can expect when working in Zurich:

1. **Punctuality and Reliability:** Swiss working culture places a strong emphasis on punctuality and reliability. Being on time for meetings and appointments is highly valued, and Swiss professionals are known for their efficiency and adherence to schedules. Expats should strive to adopt these practices to integrate well into the local working environment.
2. **Work-Life Balance:** Zurich offers a healthy work-life balance, with a strong commitment to leisure time and personal well-being. The Swiss value their free time and prioritize a balanced lifestyle. The standard working hours are typically 40 hours per week, and employees often enjoy generous vacation and public holiday entitlements.
3. **Professionalism and Precision:** Swiss working culture is characterized by professionalism, precision, and attention to detail. Swiss employers value quality work and expect employees to take pride in their workmanship. Expats should demonstrate a high level of professionalism and a meticulous approach to tasks to align with local expectations.
4. **Hierarchical Structure:** Swiss companies often have a hierarchical structure, with clear lines of authority and decision-making processes. Respect for authority and seniority is important, and it is customary to address colleagues and superiors using their surnames and appropriate titles. However, Swiss working culture is also known for its relatively flat hierarchies and open communication channels.
5. **Multilingualism:** Zurich is a multicultural city, and English is widely spoken, especially in international work settings. However, having some knowledge of German, the predominant language in Zurich, can be advantageous for expats, as it enhances communication and integration within the local community and certain industries.

6. **Work Ethic and Efficiency:** Swiss professionals are known for their strong work ethic and a focus on efficiency. Meeting deadlines and delivering high-quality work are highly valued. Swiss companies emphasize productivity and effectiveness, and employees are expected to manage their time efficiently and demonstrate a proactive attitude towards their tasks.
7. **Professional Networking:** Building professional networks is crucial in Zurich's working culture. Expats can benefit from attending industry events, seminars, and networking functions to expand their contacts and establish meaningful professional relationships. Swiss professionals appreciate personal connections and trust-based collaborations.

Overall, working in Zurich as an expat offers a conducive environment for career growth and personal development. The city's strong economy, focus on quality, and high standard of living make it an attractive destination for professionals from around the world. By embracing the local working culture, expats can thrive and contribute to Zurich's dynamic and successful business landscape.

Low Unemployment Rates

[In 2017 statistics](#), Switzerland's unemployment rate amounted to around only 4.8%. This low number is due to its fairly prosperous and stable economy. 'The majority of [employed workers](#) in the country possess a relatively high level of education and are specialized, which essentially allows for the country to offer high-end jobs with higher wages, and often guarantees a higher level of productivity and efficiency.'

Highest Salary and Job Security

As a result of its economic stability, [based on an OECD publication](#), Swiss adults have on average the most amount of money compared to the average amount around the world, beating out countries such as the U.S. Switzerland has the third-highest salary and job security out of all OECD countries.

Zurich is in the top 20 in the working abroad index, ranking 20th, doing particularly well in the Salary and Job Security section. (3rd)

[Remote worker city guide for Zurich](#), Switzerland

What type of remote worker is Zurich for?

Remote workers can visit Zurich to have fun and recharge their batteries. It is also a hub for freelancers who specialize in audiovisual work. On the other hand, it is a market that desperately needs data entry workers. As a result, Zurich gives remote workers advantages because they do not yet have work visa systems. It also is a popular destination for content creators

What remote worker networks are there in Zurich?

Zurich offers a vibrant and supportive community for remote workers, with several networks and communities designed to connect and support individuals working remotely. Here are some notable remote worker networks in Zurich:

1. **Digital Nomads Zurich:** Digital Nomads Zurich is a community of remote workers, freelancers, and entrepreneurs in Zurich. They organize regular meetups, workshops, and networking events where remote workers can connect, share experiences, and collaborate. It's a great platform to expand your professional network and find like-minded individuals in the remote work space.
2. **Zurich Coworking Meetup:** The Zurich Coworking Meetup group brings together professionals who work remotely or are interested in coworking. They organize meetups at various coworking spaces in Zurich, providing opportunities to network, exchange ideas, and explore coworking options in the city. It's a valuable resource for remote workers seeking a collaborative environment.
3. **Zurich Digital Nomads:** Zurich Digital Nomads is a community of digital nomads, remote workers, and location-independent professionals in Zurich. They host events, workshops, and social gatherings for members to network, learn, and share insights about remote work and the digital nomad lifestyle. It's an excellent community to connect with fellow remote workers and exchange knowledge.
4. **Impact Hub Zurich:** Impact Hub Zurich is a coworking and innovation community that offers workspace, resources, and events for entrepreneurs, freelancers, and remote workers. It's a vibrant hub where individuals can

collaborate, attend workshops, and engage with a diverse network of professionals focused on creating positive impact through their work.

5. **Swiss Startup & Entrepreneur Networking:** While not specifically focused on remote work, the Swiss Startup & Entrepreneur Networking group brings together professionals from various industries, including remote workers and entrepreneurs. They organize events, pitch nights, and workshops, providing opportunities to connect with the local startup ecosystem and find potential collaborators or mentors.

What do the expats think?

[A Few Things I Wish I Knew Before Moving to Zurich](#)

"For me, it was hard to fathom the actual cost of living. People warned me, but living in a place that costs so much is really remarkable. I still get sticker shock most days and have to remind myself that this is just part of life here. It really is one of the most expensive cities in the world."

Another useful piece of information that'll help you settle in and [make new friends](#) is that the locals take time to warm up. If you have lived in German-speaking countries before, you will feel ok with this, but if you're from more outgoing countries like the USA, Australia, or some of the Mediterranean countries, this characteristic can be challenging at first.

If you want to live here, and if you want to make friends outside of the expat community, you need to assimilate and be patient as locals warm up to you.

[From: Digital Nomad Exchange, a world of friends abroad](#)

How do I meet people in Switzerland?

Take the "Living in Zurich" mini course offered in October (every Friday for 6 weeks) by the American Women's Club of Zurich," remarked one member in Zurich.

What is life like in Switzerland?

"Lots of outdoor activities - cycling and rollerblading are big things. You can go right round the lake - 41km! Healthy living in general. Zug is a bit materialistic with quite a transient expat population. Mixing with Swiss people is not easy - but worth the effort! Lot of people speak English," said one digital nomad in Switzerland.

"Work is a big priority. Many people here are professionals highly specialised in their field, they were brought here to work, and they focus on it. Banks and the UN and P&G are the biggest employers," commented a person living in Geneva, Switzerland.

What do people appreciate most about the culture in Switzerland?

"We love the public transportation and my teens love their independence as a result. We also love our proximity to great travel destinations. On our calendar is a concert

in Paris and a spring break trip to Italy," explained one person living in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The air is clean, we can ski on weekends in winter. You see the mountains. But that's about it. I personally appreciate Asia much more," wrote one digital nomad living in Zurich, Switzerland.

What do people find most challenging about the culture in Switzerland?

"One of the most challenging aspects of living in Switzerland for expats is the fact that most social interactions are understandably conducted in the local language. Even in highly populated areas with many expats, it can be hard to communicate if one's knowledge of the language is limited. Additionally, the rigid hierarchy in Swiss culture may seem quite daunting to those who are used to more egalitarian nations. Respect for authority and decorum are particularly important in the workplace and other formal settings, making it difficult to relax and feel comfortable among their peers. Lastly, the high expectations of punctuality can be frustrating for newcomers who have a different view on the importance of timekeeping," said one member in Switzerland.

"The lack of local language skills is at the top of the list. It isolates you and forms a barrier in what in your own country would be friendly, every day, people to people contact situations: such as pleasantries exchanged with a check out clerk or a neighbor while walking the dog. I also feel out of it with regards to the news: what is going on in the arts, politics. I used to be well informed, now I am not at all. I have been too busy getting my kids settled, hooking up utilities, figuring out our mail forwarding, our taxes, etc," explained one person living in Geneva, Switzerland.

What cultural blunders should I try to avoid making in Switzerland?

We asked people in Switzerland if they could share any humorous cultural blunders they committed. They wrote:

"hmmmm... Swiss sometimes do not understand German jokes. I laugh but the Swiss don't," remarked one member in Zurich.

What are the pros and cons of living in Switzerland?

