



Events in 2019

Man's World // January 31 – February 3

This lifestyle fair focuses on men, although women are naturally more than welcome, too. The numerous stands feature barbers, bars, tattoo shops, flight simulators, lawnmowers, and much more, all of which can be discovered, tried, and experienced by the public at large.

→ mansworld.com

Zurich Marathon // April 22

The Zurich Marathon covers a distance of 42.195km (26.2 miles) around the basin of Lake Zurich. The scenic and varied route has less than a 30m (98ft) difference in altitude with practically no inclines, making it the fastest marathon in Switzerland. Awaiting athletes and spectators are numerous festivities in the lakeside villages, as well as a large festival marquee and children's activities on the Landiwiese.

→ zuerichmarathon.ch

Sechseläuten // April 16

Every year, the Zurich guilds celebrate their traditional spring festival, "Sechseläuten". The colorful children's parade is followed by the main procession of the guild members, attired in original costumes, who make their way either on foot or on one of the 500 horses through the city center to Sechseläutenplatz. Here, at 6pm precisely, the "Böögg" – an effigy of a snowman packed with

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firecrackers and perched on top of a huge pyre – is set alight. It is said that the faster the Böögg's head catches fire and explodes, the finer the summer will be.

→ sechselaeuten.ch

Zürich Tanzt // May 3 – 5

For three days, the “Zürich Tanzt” dance festival celebrates dance in all its many facets at 40 different venues. Played out in public places, crash courses, performances, movies, and parties encourage spectators to spontaneously join in. Basically every style of dance is represented, ranging from breakdance to folk dance, to salsa, swing, and step.

→ zuerichtanz.ch

Kreislauf 345 // May 18 – 19

Every year, the Kreislauf 345 project shows the diversity offered by the urban districts, Kreis 3, Kreis 4, and Kreis 5. This is where it all comes together – old and new, design and demolition, the exotic and traditional Zurich flair. Weekend ateliers, creative studios, stores, cafés, and restaurants are presented over the Kreislauf weekend. In addition, workshops, dance performances, tours, and other events are held.

→ kreislauf4und5.ch

FOOD ZÜRICH // May 24 – June 3

Whether street food, slow food, or fine food, numerous mouth-watering culinary events have arisen in Zurich. The flavor-packed festival, FOOD ZÜRICH, unites all of these events under one roof and establishes them firmly on the culinary map and in the travel agenda of all foodies. At the heart of this initiative by Zurich Tourism and its partners are 11 indulgent days, encompassing over 100 different food events held all over the city.

→ foodzurich.com

blues'n'jazz Rapperswil // June 14 – 15

The open-air festival in Rapperswil is a very special highlight for jazz and blues fans from near and far. In addition to Swiss artists and international stars from this music genre, bars and food trucks together with the spectacular backdrop between Lake Zurich and Rapperswil Castle give rise to a unique atmosphere.

→ bluesnjazz.ch

Ironman 70.3 Switzerland // June 10

Around 4,000 athletes convene at the southern end of Lake Zurich to subject themselves to a grueling course comprising 1.9km (1.2 miles) of swimming, 90.1km (56 miles) of cycling, and 21.1km (13.1 miles) of running. Besides the amazing display of endurance, participants and onlookers are treated to a magnificent scenic backdrop, for the triathlon follows a route along the banks of Lake Zurich, through the Alpine foothills, to the picturesque medieval town of Rapperswil.

→ ironmanrapperswil.com

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Zurich Pride Festival // June 1 – 16

The Zurich Pride Festival is a political and cultural festival of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) movement. The three-day program encompasses an opening and closing party, bars and food stands on the festival site, concerts and shows, various homosexually-oriented parties, conferences on specific themes, and a parade through the inner city. Up to 35,000 people take part in the Festival each year, and in this way demonstrate for the rights and against discrimination of gays and lesbians.

→ zurichpridefestival.ch

Züri Fäscht // July 5 – 7

Every three years, on the first weekend in July, approximately two million visitors take over the streets along the River Limmat and around the lake basin that are otherwise occupied by automobiles, trams, and buses. A giant festival ground with music and food stands serving culinary delights from all over the world attract people of all ages. Thanks to their magnitude and beauty, the two spectacular musical fireworks displays on the Friday and Saturday evenings are among the absolute highlights of this mega-event.

→ zuerifaescht.ch

Caliente! // July 5 – 7

“Caliente!” is a colorful festival for lovers of Latin-American music, cuisine, and culture. In 2019, due to it coinciding with the “Züri-Fäscht”, the festival – which is usually held on Helvetiaplatz – will take place on the Münsterhof, in the heart of Zurich’s historical center. Here visitors can dance and party to the sounds of booming bass sounds. Rounding off the program are exotic foods, tropical drinks, and live shows.

