**practical information**

**How to get there.**
Vevey and Montreux both have a main train station: from/to Lausanne (13 min), from/to Geneva (1 h), from/to Interlaken (change in Zweisimmen) with the famous mountain train “MOB Golden Puss” – free for Eurail/Interrail-holders: a great journey which will take you across a beautiful landscape!
You can easily move between Vevey and Montreux either by bus (15 min) or by train (5 min). Both train stations have lockers, rest rooms, bike rentals, a bank and small shops. The post offices are both near the train stations. The **tourist information offices** have all the major information you’ll need: in Vevey, Grand-Place 29 (084 86 84 84), and in Montreux, Place de l’Eurovision (084 86 84 84). @ Internet café in Montreux Digital Planet at Avenue du Casino 49; in Vevey Internet station open to everybody at Riviera Lodge, Place du marché 5.

**save money**

If you stay at least one night in a hotel/hostel in Vevey/Montreux you’ll get the “Riviera Card”, which entitles you to travel free of charge on the Vevey/Montreux bus network plus a 50% reduction on the castle of Chillon, the local mountains trains and funiculars, and museums. A great offer!

www.montreux-vevey.com
www.lake-geneva-region.ch
www.backpacker.ch

**budget accommodation**

**Vevey:** Riviera Lodge, Place du Marché 5, (021 923 80 40) (300 m from the train station on the lake side in a charming renovated 19th century town house) => www.rivieralodge.ch

**Montreux:** For accommodation in Montreux ask at the tourist office.

**TIP!**

Taste a unique chocolate fondue at the Riviera Lodge, Vevey. An original recipe with melted chocolate and fresh fruit to dip in (fondue with fresh fruits CHF 13.– per person, minimum 2 people). “I can resist everything except temptation”, Oscar Wilde said once…

**Vevey and Montreux** are the main resorts of the so-called Swiss Riviera. The name describes the stretch of Lake Geneva roughly between Lausanne and Villeneuve and is one of the sunniest places in the country! Many writers, musicians and artists such as Charles Chaplin, Freddy Mercury (their statues are located on the lake shore), Igor Stravinsky, Ernest Hemingway, Lord Byron and many others chose this place for the beauty of the landscape. The two charming resorts of Vevey and Montreux work closely together. Vevey has a cozy historical downtown, esplanades, a shopping mall and many nice cafés, which offer the traveller a warm feeling. Montreux, 5 km from Vevey, is more touristically oriented, but the promenade on the lakeside, with the nearby Castle of Chillon, is a must!

**Vevey**

The old streets east of Grand Place and the lakeside promenade are worth exploring. Vevey also has a **15th century church** (St. Martin’s, up the hill behind the station) and several museums:

- **Swiss Camera Museum**, Rue du Château 11, La Tour­de­Peilz. The colourful port village of La Tour­de­Peilz is situated between the lake

and the old town, just about 1 km east of Vevey and dominated by its white château. In this romantic setting, the Swiss Museum of Games invites you to actively discover games from around the world and throughout the ages. Have fun! Open daily except Monday, from 11 am – 5.30 pm. Admission CHF 9.–, students CHF 6.–.

**Vevey Historical Museum**, Rue du Château 2. This museum (founded in 1897) is housed in a beautiful 16th century building dating from the Bernese occupation. Its collections of objects, paintings and documents bring the region’s past back to life. Open Tue – Sat 11 am – 5 pm. Admission is free of charge.

**Sir Charles Chaplin,** the immortal screen comedian, spent the last 25 years of his life at the Manoir de Ban above Vevey. Chaplin, his wife and children, moved to Vevey in 1953. The whole family quickly settled in to their adopted town and became part of the local life. Sir Charles and his wife Lady Oona are buried in the Corsier s/Vevey cemetery. His memorial statue can be seen on the Vevey lakeshore.

