



Zurich is situated in the very heart of Europe and at the foot of the Swiss Alps, and is the ideal base from which to explore Switzerland. Zurich Airport, which has direct connections to 170 destinations all over the world, is just a 10-minute train ride from the centrally located Zurich Main Station

→ zuerich.com

Facts & Figures

Geography

- Zurich lies 409 meters (1,342ft) above sea level
- The City of Zurich covers a total area of 92 km² (35 sq. miles), divided into 12 municipal districts
- Lake Zurich is 28km (17 miles) long, up to 4km (2.5 miles) wide and max. 143m (469ft) deep
- The highest point in the urban area is Zurich's "mountain", Uetliberg, at 871m (2,858ft) above sea level

Climate

- Zurich enjoys approximately 1,500 hours of sunshine per annum
- The mean maximum temperature in summer is 22° C (72 °F)
- In winter, average temperatures range between -2 and 3.5° C (-28 and 38 °F)

Population

- With a population of over 400,000, Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland
- Over 1.5 million people live in the Canton of Zurich
- The spoken language in Zurich is the Swiss German dialect; High German is the official written language

Quality of Living

- From 2001 to 2008, Mercer Human Resource Consulting named Zurich the city with the highest quality of living in the world eight times in succession. Between 2009 and 2013, Zurich ranked in second place. The analysis was based on such criteria as safety, cleanliness, cultural activities, cuisine, and nearby recreation areas
- Pleasant-tasting drinking water flows from almost all of Zurich public fountains. The majority offer the same high-quality mix as the local tap water – 70% lake water, 15% ground water and 15% spring water

Accommodation

- Around 400 hotels offer a wide range of accommodation in the Zurich tourist region – from sleeping in the straw through to deluxe hotels
- In 2016, the Zurich tourist region registered above 5.6 million overnight stays
- In an international comparison, Zurich's hotels are of a very high standard
- The majority of hotels (22%) are of 3-star standard; just 1.75% of accommodation providers are five-star hotels

History

15 BC: Roman Conquerors

In the area where the Linth glacier once covered the landscape between the Uetliberg and Lake Zurich, the Romans conquer the Celtic settlement and found a customs post there known as Turicum – which is later to become the city of Zurich.

300 AD: Felix and Regula

Legend has it that Zurich's first Christians, Felix and Regula, were persecuted for their faith, and died a martyr's death. After being decapitated, it is said that they picked up their heads and carried them to the place where they wished to be buried – the site where the Grossmünster stands today.

1336: Era of the Guilds

A group of craftsmen storm the Town Hall, overthrow the aristocratic city council and establish the Constitution of the Guilds. They introduce the legendary spring festival, Sechseläuten, which is still celebrated every year.

1519: Reformation

Huldrych Zwingli comes to Zurich to work as a lay preacher at the Grossmünster Church, and makes it the starting point of the Reformation in Zurich, and later in all of Switzerland.

18th/19th C: Economic Upswing

Liberal Zurich experiences an economic upswing, with factories, publishing companies and book printing firms settling here. The City on the Limmat becomes the European center of the silk industry, and also attracts avant-garde writers and artists.

1855: Modern Switzerland

The father of Switzerland's modern-day public transportation system, Alfred Escher, creates the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH. A year later, he also founds the Swiss Credit Institution – now Credit Suisse.

1946: Zurich Airport

Construction work begins on Zurich International Airport, with the first aircraft taking off two years later.

Did you know ...

Municipal Districts and Quarters

The City of Zurich is divided into 12 municipal districts and 34 quarters.

Drinking Water Everywhere You Go

Zurich has the highest number of public fountains in the world (1,224).

Large St. Peter

St. Peter's Church in Zurich's Old Town has the largest tower clock face in Europe (8.7m/28.5ft in diameter).

Renting is In

The majority of Zurich residents are tenants; only 7% own their own home.

Birthplace of the Dada Movement

The Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich is the birthplace of Dadaism. In 2016, Zurich celebrated the centenary of the Dada movement; moreover, Manifesta, one of the most important biennials for contemporary art, was also being held here the same year.

Important Employer

One out of every nine jobs in Switzerland is in the City of Zurich. In addition, 74 of Switzerland's 270 banking institutions are domiciled here.

Creative Sector

The cultural and creative sector is the second most important economic pillar in the Canton of Zurich after the finance industry. Every 8th Swiss cultural or creative enterprise is based in Zurich.

Cosmopolitan and Multicultural

At the end 2016, 32% of Zurich's population were foreigners, representing a total of 169 different countries.

Roots in the Reformation

The Reformation in the 16th century gave rise, among other things, to the Anabaptist movement. Nowadays it exists in the form of Amish, Mennonite and Hutterite communities, which are principally to be found in the USA.

James Joyce on Zurich

"This city is so clean that if you were to spill your minestrone soup on the Bahnhofstrasse, you could eat it up without a spoon".

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