

**Switzerland.**  
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# Switzerland Map & Travel Tips.

[MySwitzerland.com](http://MySwitzerland.com)





### Passport and visa regulations.

Holders of a valid British passport and any other EU nationals do not require a visa. Travellers of other nationalities should enquire at the Embassy of Switzerland.

#### Contact information

Embassy of Switzerland  
16-18 Montagu Place  
London  
W1H 2BQ  
Tel. 020 7616 6000  
Fax 020 7724 7001  
[swissembassy@lon.rep.admin.ch](mailto:swissembassy@lon.rep.admin.ch)  
[www.swissembassy.org.uk](http://www.swissembassy.org.uk)

Embassy of Switzerland  
6 Ailsbury Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4  
Republic of Ireland  
Tel. 01 218 6382  
Fax 01 283 0344  
[dub.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:dub.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.eda.admin.ch/dublin](http://www.eda.admin.ch/dublin)

### Tourist information and travel bookings.

For tourist information, flight & rail ticket sales, hotel bookings, package holidays and to buy a vignette allowing you to drive on Swiss motorways, contact:

Switzerland Travel Centre  
1st Floor, 30 Bedford Street  
London  
WC2E 9ED  
Freephone 00800 100 200 30  
(or 020 7420 4900)  
Freefax 00800 100 200 31 (or 020 7420 4922)  
Opening hours public counter:  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
Opening hours call centre:  
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm  
[sales@stc.co.uk](mailto:sales@stc.co.uk)  
[www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)

All prices quoted are correct at time of publication (June 2008). More detailed information on all subjects can be found at [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com) or by contacting Switzerland Travel Centre.



## Travel to Switzerland.

Scheduled flights operate from many UK and Irish airports direct to Switzerland.

### **Swiss International Air Lines**

Tel. 0845 601 0956  
[www.swiss.com/uk](http://www.swiss.com/uk)

### **British Airways**

Tel. 0844 493 0787  
[www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)

### **Aer Lingus**

Tel. 0870 876 5000  
[www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)

### **Air Berlin**

Tel. 0871 500 0737  
[www.airberlin.com](http://www.airberlin.com)

### **bmi**

Tel. 0870 607 0555  
[www.flybmi.com](http://www.flybmi.com)

### **Darwin Airline**

Freephone 00 800 1771 7777  
[www.darwinairline.com](http://www.darwinairline.com)

### **easyJet**

Tel. 0871 244 2366  
[www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

### **Flybe**

#### **Winter only**

Tel. 0871 522 6100  
[www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)

### **FlyGlobespan**

Tel. 0871 271 0415  
[www.flyglobespan.com](http://www.flyglobespan.com)

### **Jet2.com**

Tel. 0871 226 1737  
[www.jet2.com](http://www.jet2.com)

Smaller carriers also fly from some regional airports. For further details contact Switzerland Travel Centre.

### **Fly-Rail Baggage**

Passengers flying into Zürich or Geneva can check their baggage through from their departure airport direct to many Swiss towns and cities, for collection at their convenience. Similarly, on the return journey, air travellers can check their luggage through to their final destination airport. Currently charged at £11.00 per item each way, this service is only available if you travel to the airport by train. Note that some budget airlines do not accept this service on return journeys. Visit [www.rail.ch](http://www.rail.ch) for more information.

### **Arriving at Zürich or Geneva airport**

Both Zürich and Geneva airports have their own railway stations, with through trains running direct around the country. Regional railways and postbus services provide onward connections to all Swiss destinations.

### **Rail travel**

Switzerland Travel Centre can make reservations on Eurostar, TGV and other mainline services as well as overnight trains from Paris to Switzerland. Switzerland Travel Centre can also reserve



seats on all of Switzerland's scenic panoramic trains, including the Glacier Express, Golden-Pass Line, Bernina Express, Swiss Chocolate Train and William Tell Express.

For more information about rail services to and within Switzerland please visit [www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk](http://www.swisstravelsystem.co.uk)

### Travel around Switzerland.

Discover the scenic delights of Switzerland by rail, road and lake, using the integrated national transport network, known as the Swiss Travel System.

#### By rail

Within minutes of touching down in Switzerland you can be transferring from plane to train. Fast trains depart roughly every ten to fifteen minutes throughout the day from the airport railway stations in Zürich and Geneva. All of Switzerland's cities are connected by hourly or half-hourly intercity train services. And an extensive network of nearly 500 mountain railways (including cable cars, funiculars and chair lifts) will carry you up to the snow-capped summits.

