



Zurich is renowned far and wide as a banking and shopping metropolis, but less so as a family destination. Yet both the city and the region around Lake Zurich have a host of exciting and varied attractions and excursion options that are particularly suitable for children. Numerous museums offer family-friendly programs where young visitors can learn, investigate and experiment, while on trips in and around the city they can let off steam amidst spectacular nature, observe animals at close quarters, and experience unforgettable adventures.

→ kinderregion.ch
→ zuerich.com/family

City Trip for all the Family

Zurich is a great place for families with children to spend a fun and varied vacation. Surrounded by lush greenery, the deep-blue Lake Zurich and secluded forests, it offers plenty of opportunity to get out and enjoy the nature. In addition, thanks to the excellent transportation connections, guests can head off on exciting excursions into the Swiss mountains, such as to the Jungfrau or Titlis. Those who prefer to spend their time experimenting and discovering interesting facts will find numerous museums and exhibitions with activities especially designed for children. What's more, with the ZürichCARD, families can save a lot of money, travel for free on most public transportation in the city, and benefit from reduced prices in many museums.

First-Class Children's Museums

Swiss Science Center Technorama

One of the most popular and best-known children's museums in Zurich is the Swiss Science Center Technorama – generally simply referred to as the Technorama – situated in the town of Winterthur to the north-east of Zurich. From Zurich Main Train Station, the museum can be reached in just 30 minutes. At over 500 experiment stations, children can discover the world of science and find out in a playful way how biological, chemical and physical phenomena have an impact on our everyday lives.

→ technorama.ch

Kindercity

The concept at Kindercity, the largest edutainment center in Switzerland, is similar. However, this hub of knowledge is directed at the very young: here children up to the age of 12 can experiment, analyze and observe different scientific activities through play.

→ kindercity.ch

FIFA World Football Museum

At the FIFA World Football Museum, aspiring young soccer stars can immerse themselves into the international world of soccer. Besides exploring the many unique and fascinating exhibits, videos and stories, they also have the opportunity to test their own ball skills on a giant pinball machine.

→ fifamuseum.com

Swiss Children's Museum

Father's space toy, mother's schoolbooks, or the classroom of bygone times: at the Children's Museum in Baden, visitors can delve into 300 years of childhood culture.

→ kindermuseum.ch

Kulturama

The Kulturama examines 600 million years of evolution. Here, touching, feeling and smelling is actively encouraged; just like proper explorers, young visitors can experience interactively and with all their senses the evolution of mankind and animals since life began.

→ kulturama.ch

Zoological Museum, University of Zurich

Croaking, screeching, grunting and chirping – at the Zoological Museum of the University of Zurich, visitors can encounter around 1,500 animals. Thanks to the listening and observing stations, the exhibition arouses visitors' awareness of and enthusiasm for the beauty, diversity and intrinsic value of nature.

→ zm.uzh.ch

Tram Museum

Every child knows and loves Zurich's blue & white trams, which trundle through the streets of the City on the Limmat. And as they are so popular, there is even a whole museum dedicated to the "Zuri-Tram". Here, young tram drivers can find original 50–100 year-old vehicles, tram driver uniforms, a large model train layout, a children's tram, and much more besides.

→ tram-museum.ch

Toy Museum

At the Toy Museum, in the heart of Zurich, young visitors can embark on a journey back in time to the nursery of yesteryear. Dollhouses, train sets and steam engines enchant young and old alike.

→ zürcher-spielzeugmuseum.ch

Specially for Children

Zurich's major art and cultural institutions also devote themselves to their youngest visitors: the Kunsthaus Zürich, the National Museum and the Museum für Gestaltung all offer special children's programs. Further information can be found on the website in question.

Zoological Gardens and Wildlife Parks

Zurich Zoo

Zurich Zoo is a particularly worthwhile place to go on a family excursion. The zoo, which is renowned far beyond the national borders, specializes in the conservation of endangered animal species, and shares its extensive knowledge about the approximately 4,000 animals of the 350 different species that live in this idyllic location, overlooking the rooftops of Zurich.

