



# Liechtenstein

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## Best Places

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## Best Known For...

- » Postcards stamped by the country's postal service
- » Being Europe's fourth-smallest nation
- » Being a producer of false teeth
- » Being the only country in the world named after the people who purchased it

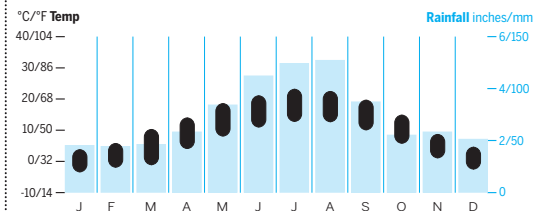
## Why Go?

Liechtenstein makes a fabulous trivia subject – *Did you know it is the sixth smallest country in the world?... That it's still governed by an iron-willed monarch who lives in a Gothic castle on a hill?... Yes, it really is the world's largest producer of false teeth.* It's worth visiting this pocket-sized principality solely for the cocktail-party bragging rights, but keep the operation covert. This theme-park micronation takes its independence seriously and would shudder at the thought of being visited for novelty value alone.

Liechtenstein wows with its stunning natural beauty. Measuring just 25km by 6km, it's barely larger than Manhattan, doesn't have an international airport and is reached by public bus from Switzerland and Austria. Vaduz is not the most soulful place on earth, but if you've come this far – coachloads of day trippers do, simply for the souvenir passport stamp – venture away from the capital. A riot of hiking and cycling trails offering spectacular views of craggy cliffs, quaint villages and lush green forests awaits you.

## When to Go

### Vaduz



**Aug** Come on the 15th and celebrate the country's national holiday.

**Dec–Mar** Pummel down snow-covered pistes at its singular ski resort.

**May–Sep** Hike to your heart's content, up and away from the busloads of tourists clutching stamps.



## Liechtenstein Highlights

- 1 Snap a picture of the **Schloss Vaduz** with its stunning mountain backdrop (p796)
- 2 Get a **passport stamp** and send a postcard home (p797)
- 3 Taste wine at the **Hofkellerei des Fürstens**, the prince's winery (p796)
- 4 Hit the ski slopes at **Malbun** (p797)
- 5 Do some tough hiking along the legendary **Fürstensteig** (p797)

## VADUZ

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Vaduz is the kind of capital city where the butcher knows the baker; with tidy, quiet streets, lively patio cafes and a big Gothic-looking castle on a hill, it feels more like a village than anything else. It's also all most visitors to Liechtenstein see and at times it can feel like its soul has been sold to cater to the whims of tourist hordes that alight for 17 minutes from guided bus tours. Souvenir shops, tax-free luxury-goods stores and

cube-shaped concrete buildings dominate the small, somewhat bland town centre.

## Sights & Activities

Although **Schloss Vaduz** (Vaduz Castle) is not open to the public, the exterior graces many a photograph and it is worth the climb up the hill. At the top, there's a magnificent vista of Vaduz, with a spectacular mountain backdrop. There's also a network of walking trails along the ridge. For a peek inside the castle grounds, arrive on 15 August, Liechtenstein's **National Day**, when there are magnificent fireworks and the prince invites the entire country over to his place for a glass.

The well-designed **Liechtensteinisches Landesmuseum** (National Museum; ☎239 68 20; www.landesmuseum.li; Städtle 43; adult/concession Sfr8/5, combined with Kunstmuseum Sfr18/8; ☉10am-5pm Tue & Thu-Sun, to 8pm Wed) provides an interesting romp through the principality's history, from medieval witch trials and burnings to the manufacture of false teeth.

The mainstay of the **Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein** (Art Museum; ☎235 03 00; www.kunstmuseum.li; Städtle 32; adult/concession Sfr12/8, combined with Landesmuseum Sfr18/8; ☉10am-5pm Tue, Wed & Fri-Sun, to 8pm Thu) is contemporary art, not the prince's collection of old masters, which is in the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna. The **Post Museum** (☎236 61 05; 1st fl, Städtle 37; admission free; ☉10am-noon & 1-5pm) showcases all the national stamps issued since 1912.

You must be in a group for a tour at the **Hofkellerei des Fürstens** (www.hofkellerei.li), the prince's vineyard perched north of Vaduz. Independent travellers can visit and indulge in a taste when the **shop** (☉8am-noon, 1.30-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) is open.

To see how Vaduz once looked, head northeast from the pedestrian zone to **Mitteldorf**, a charming quarter of traditional houses and verdant gardens.

## Sleeping

Ask the tourist office for a list of private rooms and chalets outside Vaduz.

**Camping Mittagspitze** CAMPING GROUND €  
(☎392 36 77, 392 23 11; www.campingtriesen.li; campsites per adult/car Sfr9/5, tents Sfr6-8; ☉year-round; ☒) A well-equipped ground in a leafy spot with a restaurant, TV lounge, playground and kiosk. Find it 3.5km outside Vaduz, south of Triesen.