



**40 YEARS**  
OF AMAZING EXPERIENCES



- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- LOCAL EXPERTS
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

# Discover Switzerland

Experience the best of Switzerland

# Discover Switzerland

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

## Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



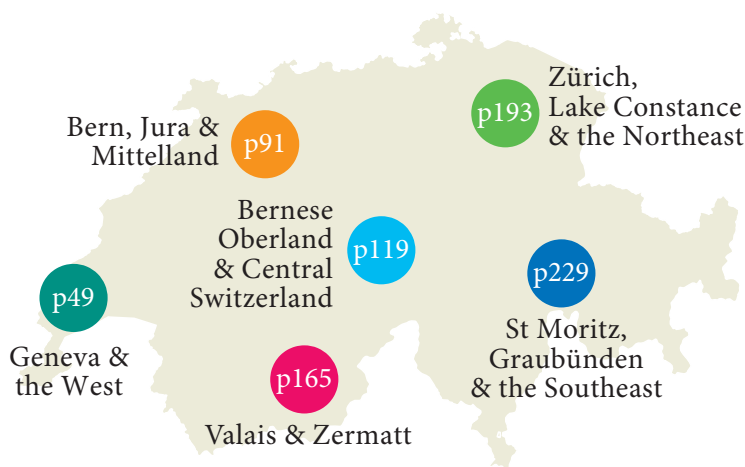
Sleeping



Information

This edition written and researched by

**Ryan Ver Berkmoes,**  
**Kerry Christiani, Sally O'Brien, Damien Simonis,**  
**Nicola Williams**



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# This is Switzerland

No one has a hard time conjuring images of Switzerland: Alps, chocolate, cows with bells, cable cars, mountain meadow hikes, tidy old villages, yodelling, lake steamers, cheese (lots of tasty cheese!) and much more. And the reality lives up to the iconography. This orderly nation – where a train is officially late if it's three minutes off – is a splendid place to explore winter or summer, whether you're cliché-hunting or ready for a surprising adventure.

## What giddy romance Zermatt, St Moritz and other legendary names evoke.

From the intoxicating chink of Verbier glitterati hobnobbing over champagne in ice-carved flutes to the reassuring bell jangle of cows coming home in Kandersteg, Switzerland is a harmonious tableau of beautiful images. This small, landlocked country is so darn easy to step into and experience.

Switzerland begs outdoor escapades with its larger-than-life canvas of hallucinatory landscapes. Skiing and snowboarding in the winter wonderlands of Graubünden, Bernese Oberland and Central Switzerland are obvious choices. Or you can hop an engineering marvel of a train and travel to the crevassed ice on Jungfrauoch (3454m), at what seems like the top of the world. But there is also plenty to do when pastures are green. Hiking and biking trails abound in both glacier-encrusted mountain areas and lower down along lost valleys, mythical lakeshores and pea-green vines.

The perfect antidote to this rich Alpine land is a surprise set of cities. There's the capital Bern, with its Old Town and world-class modern art; Germanic Basel and its bold architecture; shopping-chic Geneva astraddle Europe's largest lake; and ubercool Zürich with its rooftop bars and atypical Swiss street grit.

Smaller but equally beguiling are Lucerne, St Gallen, Chur and Lausanne. Here medieval wooden structures complement ancient stones, and old towns beg exploration. You may be charmed by a castle or simply a scrumptious slice of cake. Either way, Switzerland never fails to reward.

“  
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”

The fairytale Château de Chillon (p87) on Lake Geneva

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