→ zoo.ch

Knie's Children's Zoo

Anyone who wants to experience exotic animals close up should be sure to pay a visit to Knie's Children's Zoo in Rapperswil-Jona, situated on Lake Zurich. The children's zoo belongs to the tradition-steeped Swiss circus, Knie, so the animals are accustomed to being in close contact with people. Consequently, a ride on a pony or – for those with a head for heights – a two-humped camel is not a problem. The particularly courageous even venture onto an elephant's back. A nostalgic trip on a vintage horse-drawn tram, the pirate ship and the adventure playground also offer plenty of fun.

→ knieskinderzoo.ch

Wildlife Parks

Langenberg Wildlife Park to the west of Lake Zurich, Goldau Animal Park near Zug, or the Bruderhaus Wildlife Park close to Winterthur are great places to encounter wild animals. All these parks are home to indigenous or once indigenous species, such as wolves, bears and deer, as well as hares, wildcats, and birds ranging from the duck to the eagle. Combined with a leisurely picnic, an excursion to one of these wildlife parks is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience for people of all ages.

Attractions, Activities and Excursions

Family Paths and Theme Trails

The region around Zurich is particularly well suited to hiking with children, as the mountains here – such as the Central Swiss Alps – are not too steep or demanding. In addition, many family paths and theme trails provide an element of fun and entertainment along the way: such as the **Planet Trail** on the Uetliberg, the **Spatz Männli Adventure Trail** in the Atzmännig region, the **Sound Trail** at the bottom of the Chäserrugg, or the **Munggeweg** marmot trail above the picturesque Lake Walen.

Excursions for Families with Children

Naturally, the classic day trips from Zurich – such as to the Rigi, Titlis or Pilatus mountains – are also great experiences with and for children. However, there are a number of locations that focus particularly on children. The Jucker Farm in Seegräben, for example, is a paradise for playing, doing craft-work, and simply having fun. In the Höllgrotten limestone caves just outside Zug, families can immerse themselves in a mystical, subterranean world, while at Kyburg Castle near Winterthur, young visitors feel like princesses and knights.

→ **Find Out More**

Bad Weather Program

There is always something fun to do in Zurich, even when the weather is poor. Besides varied museums and indoor facilities, there are movie theaters, workshops and leisure parks to keep you amused.

→ **Find Out More**

Family-Friendly Restaurants

At these restaurants, families with children are very welcome, and are free to play, color, and be noisy. The establishments offer baby-changing facilities and children's menus, and there is also plenty of room for baby buggies.

→ **Find Out More**

Kafi für Dich

Relaxed bistro with play corner and Sunday brunch

Stauffacherstrasse 141, 8004 Zürich

→ **fuerdich.ch**

Uto Staffel

Child-friendly mountain restaurant with a view

Gratstrasse 6, 8143 Uetliberg

→ **uto-staffel.ch**

Wirtschaft Alter Tobelhof

Rustic restaurant with an idyllic garden terrace, playground and children's menu

Tobelhofstrasse 236, 8044 Zürich

→ **tobelhof.ch**

Haus Hiltl

Vegetarian restaurant with an activity trolley, children's menu and brunch

Sihlstrasse 28, 8001 Zürich

→ **hiltl.ch**

Tibits

Vegetarian restaurant with toys and coloring utensils

Tramstrasse 2, 8050 Zürich

→ **tibits.ch**

Restaurant die Waid

Panorama restaurant with playground and play corner

Waidbadstrasse 45, 8037 Wipkingen

→ **diewaid.ch**

Wirtschaft Ziegelhütte

Idyllic restaurant on the edge of the forest with playground, garden terrace and brunch

Hüttenkopfstrasse 70, 8051 Zürich

→ **wirtschaft-ziegelhuette.ch**

Zürich Tourism

Stampfenbachstrasse 52, CH-8006 Zürich

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Follow-Up Links

- **3 Days in Zurich with the Family** (program ideas)
- **Picnic Parks in Zurich**
- The city pass for Zurich **Zürich Card**
- Children Culture Calendar **kikuka.ch**
- The Portal for Families and Children **familyfirst.ch**
- Excursion Tips and Ideas **familienleben.ch**
- Gastronomy Tips for Families **food4family.ch**

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