

Client: Switzerland Tourism Yellow News
Source: The Daily Telegraph
Date: 25/07/2015

Keyword: Lake Lucerne
Page: 6
Reach: 486262
Size: 1063
Value: 34164.82

6

WEEKEND IN Lucerne

Satisfaction is guaranteed in a city with so many cultural and historical high points, says *Ivan Hewett*

Why go now?

Go in mid-August and you'll catch the Lucerne Summer Festival, one of the world's great classical music festivals. And you can enjoy the evening light over Lake Lucerne, as you emerge from the Jean Nouvel-designed concert hall. For a city of only 80,000, Lucerne punches way above its weight in terms of visitor appeal. It's almost too perfect, sitting at one end of Lake Lucerne with the hills all around. Beyond the lake are the mountains, dominated by the impressive peak of Mount Pilatus.

As well as a very well-preserved Old Town, there are sunny squares, intriguing churches, wide lakeside promenades and, right at the city's heart, the startling severity of the Culture and Congress Centre (KKL). The city is packed with

history, thanks partly to its strategic position as a gateway between Protestant Northern Europe and Catholic Italy. Some cities are a risk for a weekend break; with Lucerne satisfaction is practically guaranteed.

Getting there

Lucerne lacks an airport, so the best way to reach it is to fly to Zürich (by easyJet or Swissair) and take a train from Zürich airport. It costs around £16.50 and, like most train journeys in Switzerland, is amazingly picturesque. Lucerne is bang in the middle of Switzerland, so you can reach it by rail in just over an hour from

Bern and from Lugano in 2½ hours.

Where to stay

Special treat
 It's eye-wateringly expensive, at £470 for a

"romantic package" for two for one night, but the Palace Hotel (1) at Haldenstrasse 10 (0041 41 416 16 16; palace-luzern.ch) is one of the world's legendary hostelries, still suffused with the luxury of the pre-First World War era when it was built. It has a wonderful restaurant with views to die for over the lake, which is worth a visit in itself.

Mid-range

Hotel Hofgarten (2) at Stadthofstrasse 14 (41 410 88 88; hofgarten.ch) is situated in a building from 1670 with winding staircases and rooms decorated in high-modernist style from £144. Both this and the sister Hotel Zum Rebstock (at St Leodegarstrasse 3) have fine in-house restaurants.

On a budget

Stern Hotel (3) at Burgerstrasse 35 (41 227 50 60; sternluzern.ch) lies in

Client: Switzerland Tourism Yellow News
Source: The Daily Telegraph
Date: 25/07/2015

Keyword: Lake Lucerne
Page: 6
Reach: 486262
Size: 1063
Value: 34164.82

the middle of the Old Town and has been spruced up in uncluttered style. Doubles from £90. There's also an in-house restaurant offering the likes of veal in pastry for £16.50.

On arrival

6pm

From the railway station, walk along the shore of the river Reuss in a westerly direction, and cross over via the 14th-century wooden bridge known as the Kapellbrücke (4). The gabled roof is a modern reconstruction after a fire in 1994, but the water tower is original, as are Hans Heinrich Wägmann's 17th-century triangular roof panels, mingling mythical and historical themes. Then stroll eastwards along the Schweizerhofquai, and admire the setting sun over the lake.

8.30pm

Eventually you'll come to the Restaurant Olivo (5) at Haldenstrasse 6 (41 418 56 56; grandcasinoluzern.ch), just off the Nationalquai. There's a choice of a grand main dining room or the lakeside terrace. The current four-course menu costs £61 and includes wild turbot, Brie filled with mascarpone and summer truffles, and passion fruit cakes with sour cherry sorbet.

Day one

10am

Visiting the Lion Monument (6) involves the long walk up Lowenstrasse, but it's worth it. The 10-metre-

long statue of a dying lion carved out of a rock face commemorates the 800 Swiss mercenaries who were killed defending Louis XVI during the French Revolution. Entrance free.

11am

Retrace your steps a short distance to the Bourbaki Panorama (7). One of few surviving 19th-century panoramas, this one portrays the French army of the East under General Bourbaki crossing into Switzerland during the Franco-Prussian War (41 412 30 30; bourbakipanorama.ch; open daily; admission £8).

Noon

Wander around the tiny

streets of the old town (Altstadt) on the north side of the river Reuss. If there's time, cross the river to view the Jesuit Church (8), a fine building dating from 1666 and a reminder that Lucerne is very much a Catholic city.

2pm

Lunch at Brasserie Bodu (9) at Kornmarkt 5 (41 410 01 77; brasseriebodu.ch), an old-fashioned bistro with leather-backed banquettes. Sirloin steaks, couscous and succulent *escalopes de veau* cost around £24-£30.

3.30pm

Even for non-operagoers, a visit to Tribschen (10), the lakeside villa of Richard Wagner, is a fascinating glimpse into the domestic

life of a 19th-century giant. You can walk to it, but it's quicker to take a No. 6, 7 or 8 bus from the train station to Wartegg (41 360 23 70; richard-wagner-museum.ch; open daily but closed for

lunch between noon and 2pm; admission £5.50).

6pm

Unwind with a stroll in the lakeside park of Inseli (11), by the train station. You can drink at the summertime bars Volière and Buvette.

8pm

Dinner at Mill'Feuille (12) at Mühlenplatz 6 (41 410 10 92; millfeuille.ch), a very classy restaurant close to the other famous wooden bridge, the Spreuerbrücke. A typical three-course set menu at £45 includes sweet and sour pepper soup, *pak choi en papilotta* and panna cotta.

