Switzerland

Travel Facts

US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise normal precautions in Switzerland.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html



For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html

US Embassy/Consulate

[41] (031) 357-70-11; US Embassy Bern, Sulgeneckstrasse 19, CH-3007 Bern, Switzerland; https://ch.usembassy.gov/

LGBTQIA+, Women, and Special Needs Travelers

Additional travel considerations can be found on the U.S. State Department's International Travel page.

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/hefore-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations.html

Telephone Code

41

Local Emergency Phone

Ambulance: 144; Fire: 118; Police: 117

Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Switzerland: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, tickborne encephalitis, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, COVID-19, and influenza. http://www.who.int/

Climate

Temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers

Currency (Code)

Swiss francs (CHF)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

230 V / 50 Hz / plug types(s): C, J





Type C

Type J

Major Languages

German, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian

Major Religions

Roman Catholic, Protestant, other Christian, Muslim

Time Difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time); daylight saving time: +1hr, begins last Sunday in March, ends last Sunday in October







Potable Water

Yes

International Driving Permit

Suggested

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

Matterhorn; Jungfraujoch; Interlaken; Lucerne; Lake Geneva; Chateau de Chillon; Zurich; Lake Lugano; Bern

Major Sports

Soccer, ice hockey, tennis, skiing, schwingen (wrestling)

Cultural Practices

Swiss people tend to be polite, reserved, direct, and a little guarded at first.

Tipping Guidelines

A service charge is typically added at restaurants so no tipping is needed, but you can round up the bill for the wait staff. Round up a taxi fare or add 5%. Tipping is usually expected for hotel staff. A bellhop should receive 1-2 francs for each bag carried.

Souvenirs

Chocolate; cuckoo clocks, music boxes, and other wood carved items; cheese; Swiss army knives; watches/clocks; paper cut pictures; embroidered fabric; schnapps spirits

Traditional Cuisine

Rösti — grated potato patties sometimes including herbs and spices, onions, ham, or cheese and pan-fried in butter or oil; the dish is cut into wedges for serving

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