→ caliente.ch

Ironman Zurich Switzerland // July 29

Ironman Zurich Switzerland is an official qualifying competition for the Hawaii Ironman, the toughest triathlon in the world. Athletes from some 54 countries, including the national and international elite, tackle the demanding circuit around Lake Zurich. A large festival site directly next to the lake, featuring numerous attractions such as children’s activities and a refreshment marquee, offers visitors of all ages first-class sport and entertainment.

→ ironmanzurich.com

Street Parade // August 11

Since 1992, the most vibrant house and techno parade in the world has year after year drawn hundreds of thousands of dance fans to Zurich’s lake basin. Around 30 Love Mobiles – brightly decorated trucks carrying giant music systems, DJs, and ravers – drive at walking pace through the crowd of spectators around the lower end of Lake Zurich. In addition to these mobile platforms, eight large stages heighten the party mood with top DJs, dancers, live acts, and multimedia shows.

→ streetparade.com

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Allianz Cinema // July 18 – August 18

The open-air movie theater formerly known as “Zürcher Kino am See“ (Zurich Lakeside Cinema) has been held every year since 1989. After several name changes, it now bears the name of its principal sponsor. Set against an idyllic backdrop directly on the shore of Lake Zurich, the event delights well over 50,000 movie fans every summer and is thus the largest outdoor movie theater in Switzerland. While they wait for darkness to fall, guests can treat themselves to a variety of culinary delights at the food stands or bars.

→ allianzcinema.ch/zuerich

Zürcher Theater Spektakel // August 15 – September 1

What started as an international meeting of independent theater groups is now regarded as one of the most important European festivals for the performing arts. Every year, the Zürcher Theater Spektakel plays host to 30–35 theater ensembles and individual artists from all over the world. The program covers the full spectrum of the performing arts, from video theater to street performances to classical stage plays. The Zürcher Theater Spektakel festival has been characterized by its onsite restaurants and bars, open-air performances, and various ad-hoc events since it started in 1980. In 2019, which marks its 40th anniversary, the Zürcher Theater Spektakel will be held for the first time under the direction of artistic director, Matthias von Hartz.

→ theaterspektakel.ch

Zürich Openair // August 21 – 24

Over the course of four days, music acts from both home and abroad play just a few meters from Zurich Airport. The festival focuses on electronic and rock music, and also features a wide variety of food stands. The Zurich Openair fundamentally distinguishes itself from many other events of this kind, it can easily be combined with a shopping spree, sightseeing tour, or even an overnight stay in a comfortable hotel, thanks to its closeness to the city and the excellent transportation links.

→ zurichopenair.ch

Eidgenössisches Schwing- und Älplerfest Zug // August 23 – 25

The Federal Swiss Wrestling and Alpine Festival, or the “Eidgenössisches” as it is known in Switzerland, is the largest regularly held sporting event and one of the biggest public festivals in the country. It is held every three years in a different location. This year, the “Eidegnössisches” will take place in Zug, just a 30-minute train ride from Zurich. After 1943 and 1961, this is only the third time that the town has hosted the event since the Swiss Wrestling Association was founded over 120 years ago.

→ esafzug.ch

Weltklasse Zürich // August 29

The international Track and Field Championships, Weltklasse Zürich, is the largest and best-known event of its kind in Switzerland. Every year, all (sporting) eyes are on Zurich when the world’s best athletes compete at the Letzigrund Stadium, treating spectators to a multitude of emotional and

sporting highlights and fiercely battled contests. Since it was first held over 80 years ago, no fewer than 25 new world records have been set in the course of the Weltklasse Zürich meetings.

→ diamondleague-zurich.com

The Long Night at the Zurich Museums // September 7

On the Long Night of the Museums, visitors can experience Zurich's cultural institutions and their exhibitions from a completely different perspective. Whether at the zoo, where many of the animals are nocturnal, in a somewhat creepy cemetery, in the observatory, or in a classic museum: the "long night" has become a major attraction. Thanks to a special combined ticket from Zurich Public Transport VBZ, as well as the convenient shuttle buses, visitors can visit several venues in one night.

→ langenacht.ch

Zurich Film Festival // September 26 – October 6

During the 11-day Zurich Film Festival, visitors and filmmakers from all over the globe have the opportunity to view domestic and international movies, premieres, and cinematic classics. As an additional highlight, the event attracts international stars and celebrities, who can be seen making their way over the green (not red) carpet. At the core of the Festival is the International Competition, with the highly coveted Golden Eye award.

→ zff.com

Christmas Markets // End November – December 24

At the end of November, the most contemplative time of the year begins in Zurich, and with it, the season of Christmas markets. Locals and tourists alike gather, for example, at Zurich's oldest Christmas market in the Niederdorf quarter or at the festively adorned wooden market stalls on Sechseläutenplatz in search of gems. The largest indoor Christmas market in Europe, located in the concourse of Zurich Main Station, has a 15m (50ft) tall Christmas tree laden with sparkling Swarovski crystals, while visitors to the Heiliger Bimbam markets in the city's creative quarters can find all kinds of trendy items.

→ zuerich.com/christmas

More events

→ zuerich.com/events

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