

LUCERNE

The beautiful city of Lucerne sprawls at the foot of Lake Lucerne in the cradle of historic Switzerland. Its medieval heritage is evident in the fortifying walls and towers, the old churches, houses, and covered bridges. Surrounding Lucerne are wooded hills, above which tower mighty mountains.



TRANSPORTATION

The orange and white city-bus drives the following routes free of charge: Railway station- Kantonalbank- Municipal theater- Mühleplatz- Hierschenplatz- Schwanenplatz- Kapellplatz- Railway station.

You can also purchase a special tourist ticket at a reduced price for the city bus at most hotels and the Tourist Information office.

Bicycles can be rented at the train station. Maps with designated bike paths are available at the Tourist Information office. Or you might wish to see Lucerne from a horse-drawn carriage. You can wait in front of the Jesuit Church, or request a pick-up from your hotel. Call 041/37.36.20 for reservations.



BANKS AND CURRENCY

Banks are generally open from Monday to Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm, except Thursdays when they close at 6:30 pm. The unit of currency is the Swiss Franc (SFr).



SHOPPING

Explore Lucerne's many shops and boutiques, where you will find an assortment of souvenirs, from Swiss army knives to cuckoo-clocks. Also available are finely carved wooden articles, delicate chinaware, embroidery and linen. And don't forget those famous Swiss chocolates and cheeses. Shops are open weekdays from 8:00 amnoon and 1:30- 6:30 pm, with longer hours on Thursdays (until 9:00 pm). Saturday hours are until 4:00 pm. Some shops are closed Monday mornings, and some are open during the lunch hour.



EATING

Since Switzerland is inhabited by people of varying ethnic and cultural backgrounds, there is no particular national dish. But one well-known specialty is *fondue*, the delicious concoction of *Gruyère* and *Emmental* cheeses, melted and mixed with white wine, flour, *Kirsch* and garlic. Other specialties are *râclette*, a toasted cheese dish eaten with potatoes boiled in their jackets, pickled onions and gherkins, and *rösti*, shredded fried potatoes. For dessert try

leckerli, a spiced honey cake with a thin coating of sugar icing on top, meringues, pralines, nougat and chocolate.



PLACES TO VISIT

One of the most famous monuments in the world is "The Dying Lion of Luzern", carved out of the natural rock in memory of the Swiss bodyguards of the French king Louis XVI. Near the Lion Monument you will find the Glacier Garden, a remnant of the Ice Age 20,000 years ago. The symbol of Lucerne, the Chapel Bridge dates from 1333 and is decorated with 111 panels painted in the 17th and 18th centuries depicting events in local and Swiss history. The Musegg Wall, with its nine towers, once fortified the entire town, and the Mill Bridge, built in 1408, is also known as "The Bridge of the Dance of Death" for its painted panels of this medieval theme.

And of course, there are also the natural attractions in and around Lucerne. To experience the beauty of the Lake of Lucerne, take a half- or full-day excursion on a steamer, run by the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company. Or take an excursion to Mt. Pilatus, which consists of a trip by boat, cogwheel train, and aerial cable car (or you might prefer to climb by foot). Once at the top, you will have a breathtaking view of Lucerne, the lake, the Alpine range of mountains, and Central Switzerland.