

Did you know that ...

General

- expats living in Switzerland have named Zurich the city with the highest living standard in the world?
- nowhere in the world is a McDonalds Big Mac as expensive as it is in Zurich?
- the banking city of Zurich is home to 65 national and international banks?
- with its 25 “Badis” (open-air riverside or lakeside bathing areas), Zurich is – in relation to its population – the city with the highest concentration of bathing facilities in the world?
- the famous Paradeplatz, where nowadays many banks are domiciled, was known as “Pig Market” in the 17th century, due to the fact that pig and cattle markets were held here?
- until 1911, Zurich’s last fire watchman lived in the 42m (138ft) high tower room of St Peter’s Church?
- one-third of all buildings in the city of Zurich were built before 1931?
- with its 36 stories and 4,400 windows, the 126m (413 ft) tall Prime Tower was until 2015 the largest inhabitable building in Switzerland?
- covering an area of 15,000 sq. m (18,000 square yards), Sechseläutenplatz in front of the Opera House is the largest urban square in Switzerland?

History

- Zurich has been permanently settled since around 7,000 years?
- Zurich is the only city whose patron saints carry their heads under their arms?
- the “Zwingli City” was the starting point and center of the Reformation in German-speaking Switzerland?
- the city was once a textile center, but all the products were exported because the strict moral laws forbade the wearing of elegant clothes?

Nature

- clean drinking-quality water can be drunk free of charge from around 1,225 public fountains in the city and that with this abundance of public fountains Zurich is home to the largest number in Europe?
- according to the last statistical evaluation, 1,671 chickens, 781 cows, 411 sheep and 342 pigs lived in the areas bordering on the city of Zurich?
- the average air temperature in summer is 21°C (70 °F)?
- the average water temperature in summer is 20°C (68 °F)?
- 881 km (547 miles) of cycle paths lead through the city of Zurich?
- 895 species of wildlife live in the city of Zurich?
- the last time that Lake Zurich was covered in a layer of ice that was thick enough for people to walk on was in winter 1962/63?
- the day with a record number of visitors to the frozen-over lake was Saturday, February 10, 1963, when over 150,000 people were on the ice at the same time?

Events

- the Street Parade is one of the largest house and techno parties in the world?
- every year the largest indoor “Christkindlimarkt “ Christmas market in Europe is held at Zurich’s Main Train Station?
- more than 6,000 crystal ornaments adorn the over 15m (50ft) tall Christmas tree at Zurich’s indoor “Christkindlimarkt “ Christmas market?
- every Advent, 7,000-10,000 children have a ride on board the “Märlitram” Christmas tram?
- 12,000 crystals and LED lamps light up the Bahnhofstrasse during the Christmas period?
- it takes approximately one hour to make a candle measuring 20cm (8 inches) long and 2cm (3/4 inch) in diameter using the wax dipping process?
- 5 Christmas ice rinks can be found in the city of Zurich?
- the Dolder outdoor ice rink is the oldest in Switzerland?
- during the Samichlausschwimmen lake swimming event, the water temperature is only around 6°C (43 °F)?
- there is room for 80 children to stand on the Singing Christmas Tree at the same time?
- with its spectacular fireworks display over the lake basin, Zurich hosts the largest New Year’s Eve party in Switzerland?
- the New Year’s Eve fireworks display in Zurich always starts 20 minutes into New Year’s Day?
- this “delayed” start to the New Year’s Eve fireworks display is out of consideration for the festive peal of bells by the city’s four large churches?
- the Zürcher Silvesterlauf (Zurich New Year’s Eve Race) does not actually take place on New Year’s Eve, but in the middle of December?
- Expovina, the world’s largest public wine-tasting fair, is held on board 12 boats?
- the first City of Zurich Lake Crossing swimming event was held in 1985, with 250 schoolchildren taking part?
- the current record of 9,348 participants at the Lake Crossing swimming event was set in 2012?
- the largest Latino Festival in Europe is held every year in the Langstrasse quarter?
- the Böögg, an effigy of a snowman that is burnt on a bonfire at the Sechseläuten spring festival, has a head circumference of 180cm (71 inches)?
- 25 tons of wood are burned at Sechseläuten every year?
- one of the most successful shows in the world, with around 80,000 spectators a year, is Art on Ice, which was founded in 1996 in Zurich?

Gastronomy and Nightlife

- Zurich has one restaurant per 180 inhabitants?
- 2,133 restaurants in Zurich are devoted to satisfying guests’ appetites?
- Europa’s oldest vegetarian restaurant, the Haus Hiltl, originated in Zurich?
- in the legendary Kronenhalle restaurant, guests dine amidst, among other things, genuine works of art by Miró, Chagall and Picasso?
- back in the day, some of these artists paid for their meals at the Kronenhalle with their works of art?