"Expatriates and digital nomads appreciate the high standard of life that Switzerland offers, with its reliable transportation network, excellent healthcare, and robust and affordable education system. Many enjoy the stunning scenery and the diversity of cultures represented among the population. They also benefit from the excellent job opportunities and the friendly locals who are usually very welcoming. However, some struggle with the high cost of living as well as the complexity of the Swiss bureaucracy which can be time consuming and difficult to navigate. Additionally, the language barrier can be an obstacle, as most local Swiss people prefer to converse in their native tongue," commented a person living in Switzerland.

The local people

The people in Switzerland are generally known for their politeness, efficiency, and respect for rules and order. Here are some characteristics that can give you an idea about the Swiss people:

1. **Punctuality:** Swiss people highly value punctuality and consider it a sign of respect. Whether it's for meetings, public transportation, or social gatherings, being on time is expected and appreciated.
2. **Reserved and Private:** Swiss individuals are often seen as reserved and private. They tend to prioritize their personal space and privacy, which may lead to a more formal initial interaction. However, once you establish a connection or friendship with a Swiss person, they can be warm, loyal, and engaging.
3. **Multilingual:** Switzerland is a multilingual country with four official languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh. Depending on the region, people may primarily speak one of these languages. Many Swiss people also speak English fluently, especially in urban areas and professional settings.
4. **Appreciation for Nature:** Swiss people have a deep appreciation for their natural surroundings. With its stunning landscapes, mountains, and lakes, Switzerland offers a wealth of outdoor activities, and many Swiss individuals enjoy hiking, skiing, and other outdoor pursuits.
5. **Emphasis on Quality and Precision:** Swiss people take pride in their craftsmanship, precision, and attention to detail. This is reflected in their industries, such as watchmaking, chocolate production, and precision engineering. Quality and precision are highly valued attributes in Swiss culture.
6. **Respect for Rules and Order:** Swiss society places a strong emphasis on rules, regulations, and order. Swiss people generally follow rules and expect others to do the same. This contributes to the overall sense of safety and efficiency in the country.
7. **Cultural Diversity:** Switzerland is a culturally diverse country with influences from neighboring countries and immigrant communities. Swiss people are open to cultural diversity and often celebrate different traditions and customs through festivals and events.

A multicultural country: 25% of the Population Is Foreign

[As stated by swissinfo.ch](#), Switzerland has one of the highest proportions of internationals among all nations, about 24.6% in 2015. More than 80% of the [foreigners living in Switzerland](#) are from European countries and almost half of them come just from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal. With 19 entries per 1000 inhabitants on average in 2014, Switzerland is leading the European [immigration](#) countries, far ahead of Germany (11), UK (9.8), Spain (6.6), and France (5.1).

Locals in Zurich

Zurichers, like the rest of Switzerland, speak three or four languages: fundamental German (and the Swiss-German dialect), French or Italian, depending on the canton, but they understand one or two that do not correspond to them, plus English and one other language, such as Spanish. Since 2008, when Switzerland joined the European Schengen zone, Zurich's multicultural spirit has grown stronger.

As a result, the Swiss are extremely welcoming to all visitors. It is critical for us as remote workers to learn as much as possible about the locations where we intend to spend our working hours.

Cost of living

One of the Most Expensive Places to Live In

Both the [Worldwide Cost of Living Survey](#) and [the Mercer Cost of Living survey](#) found [Zurich](#) to be the world's third [most expensive city](#).

Zurich: Expensive but Expats Can Still Afford It

Zurich ranks third worldwide in the **Quality of Life Index**, only beaten by Valencia (1st) and Copenhagen (2nd). Expats are very happy with the Travel & Transit (10th) Subcategory, but even more so with the Environment & Climate (4th). They appreciate the natural environment (99% happy vs. 83% globally), the air quality (93% vs. 65% globally), and the urban environment (81% vs. 67% globally). Additionally, they feel safe in Zurich (93% vs. 81% globally) and are happy with the availability (84% vs. 73% globally) and quality (86% vs. 72% globally) of medical care. More than four in five expats in Zurich (81%) say that they can access all the healthcare services they need (vs. 67% globally).

The city also performs quite well in the **Working Abroad Index** (20th), even ranking first worldwide for the state of the local economy: 94% of expats rate this factor positively, compared to 64% globally. They are also happy with the local job market (60% vs. 47% globally) and feel paid fairly for their work (69% happy vs. 62% globally). This might also explain the results in the **Personal Finance Index** (24th): while the general cost of living is considered too high (65% unhappy vs. 35% globally), 74% are still satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 60% globally). More than four in five expats in Zurich (84%) say that their disposable household income is about enough or more than enough.

Switzerland's high cost of ingredients contributes to Zurich's high cost of living. Switzerland has the world's highest meat prices. As a non-EU member, the country has the authority to impose import restrictions on certain items. This is advantageous to digital nomads because it raises the cost of living.

The Swiss Coupon Book is an option to save some money. The book offers discounts and two-for-one deals on parks, museums, guided tours, restaurants, UNESCO sites, rental cars, and other experiences. Before purchasing, read the book to see if the offers are suitable for you.

While living in Zurich will cost you a pretty penny, if you work for a local company, your salary will reflect the cost of living. Digital nomads might have a harder time affording life in the city unless they also have a high-paying job in their home country or only visit for a shorter period of time.

Cost of rent

The median home price there is CHF 13,000 (\$13,036) per square meter, while the average monthly rental price: CHF 2,324 (\$2,330) for a three-bedroom apartment. However, the average salary is CHF 103,296 (\$103,298), so it's not like they can complain.

Expat Arrivals:

Cost of living in Zurich chart

Prices may vary depending on product and service provider. The list below shows average prices for January 2023.

Accommodation (monthly rent)	
Three-bedroom apartment in the city centre	CHF 3,700
Three-bedroom apartment outside the city centre	CHF 2,700
One-bedroom apartment in the city centre	CHF 2,000
One-bedroom apartment outside the city centre	CHF 1,500

Household	
Mobile-to-mobile call rate (per minute)	CHF 0.34
Internet (uncapped ADSL or cable – average per month)	CHF 50
Basic utilities (per month for small apartment)	CHF 250

Cost of daily expenses and groceries

4 Out of 5 of the Most Expensive Cities for Coffee Are Swiss

Geneva, Bern, Basel, Zurich.

[Starbucks](#) was selected as a factor in the Index as it is the most most widely available, premium-priced coffee chain the world over, and as such offers an interesting economic barometer between countries. The difference in the price of a Grande Latte ranged from £1.21 in Brazil to £5.72 in Switzerland, nearly a 400% price increase.

The average price of coffee is 5 CHF, a burger is 35 CHF, and a cocktail is 17 CHF. Groceries and cooking for yourself are the way to go, however, they are also on the higher end.

Shopping	
Eggs (dozen)	CHF 5.91
Milk (1 litre)	CHF 1.67
Rice (1kg)	CHF 3.23
Loaf of white bread	CHF 2.92
Chicken breasts (1kg)	CHF 26.11
Pack of cigarettes	CHF 8.95

Eating out	
Big Mac Meal	CHF 15
Coca-Cola (330ml)	CHF 4.35
Cappuccino	CHF 5.26
Local beer (500ml)	CHF 7
Three-course meal for two at a mid-range restaurant	CHF 120

Cost of transportation

Public transportation is fantastic, trains and busses run like clockwork. They are regular and reliable, yet also costly. If you choose to live here, purchase a half-price public transport card for about 200 CHF per year. It will pay dividends, especially if you plan to travel around Switzerland.

Transport	
Taxi rate (per kilometre)	CHF 5
Bus/train fare in the city centre	CHF 4.40
Petrol/gasoline (per litre)	CHF 2.08

Cost of co-working spaces

The cost of co-working spaces in Zurich can vary depending on factors such as location, amenities, and membership options. Here is a general overview of the average cost range:

1. **Hot Desks/Shared Spaces:** On average, you can expect to pay around 250-600 CHF per month for a hot desk or shared space in a co-working facility. This option provides you with a flexible workspace in a shared environment.
2. **Dedicated Desks:** If you prefer a dedicated desk that is exclusively yours, the prices typically range from 600-900 CHF per month. This option offers a more personal and fixed working space within the co-working facility.
3. **Private Offices:** For those who require more privacy and space, private offices are available in co-working spaces. The cost of private offices in Zurich varies depending on size, location, and amenities. On average, prices can range from 1,000 CHF to 2,500 CHF or more per month.