Montreux-Vevey has always been a favorite place for artists – not only Charlie Chaplin, but also Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, Le Corbusier, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Henri Nestlé, Barbara Hendricks, Victor Hugo, Dostoevski etc… Follow their trail through the vineyards or along the lakeside and discover a part of their lives (at Riviera Lodge you get free flyers with maps and stories about these artists!).

**Montreux**

**Chillon Castle**
LAKE GENEVA REGION – VEVEY & MONTREUX

entertainment, fun & parties

Vevey
- Rocking Chair (Av. de gilamont 60) has concerts and a dance floor.
- For a Latino & salsa night, go to the cocktail bar called Indigo (rue de la Madeleine 29).
- Le Bout du Monde (Rue D’Italie 24) is where the locals meet. Good choice of beer, live music.
- Le Cep d’Or (Place du Marché) has a terrace for people-watching…

Montreux
- Paradise Pub (Grand Rue 58) has billiards, games and more.
- Live music and DJs at NED (rue du Marché 19).
- Mayfair Café is a music and lounge bar (Grand Rue 52).
- White Horse is a nice pub (Grand Rue 28).
- Opus café (rue du Marché 23), a café and restaurant.
- Le Casino Barrière of Montreux (rue du Théâtre 9) rolls out the red carpet to welcome you (free introduction to games, live music every Fri & Sat).

Montreux

Chillon Castle at Montreux – one of Switzerland’s most beautiful sites! This extraordinary fortress was built on a rock set in a lovely scenic location on the shore of the lake. Chillon is an exceptional combination of castle and fortress. The towers and ramparts offer a wonderful view of the lake and mountains. Cruise on Lake Geneva on a steamboat and discover the Chillon Castle you’ve perhaps seen on pictures many times but never in reality. The castle, called “Château de Chillon”, was made legendary by the poem “The Prisoner of Chillon”, written by Lord Byron in 1816. Open daily Nov – Feb 10 am – 4 pm, in March – Oct 9.30 am – 5 pm. Admission CHF 12.–, students CHF 10.–; (50% discount with the “Riviera Card”, see practical information above). »www.chillon.ch

Freddie Mercury and the group Queen loved their frequent stays in the peace and scenic splendour of the Vaud Riviera, where they composed and recorded some of the biggest hits in their repertoire. A stroll along the shores of Lake Geneva will bring you to Freddie Mercury’s statue.

Go for a walk from the centre of Montreux as far as the Chillon Castle along shores (approx. 45 minutes), an easy standard, completely flat, enabling you to fully savour the spectacular view that opens up before you. Behind the Chillon Castle you can see the famous massif of the Dents du Midi. Take bus no 1 to come back.

feedback

HELP US UPDATE! Things change – schedules change, good places go bad, and nice places get “discovered”. If you feel we have got it wrong or left something out, please let us know!

YOUR OPINION?… Did you discover something special in Switzerland? Did you have any interesting experiences? What do you like about Switzerland? What do you like about the Swiss Backpacker News? Write to us! We genuinely value your feedback!

Write an email to info@backpacker.ch or write to: Swiss Backpacker News, Am Bach 7, 5502 Hunzenschwil / Switzerland

activities

Vevey and Montreux are the capitals of the Lavaux vine-growing region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lavaux vineyard terraces stretch for about 30 km along the south-facing northern shores of Lake Geneva from the Chillon castle to the eastern outskirts of Lausanne. The steep, narrow stone-walled terraces cover the lower slopes of the mountain-side between the villages and the lake’s edge; above are forests and pasture and across the lake, the high peaks of the Alps. Easy to reach with the wine train or funicular. Wine tasting in the “caveau” (wine cellar) of Riviera Lodge has begun to spread its reputation. Or visit one of the many wine cellars and taste one or two of their specialties.

A very good reason for coming to Vevey or Montreux is to explore the beautiful Lake Geneva by boat – also in winter! You can board a ship to visit the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, or the exceptional Chillon Castle, or go shopping in Evian (France); bear in mind that Evian is across the French border, so if you need a visa (either to get into France or to get back to Switzerland), you should give it a miss!

