

# Zurich

**KNOWN AS THE FINANCIAL AND CULTURAL CAPITAL OF SWITZERLAND,** Zurich is a prime destination for shopping and relaxing. Lovely lake and mountain views add to its charm. *Words by Susan Vogel-Misicka*

Once a Roman customs station, Zurich has retained its reputation as an important business hub in the middle of Europe. At the same time, it consistently ranks in the top two on the Mercer quality of living scale. Zurich has the world's densest public transport network, making it easy to get around quickly.

Just a short walk from the main train station, the **Polybahn funicular railway** is a fun way to get a fast overview of the city. Its quaint-looking red carriages whisk passengers up to the **Polyterrasse** – a vantage point near the **University of Zurich**.

A walk along the river **Limmat** reveals glimpses of the old town

and some of the city's guild houses – many of which are home to elegant restaurants today. There are countless shops nestled in the winding cobblestone lanes on either side of the river.

The **Karlsturm tower of Grossmünster Church** offers impressive views of the lake and, on clear days, of the snow-capped **Alps**. Across the river, **Fraumünster Church** houses a marvellous collection of stained-glass windows by Russian-French artist **Marc Chagall**.

**Bahnhofstrasse** is famous for its posh boutiques and high street shops, not to mention the **Confiserie Sprüngli café**

at the **Paradeplatz** end. It's a must for its creamy hot chocolate and melt-in-the-mouth **Luxemburgerli** macaroons.

The **Swiss National Museum**, just across the street from the train station, merits at least a quick visit to admire its castle-like architecture and attractive courtyard. Nearby, the **Museum of Design** is a good bet for unusual exhibitions.

Built into the arches of elevated train tracks in Zurich's industrial neighbourhood, the **Im Viadukt centre** boasts cool shops and eateries. Its market hall is bursting with gourmet treats, and the lively restaurant-bar is open until late. ☒

## TRAVEL TIPS

**Zurich Tourism** maintains an extensively detailed website in several languages, including English and Arabic. Tel: +41 44 215 40 00 [www.zuerich.com](http://www.zuerich.com)



The five-star **Hotel Widder** is a unique complex of nine lovingly restored townhouses. It has 42 individually decorated rooms and seven suites, some with private rooftop terraces. The restaurant offers fine dining, while the bar hosts live jazz music. Prices start at US\$600 for a single room. Tel: +41 44 224 25 26 [www.widderhotel.ch](http://www.widderhotel.ch)

The **ZürichCARD** is a combination ticket for public transport and museums. Valid for either 24 or 72 hours (US\$20-40), it also entitles visitors to a 10% shopping discount and other benefits. The card is sold at Zurich Airport, local train stations, and larger hotels. [www.zw.ch](http://www.zw.ch)

**Connect Zurich, Switzerland** → Distance: 4,490 km → Flight Time: 6 hours, 40 minutes → Frequency: Daily