#### By road

Postbuses provide the perfect opportunity to see Switzerland by road. The bright yellow buses take travellers around the country, to even the remotest villages. They are a familiar sight along 700 scenic routes across Switzerland. Their safety standards and record of reliability are unrivalled.

And if you prefer to drive, the roads throughout Switzerland are both safe and excellently maintained. Driving is on the right and distances are given in kilometres. All major car hire companies operate in Switzerland.

#### By boat

Travel on Switzerland's lakes and rivers is an unforgettable holiday experience. Cruises provide an excellent opportunity to see scenic Switzerland from a different and delightful perspective.



### Swiss transport passes.

The Swiss Travel System has a wide range of passes that offer flexibility at affordable prices, and are guaranteed to meet your travel requirements.

Save time and money by purchasing the Swiss Pass, Swiss Flexi Pass, Swiss Card or Swiss Transfer Ticket before you leave home, at Switzerland Travel Centre or at [www.MySwitzerland.com/rail](http://www.MySwitzerland.com/rail)

The **Swiss Pass** offers unlimited travel on boats, buses and trains throughout Switzerland, as well as a 50% discount on many mountain excursions, and also includes free entrance to over 450 museums around the country. It is available for 4, 8, 15, 22 or 30 consecutive days, in 1st or 2nd class.

The **Swiss Flexi Pass** has the same benefits as the Swiss Pass, offering travel on any 3, 4, 5, 6 or 8 days within a one-month period.

If two or more adults will be travelling together, each can benefit from a 15% discount on the cost of a Swiss Pass or Swiss Flexi Pass, under the '**Saver**' scheme.

People aged 16–26 qualify for a **Swiss Youth Pass**, which has the same validity as a Swiss Pass but costs 25% less.

The **Swiss Transfer Ticket** allows one free journey from the airport (or land border) to your holiday destination and back within a month. It cannot be purchased in Switzerland.

The **Swiss Card** extends the terms of the Transfer Ticket, also allowing you to unlimited travel nationwide for a month at half price.

### Family reductions

The **Family Card** is a free add-on to any of these passes, and allows children up to 16 years travelling with at least one parent to go free. Children not travelling with a parent pay 50% of the adult price. For all other rail tickets, a one-year Junior Card can be purchased in Switzerland for CHF 20 per child for the first two children, the others travel for free.

### Group travel

Groups of 10 or more passengers can travel at reduced rates and are able to reserve seats for domestic train journeys. Reservations are also compulsory on some postbus routes and alpine express trains.

### Information and timetables

For further details, please visit [www.MySwitzerland.com/rail](http://www.MySwitzerland.com/rail) or contact Switzerland Travel Centre.

For online train times in English, visit: [www.rail.ch](http://www.rail.ch)

Key in your journey details and dates, and you will be offered a choice of services covering the period that you intend to travel, indicating how many changes you have to make and even details like the particular platforms from which your trains will be departing.





## Driving.

### Motorway toll ('vignette')

If you want to drive on Swiss motorways, you must display a 'vignette', or sticker, showing you have paid the annual motorway tax. This costs CHF 40 for cars and motorbikes, up to a maximum weight of 3.5 tons. An additional fee of CHF 40 applies to trailers and caravans.

Vignettes can be purchased from Switzerland Travel Centre, [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com) or at border crossings. They can be used from 1 December of the previous year to 31 January of the following year: a 2009 vignette remains valid from 1 December 2008 to 31 January 2010.

Vehicles (including campervans) with a weight of more than 3.5 tons must pay a heavy goods road tax at the border on entry into Switzerland.

### Minimum age

The minimum age for driving in Switzerland is 18 years. Car rental companies reserve the right to set a higher minimum age.

### Speed limits

Motorways:	120 km/75 mph
Other roads, unless otherwise indicated:	80 km/50 mph
Built-up areas and secondary roads even when not indicated:	50 km/31 mph
Caravans or vehicles towing trailers of up to 1 ton may not exceed:	80 km/50 mph

### Traffic regulations

Drivers and all passengers over 7 years old must wear seat belts where fitted, and children under 12 must travel in the rear seats. A warning triangle must be carried. The use of headlights, dipped headlights or twin fog lights is compulsory in heavy rain or poor visibility: driving with sidelights only is not permitted. When driving in road tunnels you must use dipped headlights. Devices which detect police radar speed traps are prohibited. Crash helmets are compulsory for motorcyclists.

