



Zürich

POP 380,777 / AREA 1729 SQ KM / LANGUAGE GERMAN

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Alpenrose (p237)
- ➔ Haus Hiltl (p236)
- ➔ Kronenhalle (p238)
- ➔ Café Sprüngli (p236)
- ➔ Zeughauskeller (p237)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Townhouse (p234)
- ➔ Lady's First (p234)
- ➔ Hotel Widder (p235)
- ➔ B2 Boutique Hotel & Spa (p235)
- ➔ Kafischnaps (p234)

Why Go?

Culturally vibrant, efficiently run and attractively set at the meeting of river and lake, Zürich is regularly recognised as one of the world's most liveable cities. Long known as a savvy, hard-working financial centre, Switzerland's largest and wealthiest metropolis has also emerged in the 21st century as one of central Europe's hippest destinations, with an artsy, post-industrial edge that's epitomised in its exuberant summer Street Parade.

Much of the ancient centre, with its winding lanes and tall church steeples, has been kept lovingly intact. Yet Zürich has also wholeheartedly embraced contemporary trends, with the conversion of old factories into cultural centres and creative new living spaces. Nowhere is that clearer than in Züri-West, the epicentre of the city's nightlife.

Outside the city, there's also plenty to explore: Uetliberg with its trails and scenic vistas, pretty lakeside towns such as Rapperswil, and the renowned museums of nearby Winterthur.

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.

➔ 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 catch the big indoor *Christkindlmarkt* (Christmas market).



Zürich Highlights

- 1 Bask in the splendid glow of Marc Chagall's stained-glass windows in the **Fraumünster** (p230).
- 2 Admire the extensive art collections in the **Kunsthaus** (p230).
- 3 Join the throngs for the August **Street Parade** (p234).
- 4 Lose yourself in a long night out along **Langstrasse** (p237).
- 5 Soak up the sun or float downstream at one of the city's fabulous lake and river **swimming spots** (p233).
- 6 Climb **Uetliberg** (p242) for stellar views of the city and the surrounding countryside.
- 7 Indulge in pastries and chocolate at **Café Sprüngli** (p236).
- 8 Explore the fun side of science at family-friendly **Technorama** (p244) in Winterthur.