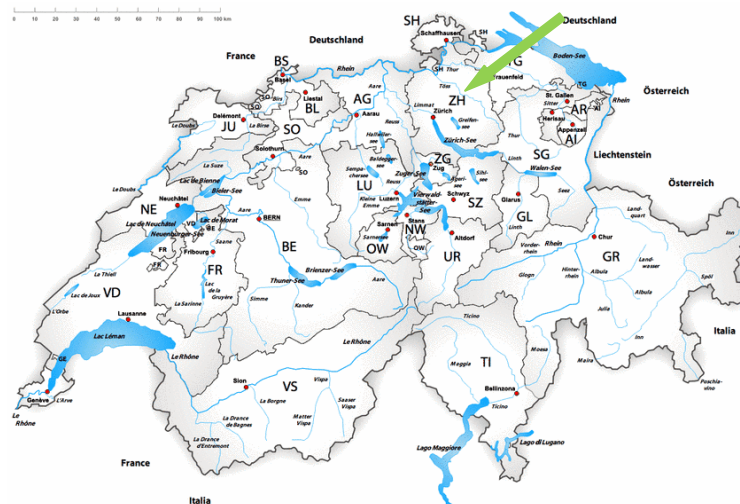




## Ten things to know about Zurich



1. **Geographical location:** Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and the capital of the canton of Zurich. (Yet the capital of Switzerland is Bern.) It is located in north-central Switzerland at the northwestern tip of Lake Zurich. The city has approximately 394,000 inhabitants, and the canton of Zurich about 1.45 million. The name Zurich is due to the Romans that called the city *Turicum* in 15 BC. Today, Zurich is a leading global city and among the world's largest financial centres. The city is home to a large number of financial institutions and banking giants.



2. **Weather:** The climate of Zurich is influenced by the winds coming from the west, which often result in precipitation and, on the other hand, the east or north-east wind (*Bise*), which brings cooler weather phases with temperatures lower than the average. In winter, of course there is snow – that makes the people go skiing in the nearby mountains.
3. **Quality** is written with a capital letter in Switzerland. In Mercer's list, Zurich has been playing a leading role among the Top 5 cities in quality of living ranking. The Swiss are model students in the disciplines precision and punctuality. However, this perfectionism may sometimes be seen as impatience or pedantry. Most Swiss would also agree that “small is beautiful” and there is a widespread reservation if not resentment towards anything and anybody boasting with greatness. The Swiss love for smallness is perfectly expressed in the Swiss German ending *-li* added frequently to nouns (as in *Guetzli* [cookies], *Müesli* [cereals]).
4. **Language:** The officially used formal language is Standard German, the spoken language is Zurich German (*Züritüütsch*), which is one of the many different Swiss German dialects of Switzerland. But thanks to multiculturalism and multilingualism, you can hear all kind of Swiss German dialects spoken by its inhabitants and commuters.
5. **Sights in Zurich:**

Zurich is a very clean city. You can discover it on foot or by bike and admire the architecture, i.e.:



**Bahnhofstrasse** is Zurich's main downtown street and one of the world's most expensive and exclusive shopping avenues featuring designer stores, jewelers, banks, luxurious hotels.

Bahnhofstrasse starts at the Zurich main railway station before it ends after 1.4 km at the Lake Zurich.

**Niederdorf** is the part of the old town lying on the eastern side of the Limmat river. It offers restaurants, bars and adult entertainment. Most of Niederdorf is a pedestrian area. It's criss-crossed with mediaeval alleys and small squares. Especially if you leave very busy Niederdorfstrasse up hill towards Oberdorf you will discover some lovely spots you wouldn't have expected (for example Lenin's house). Along the river on the Limmatquai cafés with outdoor seating are a good excuse to have a drink and watch Zurich go by.



