

12 CENTRAL SWITZERLAND – LUCERNE

practical information



How to get there:


Lucerne is situated on the most important route running from north to south. Direct fast trains also link Lucerne to the international airports in Zurich (1 h 10 min.), Basel (1 h 40 min.) and Geneva (3 h). The **tourist office** (041 227 17 17) is at Zentralstr. 5 next to the **railway station** **1** where you also find shopping, fast food, restaurants, hotel booking, lockers, bicycle rental, rest rooms, bookstores, foreign currency exchange, and the medical station “Permanence” (open 24 hrs). **2** Post office and Swisscom center next to the railway station; launderette, Jet Wasch, at Bruchstrasse 28 and “Altstadt-Express-Wäscherei” at Löwengraben 14; @ Internet station at Café Parterre, Mythenstr. 7; in downtown Lucerne everyone can access Wireless LAN, just connect with **Luzern.WLAN** and surf!

www.luzern.org
www.centralswitzerland.ch
www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

- 3** Backpackers Lucerne, Alpenquai 42, (041 360 04 20) »www.backpackersluzerne.ch;
- 4** Lion Lodge Luzern, Zürichstrasse 57 (041 410 01 44) »www.lionlodge.ch; Lucerne Youth Hostel, Sedelstr. 12 (041 420 88 00) (take bus no 18 from the train station and get off at the stop “Jugendherberge”, takes 18 minutes) »www.youthhostel.ch/luzern;
- 5** Hotel Alpha, Pilatusstrasse 66 (041 240 42 80) »www.hotelalpha.ch; Etap Hotel Luzern, Kellerstrasse 4-8 (041 367 80 00) »www.etaphotel.com

TIP!

 Visit Switzerland's first and only **glass labyrinth** at the Glasi Hergiswil. A walk through this world of glass created by light, sound and the play of illusion is an impressive experience. The entrance fee is CHF 5.-; slippers and gloves for the walk are available at the cash register.

How to get there: Hergiswil is only 10 minutes by train from Lucerne. At the Glasi Hergiswil you can also visit a great exhibition on art glass production, with museum, shop and show, free of charge (see page 50). Open Mon – Fri 9 am – 6 pm, Sat 9 am – 4 pm.



Stairs along the Reuss river

Lucerne is unique, you'll love it! Centrally located, just an hour south of Zurich and Basel, it offers an incredible panorama. Lucerne lies at the western end of Lake Lucerne (Vierwaldstättersee) which is the geographical and spiritual heart of Switzerland. The city, as well, features the world-famous medieval Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke), connecting the old part of town to the new. The over 660-year-old wooden-covered bridge partially burnt down in 1993 but has been restored to its original condition. You'll be charmed by Lucerne's misty lake, by the snow-capped mountains rising above, and the many possibilities for excursions you have from here.

highlights

- 6** **Chapel Bridge.** The world-famous 660-year-old bridge, which burnt down in August 1993 and was reconstructed six months later, true to the original. See the paintings of the Swiss and local city history inside the covered bridge.
- 7** **Lion of Lucerne** (Löwendenkmal). “The Dying Lion of Lucerne” figures among those monuments known all around the world. Globetrotter Mark Twain described the Lion of Lucerne as “the saddest and most moving piece of rock in the world”. Denkmalstrasse (Bus no. 1 to Maihof, get off at Löwenplatz).
- 8** **Glacier Gardens** (Gletschergarten). The real history of the Swiss glaciers; a place not to be missed. Next to the Lion of Lucerne. Daily 9 am – 6 pm, admission CHF 12.-, students CHF 9.50, with guest card CHF 10.-.
- 9** **The Bourbaki Panorama**, an 1100-sq metre circular painting, is one of the world's few panorama paintings still in existence. The scene is brought to life with recorded commentary (in English). At Löwenplatz 11. Open Mon 1 – 6 pm, Tue – Sun 9 am – 6 pm, admission CHF 8.- / students CHF 7.-.
- 10** **Museum Donation Rosengart.** The most recent museum in Lucerne. It owes its importance to two unique groups of works by **Pablo Picasso** and **Paul Klee**. At Pilatusstrasse 10; open daily 10 am – 6 pm, admission CHF 18.-, students CHF 16.-.
- 11** **Museum of Nature** (Natur-Museum) A permanent biological exhibition shows flora and fauna from Central Switzerland,

with a variety of live animals in aquariums and terrariums. Kasernenplatz 6 (next to Spreuerbrücke), open Tue – Sun 10 am – 5 pm, closed on Mondays, admission CHF 6.- / students CHF 5.-.

12 **The Swiss Transport Museum** (Verkehrshaus) is the biggest museum in Lucerne! And Europe's largest and most diversified transport museum also includes a **giant-screen IMAX cinema**. Lidostrasse 5 is 2 km east of the center. You can take a boat or bus no 6, 8 or 24 from Lucerne station to the “Verkehrshaus-Lido” stop, or else it's a pleasant twenty-minute lakeside stroll. Open daily 10 am – 6 pm, admission CHF 28.- (museum only); CHF 19.- (IMAX only); or buy a combi-ticket (museum and IMAX) for CHF 38.-.