Cost of data and internet

The cost of fixed internet in Zurich can vary depending on the specific service provider, the type of internet connection (fiber, cable, DSL, etc.), and the speed of the connection. Here are some approximate price ranges for fixed internet plans in Zurich:

- **Basic Plans:** For basic internet plans with speeds of around 10-50 Mbps, you can expect to pay around 30-50 CHF per month.
- **Mid-Range Plans:** Mid-range plans with speeds of 50-200 Mbps typically range from 50-100 CHF per month.
- **High-Speed Plans:** If you require higher speeds of 200 Mbps or more, the prices can range from 100 CHF and above per month.

Buying a SIM card

In Zurich, you can buy a SIM card from various locations including:

1. **Mobile Network Operator Stores:** Visit the official stores or authorized retailers of mobile network operators such as Swisscom, Salt, and Sunrise. They have dedicated outlets where you can purchase SIM cards and get assistance with activating and setting up your plan.
2. **Electronic Stores:** Major electronics retailers like Media Markt and Interdiscount often have sections dedicated to mobile phones and SIM cards. They usually offer a range of SIM card options from different network operators.
3. **Department Stores:** Large department stores such as Manor and Globus also have electronics and mobile phone sections where you can find SIM cards and associated devices.
4. **Convenience Stores and Supermarkets:** Some convenience stores and supermarkets like Coop, Migros, and Denner might also offer SIM cards along with other products. Look for prepaid SIM card displays or inquire at the customer service desk.
5. **Zurich Airport:** If you prefer to purchase a SIM card upon arrival in Zurich, you can find SIM card vending machines at Zurich Airport. These machines allow you to select and purchase a SIM card directly.

Costs on average:

- **Prepaid SIM Cards:** Prepaid SIM cards with data plans can range from approximately 20 CHF to 50 CHF for 1GB of data, depending on the specific provider and plan. Some providers offer additional benefits such as unlimited local calls and text messages within the package.
- **Mobile Data Plans:** If you opt for a postpaid mobile data plan, prices can vary depending on the data allowance and other included features. On average, you can expect to pay around 30 CHF to 80 CHF per month for a data plan with 1GB of data, but this can increase if you require larger data quotas or additional services.

Accommodation

How to find an accommodation in Zurich

The housing market in Zurich can be competitive, but with some effort and preparation, expats can find suitable accommodation. Here's an overview of the housing market in Zurich:

1. **Rental Market:** Renting is the most common housing option for expats in Zurich. The rental market can be tight, with high demand and limited availability, particularly in popular neighborhoods. It's advisable to start your housing search well in advance to increase your chances of finding a suitable place.
2. **High Rental Costs:** Zurich is known for its high cost of living, and rental prices reflect that. The cost of renting an apartment in Zurich is generally expensive compared to other Swiss cities. Prices can vary depending on factors such as location, size, amenities, and condition of the property.
3. **Rental Contracts:** Rental contracts in Zurich typically require a minimum term of one year, although some shorter-term options may be available. It's common for landlords to request a security deposit equivalent to a few months' rent.
4. **Online Platforms and Real Estate Agencies:** Utilize online platforms such as Homegate, ImmobilienScout24, and Comparis to search for available properties in Zurich. Additionally, consider reaching out to local real estate agencies that specialize in rentals to get assistance in finding suitable accommodation.
5. **Networking and Personal Contacts:** Expanding your network and connecting with locals, colleagues, or other expats living in Zurich can be helpful in finding housing. They may have insights, recommendations, or be aware of upcoming vacancies.
6. **Housing Options:** Zurich offers a range of housing options, including apartments, studios, and shared flats. The size and style of properties can vary, so it's important to consider your preferences and budget when searching.
7. **Language Considerations:** It's worth noting that many rental listings and communication with landlords may be in German. Basic knowledge of German or assistance from a local friend or real estate agent can be beneficial during the rental process.

Here are some of the best portals to consider:

1. Homegate (www.homegate.ch): Homegate is one of the most popular and comprehensive real estate portals in Switzerland. It offers a wide range of listings for apartments and houses in Zurich. You can filter your search based on various criteria such as location, price, size, and amenities.
2. Comparis (www.comparis.ch): Comparis is a popular Swiss platform that provides listings for properties, including houses and apartments for rent. It allows you to compare different offers and provides helpful filters to narrow down your search based on your preferences.
3. ImmoScout24 (www.immoscout24.ch): ImmoScout24 is another well-known real estate portal in Switzerland. It offers a wide selection of rental properties, including houses and apartments in Zurich. The platform provides detailed property information, photos, and contact details of the landlords or agencies.
4. UrbanHome (www.urbanhome.ch): UrbanHome is a user-friendly online platform that focuses on rentals in Switzerland. It allows you to search for houses and apartments for rent in Zurich and provides direct contact information for property owners or agencies.
5. Facebook Groups: Consider joining local Facebook groups dedicated to housing and apartment rentals in Zurich. Examples include "Zurich Apartments for Rent" or "Zurich Housing." These groups can provide valuable insights, recommendations, and direct interactions with landlords or other expats in Zurich.

Remote worker apartments in Zurich

You can save money in Zurich by eating at your serviced apartment, but you may miss out on some of the best dishes in Switzerland. Fortunately, most of these recipes include cheese, and high-quality Swiss cheese is significantly less expensive than American cheese. Pick up some Gruyère, the famous cheese from the same name region, in the regular cheese section of your local supermarket.

Preparing a low-cost Swiss meal is simple, and it's even more enjoyable when the cheese melts in front of you. Remember that digital nomads love fast food. However, that doesn't mean eating bad-quality food.

Remote worker co-livings in Zurich

The term "Coliving" refers to a new approach to shared housing that combines living and working. Some co-living providers allow you to stay in different locations for the duration of your subscription.

Best neighborhoods to live in Zurich

- District 1 (Old Town) - This is key for tourists. As the city center, it's where many of the historic areas are.
- District 5 (Creative Quarter) - This area has cool 'hipster' and artistic vibes. Many people in their 20-40s live here, there are unique shops, culture, coffee, and street art to experience.
- District 6 (University Quarter) - It is worth checking out the university buildings and there is a very special library *Rechtswissenschaftliche Bibliothek* hidden inside the University of Zurich. It's fun to go on a hunt to find it. This neighborhood boasts a number of nice coffee shops and restaurants to explore and work from.
- District 8 (right on Lake Zurich) - I stay here when I'm in town. If you stay on the water, there are a ton on things to do, great museums to visit, and pools to experience.

Where to stay as a Remote Worker

Winterthur

There are numerous reasons why Winterthur has become a popular choice for people who want to visit Zurich while also enjoying their own culture and entertainment. The town, which was initially a manufacturing center, has been transformed into a transportation hub for Zurich residents.

Winterthur, a 20-minute train ride from Zurich, is an ideal city for those looking to save money. Another advantage is that cantonal taxation in Zurich can be much lower than in neighboring cantons.

Uster

Uster is an excellent alternative to Zurich, located on Lake Greifensee. Expats and Zurich valley residents flock to the Glattal, only a 15-minute train ride away.

Lake Griefensee, one of the most popular bathing spots, is only a few blocks from the city. Uster is located in the Glatt valley, with easy freeway access to the Zurich Oberland and the mountains.

Zug

Although Zug is not the cheapest city to live in, its competitive tax system and business rates make it a popular choice for expats. Because it is still technically part of the ZVV area, ZVV transportation benefits the city.

Rapperswil and Lucerne and the nearby lake and mountains are popular tourist destinations and are known for their large number of international companies. Locals can also take advantage of an international school and a lovely old town.

Schaffhausen

Schaffhausen, a town north of Zurich near the German border, is becoming a popular place to live for expatriates. Its beautiful Renaissance architecture and an old peaceful city set it apart from Zurich's hustle and bustle.

Best Airbnbs in Zurich

[Sophisticated apartment in the heart of Zurich](#) 4.99 stars on Airbnb

The old town is located in elegant District 1 (Kreis 1) , with cobbled streets full of cozy bars, traditional Swiss restaurants and art museums such as the Kunsthaus. The Fraumünster with stained glass windows by the artists Chagall and Giacometti is one of the district's famous churches.