**Zürich West** is probably Zurich's fastest developing district, the formerly industrial part of the city has been changing into a new business and residential area, making construction sites a long-term feature. The area has become one of the city's entertainment districts with bars, restaurants and clubs

**Grossmünster** (Great Minster) According to a legend, Charlemagne discovered the graves of the city's martyrs Felix and Regula and had built the first church as a monastery; start of current building around 1100; in the first half of the 16th century, the Great Minster was the starting point of the Swiss-German Reformation led by Huldrych Zwingli and Heinrich Bullinger.



**Fraumünster** (Women's Minster) Church of a former abbey for aristocratical women which was founded in 853 by Louis the German for his daughter Hildegard; notice the color windows: the window in the north transept of Augusto Giacometti (1945), the five-part cycle in the choir (1970) and the rosette in the southern transept (1978) are by Marc Chagall.





**St. Peter** romanese-gothic-baroque church built from before the 9th century; with the largest church clock face in Europe (built 1538).

**Kunsthau Zurich** (Zurich Museum of Art) is one of the most significant art museums in Europe. It holds one of the largest collections in Classic Modern Art in the world (Munch, Picasso, Braque, Giacometti, etc.).



**Landesmuseum** (Swiss National Museum) displays many objects that illustrate the cultural and historical background of Switzerland. It also contains many ancient artifacts, including stained glass, costumes, painted furniture and weapons.

**Chinese Garden**, a gift by Zurich's Chinese partner town Kunming, for Zurich's technical and scientific assistance in the development of the Kunming city drinking water supply and drainage. The garden is an expression of one of the main themes of Chinese culture, the «Three Friends of Winter» – three plants that together brave the cold season – pine, bamboo, and plum.



**Uetliberg** – The highest hill at an altitude of 869 metres offers a great view over the city. The summit is easily accessible by train from Zurich main station (*Uetlibergbahn*).

Also stop at Bürkliplatz or Bellevue to enjoy the wonderful **lake**:



6. **Swiss cuisine:**

- **Käsefondue** (cheese fondue), a hot soup of cheese and white wine eaten by dunking cubes of bread in it
- **Raclette** (melted cheese on potatoes served with different pickles and sides)
- **Züri G'schnätzlets** (thin strips of veal cooked in a cream sauce, often with mushrooms), often served with **Rösti** (fried grated potatoes)
- Sausages: **Bratwurst** (usually veal) and **Cervelat** (pork)
- **Fondue chinoise** and **fondue bourgignonne** (both meat fondues)

7. **Sport Activities:**

Football, ice-hockey, running (marathons), tennis, cycling, skiing ...  
*Schwingen* [some kind of wrestling, performed in an arena covered with sawdust]. popular in rural areas of Switzerland

**Famous athletes:**

**Tennis:** *Roger Federer* (WTA #1 male tennis player for years, one of the most successful ever)  
*Martina Hingis* (former WTA #1 female tennis player)

**Skiing:** *Didier Cuche* (former World Champion, Olympic medal winner)

**Sailing:** *Alinghi* (first European team to win the *America's Cup*, 2003)

**Figure skating:** *Stéphane Lambiel* (World Champion, 2005)

8. **Famous people that lived in Zurich:**

Albert Einstein, Max Frisch, J. H. Pestalozzi, C. G. Jung, Johanna Spyri, Georg Büchner, Gottfried Keller, Lenin, Conrad Röntgen, Richard Wagner, Alfred Escher, ...

Today's celebrities: Tina Turner, Cecilia Bartoli

9. **Event agenda:**

April	Sechseläuten
June/July	Zurich Film Festival
July	Zürifest (Zurich Festival) with Caliente (Latin music festival)
August	Streetparade
	Weltklasse Zürich (IAAF Diamond League)
October/November	Expovina (wine exhibition on ships)
November	Mercedes Benz Fashion Days
December	Silvesterlauf (city run)

10. **3x kiss:** It is customary to kiss three times on the cheek as a greeting – used for hello and goodbye.

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