- the Blinde Kuh is the first restaurant in the world to be run by people with impaired vision?
- the head office and production plant of the world-famous chocolate manufacturer, Schokolade Lindt, is domiciled in Kilchberg?
- Zurich has the highest number of clubs per capita in all of Europe?
- Zurich therefore also has the highest density of bars and clubs in the whole of Switzerland?
- over 500 clubs, bars and concert venues only stage evening and night-time events?
- many take-outs and stores are open throughout the day until the early hours of the morning?
- 27 local beers are brewed in Zurich?
- Zurich's breweries produce around 36,500 hectoliters of beer every year?
- the oldest known reference to Zürcher Hüppen (a sweet Zurich specialty) dates from 1693?
- the world-famous Bircher muesli was created by Swiss physician and nutritionist Maximilian Oskar Bircher-Benner?
- the well-known vegetable stock also originated in Zurich?
- a true "Züri Gschnätzlets" (a Zurich specialty comprising sautéed veal strips served in a creamy sauce) also includes kidneys?

Art and Culture

- Zurich is home to over 50 museums and is thus an absolute hub for art galleries?
- the birthplace of the Dada movement is situated in Zurich's Old Town?
- the Cabaret Voltaire, the place where Dada started, still stands in its original location at Spiegelgasse 1?
- the city by the lake is one of the world's leading centers for the art trade?
- the Swiss National Museum showcases the largest collection of artefacts relating to Switzerland's cultural history?
- the reputedly oldest wagon wheel in the world is on show at the National Museum? It was discovered during excavation work in Zurich's Seefeld quarter, measures 54cm (21 inches) in diameter, and dates from the year 3430 BC.
- the National Museum's collection comprises 820,000 objects relating to Swiss history?
- traces of Le Corbusier, Augusto Giacometti, Tilla Theus, Santiago Calatrava, Max Bill and many other famous artists can be found throughout the city?
- with the Heidi Weber Museum – Center Le Corbusier pavilion, the world-renowned Swiss artist, Le Corbusier, completely dispensed with the use of concrete for the first time and constructed the colorful building entirely out of steel, enamel and glass?
- at the beginning of the 20th century, international artists and intellectuals such as Albert Einstein, Picasso and many others liked to meet at the Café Odeon?
- with a diameter of 8.64m (28 ft), the clock on the tower of St Peter's Church is the largest in Europe, and its minute hand moves 45 cm (18 inches) per minute?
- the minute hand of St Peter's Church weighs 92kg (203 lbs)?
- the five bells of St Peter's Church together weigh 11 tonnes?
- the small square at the confluence of the Sihl and Limmat rivers was James Joyce's favorite square?

- there is also a plaque commemorating the author there? And that with a nod to this famous author and his initials, the square bears the incorrectly spelled inscription, “Sjhl und Ljmmat”?
- the majority of the movies in Zurich’s movie theaters are screened in German as well as in their original language? If they are shown in their original language, they are always accompanied by German and French subtitles.
- movie lovers in Zurich have a choice of 60 movie theater screens?
- there are 187 steps up to the viewing platform of the Karlsturm tower of the Grossmünster Church?
- Jean Tinguely created his first public work – the 7.8m (26ft) long and 6.6 m (22ft) high kinetic sculpture entitled “Heureka” (Eureka) – at Zurichhorn in 1964?
- with over 340,000 exhibits, the Museum für Gestaltung houses one of the world’s largest poster collections?
- standing 97m (318ft) tall, the tower of the Predigerkirche is the highest in the city?
- the two places where ancient pile dwellings were discovered in Lake Zurich, the “Alpenquai” (850 BC) and the “kleiner Hafner” (4300 BC), were designated UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2011?

Learning and Working

- students from 80 different countries study at the Swiss Federal College of Technology (ETH) in Zurich?
- in former times, pig and cattle markets were held at Paradeplatz – Zurich’s present-day financial center?
- Kaspar Escher founded the first Swiss machine-making factory in Zurich in 1805?
- Zurich is the domicile or research center of major international firms such as Google and IBM?

Famous People

- the Swiss author, Gottfried Keller, was appointed Zurich’s first town clerk in 1861?
- in the 12th century, Zurich was described by chronicler Otto von Freising as Swabia’s most noble city, and that the city gates were inscribed with the words, “Nobile Turegum multarum copia rerum” (Noble Zurich, listen to many things)?
- the city evidently left a very clean impression on the famous Irish writer, James Joyce? He is reputed to have once said that Zurich’s Bahnhofstrasse was so clean that one could empty a bowl of mine-stone and eat it directly off the ground.
- Zurich was also a special place for the renowned composer, Richard Wagner? He once said: “When you retire, you should be shrewd enough to do here (in Zurich)!”
- it is said that Lenin loved to lay in the grass on the Uetliberg and eat Swiss chocolate?
- Zurich attracted famous personalities such as Goethe, Mozart and, among others, the adventurer Casanova, who appreciated it as a cultural center and gateway to the Alps?
- before achieving a breakthrough as an author, Zurich-born Max Frisch worked as an architect? His first commission was the Letzigraben outdoor swimming pool in 1947, which still to this day is a popular meeting place for families and friends.

Family

- Dr. Bommer from Zurich owned the largest collection of old toy trains? Nowadays, his 20,000 model trains can be viewed at the Technorama in Winterthur?
- the Masoala Rainforest, which opened at Zurich Zoo in 2003, is a true-to-life reproduction of the ecosystem in Madagascar?

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