



Liechtenstein

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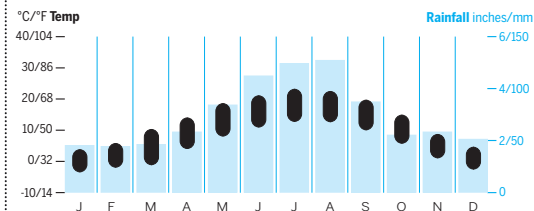
Why Go?

Liechtenstein makes a fabulous trivia subject – *Did you know it is the sixth smallest country in the world?... 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



May–Sep Hike to your heart's content, up and away from the busloads of passport-stamp tourists.

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

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



Liechtenstein Highlights

- 1 Snap a picture of the **Schloss Vaduz** with its stunning mountain backdrop (p904)
- 2 Get a souvenir **passport stamp** and send a postcard home (p906)
- 3 Taste royal wine at the **Hofkellerei des Fürstens**, the prince's own winery (p904)
- 4 Hit the slopes at **Malbun**, so you can say you've skied the Liechtenstein Alps (p907)
- 5 Test yourself with extreme hiking along the legendary **Fürstensteig trail** (p906)

VADUZ

POP 5160

Vaduz is the kind of capital city where the butcher knows the baker. With its tidy, quiet streets, lively patio cafes and big Gothic-looking castle on a hill, it feels more like a village than anything else. It's also all that most visitors to Liechtenstein will see, and

at times it can feel like its soul has been sold to cater to the whims of the tourist hordes. Souvenir shops, tax-free luxury goods stores and cube-shaped concrete buildings dominate the small, somewhat bland town centre enclosed by Äulestrasse and the pedestrian-only Städtle.

Sights & Activities

Schloss Vaduz CASTLE
(Fürst-Franz-Josef Strasse 150) Although Vaduz Castle is not open to the public, its exterior graces many a photograph and it is worth climbing up the hill for. 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.

Liechtensteinisches Landesmuseum MUSEUM
(National Museum; ☎239 68 20; www.landesmuseum.li; Städtle 43; adult/concession Sfr8/5, incl Kunstmuseum Sfr15/5; ☉10am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Wed) This well-designed museum provides an interesting romp through the principality's history.

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein MUSEUM
(☎235 03 00; www.kunstmuseum.li; Städtle 32; adult/concession Sfr12/8, incl Landesmuseum Sfr15/5; ☉10am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 8pm Thu) The mainstay of this museum is contemporary art, not the prince's collection of old masters, which has been relocated to the Palais Liechtenstein museum (p59) in Vienna.

Postmuseum MUSEUM
(☎236 61 05; 1st fl, Städtle 37; admission free; ☉10am-noon & 1-5pm) On the first floor, above the post office, this museum showcases all national stamps issued since 1912.

Hofkellerei des Fürstens VINEYARD
(☎232 10 18; www.hofkellerei.li; ☉shop open 8am-noon & 1.30-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) You must be in a group for a tour at the prince's vineyard, 1km north of the centre of Vaduz. Independent travellers can visit and indulge in a taste at the shop.

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