



Central Switzerland

POP 718,400 / AREA 4484 SQ KM / LANGUAGE GERMAN

Includes ➔

Lucerne	192
Lake Lucerne	198
Lake Uri	202
Brunnen	203
Schwyz	204
Einsiedeln	205
Engelberg	206
Zug	209
Andermatt	211

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wirtshaus Galliker (p197)
- ➔ Das Insel-Restaurant Schwanau (p205)
- ➔ Grottino 1313 (p197)
- ➔ Gasthaus Rathauskeller (p211)
- ➔ Hess (p208)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ The Hotel (p196)
- ➔ Ski Lodge Engelberg (p208)
- ➔ The Bed & Breakfast (p196)
- ➔ River House Boutique Hotel (p212)
- ➔ SYHA Hostel Rotschuo (p201)

Why Go?

To the Swiss, Central Switzerland – green, mountainous and soothingly beautiful – is the very essence of ‘Swissness’. It was here that the pact that kick-started a nation was signed in 1291; here that hero William Tell gave a rebel yell against Habsburg rule. Geographically, politically, spiritually, this is the heartland. Nowhere does the flag fly higher.

You can see why locals swell with pride at Lake Lucerne: enigmatic in the cold mist of morning, molten gold in the dusky half-light.

The dreamy city of Lucerne is small enough for old-world charm yet big enough to harbour designer hotels and a world-class gallery full of Picassos. From here, cruise to resorts like Weggis and Brunnen, or hike Mt Pilatus and Mt Rigi. Northeast of Lucerne, Zug has *Kirschtorte* (cherry cake) as rich as its residents and medieval heritage. Come snow-time, head to the Alps for Andermatt’s austere mountain-scapes or Engelberg for powdery off-piste perfection.

When to Go

- ➔ Any time is a good time to visit Lucerne, although it does get packed in the summer months and during the Lucerne Festival.
- ➔ In summer, Zug and Lake Uri are at their best and swimming in the lakes is heavenly.
- ➔ Late spring, summer and early autumn are wonderful for walking and hiking in places such as Andermatt and Engelberg.
- ➔ Winter is the obvious time for taking advantage of skiing and snowboarding opportunities.