There are chocolatiers, jewelers and exclusive boutiques along the upscale Bahnhofstrasse shopping street. The hill Lindenhof offers a view of the Limmat and its popular river promenade.

[Cozy newly furnished 2 bedroom in Seefeld-NO PARTY](#) 4.98 stars on Airbnb

"Our place is in the lovely Seefeld neighbourhood, close to public transport, bars and restaurants, supermarkets and Zürich lake. You'll love our home because of the

location and the coziness. Our place is good for couples, business travelers, and families with kids."

[B66: Exclusive Downtown 2-BR Apt with Big Terrace 4.90 stars on Airbnb](#)

"Charming & safe neighbourhood, with restaurants, bars, bakery, shops and supermarkets all closeby. The apartment has an unblocked view to the park and enjoys full privacy. "

Best Hostels in Zurich

Remote worker hostels in Zurich

Digital nomads who stay in hostels should look for properties that have good facilities to work. Coworking areas as well as a community of remote workers. Some more general hostels that could be nice are:

- Oldtown Hostel Otter
- Youth hostel
- Green Marmot Capsule Hostel

Best Hotels in Zurich

Top rated hotel in Zurich by Trip Advisor:

[#1 Hilton Zurich Airport](#)

"The hotel offers spacious modern rooms, bright top-equipped meeting and conference rooms, as well as exquisite cuisine with 180 ° panoramic view."

[#2 Hotel Helmhaus](#)

"A high quality design interior, comfortable bathrooms in warm colours, an individually adjustable air condition system for the summer time and new sound-proof windows promise a relaxing sleep. At the Hotel Helmhaus history and modern comfort connect in a remarkable way."

[#3 EMA House Hotel Suites](#)

"As a guest, you will enjoy our comprehensive services that leave nothing to be desired: From a freshly prepared breakfast in your suite to daily housekeeping or information about Zurich."

Healthcare

The healthcare system in Switzerland is known for its high quality and comprehensive coverage. It is based on mandatory health insurance, and both Swiss residents and expats are required to have health insurance coverage. Here's an overview of how the healthcare system works for expats in Switzerland:

1. **Mandatory Health Insurance:** In Switzerland, it is compulsory for all residents, including expats, to have basic health insurance coverage. You are responsible for obtaining health insurance within three months of your arrival in the country or before you start working. Insurance providers offer a range of options, and you can choose from various companies based on your needs and preferences.
2. **Coverage and Benefits:** Basic health insurance in Switzerland covers a wide range of medical services, including doctor visits, hospital stays, prescription medications, and emergency care. However, some services like dental care, alternative medicine, and certain elective treatments may not be fully covered and may require additional insurance or out-of-pocket payments.
3. **Insurance Premiums:** The cost of health insurance premiums in Switzerland can vary based on factors such as your age, health condition, and the insurance company you choose. Premiums are typically paid on a monthly basis, and the cost can be substantial. It's important to budget for health insurance premiums as part of your living expenses in Switzerland.
4. **Insurance Providers:** There are several private insurance companies in Switzerland that offer health insurance coverage. Examples of well-known insurance providers include SWICA, Helsana, CSS, and Assura. It's advisable to compare different insurance providers and their coverage options to find the one that suits your needs and budget.
5. **Access to Healthcare Providers:** Switzerland has a well-developed healthcare infrastructure with a wide network of hospitals, clinics, and healthcare professionals. As an expat, you have the freedom to choose your preferred healthcare provider within the Swiss healthcare system. You can visit general practitioners (GPs) for non-emergency care or seek specialized treatment from specialists as needed.

6. **Billing and Reimbursement:** When you receive medical services, you typically pay for them upfront and then submit the bills to your insurance provider for reimbursement. The reimbursement process varies depending on your insurance policy, and it's important to familiarize yourself with the specific requirements and procedures of your insurance company.
7. **Supplementary Insurance:** In addition to mandatory basic health insurance, you have the option to purchase supplementary insurance to enhance your coverage. Supplementary insurance can provide additional benefits such as coverage for alternative therapies, private hospital rooms, or higher reimbursement rates. It's important to carefully evaluate your needs and compare the cost and benefits of supplementary insurance before making a decision.

Overall, the healthcare system in Switzerland ensures that residents, including expats, have access to high-quality medical care. However, it's important to understand the specific terms and conditions of your health insurance policy, familiarize yourself with the healthcare providers in your area, and be proactive in managing your healthcare needs while living in Switzerland.

Childcare and education

Childcare and education in Zurich are known for their high quality and comprehensive offerings. Whether you are a resident or an expat, Zurich provides a range of options to meet the educational needs of children at various stages of their development. Here's an overview of childcare and education in Zurich:

1. Childcare Options:

- **Kindergartens:** Kindergartens in Zurich provide early childhood education for children aged 4 to 6 years. They focus on fostering social skills, creativity, and preparing children for primary school.
- **Daycare Centers:** Daycare centers offer full-day or part-time care for children from a few months old up to kindergarten age. They provide a nurturing environment with qualified staff and age-appropriate activities.
- **Childminders:** Childminders are registered individuals who provide childcare in their homes. They offer a more intimate setting with personalized care for a smaller number of children.

2. Primary and Secondary Education:

- **Public Schools:** Zurich has a well-developed public school system offering education from primary to secondary levels. Public schools are generally free of charge and provide education in the local language, which is typically German in Zurich.
- **Private Schools:** There are also private schools in Zurich that offer alternative educational approaches, bilingual programs, or international curricula. Private schools often charge tuition fees and may have selective admission processes.

3. International Schools:

- **International Schools** cater to the needs of expat families and provide education in English or other languages. These schools offer internationally recognized curricula, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) or British curriculum. Examples of international

schools in Zurich include Zurich International School (ZIS), International School of Zurich North (ISZN), and Swiss International School (SIS).

4. Higher Education:

- Universities and Colleges: Zurich is home to several prestigious universities and colleges, including the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology). These institutions offer a wide range of academic programs across various fields of study.

5. Language of Instruction:

- The primary language of instruction in Zurich's educational institutions is typically German. However, there are also opportunities for education in English and other languages through international schools and select programs at higher education institutions.

6. Education System and Standards:

- The Swiss education system emphasizes high academic standards, critical thinking, and a well-rounded education. It aims to provide students with a strong foundation for their future academic and professional endeavors.
- Education in Zurich follows a comprehensive and structured curriculum, which focuses on core subjects such as language, mathematics, sciences, humanities, arts, and physical education.

7. Support Services:

- Zurich offers various support services for children with special educational needs or those requiring additional assistance. Special education programs and resources are available within the public school system to ensure inclusive education.

When considering childcare and education in Zurich, it's essential to research and plan ahead to secure a place in the desired institution or program. Factors to consider include location, language of instruction, curriculum, fees, and admissions processes. It's advisable to reach out to relevant educational institutions or consult with local authorities to gather detailed and up-to-date information based on your specific needs and circumstances.

Zurich is considered a child-friendly city with a wide range of amenities, services, and activities tailored to the needs of families and children. Here are some reasons why Zurich is known for its child-friendly environment:

1. **Safety:** Zurich is known for its high safety standards, making it a secure place for families and children. The city has well-maintained infrastructure, pedestrian-friendly streets, and a low crime rate, ensuring a safe environment for children to explore and play.
2. **Education:** Zurich offers excellent educational opportunities for children. The city has a well-developed education system, including public, private, and international schools, providing a variety of options for families. The schools in Zurich focus on providing quality education and a nurturing environment for children's growth and development.
3. **Green Spaces and Parks:** Zurich boasts numerous parks and green spaces where families can enjoy outdoor activities. The city is committed to maintaining green areas, playgrounds, and recreational facilities that are easily accessible to residents. Families can spend quality time together in these parks, enjoying picnics, sports, and various leisure activities.
4. **Family-Friendly Attractions:** Zurich offers a range of family-friendly attractions and activities suitable for children of all ages. The city is home to museums, zoos, aquariums, and interactive science centers that engage and entertain young minds. Additionally, there are theaters, cinemas, and cultural events specifically designed for families, providing opportunities for shared experiences and entertainment.
5. **Childcare Facilities:** Zurich has a well-developed system of childcare facilities, including daycare centers, kindergartens, and after-school programs. These facilities provide professional care, education, and supervision for children while allowing parents to work or pursue other activities.
6. **Public Transportation:** Zurich's efficient public transportation system makes it convenient for families to travel around the city with children. Trams, buses, and trains are stroller-friendly, and many stations and vehicles are equipped with facilities to accommodate families with young children, such as priority seating and ramps for strollers.