The laws concerning speed limits, seat belts, vehicle lights etc., are strictly enforced and police are authorised to collect fines on the spot.

### Fuel prices

Unleaded petrol:	CHF 1.77 per litre
Diesel:	CHF 1.97 per litre
(prices correct as at April 2008)	

Some petrol stations have self-service pumps, which accept ten-franc and twenty-franc notes. Credit cards are accepted at most service stations.



### Travellers with disabilities.

Travelling around the main tourist areas of the larger cities is straightforward. Lakeside promenades are ideal for wheelchair access and make for an enjoyable outing.

Mountainous areas can also be accessed fairly easily: cogwheel trains or easy-to-use cable cars reach many peaks. Enquire at local tourist offices for further assistance. Many hiking paths are paved and with gentle gradients, though note that the mountains are easier to visit during summer, avoiding the ice and snows of winter.

#### **By train**

The aim of the Swiss Travel System is to ensure, whenever possible, independent access to the railways for all. On all Intercity and on most EuroCity and high-speed trains, dedicated wheelchair compartments are now available in second class. Wheelchairs for use within station premises are available at principal stations; please inform your station of departure preferably at least one hour in advance, and aim to arrive at the station at least twenty minutes before your train departs.

#### **By car**

Parking privileges are similar to those available in the UK. Your disabled badge is valid for use in Switzerland.

#### **Accommodation**

Hotels and restaurants with special facilities are marked with a wheelchair symbol in the Swiss Hotel Guide, which is available from Switzerland Travel Centre or online at [www.swisshotels.com](http://www.swisshotels.com)



## General information.

### Duty- and tax-free limits

Used personal effects: clothing, underwear, toilet articles, sports gear, photo and film cameras, camcorders, laptops, musical instruments and other articles for general use.

Provisions: food provisions and non-alcoholic beverages for the day of travelling.

Cash: import and export of cash are not subjected to restrictions.

Tobacco and spirits: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of pipe tobacco; 2 litres of alcohol up to 15% and 1 litre of alcohol over 15%. These apply only to persons age 17 and over.

For other private goods there is a total value limit of CHF 300 per person.

### Business hours

Usual business hours are 8am to noon and 2pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Banking hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Shops are usually open during the week from 8am to noon and from 1.30pm to 6.30pm, and on Saturday until 4pm. Most shops are closed on Sundays, and many also close on Monday mornings. In the city of Zürich, shops are generally open until 8pm, Monday to Friday.

Post offices in large towns are open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to noon and from 1.45pm to 6.30pm, and on Saturday mornings until 11am (except for a few major offices in cities, which close later).

### Currency

Local currency is the Swiss franc (CHF), but as Switzerland is surrounded by countries using the euro, most hotels, restaurants and shops will accept payment in euros. You'll often see price lists at hotels and other tourist establishments in both Swiss francs (CHF) and euros (EUR).

The Swiss franc comes in the following denominations:

- coins: 5, 10, 20, 50 cents (Rappen, centimes or centesimi) and 1, 2, 5 francs
- notes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 1000 francs





### **Health insurance**

There is no state medical health service in Switzerland and as medical treatment must be paid for, you are strongly advised to take out insurance cover against personal accident and sickness, loss or damage to luggage, personal effects and cancellation charges. The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is free of charge and entitles UK residents to discounted – or sometimes free – healthcare: all UK travellers are advised to carry one. Visit [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers) for more information, and to obtain your EHIC.

### **Electricity**

The current used throughout Switzerland is 220 volts (AC), 50 Hz. Most power sockets are designed for three-pin round plugs (Type J plugs, Type C plugs are common on appliances and will fit the Type J outlet). The standard continental-type plug with two round prongs can be used without problem. Adapters are available in most hotels.

### **Languages**

Switzerland has four national languages: German (spoken in north, central and eastern Switzerland), French (spoken in the west), Italian (spoken in the south) and Romansh (spoken in some areas of southeastern Switzerland). English is also widely spoken.

### **Tax-free shopping in Switzerland**

Foreign visitors purchasing goods worth at least CHF 400 in shops displaying the 'Tax Free' sign are able to claim back the 7.6% sales tax (VAT). Please request a refund application form at the shop.