13 **Musegg Wall.** A part of the rampart built in 1386; almost entirely intact. Three towers are open to the public: Schirmer, Zyt and Männli. The oldest city clock, built in 1535, is on the Zyt tower. This clock is privileged to chime every hour one minute before all the other city clocks.

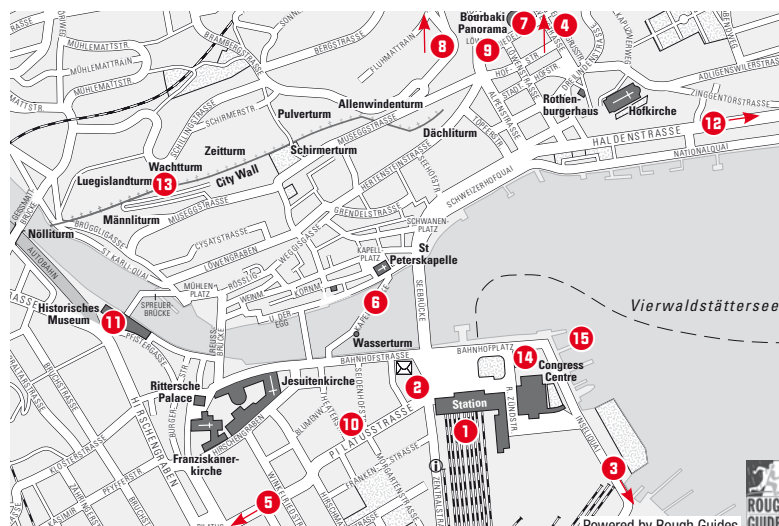
14 **KKL** (Culture and Convention Center Lucerne). The KKL (at Europaplatz, next to the station) is the work of the Parisian architect Jean Nouvel. It houses one of the finest concert halls in the world and the Museum of Art – the fourth largest in Switzerland.

15 A very good reason for coming to Lucerne at all is to explore the beautiful **Lake Lucerne**. All boats depart from the quay directly outside the station. **Free** with Eurail- and Swiss Pass, 50% off with Interrail.

TIP!



Mount Pilatus. An excursion to mount Pilatus (2,132 m / 7,000 ft) is an absolute must if you stay in Lucerne! For details and more about Central Switzerland see **page 14**.



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events

April 9th – 17th	Fumetto, international comic festival
April 29th – May 8th	LUGA agriculture and handicraft exhibition with lots of events (at Allmend)
May 7th	Lucerne City Run
June 19th	Swimming in the Reuss (for everybody), from Lucerne to Sins
June 25th	Lucerne Old Town Festival
July 8th – 10th	Rowing World Lucerne (on the Rotsee). World Cup final
July 13th – Aug 21st	Open-air cinema (at Alpenquai)
July 21st – Aug 7th	Circus Knie at Allmend
July 22nd – 30th	Blue Balls Festival, blues session »www.blueballs.ch
Aug 1st	Swiss National Day, with parties everywhere
Sep 11th	Lucerne Museum Night. All the museums are open until 1 am. For CHF 20.– you get free entrance (from 6 pm) to all museums and free bus travel
Sep 17th	Cheese-Festival. Huge cheese market in the old town
Oct 1st – 16th	Lucerne autumn fair at Inseli Busparkplatz (right behind the train station)
Oct 30th	Lucerne Marathon

Markets

Tue, Fri & Sat	Fish market in the old town (Unter der Egg)
Tue & Sat	Fruit, vegetable and flower market along Rathausquai, Unter der Egg, and Bahnhofstrasse
Sat	Flea market along Untere Burgerstrasse / Reussteg (May – Oct)
First Wed monthly	Handicraft market at Bahnhofstrasse / Jesuitenplatz

entertainment, fun & parties

- **Bar 59** (Industriestrasse 5), a place to “hang around underground” while drinking and partying.
- **Concert house “Schüür”** (Tribtschenstrasse 1) is a concert house but also has a bar and a nice garden. Call 041 368 10 30 for today’s program. »www.schuur.ch
- **Mr. Pickwick** (Rathausquai 6) is a good place for beer, on the riverside next to the famous Chapel Bridge.
- **Parterre**, at Mythenstrasse 7, is an Internet-café, bar and restaurant. They have the longest table in town!
- **Jazzkantine zum Graben** (Grabenstrasse 8) is a place where you can listen to live jazz and have a drink.
- Are you looking for a disco? Try **The Loft** (Haldenstrasse 21).
- **“Salü Café Bar”** (Waldstätterstrasse 5). With French ambience, is a good place to stay at.
- **Jet Club** (Pilatusstr. 29) at Hotel Astoria; dance club open every night! Hotel Astoria has a bar too, the **“Penthouse”**, not cheap but with a beautiful view of Lucerne’s mountains.



save money

The **LucerneCard** gives you unlimited travel on public transportation in the city, a 50% discount on admission to most of Lucerne’s museums and more. Costs CHF 19.– (24 hours), CHF 27.– (48 hours), CHF 33.– (72 hours). The LucerneCard is available at the tourist office and at the railway station.



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www.lakelucerne.ch | www.tavolago.ch

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* Price per night/room excl. city tax