



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Switzerland - Zürich

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bern
- ✓ **Language:** German, Swiss-German, French, Italian, Reto-Roman
- ✓ **Population:** ± 403,000
- ✓ **Sq. km:** ± 87.88
- ✓ **Currency:** Francs (CHF)
- ✓ **Country code:** +41 (43)
- ✓ **Visa:** Yes, not EU, but Schengen. Info [here](#). EU citizens up to 90 days without registration.
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 117 (police), 118 (fire), 144 (ambulance), 112 general



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1291: Origin Swiss Confederation: 3 cantons form alliance. 1815: Napoleonic Wars – borders & neutrality established. '48: Federal constitution, centralized government. '74: Revised constitution: democracy by referendum. 1914-18: WWI. '19-20: Versailles Treaty → reaffirms neutrality. '20: Joins League of Nations, headquarters in Geneva. '23: Union with Liechtenstein. '39-45: WWII, Federal Council issues declaration of neutrality. Refuses to join UN. '59: Founder member of EFTA. 4 Party Government System. '63: Joins Council of Europe. '67: Right-wing campaigns anti-immigration. '71: Women vote. '85: Referendum: Equal female rights in marriage. Immigrant nr's restricted. '92: Enters World Bank & IMF, but rejects EEC. '94: Referendum: racism & denial of holocaust illegal. Laws against drug traffic & illegal immigrants. '95-98: Releasing pre-WWII Jewish bank accounts to Holocaust survivors. '01: 11 die in Gotthard tunnel crash. Voters reject proposal to reject army. '02: Voted to join UN. Tightening asylum laws. '05: Join EU Schengen. Job market opens to EU. 5-year ban on genetically modified crops. '07: Anti-foreigner politics, only EU friendly. '09: Recession. Ban minarets. '10: Majority women in cabinet. '12: Anti-immigration politics and initiatives continue. '17: Plans to abolish nuclear energy

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 408m. Climate: Marine West Coast Climate (Cfb). Winter low season in Zürich, high season in Alps.

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Old Town, Lake Zürich, Lindenhofplatz, Grossmünster, Niederdorf, Limmat, [Botanical Garden](#), Paradeplatz, Bürkliplatz, Schanzengraben Canal, Rathaus, Friedhof Fluntern & many churches. Lots of [Geocaches](#) in Zurich!

☺ **Free Museums:** [Zoological Museum](#), [Helmhaus](#), [Paläontologisches Museum](#)... Check the [Zürich Card](#). Kids are often free, students have discounts. Free with Raiffeisen bank pass: [Spielzeugmuseum](#), [Tram Museum](#), [FIFA World Football Museum](#), [ETH](#), [Haus Konstruktiv](#), [Museum für Gestaltung](#), [Johann Jacobs Museum](#), [Kulturama](#), [Museum für Gegenwartskunst](#), [Mühlerama](#), [Rietberg](#), [NONAM](#), [Landesmuseum](#), [Finanzmuseum](#),

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👍 **Museums & Sights:** [Kunsthau Zürich](#), [Beyer Clock & Watch Museum](#), Urania Observatory, [Centre Le Corbusier](#), [Musée Visionaire](#), [MuDA](#), [Kunsthalle](#).

👍 **Other:** [Seilbahn Rigiblick](#), [Dolderbahn](#), [Luftseilbahn Adliswil – Felsenegg](#), [Chinese Garden](#), Fondue Tram.

[Heimatschutzzentrum](#), [Völkerkundemuseum](#), [Zunftstadt](#), [Strauhof](#). All: [Overview](#).

☺ **Nature & Walks:** [Ütliberg](#) (several trails), Zürichhorn, Platzspitz Park, Werdinsel, Arboretum, Kaferberg, [Swimming Pools Unter Letten](#). Check natural swimming pools [here](#) (some paid, Freibad =

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Lidl, Aldi, Denner. Coop & Migros/Migrolino are the most expensive.

⌘ **Markets:** Oerlikon Markt, Helvetia Platz Markt, Bürkiplatz Markt, Gemüsebrücke, Markthalle im Viadukt, Tessinerplatz Markt, Altstetten Markt, Sihlcity, Rapperswill Friday Market.

⌘ **Local food:** Fondue (*melted cheese*), Rösti (*potato dish*), Zopf (*Sunday bread*), Bürli (*small breads*), Raclette (*grilled cheese dish*), Pastetli (*meat pie*), Rippli (*pork ribs*), Berner Platte (*mixed meat*), Älplermagronen (*potatoes-macaroni dish*), Saffron Risotto, Polenta, Zürcher Geschnetzeltes (*veal with mushrooms*), Rüebli Kuchen (*carrot cake*), Magenbrot (*sweet bread*), Birchermüesli (*mixed muesli*), Basler Leckerli (*glazed ginger bread*), Büdnernusstorte (*nut pastry*), Meringue, Chocolate, Cheese.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe, and also in Switzerland. Lidl has cheap tofu and meat replacements. Check vegan-friendly restaurants here: [Happy Cow – Zürich](#).

Mama Said

☠ Europe is generally safe... and Switzerland is one of the safest countries in Europe. Relax.

☠ Tap water is drinkable. In the Alps you can even drink river water.

☠ If you genuinely love animals, boycott companies like Zoo Zurich who lock up wildlife outside of their natural habitat.

☠ People speak a very specific dialect of German, that is basically a language on its own and can't be understood with 'normal' German skills. Simply request to speak 'Hoch Deutsch'.

Next?

→ **In Switzerland:** Winterthur, Zug, Luzern, Bern, Basel, Skt. Gallen, Swiss Alps.

→ **International destinations close by:** Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Italy, France.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are very expensive in Switzerland. Check [Booking.com](#) for deals, but always book directly to avoid fees. Also check [Sleep on Straw](#). [Air BnB](#) usually has slightly cheaper deals.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([20% discount for Trusted Housesitters via this link!](#)). Also check [WorkAway](#) or [HelpX](#) for work-exchanges. Wild camping **not allowed**.

Festivals

☼ Zürich Festival: June.

☼ Zürcher Theater Spektakel: August.

☼ Zürich Open Air: August.

Check out an overview [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Langstrasse, Pelikan Strasse, Parade Platz, Hardbrücke, Kaufleuten

◆ **Theatres:** Opernhaus Zürich, Schauspiel, Bernhardtheater, Hallenstadion, Theater 11, Cabaret Voltaire, Schiffbau, Rigiblick.

Free-Riding?

■ Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Zürich, without spending money.

■ Biking is another fun way to explore. The cheapest way is by a public bike share system, of which there are 2 in Zürich: [Publibike](#) & [Züri Rollt](#).

■ Zürich's public transport system exists of buses, trams, S-Bahn trains, funicular railway and even boats. It's not cheap, but the best deal is to get a 24h-pass, per zone. Find a route planner and more info [here](#). Public transport is also included in a Zürich Pass.

■ Intercity Travel goes via trains served by [SBB](#), which is very expensive. A cheaper alternative is [Flixbus](#) or, with less availability: [Blablacar](#).

■ Airports: Luchthaven Zürich (ZRH).

The Earth Becomes My Throne