7. **Health and Safety Services:** Zurich offers high-quality healthcare services for families and children. The city has well-equipped hospitals, pediatric clinics, and healthcare professionals specialized in treating children's health issues. Additionally, Zurich promotes a healthy lifestyle, with access to sports facilities, fitness centers, and nutritious food options.
8. **Cultural Diversity:** Zurich is an international city with a diverse population, welcoming people from different backgrounds and cultures. This multicultural environment provides an enriching experience for children, fostering tolerance, understanding, and respect for different cultures and perspectives.
9. **Family-Oriented Events:** Throughout the year, Zurich hosts various family-oriented events and festivals. These events include children's parades, music festivals, street fairs, and holiday celebrations, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for families to participate in community activities.
10. **Supportive Services:** Zurich offers support services for families, including counseling, parental guidance programs, and social assistance. These services aim to provide resources and support to families, ensuring their well-being and addressing any challenges they may face.

The public transport system

Great transportation options

1. **Trains:** The Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) operates an extensive train network that connects Zurich with other cities and regions within Switzerland. The Zurich Hauptbahnhof (Main Station) is a major transportation hub, providing connections to domestic and international destinations.
2. **Trams:** Zurich has an extensive tram network that covers the city and its suburbs. Trams are a popular mode of transportation for both residents and visitors, offering frequent services and convenient access to various neighborhoods, attractions, and business districts.
3. **Buses:** The bus network in Zurich complements the tram system, providing additional coverage to areas not served by trams. Buses operate on various routes and can be an efficient way to reach specific destinations within the city or explore nearby regions.
4. **S-Bahn:** The S-Bahn is a suburban train system that connects Zurich with its surrounding areas and neighboring towns. It offers frequent services and is an excellent option for commuting or exploring attractions outside the city center.
5. **Regional and Local Trains:** In addition to the main train lines operated by SBB, there are regional and local train services that provide connections to smaller towns and villages near Zurich. These trains offer an opportunity to explore the picturesque Swiss countryside and nearby attractions.
6. **Ferries:** Zurich is situated on the banks of Lake Zurich, and there are regular ferry services that operate on the lake. Ferries offer a scenic mode of transportation and connect various lakeside destinations, allowing you to enjoy the beauty of the surrounding landscapes.
7. **Bicycles:** Zurich has a well-established cycling infrastructure, making it a bike-friendly city. You can rent bicycles from various rental companies or make use of public bike-sharing systems to explore the city on two wheels. There are dedicated bike lanes and paths, ensuring a safe and enjoyable cycling experience.

8. **Taxis and Ride-Sharing:** Taxis are readily available in Zurich, and you can easily hail them on the streets or find them at designated taxi stands. Additionally, ride-sharing services like Uber operate in Zurich, providing an alternative transportation option.
9. **Walking:** Zurich is a compact and pedestrian-friendly city, and many attractions and amenities are within walking distance of each other. Walking is a pleasant way to explore the city center, discover hidden gems, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.
10. **Private Vehicles:** While public transportation is highly efficient in Zurich, some residents and visitors prefer the convenience of traveling by private vehicles. It's important to note that parking can be limited and expensive in the city center, and there may be traffic restrictions in certain areas.

Like its water, Switzerland's transportation system is also some of the world's best. You'll be hard pressed to find another country with as many options. You can get around by train, funiculars, buses, boats, cable cars, and trams. It's so comprehensive that you can reach areas in the Alps that were only previously accessible by foot. One way to discover its highlights from north to south, west to east is with the Interrail Pass. You can hop on and hop off as many stops you like!

Getting Around in Zurich

Zurich is a compact metropolis. Those who explore the city by public transportation, by bicycle, or on foot travel efficiently and sustainably.

With Your Own Muscle Power

The most surprising sides of Zurich can be discovered on foot or on wheels. Moreover, this is not only an ecologically sound way of getting around, but also usually the fastest way to reach your destination.

By Public Transportation

The efficient and exceptionally well-developed transportation network is the pride and joy of Zurich's inhabitants. Trams, buses, trains, and cruise boats regularly take passengers to every corner of the city and surrounding region.

Zurich's public transportation network is one of the most efficient and reliable in the world. It therefore comes as no surprise that streetcars and buses are the preferred

means of transportation for the city's population. The dense network and frequent services connect every point in the city, and passengers get to see even more of the surroundings on their journey.

All the transportation companies are united in the Zurich Transport Association (ZVV), which is why one ticket can be used on all forms of transportation on the city network. This also includes boats, funicular railways, and cable cars.

Zürich Card – the Pass for the Perfect City Trip

The [Zürich Card](#) city pass entitles the holder to unlimited 2nd class travel on all forms of public transportation on the entire city network. It can be purchased in the [“Zürich City Guide” app](#), via our [webshop](#), or physically at a ticket machine, and is valid for a period of 24 or 72 hours.

Other Tickets

In Zurich, tickets for 1 hour or 24 hours (day pass) can be purchased for different zones. The tickets are valid on all types of public transportation in the specified zones – whether bus, tram, S-Bahn train, boat, or cogwheel/funicular railway.

Tickets and day passes can be purchased from the ticket machines at every stop, at the airport, or at Zurich Main Station.

For getting around the city (zone 110) a day pass valid for 24 hours will cost you 8.60Sfr, a single ticket valid for 1 hour 4.30Sfr. Children up to 5 travel for free, 6-16 year-olds pay the so-called half-fare (which actually is 3.00Sfr). Be aware that the popular lookout Uetliberg and the airport are not within zone 110 - you need to buy a zone upgrade for 1-2 zones (4.20Sfr for an hour, 8.20Sfr for 24 hours) for these destinations.

You can save even more money by purchasing a travel pass for your entire stay in Zurich. You can visit Zurich and the rest of Switzerland with the Swiss Travel Pass. The package includes admission to over 500 museums and discounts on various other excursions. Those planning to stay in the country for an extended period should take advantage of the numerous opportunities.

Buses, trains, and streetcars are part of Zurich's public transportation system. You will need tickets or a day card for the appropriate zones to travel around Zurich. Zurich City, for example, is in zone 110, while the airport is in zone 121.

Single ZVV (Zurich Transport Network) tickets start at CHF 3.10 for one hour in zones 1-2 and rise from there. This ticket covers the bus, train, and boat.

The Zurich Card provides unlimited second-class travel on streetcars, buses, trains, boats, and cable cars throughout the city and its surrounding areas, making it an excellent public transportation option (zones 111, 121, 140, 150, 154, 155). The Limmat river cruise, short boat trips, and airport transfer are also included in the card. It costs CHF 27 per 24 hours and CHF 53 per 72 hours.

No cars allowed (in some villages)

If you're planning to drive around Europe, one of the most important facts about Switzerland to know is that there are several places that don't allow cars. Instead, you can take a train, bus, and even a boat to reach the village and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere. The best part is that getting around is even easier and more affordable with the Swiss Travel Pass.

Experience free travel by boat, bus, and train and discover the finest sights Switzerland has to offer.

Connection with the airport

Zurich Airport is well-connected to the city center, providing travelers with convenient transportation options to reach their destination. Here are the different modes of transportation available:

1. Train: The train is the most efficient and popular mode of transportation between Zurich Airport and the city center. The airport has its own train station located directly below the terminal complex. Trains operate frequently, with direct connections to Zurich Hauptbahnhof (the main train station) and other major cities in Switzerland. The journey from the airport to the city center takes around 10-15 minutes.
2. Tram: Zurich has an extensive tram network that connects various parts of the city, including the airport. Tram line 10 runs from the airport to the city center, providing a scenic and comfortable ride. Trams are a popular choice for travelers who prefer a slower pace and want to enjoy the city's surroundings during their journey.