### **Tipping**

Tips are automatically included on all hotel and restaurant bills as well as on most taxi fares. An extra tip is not expected but is appreciated.

### **Telephones**

Switzerland to the UK: dial 0044, then the code (omitting the initial zero), and then the number.

UK to Switzerland: 0041, then the code (omitting the initial zero), and then the number.

### **Emergency calls**

- 117 Police
- 118 Fire brigade
- 144 Ambulance

### **Information services**

- 1811 Directory enquiries
- 140 Motoring assistance
- 162 Weather report
- 163 Conditions of traffic, roads and passes
- 187 Avalanche bulletin

### **Public holidays**

#### **2009**

- New Year – January 1
- Good Friday – April 10
- Easter Monday – April 13
- Ascension Day – May 21
- Whit Monday – June 1
- National Day – August 1
- Christmas Day – December 25
- Boxing Day – December 26



## **2010**

New Year – January 1  
Good Friday – April 2  
Easter Monday – April 5  
Ascension Day – May 13  
Whit Monday – May 24  
National Day – August 1  
Christmas Day – December 25  
Boxing Day – December 26

Regional and local holidays, such as January 2, May 1 (Labor Day), June 7 (Corpus Christi) among others, are observed in many parts of the country.

## **Useful addresses.**

### **British Embassy**

Thunstrasse 50  
3005 Bern  
Tel. +41 (0)31 359 77 00  
Fax +41 (0)31 359 77 01  
info@britishembassy.ch  
www.britishembassy.ch

### **Embassy of Ireland**

Kirchenfeldstrasse 68  
3005 Bern  
Tel. +41 (0)31 352 14 42  
Fax +41 (0)31 352 14 55  
berneembassy@dfa.ie  
www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie

## **For custom and visa regulations**

Federal Office for Migration  
Quellenweg 6  
3003 Bern-Wabern  
Tel. +41 (0)31 325 11 11  
info@bfm.admin.ch  
www.bfm.admin.ch

## **Airports**

### **Zürich-Kloten (ZRH)**

Tel. +41 (0)43 816 22 11  
www.zurich-airport.com

### **Geneva (GVA)**

Tel. +41 (0)22 717 71 11  
www.gva.ch

### **Euroairport Basel-Mulhouse (BSL)**

Tel. +41 (0)61 325 31 11  
www.euroairport.com

### **Bern-Belp (BRN)**

Tel. +41 (0)31 960 21 11  
www.flughafenbern.ch

### **Lugano-Agno (LUG)**

Tel. +41 (0)91 610 11 11  
www.lugano-airport.ch



### Switzerland at a glance.

<b>Capital:</b>	Bern	<b>Land boundaries:</b>	1,852 km
<b>Population:</b>	7.6 million	Italy	740 km
<b>Population of major cities:</b>		France	573 km
<b>Zürich</b>	350,000	Germany	334 km
<b>Geneva</b>	180,000	Austria	164 km
<b>Basel</b>	164,000	Liechtenstein	41 km
<b>Basel</b>	164,000		
<b>Bern</b>	122,000	<b>Longest distances:</b>	
<b>Lausanne</b>	115,000	North to south	220 km
<b>Winterthur</b>	100,000	East to west	346 km
<b>St. Gallen</b>	70,000	<b>Highest point:</b>	4,634 m above sea level
<b>Lucerne</b>	58,000		(Dufourspitze, in the Monte Rosa range)
<b>Lugano</b>	50,000	<b>Lowest point:</b>	193 m above sea level
<b>Cantons (regions):</b>	26		(Lake Maggiore, Ticino)
<b>Languages:</b>	German 64%	<b>Number of lakes:</b>	1,484
	French 20%	<b>Number of glaciers:</b>	140
	Italian 7%		
	Romansh 1%		
	Others 8%		
<b>Religions:</b>	Roman Catholic 42%		
	Protestant 35%		
	Others or none 23%		
<b>Area:</b>	41,200 km²		

For further information about Switzerland please visit our website [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)



LAKE GENEVA  
REGION

Come and discover the magic of the Lake Geneva Region. Wander through our historic towns, follow the contours of our tranquil lakes, marvel at the panorama from our majestic mountains, climb the magnificent Jura peaks or simply explore our verdant countryside wherever your path takes you, many wonders await you.

[www.lake-geneva-region.ch](http://www.lake-geneva-region.ch)

# Discover



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The terraced vineyards of Lavaux, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Switzerland.  
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