



# Zürich

POP 368,700 / AREA 1729 SQ KM / LANGUAGE GERMAN

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Alpenrose (p257)
- » Coco (p257)
- » les halles (p257)
- » Kronenhalle (p258)
- » Café Sprüngli (p258)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Townhouse (p256)
- » Hotel Otter (p256)
- » Lady's First (p256)
- » Hotel Widder (p256)
- » Kafi Schnaps (p256)

## Why Go?

Zürich is an enigma. A savvy financial centre with possibly the densest public transport system in the world, it also has a gritty, post-industrial edge that at times echoes parts of Berlin.

Switzerland's biggest city is not only efficient, it is also undeniably hip. The locals are hard-working early risers but, come clock-off time, they throw themselves wholeheartedly into a festive vortex – the summer Street Parade is one of Europe's largest public parties.

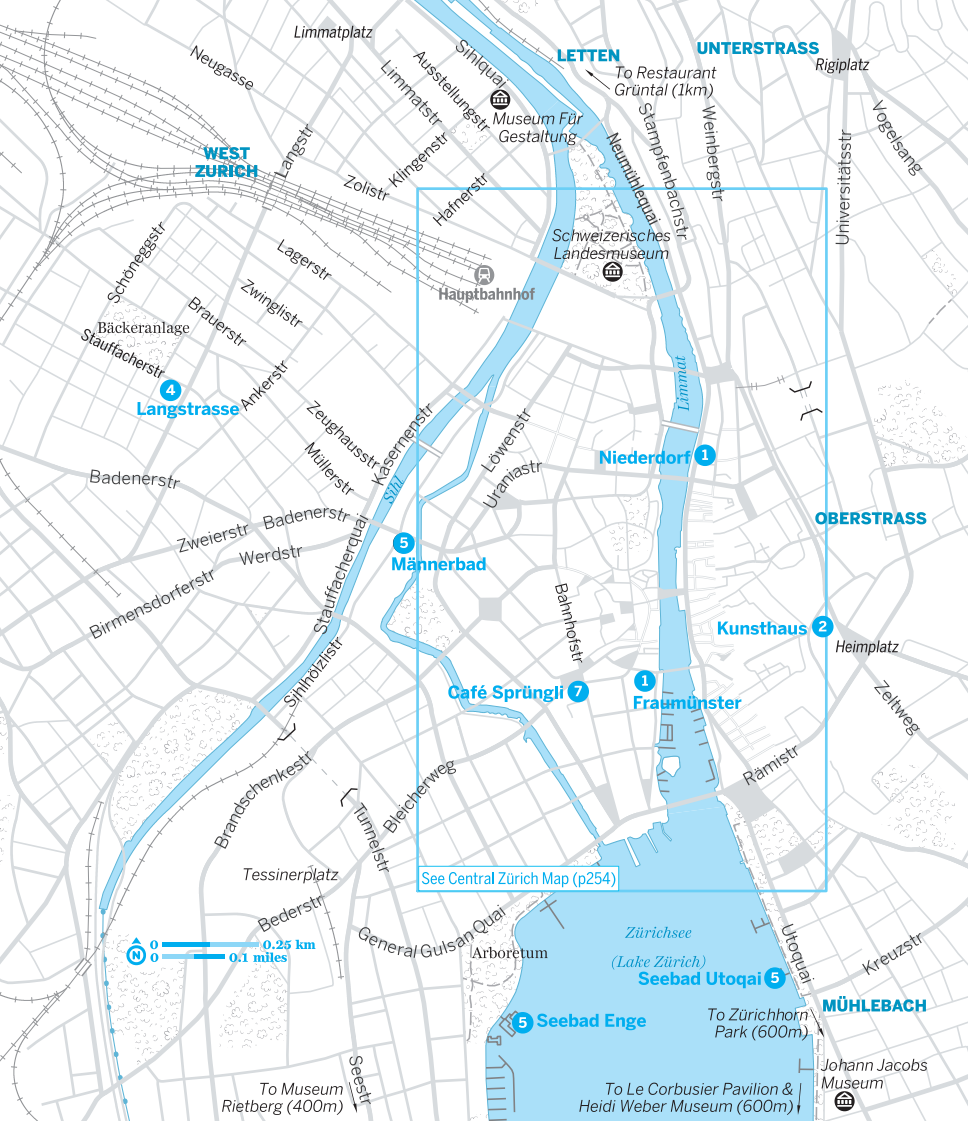
Much of the ancient centre, with its winding lanes and tall church steeples, has been kept lovingly intact. The city, however, is no stick-in-the-mud stranger to contemporary trends. Nowhere is that clearer than in the edgy Züri-West area, the epicentre of the city's nightlife.

Outside the city, Uetliberg is a magnet for walkers and there are countless pretty spots, such as Rapperswil, along the lake. Winterthur, to the northeast, is a cultural powerhouse, with major art and science museums.

## When to Go

Zürich is an attractive city to visit at any time of year, but in spring and summer it becomes particularly lively when summertime cafe life spills on to the streets and locals enjoy lakeside and river bathing. Watch out for the August Street Parade (p255).

Winter sets the chilly backdrop that will see you seeking out cosy moments in the city's fine old restaurants and taverns, or bar-hopping in Züri-West. In the four weeks before Christmas you can also catch the big indoor *Christkindlmarkt* (Christmas market).



## Zürich Highlights

- 1 Wander the streets of **Niederdorf** and the area around the **Fraumünster** (p252)
- 2 Admire the extensive art collections in the **Kunsthaus** (p252)
- 3 Join the throngs for the August **Street Parade** (p255)
- 4 Lose yourself in a long night out along **Langstrasse** (p259)
- 5 Hang out with the locals for some summer lake and river **bathing** (p253)
- 6 Head up the **Uetliberg** (p263) for the view
- 7 Indulge in pastries and chocolate at **Café Sprüngli** (p258)
- 8 Allow the kids to be amazed at **Technorama** (p266) in Winterthur