3. **Bus:** Several bus lines operate between Zurich Airport and different parts of the city. The buses provide a convenient option for reaching specific neighborhoods or areas not directly served by trains or trams. The bus stops are located just outside the airport terminals, and the schedules are well-coordinated with flight arrivals and departures.
4. **Taxi:** Taxis are readily available at Zurich Airport, and they offer a convenient door-to-door transportation option. Taxis can be found at designated taxi stands outside the airport terminals. The journey to the city center typically takes around 15-20 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The average fare for a taxi ride from the airport to the center of Zurich ranges from 70 to 90 Swiss Francs (CHF).
5. **Rental Cars:** If you prefer to have your own means of transportation, several car rental companies have desks at Zurich Airport. Renting a car allows you the flexibility to explore not only Zurich but also the surrounding areas at your own pace. The airport has well-marked car rental pick-up and drop-off points for easy access.

Co-working spaces

Many nomads' home offices primarily comprise a laptop and a smartphone. Two standard features of Swiss cafés that cater specifically to the needs of remote workers are free Wi-Fi and no sales pressure.

Some Swiss bank branches, including Basler Kantonalbank, Credit Suisse, and Zürcher Kantonalbank, offer free coworking spaces. For international travelers, many airport lounges also have a work area and a conference room (if you get free access to the airport lounge with your credit card, for example).

Switzerland's coworking market is highly fragmented. There are numerous service providers on the market, many of which only operate in a few locations. Even if you work for the same company, you may be required to pay different fees to access other areas. So, before you sign up for a membership contract, consider where you want to work. The contract and notice period should be as long as possible.

If you only need to use a coworking space occasionally, purchasing a day pass may be less expensive than committing to a long-term membership. Passes, such as the Coworker Global Pass, allow you to work at any of Coworker's partner coworking spaces in Switzerland or around the world, but they are only valid for a limited number of days per month. They can be a more cost-effective option than purchasing individual day passes.

1. Birdhaus: One of the better options for creatives that are looking for a coworking area is Birdhouse. You can easily hop in into this beautifully designed building on a day pass
2. Impact Hub Zurich: Impact Hub is a global network of co-working spaces focused on social innovation and entrepreneurship. It offers a vibrant community, flexible workspaces, and various amenities. It's known for its collaborative atmosphere and regular networking events.
3. Colab: Located in the heart of Zurich, Colab is a modern co-working space that provides an inspiring environment for freelancers, startups, and entrepreneurs. It offers flexible membership options, comfortable workspaces, meeting rooms, and a supportive community.

4. Kraftwerk: Kraftwerk is a unique co-working space that combines work, innovation, and sustainability. It is housed in a former electrical substation and offers a creative environment for individuals and teams. It features open workspaces, private offices, event spaces, and a rooftop terrace.
5. Spaces Zurich Sihlquai: Spaces is a well-known international co-working brand with a location in Zurich. It offers stylish and contemporary workspaces, meeting rooms, and a range of amenities. The space is designed to foster collaboration and provides a professional atmosphere for productivity.
6. Colab Zurich West: Situated in Zurich West, Colab Zurich West is a dynamic co-working space catering to startups, freelancers, and small businesses. It offers flexible memberships, modern workstations, meeting rooms, and a communal kitchen area. The space also hosts regular events and workshops.
7. W.I.R.E. Coworking: W.I.R.E. Coworking is a cozy and friendly co-working space in Zurich. It provides a comfortable working environment, meeting rooms, and a communal kitchen. It's known for its welcoming atmosphere and the opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals.

Food in Zurich

Traditional food in Zurich includes dishes such as Zürcher Geschnetzeltes, which is a creamy veal dish served with rösti (a potato dish), and Zürcher Eintopf, a hearty meat and vegetable stew. Cheese fondue is also a popular dish in Switzerland, and Zurich is no exception. As for drinks, you can try Rivella, a carbonated drink made from milk serum, or enjoy a glass of Oechsner wine. For sweets, try Luxemburgerli, which are small macaron-like cookies made with a buttercream filling, or Tirggel, a hard, sweet biscuit made with honey and spices.



Zürcher Geschnetzeltes

They Make & Eat a Lot of Chocolate

Approximately 180,000 [tons of chocolate is made](#), and about 11 kilos of [chocolate per person](#) are eaten per year. there is even have a [chocolate train!](#)

[Top Food Recommendations in Zurich](#)

Once you've moved here, do yourself a favor and try these foods:

- Laugen Gipfeli - aka pretzel croissants. This is a must-try! Luckily, they can be found at most bakeries in the city.
- Reindeer - If you're visiting in the autumn, grab a dish with deer. It's widely available and more delicious than you might expect!
- Traditional meals - These are typically a version of meat and potatoes.
- Brotli - This is a local bread roll. It's really crispy on the outside and soft on the inside.

[Street food in Zurich](#)

In recent years, street food picked up great popularity amongst people living in Switzerland. In the summer, street food festivals are held nationwide one after the other. These festivals vary in dimension. One of the best is the [Street Food Festival Zurich](#). There, you will find street food from different countries and continents. Similar to this festival, [Food Zurich](#) also organises a wide range of events, courses and tasting sessions in the city. Another similar large-scale street food festival was held at the Zurich Main Station. Although street food festivals are often held in the summer, you can find similar events in the winter, especially before the Christmas period as well. For example, at the Zurich Christmas Market in the city centre, you will find many food stands selling all kinds of food, including traditional Swiss dishes in small portions.

Nice restaurants in Zurich

[Zurich Restaurant Guide](#)

Zurich is the food mecca of Switzerland. Are you ready to eat to your heart's content?

Sweet, Savory, Vegan, Fusion, or Molecular?

Zurich's cuisine knows no limits when it comes to food. Besides regional specialties such as "Zürcher Geschnätzlet" and "Rösti", food lovers can find international trends, new interpretations, and culinary rarities. The widely-traveled Zurich chefs love to combine their inspirations from far-off lands with local produce. This is reflected in the outstanding quality and readiness to experiment in the food mecca, Zurich.

Typical Zurich

You simply have to taste local specialties when traveling to different places. Among Zurich's culinary classics are "Luxemburgerli", "Birchermüesli", and "Züri Gschnätzlets". The most iconic restaurants – including some with a tradition stretching back 100 years and more – are a must on the Zurich program of every foodie.

[Where the Locals Eat in Zurich](#)

Neumarkt

Neumarkt 5, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland

The Niederdorf may be overrun with tourists, but it's mostly locals who make their way down a quiet side street to this restaurant, which boasts excellent local wines, dishes driven by seasonal ingredients, and what might be the city's loveliest garden, shaded by huge trees and strung with lanterns.

Restaurant Burgli

15 Kilchbergstrasse

Locals come to this white heritage-protected 1800s house perched on a hill in the leafy green Wollishofen neighborhood to splurge on the city's best entrecôte Café de [Paris](#), served in its pan over a warming candle, along with heavenly fries (waiters come around offering more if they see you're running low). Come summer, the kitchen moves outdoors and the garden terrace, dotted with white umbrellas and shaded by a huge Linden tree, is as lovely a place as any to enjoy the lake view.

Fischer's Fritz

Seestrasse 559, 8038 Zürich, Switzerland

Located on the shores of Lake Zurich, Fischer's Fritz restaurant is located on Zurich's only campground—a favorite camping destination for the well-heeled city dwellers on holiday. The catch comes straight from Lake Zurich; the restaurant employs a fisherman to cast his net daily. Expect whitefish, trout, perch, pike, wels catfish, burbot and jellyfish to dot the menu. Try the fischknusperli (Swiss fish & chips) or Lake Zurich freshwater sushi prepared by a Japan-trained chef.

Dini Mueter

10 Langstrasse

“Dini Mueter” translates to “your mother,” so it's no surprise this is the most inviting restaurant on bustling, seedy Langstrasse, with a chalkboard wall, and the kitchen windows that overlook the long wooden communal table and the green-and-white gingham curtains. There are two daily changing specials—often incorporating seasonal, organic ingredients—plus a terrific brunch menu with eggs Benedict and fluffy pancakes topped with vanilla yogurt.