Day two

10am

The Sammlung Rosengart (13) at Pilatustrasse 10 is a jewel of an art gallery. Put together by collectors Siegfried and Angela Rosengart, it has 32 paintings and 100 smaller works by Picasso, and an entire room filled with 125 tiny works by Paul Klee, as well as works by Cézanne, Monet, Bonnard et al (41 220 16 60; rosengart.ch; open daily; admission £12).

12.30pm

Take an early lunch at the World Cafe at the Culture and Congress Centre (14) at Europaplatz 1. Choose from six or seven wok-cooked dishes at around £13 from the excellent world cuisine buffet, followed with very European tarts and pastries

and enjoy the views over the lake.

2pm onwards

You could stay put in the KKL and visit the Art Museum, which houses

Client: Switzerland Tourism Yellow News
Source: The Daily Telegraph
Date: 25/07/2015

Keyword: Lake Lucerne
Page: 6
Reach: 486262
Size: 1063
Value: 34164.82

contemporary art (41 226 78 00; kkl-luzern.ch/en; open daily except Mondays; admission £10). Alternatively, take one of many boat trips on offer. The Lake Lucerne Navigation Company (41 367 67 67; lakelucerne.ch) offers longer trips with à la carte dining, as well as one-hour round trips, starting at either the Schweizerhof (rail station) or on the Bahnhofquai by the KKL. Departures vary seasonally, and cost from £17.

From May to October you can also make the Golden Round Trip up Mount Pilatus. It starts with a boat from Lucerne to Alpnachstad, followed by an ascent on the world's steepest cog railway to the summit. From there a cable car brings you down to Kriens, where bus No. 1 takes you back to Lucerne. The round trip costs £32.50. For prices, timetables and online booking, see pilatus.ch/en.

Getting on track

The tourist office at Zentralstrasse 5 can also be accessed from platform 3 of the train station (0041 41 227 17 17; luzern.com).

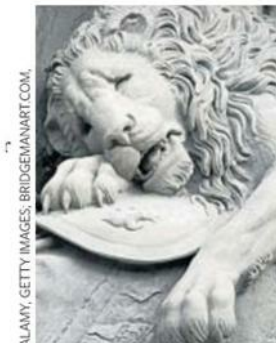
Carnival capers

Lucerne's Carnival, or Fasnacht, is said to be Switzerland's rowdiest. From "Dirty Thursday" until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the streets are packed.

Play your cards right

The Lucerne Museum Card gets you one entry into 11 museums across two consecutive days, at

a cost of £24.



ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES, BRIDGEMANART.COM.

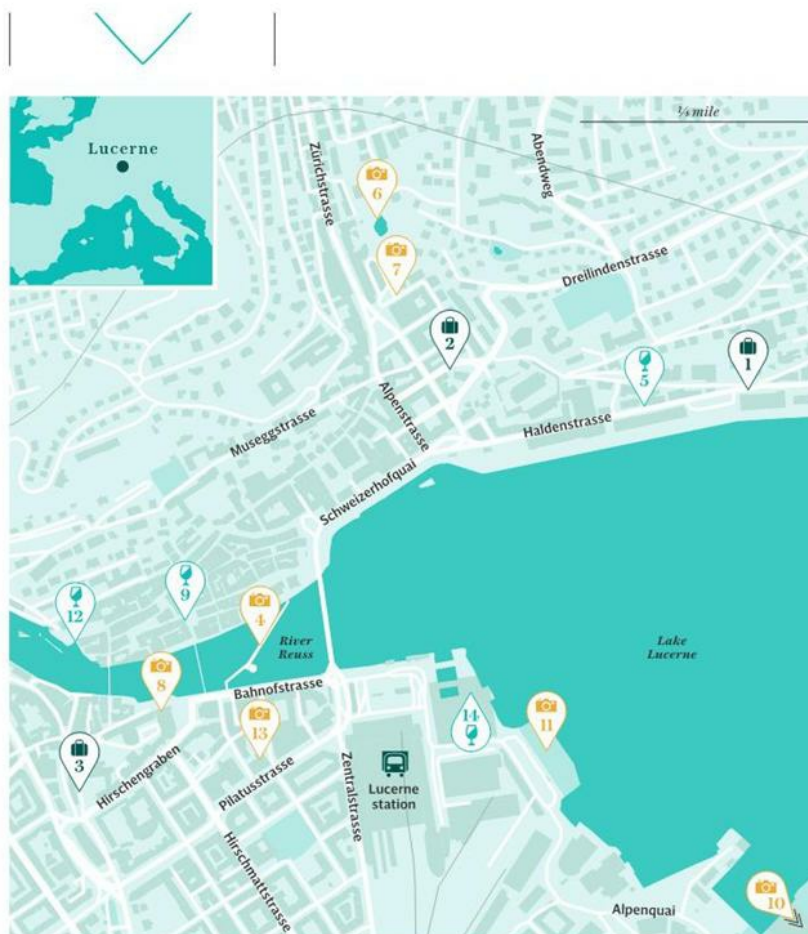


Top Tip

Check out the city's three-part festival at lucerne.festival.ch

Client: Switzerland Tourism Yellow News
Source: The Daily Telegraph
Date: 25/07/2015

Keyword: Lake Lucerne
Page: 6
Reach: 486262
Size: 1063
Value: 34164.82



Clockwise from top left, Paul Klee features at the Sammlung Rosengart; the Lion Monument on Lowenstrasse is carved out of the rock face; Kapellbrücke Bridge, with its original 17th-century Wägmann roof panels; and the Palace Hotel