

practical information



How to get there:

½-hourly trains to Schwyz from Zurich, Lucerne, Lugano and Basel; Regular bus connection between Brunnen, Morschach, Seewen, and Schwyz. ① **Tourist office** in Schwyz at Bahnhofstrasse 4 (041 810 19 91); in Brunnen at Bahnhofstrasse 15 (041 825 00 40). @ Internet station in Schwyz at Hirschen Pub (Hinterdorfstr. 14, 041 811 12 76) and at Millennium (Bistro and Bar at Herrengasse 15, 041 810 40 00). In Brunnen you'll find Internet access at the tourist office.

www.swissknifevalley.ch
 www.centralswitzerland.ch
 www.brunnentourismus.ch
 www.backpacker.ch

budget accommodation

Hirschen Backpackers Hotel Pub Schwyz, same place as Hirschen Pub, Hinterdorfstr. 14, (041 811 12 76). Hop aboard any bus (direction Schwyz Post), get off at station "Schwyz Post" – just follow the sign for Hirschen. »www.hirschen-schwyz.ch; for accommodation in Brunnen ask at the tourist office (there are budget priced rooms in some hotels as well as some B&Bs).

entertainment, fun & parties

Schwyz

- **Hirschen Pub** (same place as Hirschen Backpacker, Hinterdorfstr. 14), nice pub where tourists get in touch with locals. Here you'll find lots of games, Internet-access and an idyllic garden.
- **Tübli** (Schützenstr. 15) is a cosy little bar, with over 100 foreign beers! Meet locals!
- **Mystery-Bar** (Reichsstr. 8) is a sports-bar and lounge.
- **Gleis 2** (Bahnhofstrasse 131, Seewen) is a stylish music-bar with DJ-corner.
- **Nelson Pub** (Bahnhofstrasse 127, Seewen) is a good place for playing table soccer and darts.

Brunnen

- **Mezcalito** (Axenstrasse 9, next to the lake) is a nice bar; they serve wonderful mexican food.
- **Schilf Restaurant and Bar** (Gersauerstrasse 85) offers beautiful views of the lake.
- **Badhüsli** (Axenstrasse, next to the lake) is a nice wine pub.
- **Quai 2** (Waldstätterquai 2) next to the lake, with a beautiful view.
- **Brunner Hof-Bar** (Gersauerstrasse 3) is a place in typical Swiss decoration where you can meet the locals.



Hikers on the "Swiss Path" high above the shores of lake Uri

Swiss Knife Valley, the Schwyzerland region, is located on the border of Lake Lucerne next to the Swiss Alps. Here, Switzerland was actually founded on the 1st of August, 1291, through the so-called "Rütli"-meadow. And here, the **original Swiss Army Knife** comes from, hence the title "Swiss Knife Valley". The area comprising Schwyz, Brunnen, Seewen, Morschach, and much more offers you many highlights. And there are beautiful mountains and lakes in the area ready to be explored. Schwyz is the capital of the canton and has backpacker accommodation!

highlights

Schwyz is a small but characterful town with plenty of history, and it's the capital of its canton. And Schwyz is only 50 train-minutes from Zurich and 40 minutes from Lucerne! The town is best known for being the repository of the ancient documents (dating from 1291) embodying the history of the Confederation, on display in the **Bundesbriefarchiv** at Bahnhofstrasse 20 (closed on Monday). On a terrace above the central Hauptplatz square there is the large parish **church of St. Martin** (with an ornate interior). The **Rathaus**, sitting on the square itself, has a façade decorated with frescoes painted in 1891. A little northwest lies the **Ital-Reding Haus**, an early seventeenth-century manor house set in its own garden and with a magnificent interior (closed on Monday). Across the garden – and in the same complex – is the ancient **Haus Bethlehem**, one of the oldest wooden houses in the country (dating back to 1287)!

At the "Schaukäserei Schwyzerland" (at Milchstrasse 5, just a 2-minute walk from Schwyz train station) you can **produce your own Swiss cheese** or just **watch the cheese production!** (for details see **page 50**).



Opposite the Mythencenter shopping complex at Schmiedgasse 57 is Victorinox, the manufacturer of the **original Swiss Army Knife**. You can not visit the factory here, but in its on-site shop they sell the complete range of pocket multitools at **discount prices** (open Mon – Fri 7.30 am – noon & 1.15 – 6 pm, Sat 8 am – 3 pm).

Brunnen village is dramatically located. Vistas from its jetty are stupendous – directly across the cliffs of Seelisberg, with the Uri-Rotstock and Titlis behind, the length of the Urnersee in the south, and the length of Lake Lucerne in the east. Brunnen basks at the head of a wind tunnel which draws the warm "Föhn" wind north from the Mediterranean, frequently turning the Urnersee choppy and stormy. The easiest excursion from Brunnen is to the **Urniberg** peak nearby, with stunning views both on the way up in the tiny cable-car and from the summit itself (with a restaurant). By cable car or funicular you can travel up to the **car-free village of Stoos** and even higher up to the summit of the **Fronalpstock** (view of 5 lakes!). »www.brunnentourismus.ch

A good reason for coming to this particular part of Central Switzerland is to explore the beautiful **Lake Lucerne** and its fjord-like finger, the **Lake Uri**. A cruise in an over 100-year-old and beautifully restored steamboat is a must! In Brunnen there are also plenty of **water sports** on the lakes, including swimming, waterskiing, sailing, windsurfing and diving.

Brunnen is also where Switzerland's most famous hiking path the "**Swiss Path**" ends (read more about it on page 14).

Around Schwyz and Brunnen you'll find dozens of amazing **hiking** opportunities. Or you can discover the region on wheels. Whether you choose a demanding route with a racing bike, a challenging trail for a work-out with a **mountain bike** or a comfortable **bike tour**, the region has a route for every type of biker (rent your bike at the railway station). At the tourist office you'll get good biking- or hiking-maps.

Central Switzerland is a highlight for **paragliders**, you may depart from almost all the famous peaks around the Lake of Lucerne. And you also have the opportunity to take off on a tandem paragliding flight, courtesy of the local adventure operator "touch and go". They arrange **tandem paragliding flights** (no flying experience is necessary) 041 820 54 31, »www.paragliding.ch Or how about caving, bungee jumping, kayaking, rafting, wreck diving or a guided mountain stream tour? All this and a lot more is on offer as well in the region. Book at your hostel or visit the local tourist office.





VICTORINOX

Victorinox is the world leader of pocket multitools and the largest employer in the Swiss Knife Valley. Who does not know these great pocket knives and multitools, this symbol for quality and multi-functionality? They are give aways of US presidents in the white house and successfully probed with expeditions from the north pole to Mount Everest. Victorinox accompanies people through life. And has for 125 years. Some say: "It's a friend not just a knife"!

Win a Victorinox multitool!
(See competition on page 34)

Victorinox "Voyager Lite"

The compact and elegant «Voyager Lite» with 23 functional and useful tools weights only 112 grams.



Victorinox "Flash"

The fast memory stick "Flash" is not just storage but also a useful tool; robust and light. (USB Memory 2GB – 64GB)



Victorinox pocket knives and multitools are available in hardware stores, specialist shops, sport and outdoor-shops, department stores, souvenir shops, at hostels etc.