Sprüngli

Bahnhofstrasse 21, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland

There are 14 outposts of the famed chocolate shop in and around town, but the one to go to is its flagship, which occupies a prime corner perch on Paradeplatz. There are gorgeous displays of Sprüngli's signature sweet, the Luxemburgerli, Lilliputian takes on the macaron; its exquisite line of truffles; and its dense, rich, uniquely shaped Truffe cake—quite possibly the best chocolate cake ever. Don't miss its gorgeous second-floor café.

Best Coffee shops in Zurich

[The Best Coffee in Zurich](#)

Coffee culture is taken extremely seriously in Zurich, and the city's best coffee shops reflect this. Long summer afternoons are well spent sat out on the cobblestone Niederdorf sampling Café Henrici's Brazilian coffee beans, or overlooking the Limmat River with an exquisite espresso from Grande. When the winter chill hits Zurich, snuggle with a loved one in the red velvet booths of Teecafé Schwarzenbach, or defrost your fingertips at the stand-up espresso counter.

Café Noir

33 Neugasse

Strictly locals convene at this shoebox-sized café with herringbone floors, a vintage sofa, and seven tiny tables steps from Josefstrasse's funky boutiques. Coffee geeks will feel right at home—beans are roasted just two doors down, there's a Dalla Corte espresso machine in the corner, and all sorts of intriguing paraphernalia are for sale (think Japanese siphons and mills). Still, the quirky non-caffeinated beverage selection shouldn't be missed; there are Traktor smoothies, Thomas Henry sodas and mini bottles of Prosecco.

Milchbar am Bellevue

Kappelergasse 16, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland

Über restaurateur Michel Péclard made waves in Zurich when he took over the iconic Café Schober in the Niederdorf a few years ago. In 2012, Péclard set his eyes on another classic establishment, Milchbar, which had sat tucked away in a quiet square off of Paradeplatz for over three decades. Now in its new incarnation near the Zurich Opera House, the café is as alluring as ever with Edison bulbs hung from the ceiling, long wooden communal tables, single origin coffee and super smooth espresso made with an exclusive blend by Fresh Coffee in Rüslikon.

Sphères

Hardturmstrasse 66, 8005 Zürich, Switzerland

By day, this café and bookshop is a lovely place to enjoy an espresso prepared with beans purchased and roasted by H. Schwarzenbach, the Altstadt coffee institution.

Come evening, it transforms into a popular bar among the creative types in the neighborhood. The best place to enjoy a beer or two from the nearby TurbinenBräu brewery is under the glass-roofed annex—full of lush plants, tables and chairs in faded primary colors, and a view of the Limmat River.

[Guide to Best Cafés in Zurich](#)

Acid

Bang on Langstrasse Acid is still one of Zurich's newer coffee locations. Just like its big brother, the Sportsbar, Acid is a good choice for anyone looking for their next caffeine fix. Unlike the Sportsbar, Acid gets its beans from one of the newer local roasters from Zurich, Miro.

Auer & Co. @impact hub

Auer & Co., based next to the Photobastei, near the Limmatplatz, is without a doubt one of the go to places in Zurich when it comes to good coffee. Often with two or three beans to choose from, they differentiate themselves by often also having beans from foreign coffee roasters. Being part of the Impact Hub Auer & Co. attracts a fairly young & entrepreneurial crowd. This means seeing people in front of their laptops accompanied by the skilfully brewed coffee, prepared by different methods including aeropress, is certainly not uncommon. So that the young entrepreneurial crowd don't need to leave the building at lunch, soups, pannini, cake and other snacks are also on offer.

Babu's Bakery & Coffeehouse

Great selection of food as well as a nice location for an après-shopping coffee located close to Bahnhofstrasse in the quiet part of Löwenstrasse. Eclectic choice of seating and popular with mothers and young children in the afternoons. The coffee is good and the cakes can be dangerous!

Bank

The building once housed a Post Office, was most recently a branch of Credit Suisse and is now a café and restaurant. Bank at Helvetiaplatz is co-located alongside John Baker, so after you've had your coffee you can treat yourself to some wonderful organic bread. Lovely interior and great food too. If you go on Tuesday and Friday mornings you'll catch the Helvetiaplatz market too.

Nightlife

Zurich has a vibrant and diverse nightlife scene, offering something for everyone. The city comes alive after dark with a range of bars, clubs, and entertainment venues. Here's an overview of the nightlife in Zurich, along with some popular bars and clubs:

Zurich's nightlife is known for its sophistication, diverse music scene, and trendy venues. The city offers a mix of laid-back bars, trendy lounges, live music venues, and bustling clubs. Whether you're looking for a casual evening with friends, a night of dancing, or live music performances, Zurich has it all.

Best Bars in Zurich:

1. **Old Crow:** Located in the city center, Old Crow is a popular bar known for its extensive whiskey selection, craft cocktails, and vintage decor. It offers a cozy and relaxed atmosphere, making it a great spot to enjoy a drink and engage in conversation.
2. **Jules Verne Panoramabar:** Situated on the rooftop of Hotel St. Georges, Jules Verne Panoramabar offers breathtaking views of Zurich's skyline. It serves a variety of drinks, including creative cocktails, while providing a sophisticated and upscale ambiance.
3. **Frau Gerolds Garten:** This unique bar is an outdoor beer garden with a vibrant atmosphere. It features picnic tables, colorful decorations, and food trucks offering a variety of culinary delights. It's a great place to enjoy a drink, socialize, and soak up the lively atmosphere.

Best Clubs in Zurich:

1. **Hive:** Hive is a renowned club in Zurich, known for its diverse music genres and energetic atmosphere. It hosts both local and international DJs, offering a mix of electronic, house, techno, and alternative music. The club has multiple floors with different music styles to cater to different tastes.
2. **Kaufleuten:** Kaufleuten is a popular club and event venue that has been a staple of Zurich's nightlife since 1945. It hosts a variety of events, including club nights, concerts, and cultural performances. The club features different rooms with varying music styles, from electronic beats to live bands.

3. Mascotte: Located in the city center, Mascotte is a historic club known for its live music performances. It has hosted renowned international artists and bands, ranging from rock and pop to jazz and blues. The club provides a lively atmosphere for music lovers and enthusiasts.

It's important to note that Zurich's nightlife is diverse and ever-changing, with new bars and clubs constantly emerging. Additionally, there are numerous other establishments worth exploring based on personal preferences and interests. It's always a good idea to check for updated information, events, and recommendations from locals or online sources to ensure an enjoyable and memorable nightlife experience in Zurich.

Visa requirements

Switzerland is a popular European remote work and digital nomad destination. There is currently no dedicated "digital nomad" visa in Switzerland. Those looking to relocate to Zurich will find that applying for a residence permit or a visa with a limited stay is the most practical option.

Other European countries' primary requirements for obtaining a visa to work as a telecommuter can be summarized as follows:

The applicant must be employed by a company based outside of Switzerland. Given this, the applicant can also be self-employed or the owner of a business with activities outside of Switzerland; however, they must be able to complete this activity remotely and guarantee a minimum income for the duration of the stay in Switzerland.

As a result, if you meet the requirements mentioned earlier, you will be eligible for a digital nomad visa to enter Switzerland. The primary distinction between applying for a long-stay passport and a short-stay visa is the taxes you must pay. Furthermore, unlike other visas, the Swiss telecommuter visa does not entail any associated taxes.

The digital nomad visa

Switzerland does not have a digital nomad visa. Non-EU citizens are not allowed to live and work in Switzerland unless they have a work permit issued for finding a job for a Swiss employer.

EU or EEA citizens *can* work in Switzerland as digital nomads for three months without restriction due to the freedom of movement within the EU/EEA. However, to keep living in Switzerland longer than three months, EU/EEA citizens must register at a local registration hall/office.

Alternatives to the Swiss Digital Nomad Visa

Considering you cannot move to Switzerland as a digital nomad, these are your closest alternative options:

- Apply for another visa type, such as the entrepreneur visa.
- Apply for a digital nomad visa in another EU country.

Switzerland Entrepreneur Visa

If you are a citizen of a non-EU/EFTA who wants to become self-employed in Switzerland, you need to meet the requirements of the country. You must hold a valid C permit or be the spouse of a Swiss citizen, or spouse of a person who has one to be able to establish your own business in Switzerland.