In the Vevey / Montreux region you can make the most of winter by going on snow-shoe hikes, downhill skiing, snowboarding or cross-country skiing. And why not by rushing down a sledge-run?

You can book various ski packages and other winter specials. Just ask at the local tourist office and at Riviera Lodge or check out their website »www.rivieralodge.ch, they offer great winter specials at reasonable prices!
LAKE GENEVA REGION – VEVEY & MONTREUX

From Montreux the famous mountain train “MOB Golden Pass” (free of charge for Eurail, InterRail, or Swiss-Pass holders!), one of the showcase journeys of Swiss railways, climbs northwest through the hills into Canton Bern. On this spectacular route between Montreux and Zweisimmen (in the Bernese Oberland) you can stop, for example, in Château-d’Oex and Saanen-Gstaad.

Château-d’Oex is an attractive winter resort with a nice selection of ski runs. The La Braye ski region of Château d’Oex has seven ski lifts and 40 km of pistes. And for the speedier thrills, there’s also a direct connection (by cableway) to the ski area of Gstaad-Saanenland. But the place is best known for all its hot air. When the Swiss Bertrand Piccard and the Briton Brian Jones made their record-breaking 45,000 km round-the-world balloon flight in 1999, the takeoff point and centre of the whole operation was Château-d’Oex. Every January (in 2011 from Jan 22nd – 30th), the town hosts this arguably most-beautiful sports event in the Swiss calendar, the annual Hot-Air Ballooning Week, when nearly 100 colourful giants catch the thermals to float peacefully over the hills and valleys round about.

Château-d’Oex Youth Hostel offers:
6 overnight accommodation (dorm) incl. breakfast, dinner and 5-day ski pass “Topcard” for 250 km of ski pistes. Adults CHF 569.–; youth (under 19) 476.–; youth (under 16) 421.–; children 144.–. This offer is valid from Dec 17th 2009 – Mar 28th 2011.

Notice: Prices above are incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There’s a surcharge of CHF 6.– per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.–/night).

Bookings at Château-d’Oex Youth Hostel (026 924 64 04), chateau.d.oex@youthhostel.ch

Budget accommodation: Château-d’Oex Youth Hostel, Route des Monnaires 67, (026 924 64 04, closed Oct 18th – Dec 17th) »www.youthhostel.ch/chateau.d.oex


The Gstaad-Saanenland holiday region in the Bernese Oberland is popular with a charming mix of visitors. While the car-free chalet village of Gstaad attracts countless stars and starlets, the smaller neighbouring villages (i.e. Saanen) offer attractive options a little further away from the hustle, but still close to the action. In winter, over 250 km of pistes at altitudes of up to 3,000 metres above sea level await skiers and snowboard riders. Several snow-parks and numerous toboggan runs as well as 80 km of trails for cross-country skiing are at your disposal. And for walkers there are about 120 km of winter walking trails. Among the rather more unusual activities on offer, there is Bavarian curling in the centre of Gstaad and glacier- and heli-skiing.

How to get to Saanen: Hourly trains from Montreux (takes 1 hour), trains between Château-d’Oex and Saanen take only 16 minutes.

Tourist offices: Promenade 41 in Gstaad (033 748 81 81).

Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel offers:
5 overnight accommodations (dorm) incl. breakfast, dinner and 4-day ski pass. Adults from CHF 464.–; youth (16 – 19) 394.–; youth (10 – 15) CHF 355.50; special rate for children on request. This offer is valid from Nov 1st – Dec 17th 2010 and Mar 6th – Apr 30th 2011.

Notice: Prices above incl. visitors tax and are for HI-members only. There’s a surcharge of CHF 6.– per night for non HI-members (families CHF 12.–/night).

Bookings at Saanen-Gstaad Youth Hostel (033 744 13 43), saanen@youthhostel.ch