You must have a valid residence and work permit in Switzerland. The companies you can establish with the entrepreneur visa are:

- **Sole proprietorship** – You will be the sole owner of the company.
- **General and limited proprietorship** – A small company with a few members that may include external investors who are not involved in the management of the company.
- **Limited liability company (GmbH)** – The manager or director who represents the company must be a resident of Switzerland.
- **Join-stock company (AG)** – The manager or director who represents the company must be a resident of Switzerland.

You must submit the following documents when applying for an entrepreneur visa:

- Proof of Switzerland business formation.
- Proof of office premises.
- Proof of accident insurance.
- Personal bank and corporate bank balance.
- Business plan.

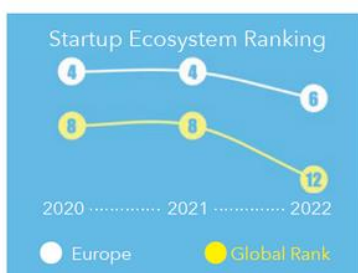
The startup ecosystem

Zurich boasts a thriving and dynamic startup ecosystem that has positioned the city as one of Europe's leading innovation hubs. With its strong economy, access to capital, top-notch research institutions, and a supportive business environment, Zurich has become an attractive destination for startups and entrepreneurs. Here's an introduction to the startup ecosystem in Zurich:

1. **Entrepreneurial Culture:** Zurich has a vibrant entrepreneurial culture that encourages innovation and risk-taking. The city fosters an environment where entrepreneurs can connect, collaborate, and share ideas. Networking events, startup meetups, and incubators/accelerators play a crucial role in bringing together like-minded individuals and providing valuable resources and mentorship.
2. **Access to Capital:** Zurich offers a favorable investment climate with a range of funding options available for startups. The city is home to venture capital firms, angel investors, and crowdfunding platforms that actively support early-stage ventures. Additionally, Swiss government initiatives and programs provide financial support and grants to innovative startups.
3. **World-Class Research Institutions:** Zurich hosts prestigious universities and research institutions renowned for their cutting-edge research and technology. Institutions such as ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) and University of Zurich collaborate closely with startups, offering access to talent, knowledge exchange, and research partnerships. The transfer of technology from academia to the startup ecosystem is well-established, fostering innovation and growth.
4. **Startup Hubs and Incubators:** Zurich has several dedicated startup hubs and incubators that provide a nurturing environment for early-stage companies. Organizations like Technopark Zurich, Impact Hub Zurich, and Swiss Startup Factory offer co-working spaces, mentorship programs, and access to a network of experienced entrepreneurs and investors. These hubs serve as a hub of entrepreneurial activity, fostering collaboration and fostering the growth of startups.

5. **Strong Industry Focus:** Zurich's startup ecosystem spans various industries, including finance, technology, life sciences, cleantech, and creative industries. The city's strengths in sectors such as fintech, medtech, artificial intelligence, and blockchain have attracted startups and investors from around the world. Zurich's well-established industries also offer opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with established companies.
6. **Supportive Government Policies:** Switzerland as a whole, including Zurich, offers a business-friendly environment with favorable tax rates, intellectual property protection, and ease of doing business. The government has implemented supportive policies and initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup growth. The Swiss Federal Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) provides funding and support for startups through various programs.
7. **International Connectivity:** Zurich's strategic location in the heart of Europe provides excellent connectivity and access to global markets. The city's well-connected transportation infrastructure, including the Zurich Airport, makes it convenient for startups to engage with international partners, investors, and customers.

Switzerland loses momentum for the first time in 4 years.



Switzerland, which ranked 8th globally for 4 years in a row, has now dropped entirely from the global top 10. The country's startup scene is now ranked 12th in the world. While its total score indicates that the Swiss loss in momentum is not significant, a highly competitive ranking environment allowed other countries to surpass Switzerland this year. In Europe, Switzerland is ranked 6th, boasting a considerably higher Quantity score than all its contenders, with the exception of the UK.

Switzerland's top 3 startup ecosystems have all decreased in ranking. Zurich lost 11 places, landing at 68th with its strongest industry now Energy & Environment where it ranks 42nd. With Basel and Lausanne decreasing by 14 spots and 13 spots respectively, Switzerland has lost 2 of its 3 entries in the global top 100 list. However, Basel (ranked 2nd nationally) is the only city in Switzerland to be ranked in the top 30 for industries. The Basel startup ecosystem excels in Healthtech, where it ranks 29th.

Source: Startup Blink

Startup Ecosystem Overview

Switzerland projects the image of a strong and well organized country. Its banking policies and financial stability make it a reliable place for investment. One of its key advantages is the relative openness of its regulators toward change and disruption. This was clearly evident when the nation became one of the world's strongest Blockchain ecosystems, and is especially evident in Zug, where Ethereum is headquartered. In addition to fintech, Switzerland enjoys a strong performance in the industry of life science, which is not surprising considering it is home to several global pharmaceutical companies, including Novartis. Zurich has also established itself as a hub for innovation, offering the perfect climate for startups to become unicorns.

The highly skilled labor force is a valuable asset for Switzerland, despite this also translating into a high employment cost for startups. Fortunately, the country makes it easy for regional citizens to enter and work in Switzerland due to the agreements it has established with the European Union. Switzerland also has a great track record in attracting foreign investment, and even offers a Golden Investor Visa. In 2021, the country saw a 44% increase in investment, with the ICT/ fintech and biotech sectors as top choices for funding. Switzerland's public sector is focused on promoting entrepreneurial awareness and positive attitudes towards startups. Additionally, the country has strong physical, commercial, and professional infrastructures for supporting entrepreneurship.

Notable Startups and Ecosystem Champions

➔ **Scandit** Unicorn 🐉

Zurich, Switzerland

Scandit is a technology platform that offers smart data capture and barcode scanning software solutions for its users.

Sum it up: pros and cons of living in Zurich

Pros of Living in Zurich as an Expat:

1. **High Quality of Life:** Zurich consistently ranks among the top cities in the world for its exceptional quality of life. The city offers a clean and safe environment, excellent healthcare, efficient public transportation, and a wide range of recreational and cultural activities.
2. **Strong Economy:** Zurich is a global financial center and home to many multinational companies. The city provides ample job opportunities, competitive salaries, and a stable economy, making it an attractive destination for career growth and professional development.
3. **Multicultural Environment:** Zurich is a melting pot of cultures, attracting expats from around the globe. The city embraces diversity, making it easy for expats to integrate and find a sense of belonging. English is widely spoken, and the multicultural atmosphere creates a rich and inclusive community.
4. **Excellent Education System:** Switzerland is renowned for its high-quality education system, and Zurich is no exception. The city offers a wide range of international schools, including those following various curricula. The education system focuses on academic excellence, fostering creativity, and providing a solid foundation for children's future.
5. **Natural Beauty and Outdoor Activities:** Zurich is surrounded by stunning natural landscapes, including Lake Zurich and the Swiss Alps. The city offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, biking, and water sports. The abundance of green spaces and well-maintained parks also provide a peaceful and relaxing environment.

Cons of Living in Zurich as an Expat:

1. **High Cost of Living:** Zurich is known for its high cost of living, which includes housing, transportation, and daily expenses. Accommodation prices can be particularly steep, and everyday necessities such as groceries and dining out

can be relatively expensive. However, the higher costs are often offset by higher salaries.

2. **Language Barrier:** While many people in Zurich speak English, the official language is Swiss German. Learning at least basic German can significantly enhance the expat experience and facilitate integration. Overcoming the language barrier may require effort and patience, especially in more local or administrative settings.
3. **Limited Nightlife:** Compared to some other major cities, Zurich's nightlife scene is relatively calm. The city has a range of bars, clubs, and entertainment venues, but the nightlife is generally more laid-back and focused on quality rather than quantity. Those seeking a vibrant and bustling nightlife may find Zurich's options comparatively limited.
4. **Reserved Social Culture:** Swiss people, including those in Zurich, are often perceived as reserved and private. Making friends and building social connections with locals might take more time and effort compared to more extroverted cultures. However, once friendships are established, Swiss people are known for their loyalty and reliability.
5. **Strict Rules and Regulations:** Switzerland has a reputation for strict rules and regulations, including punctuality, cleanliness, and adherence to laws. Expats might need time to adapt to the Swiss way of life and follow the cultural norms and regulations, which can be different from their home countries.